HATS! HATS!!
SHIRTS! SHIRTS!!
Felt Hats from 1s. 9½d. to 4s. 11d.
Two-Peaked Caps, from 5½d. to 1s. 3½d.
Oxford Shirts, from 11½d. to 2s. 6d.
Splendid Union Shirts, 1s. 11d. to 2s. 3d.
Magnificent Wool Shirts, 2s. 9d. to 5s. 3d.
Gents' Linen Collars (extraordinary), at 3½d.
Ladies' Rink Collars, all at 1d. each.
Ladies' Jersey Gloves, 8½d. to 1s. 4½d.
Ladies' Pure Silk Gloves, 1s. 11d., worth 2s. 6d.
New Frillings, Laces, Ties, and Scarfs.
BAIN & CO'S
CHEAP DRESS AND DRAPERY MART,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
☞ No connection with any other Establishment.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

THOUSANDS OF PIECES
Have already been sold of our now far-famed
WALL PAPER.
BEAUTIFUL, 1½d. to 3½d. per Piece.
ARTISTIC, 4d. to 8½ per Piece.
CEILING, 2d. to 6½d. per Piece.
LOBBY, 2d. to 6½d. per Piece.
BORDERING, 1½d. per Yard, sold elsewhere at 3d.
Also Marone, Blue, Scarlet & Green, for lining Screens, Book Cases, Shop Windows, &c., only 2½d. per yd.
N.B.—About a 100 Patterns to choose from of the best and Cheapest in the North of England, at
BAIN & CO'S
DRESS AND DRAPERY MART,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

No. 1,376. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, December 17th, 1886. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

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

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LOAN & DISCOUNT COMPANY.—MONEY! MONEY!! MONEY!!! The above Company is prepared to make immediate Cash Advances to the General Public, Farmers, Cow Keepers, and others, from £5 to £500 on personal and other security, at reasonable interest. All transactions treated confidentially. Easy repayments taken; distance no object. Bills discounted.—Apply personally or by letter to A. NEUBERG, Manager, 64, Dean Street, Newcastle. 234w

Contracts.

TO CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS are required for LABOUR connected with EXCAVATORS' MASONS' and BRICKLAYERS' WORK, in BUILDING HOUSE, STABLE, &c., in Front Street, Consett, for Messrs. T. C. RAWES & Co.

Plans, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract may be seen on and after Tuesday, December 14th inst., at the above address.

Tenders to be sent in by Tuesday, the 21st day of December, 1886.

TO CONTRACTORS.

PERSONS desirous of TENDERING for the Several WORKS required in ADDITIONS TO RAILWAY INN, Annfield Plain, may see Drawings and Specification, at our Offices, Rose Cottage, Shotley Bridge.

Tenders will be received by the Architects till 4 p.m. on December 30th, 1886.

The Proprietor does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

180x JOHN SMITH & SON, Architects.

Found.

FOUND, Black, Tan, and White CUR BITCH. If not claimed in 7 days will be sold.—Apply, THOMAS BROWNLEE, Castleside. 191x

Wanted.

WANTED, a GIRL for House work; age from 16 to 18.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office.

WANTED, a HIND, must be useful at all work. Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett.

WANTED, GENERAL SERVANT; a strong, industrious Girl able to wash, bake, and cook well.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office. 150x

WANTED, respectable GIRL for General House Work, where two are kept; able to milk preferred.—Apply to Mrs. MOFFATT, Shotley Bridge. 200x

WANTED, either as Gifts or Loan, ALMANACKS for the Annfield Plain Wesleyan Sale of Work and Christmas Tree.—Friends will oblige by sending to J. F. SMITH, Annfield Plain. 183x

WANTED, thoroughly Practical MILLINER and DRESSMAKER, to work the Departments together or separately.—Apply by letter only, in first instance, with reference and salary, to T. H. BATCHELOR, Middle Street, Consett. 186x

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

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

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

Under Distinguished Patronage.

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

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

WANTED, Young Gentlemen to Buy our Linen Collars, from 3½d to 6½d; also Ties, Scarfs, Braces, and Silk Pocket Handkerchiefs.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett.

WANTED, Mothers to Buy our Velvet and Cloth Boys' Sailor Caps, from 1s 2d to 2s 3d; also, Boys' Solo Caps, at 4½d; and little Boys' Sailor Collars, at 2½d and 3½d each.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 913w

WANTED, Young Ladies to Buy our Novelties in Frillings, from 1½d per yard; new Laces, from 1d per yard.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 908w

WANTED, Working Men to Buy our Shirts, from 11½d up to 5s 3d.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 909w

WANTED, Economical Housewives to Buy our Artistic Wall Paper, from 1½d up to 7½d per piece.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 910w

WANTED, Young Ladies to Buy our Jersey Gloves in Black and Colours, from 8½d per pair; pure Silk Gloves, 1s 11d per pair, worth 2s 6d.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 911w

WANTED, the Public to know that BAIN and Co. have no connection with any other Establishment in the North of England. Their only address and where the advertised lots are to be foun is New Town Hall, Consett. 914

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

WANTED, for the above School an Assistant Ex. P. T. (Female). Salary, £35 per annum. Musical, Tonic Sol-Fa, preferred. Duties to commence on the 17th January next. Applications (with one reference) to be sent to me on or before the 17th January next.—By Order,

W. W. THOMPSON,
Clerk to the Board.

Lanchester, December 16th, 1886. 207x

To Let.

TO LET, a good HOUSE.—Apply to M. FAWELL, Grocer, 40, Front Street, Consett. 149x

TO LET, POPLAR HOUSE, Shotley Bridge.—Apply to WILSON BROTHERS, or to Mr. WM. KENNLETSIDE, Crookhall. 926w

TO LET, a HOUSE, situate at Templetown, Consett.—Apply to GEORGE BROWN, Railway Hotel, Consett; or to EDWARD PARKER, Iveston.

TO LET, a COTTAGE, containing Five Rooms, with good Garden, Pantry, &c. Rent, 3s 3d per week. If desired, can be let to two tenants at 1s 9d per week.—Apply at the Vicarage, Castleside.

TO LET, and enter upon at May next, HUMBER HOUSE FARM, near Lanchester, comprising 125 Acres, 80 of which are in Tillage. Mr. M. GIBSON, Newbiggen, near Lanchester, will show the Farm, and give any information that is needed.—Offers, stating Rent, to be forwarded to the Rev. J. WILSON, 27, Warnette Hall Road, Oldham, not later than January 3rd, 1887. 110x

CARRIBEES FARM, CONSETT.—TO BE LET, with Entry in May next, the Carribees Farm, in the Parish of Lanchester, in the County of Durham, and within One Mile of Consett, containing 200 Acres or thereabouts of Arable and Pasture Land.—ADAM BRODIE, of Town Hall, Consett, Estate Agent, will show the Farm, and receive offers in Writing up to the 23rd December. 131x

To Let.

TO BE SOLD, COTTAGE PIANO, in Walnut by good maker; Price £10 10s. 0d.; a bargain.—Apply, 5, Rose Mount, Consett. 204x

TWO COTTAGES TO LET, on Shotley Park Estate. Snows Green Park Lodge, containing Three Rooms; Cottage, at Whinney House, containing Two Rooms.—Apply to JOSEPH PUMPHREY, Elm Park. 176x

TO BE LET, with entry at May Day next, the FARM now occupied by Messrs. Bainbridge, at Medomsley, containing about 77 acres.—W. Charlton, of Medomsley, will show a plan and point out the boundaries, and particulars may be learned from W. LIDDMAN of Witton-le-Wear, to whom Offers may be sent on or before Monday, 10th January next. 182x

For Sale.

TURNIPS for SALE, or to be LET to be eaten on with Sheep.—Apply to Mr. W. BULMAN, Woodlands, near Consett. 59x

WASTE PAPER FOR SALE, at 1d. per lb.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, or 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett.

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

FOR SALE, Special lot of very superior Silk Pocket Handkerchiefs, extra large, from 1s 11½d to 2s 11d, white and coloured.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 85x

FOR SALE, a Black Retriever DOG, aged two years, a good watcher.—Apply, 49, Edith Street, Consett. 163x

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, REWARD BOOKS, &c., at ROBERT JACKSON'S, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett. 147x

STRONG BROWN WRAPPERS, 5 ft. by 4 ft. One Penny each at the "*Guardian*" Office, and 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett. 654w

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

FOR SALE, a lot of magnificent and very rich Gents' Silk Mufflers, white and coloured, from 2s 11d to 10s 6d each. Young gentlemen should call and see these Goods.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 84x

FOR SALE, the following lots—guaranteed I.R. Braces—Boys, from 2½d to 6d. Grand value in Men's, from 6½d to 1s 2d. Also a lot of Gents' Coloured Polo Collars, all at 2½d each. Gents' Cuffs, cheap.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 86x

FOR SALE, just arrived, other Five Bales of Wall Pages, 2½d, 2¾d, 3d, 3¼d, 3½d, to 7½d per piece. Great array of Bordering all round, 1½d per yard. A few odd lots of former purchase from 1½d per piece.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 87x

A GOOD PLAN.

BY adopting the safe and reliable method fully explained in sixth edition of Guide Book (*sent Gratis and Post Free*) Stock Exchange investments of £10 to £1,000 are often doubled or trebled in a few days. Address GEO. EVANS & Co., Stockbrokers, Gresham House, London, E.C. Established 1881.

Business Announcements.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

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

F. A. AND E. WELCH,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 920

XMAS! XMAS!!

A LARGE assortment of Xmas and New Year's Cards, Toys, Mottoes, Tissues, all Shades, Xmas Presents, &c., Annuals, Diaries, 1887, Account Books, and other Seasonable Goods, at the

CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT
TRY
J. COCKBURN,
GENERAL AND FANCY STATIONER,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

☞ Schools Supplied on Liberal Terms. Books not in Stock, to be had on a short notice. Books neatly Bound, &c., &c. 162x

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY.
First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

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

THE SHORTEST AND BEST ROUTE TO THE WEST.

Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO., 17 and 19, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; W. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law; J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne. 85u

BRITISH WINES!
PORT, SHERRY, AND ALL OTHER KINDS,
AND OF
SUPERIOR QUUALITY,
ALWAYS IN STOCK,
AT
C. F. COOKE'S,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Agent for Messrs. J. GILLON & Co., and other Celebrated Makers.

ALSO, UNFERMENTED FRUIT WINE AND CORDIALS, AT 1s. PER BOTTLE.

Also, Peek, Frean, & Co., and Huntley & Palmer's Fancy Biscuits, &c. 219w

HENRY WALKER & SON
(LATE WALKER & EMLEY),
Beg to announce that they have OPENED
THE COUNTY STOVE, CHIMNEY PIECE,
AND
GENERAL IRONMONGERY SHOW ROOMS.
55, WESTGATE ROAD (OPPOSITE THE SAVINGS' BANK),

With a large and very choice selection of Goods of the newest designs, marked in plain figures at Low Prices.

THESE SPLENDID PREMISES WILL WELL REPAY A VISIT,

And HENRY WALKER AND SON respectfully invite an early inspection.

Business Announcements.

ORDER
NESTLE'S
SWISS MILK
TRADE MARK
AND YOU WILL BE PLEASED WITH IT 558v

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

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

WILLIAM STEWART & SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD NEWCASTLE 32, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(OVER 60 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM),
STOVES OF EVERY KIND
DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET.

DON'T FORGET THE OLD PLACE.

A LARGE STOCK OF BUILDERS' STORES, of all kinds, ALWAYS IN STOCK.

SANITARY PIPES, SINKS, GULLEYS, CHIMNEY TOPS, BRICKS, QUARLS, FLAGS, LIME, CEMENT, &c. Special Quotations for Two and Four Ton Lots.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—
J. F. ELTRINGHAM,
RAILWAY TERRACE, BLACKHILL (NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION.

1886. CHRISTMAS. 1886.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW AND CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL will be OPENED on SATURDAY FIRST, with a LARGE AND VARIED SUPPLY of
DOLLS,
TOYS,
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS,
GUNS, SWORDS, DRUMS,
XMAS CARDS, MOTTOES,
RAILWAYS, PERAMBULATORS,
TRAMCARS, BOX TOYS.

When we hope all will pay us a visit for inspection. Special terms for Bazaars, Xmas Trees, and School Treats.

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR,
THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS,
9, 9A, AND 22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 155x

CHARLES F. SANDS,
42, GRANGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE (Adjacent to Art Gallery),
FOR LAMPS, CHANDELIERS, HALL LAMPS, GAS GLOBES, GAS AND OIL COOKING AND HEATING STOVES,
FURNISHING IRONMONGERY, &c.
Makers of the "DEXTER," and other LIGHTS, for Churches, Chapels, Public Buildings, Shops, &c.
EXPERIENCED WORKMEN SENT TO ANY PART OF TOWN OR COUNTRY. 658w

☞ WATCH GIVEN AWAY. ☜
PRIZE COMPETITION
AT THE CONSETT TEA HOUSE, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

ROBERT WILLEY, Tea Dealer, will give One Lady's or Gentleman's SOLID SILVER WATCH, Free to Buyers of a Quarter-Pound of his celebrated 3s. Tea, on the following terms, viz.:—

Purchasers of Quarter-pound of 3s. Tea guessing the Number of the Watch, or the Nearest Number to it, will receive the Watch Free.

P.S.—Any person may, by purchasing two Quarter-pounds of Tea, have two chances, or three Quarter-pounds, may have three chances, and so on.

The Competition will close on Thursday, January 13th, 1886.

The Number of the Watch, and Name of the successful Competitor, will be published in the *Consett Guardian* on January 14th.

In the event of there being more than one Competitor giving the correct number, the person who gave the first correct number will be entitled to the Watch, as no second prize will be given.

The competition is now open. Come in time. Buy Quarter-pound of Tea. Give your name, and guess he number of the watch. Get your name and number put into the Book.

THE WATCHES ARE NOW ON VIEW AT
R. WILLEY'S
TEA WAREHOUSE, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
☞ BASS'S PALE ALE, AND GUINNESS'S DUBLIN STOUT IN STOCK. 63

TRY
JOHN HUME & SON'S
CELEBRATED
"GERM MEAL,"
THE BEST AND CHEAPEST FOOD
FOR
COWS, PIGS, AND POULTRY.
8d. PER STONE. 7s. 6d. PER SACK OF 12 STONES. 963w

HALL'S for OIL CAKE and COTTON CAKE.
HALL'S for HORSE FEED.
HALL'S for CATTLE SPICE.
HALL'S for FINEST HUNGARIAN FLOUR.
HALL'S for FINEST CALIFORNIAN FLOUR.
HALL'S for FINEST NEW PROCESS FLOUR.
HALL'S for the CHEAPEST SUGARS.
HALL'S for the BEST SUGARS.
HALL'S for the CHEAPEST TEAS.
HALL'S for FINEST NEW SEASON TEA.
HALL'S for BEST ASSAM TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST DARJIELING TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST BUTTER.
HALL'S for BEST LARD.
HALL'S for MANNA CAKE.

☞ HALL'S is the RIGHT SHOP for all who want a good Article combined with Cheapness.

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

JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 289b

Business Announcements.

GO TO
THE NEWCASTLE AND CONSETT CLOTHIERS AND HATTERS.
FOR
MEN'S AND BOYS' OVERCOATS.
MEN'S AND BOYS' SUITS.
MEN'S AND BOYS' TROUSERS.
MEN'S AND BOYS' HATS AND CAPS.
AND GET THEM AT LESS THAN NEWCASTLE PRICES.

ADDRESS:—
THE 2 W.'S,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, AND AT NEWCASTLE.

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!!

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,
MIDDLE ST., CONSETT, AND FRONT ST., LEADGATE,

WHO has been acknowledged by his Annually-increasing Business to have gained the high reputation of always keeping a very Superior Class of Goods at prices which not only compare with any other House, but defy competition in the North of England.

LIST OF GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE FLOUR DEPARTMENT.

Best Fines 1s. 4d. per st., or 26s. per Sack.
Best Superfines, 1s. 6d. per st.
Finest Hungarian Flour, 10st. Bags, 17s. 6d.
Wheat Meal, Whole Meal, Granulated Meal, best Scotch Oatmeal, 1s. 9d. per st.
Crushed Oats and Beans, 12st. for 13s. 6d.
Indian Meal, 11d. per st., or 16s. 6d. per Sack of 20st.
Hen Corn, Rough Barley, Maize.
(All equally low in Price.)
Boxings, 7s. 6d. per Bag of 12st.
Bran, 4s. 6d. per Sack of 8st.

GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE PROVISION DEPARTMENT.

Extra Choice Butter	1s. 4d. per lb.	Finest Hams	6d. and 6½d. per lb.
(This is the finest produced.)		Should ers, Whole	3½d. and 4d. ,,
Choice Danish Butter	1s. 2d. ,,	Finest American Bacon	4½d. and 5d. ,,
Choice Irish Butter	1s. ,,	(Whole and Half-sides.)	
Finest Butterines	6d., 8d., and 10d. ,,	Finest American Cheese	6d. and 7d. ,,
Small Bladders Lard	5d. and 5½d. ,,	Good Cheese	3d. and 3½d. ,,
Kit Lard	4d. ,,	Best Dutch Cheese	6d. ,,

LIST OF GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE GROCERY DEPARTMENT.

Excellent Sugar	1½d. per lb.
First-class Sugar	2d. ,,
Granulated Sugar	2½d. ,,
Crystalised Sugar	2½d. ,,
Finest Loaf Sugar	2½d. ,,
Raisins	5d. ,,
Splendid Currants	3d. ,,
Sultanas	4d. and 4½d. ,,
Lemon Peel	4d. and 6d. ,,
USE SINCLAIR'S BROWN TWIST.	
Best Pale Soap (White Windsor	2½d. and 3d. ,,
Best Grey Mottled Soap	2½d. and 3d. ,,
Brown Almond Soap	2d. ,,
Blue Mottled Soap	1½d. ,,
Dry Soap	2d. ,,
Salmon	5½d. and 8d. per tin.
USE SINCLAIR'S IRISH ROLL.	
Tapioca	2½d. per lb.
Dip Candles	3½d. per lb., or 3s. 0d. per doz. lbs.
Wax Candles	4½d. per lb., or 3lb. packets, 1s. 1d.
2lb. Tins Roast Beef	9d. per tin.
Tins Rabbit	1s. 0d. ,,
Tins Milk	4½d. ,,
Tins Sardines	4½d. and 9d. ,,
Relish	3d. per bottle.
Ketchup	3½d. ,,
Pickles and Onions	4½d. ,,
Ground Rice	2d. per lb.
White Whole Rice	1½d. ,,

Finest Patna Rice	2d. per lb.
Large and Small Sago	3d. ,,
USE SINCLAIR'S ROUGH-CUT SHAG.	
Matches (Bryant & Mays)	2d. per doz.
Square Blue	5d. per lb.
Corned Beef, best	6d. ,,
Brawn	6d. ,,
6d. Tins Mustard	3½d. each.
Black Bullets	3d. per lb.
USE COPE'S MIXTURE, 4D. PER OZ.	
Tea Biscuits	3d. per lb., or 9d. qr. st.
Mixed Biscuits	4d. per lb.
Ginger Snaps	4d. ,,
Arrowroot	6d. ,,
Toast	6d. ,,
Huntley and Palmer's Biscuits of every description.	
Best Coloured Sweets, all kinds (in Bottles	3d. and 4d. per lb.
Pure York Mixtures	4d. ,,

BRISTOL BIRD'S EYE, 4D. PER OZ.

A large Consignment of splendid Jam, which will be Sold at 3d. per lb.
2lb. Bottles Plum Jam, 4½d. each.
Vinegar, 3d. quart, or 10d. gallon.
Spiced Vinegar. Pure Cassia, 1d. per oz: Nutmegs, 2½d. oz. Pickles, Sauces, and all classes of Tinned Goods in great variety of Package, at a very small discount from cost price.
USE SINCLAIR'S SEALED SHAG.
USE SINCLAIR'S TOBACCOS.

TEA AND COFFEE DEPARTMENT.

Cheapest and Best Tea in the Market, 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s.; very strong, 1s. 4d. and 1s. 8d. per lb.
Mixture of Chicory and Coffee, 1s., 1s. 2d., and 1s. 4d. per lb. Franks' Coffee, in ¼lb and ½lb Tins, 4d. and 8d.
French Coffee, in ½lb. Tins, 6d. Finest Plantation Coffee, Whole 1s. 8d., or Ground fresh.

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF.
HUNTLEY & PALMER'S FANCY BISCUITS OF ALL KINDS AND QUALITIES.
ALSO, A LARGE STOCK OF CHRISTMAS LOAVES, FROM ½LB. TO 4LB.
A SPLENDID STOCK OF CHEESE, INCLUDING ROCHEFORT, GORGONZOLA, STILTON, CHESHIRE, GLO'STER, DERBY, AMERICAN, AND EDAMS.
HOME-FED HAMS AND BACON. WILTSHIRE SMOKED HAM.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
AND FRONT STREET, LEADGATE. 447v

ECONOMY IN ALES. OCTOBER BREWINGS.

NINE GALLON CASKS.—CASH PRICES.

	NINE GALLONS.		EIGHTEEN GALLONS.
Mild Ales	10s. 6d., 12s., 13s. 6d.	Indian Pale Ale	18 Gallons for 24s., 27s.
Bitter Ales	10s. 6d., 13s. 6d.	Mild Burton	18 Gallons for 21s., 24s.

BOTTLED ALES AND STOUT.—PER DOZEN.

	HALF PINTS.	PINTS.		HALF PINTS.	PINTS.
Bass & Co.'s Indian Pale Ale	2s. 0d.	3s. 0d.	Guinness' Invalids' Stout	2s. 0d.	3s. 0d.
Bass & Co.'s Sparkling Mild Ale	1s. 9d.	2s. 8d.	Nourishing Stout	1s. 9d.	2s. 9d.
Fine Old.	HALF GALLONS.	GALLONS.	Fine Old.	HALF GALLONS.	GALLONS.
Glenlivet Whiskey	9s., 8s., 6s. 9d.	18s., 16s., 13s. 6d.	Old Tom Gins	From 6s. 0d.	From 12s. 0d.
Fine Old Jamaica Rums	9s, 8s, 6s 9d	18s, 16s, 13s 6d.	Brandies	From 6s. 9d.	From 13s. 6d.

BRITISH WINES.—PER BOTTLE.

Port Wine	1s. 0d.	Orange	1s. 0d.
Sherry	1s. 0d.	Raisin	1s. 0d.
Tent	1s. 0d.	Raspberry	1s. 0d.
Ginger	1s. 0d.		

Splendid FRUIT WINES—Strawberry, Black Currant, Port, and Ginger, 10d. per Bottle.

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The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, December 17th, 1886.

SUCCESS, AND SOME ELEMENTS ESSENTIAL TO OBTAINING IT.

SEVENTH PAPER.—CONCLUSION.

COURAGE.

Sidney Smith truly said, "A great deal of talent is lost to the world for the want of a little courage." This, alas! is too often the case. Many a man has the power to accomplish a something which he never does, but he is timid, dreads failure, and lacks the necessary courage to put forth the required effort. Thus he resembles the Elizabethian courtier who wrote upon the garden wall these courage-lacking lines,—

"Fain would I climb,
But fear to fall,"

and who was deservedly rebuked by Her Majesty after this fashion,—

"If thy heart fail thee,
Climb thou not at all."

"Nothing venture, nothing win," is a motto which is worthy of remembrance, seeing that a little fearless courage, wisely exercised, has led to most satisfactory results, even in pursuits of the greatest difficulty. A striking instance of this just occurs to my mind, in which the instantaneous courage of a youth saved the lives of many of Her Majesty's soldiers during the partial destruction of the historic city of Alexandria a few years ago. A bomb from the forts of the enemy fell upon the deck of a man-of-war ship, and was promptly seized by a youth, who hurriedly placed it in a pail of water, and thus prevented it exploding. A moment or two of hesitation, or dread of personal danger, might have led to consequences the most serious so far as those on board were concerned.

Courage, therefore, is an important factor in the way of accomplishing great and glorious achievements. Had it not been for this, many of the lasting monuments of human skill and industry would have been unknown to the world, and many of the discoveries of this and past centuries would never have been made. Think of the courage of Columbus, and what he achieved by resisting popular prejudice, braving dangers, and not being faint-hearted. His proposal to cross the sea, and discover an unknown world, was strongly denounced, and looked upon as the fancied whim and desire for notoriety of one whose calculations were not to be trusted. Genoa, his own native city, refused to stand by him in the enterprise he had at heart, and so did John II. of Portugal. This led him to appeal to Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, and after a struggle of eight years with opposition of varied kinds he received three small vessels, and a crew of ninety men, with which to carry out his designs, and shew that his conceptions were well founded. Eighteen years had now elapsed since Columbus had first conceived the idea of his enterprise, but, nothing daunted, he set sail. His one word to the man at the helm was, Steer for the West! Those on board who began to falter, and wished to turn back, he encouraged with words of kindness. And even when some became mutinous, and would fain have had the ship take a homeward course, he first tried to pacify them with promises; but when he found this would not do he had the courage to assume a different tone, and tell the men it was useless murmuring and being violent, for he was determined to persevere. And this he did until they came in sight of land. Then, going on shore, he planted the flag of his country, made the sign of the cross, fell upon his knees and kissed the earth, and gave God thanks. This sort of courage is a marvellous power, for by the exercise of it men are enabled fearlessly to overstep the dangers which lie in their path.

It is something akin to this which men need in every walk of life. Such indeed are the besetments in life,—such the snares which lie in man's way,—that courage is needed so that they may be overcome. Were it not for this power, a feeling of discouragement,—not to say cowardice,—would be engendered, which would cause men to succumb to difficulties and temptations instead of resolutely conquering them. It may be thought that it is all well and good for men like Columbus to be courageous, when they have great, difficult, and it may be dangerous, tasks in hand, but that is not so necessary for those who have only common, every-day duties to perform, which in themselves are insignificant when compared with the discovery of America. All men have not the gifts indispensable for performing deeds such as the world calls great. Nevertheless, as truly as great-gifted men require courage to enable them to execute their large designs, so do the lesser-gifted need courage in order that they may accomplish their common duties.

Every one,—even the very poorest,—are placed in circumstances at times when they need all the courage they can command. A noble instance of this kind is that of a poor boy attending school with patched trousers. One of the schoolboys nicknamed him, "Old Patch." Then the other boys cried out, "Why don't you fight him?" and another remarked, "I'd give it him if he called me that." The courageous answer of the youth put all the boys to flush,—"Oh, don't suppose," said he, "I'm afraid of my patch. I am thankful for a good mother who keeps me out of rags. I honour my patch for her sake." Noble answer indeed from one so young.

A remarkable illustration of courage was also shown by the late President Garfield when he was a boy. At the time referred to his mother was a widow, and he himself had very hard to work. A companion of his proposed that they should visit a mutual acquaintance some miles away on the Sabbath. Young Garfield replied, "Not on a Sunday." "Why?" asked the other. "Because it is not right." "Ah, if you and I do nothing worse than that, Jim, we shall be pretty good fellows." "We should not be any better certainly for doing that." "Nor any the worse in my opinion." "My mother would not consent to it," said Garfield. "I don't know that mine would," replied the other, "and I don't care; I shan't ask her." "I don't go anywhere against my mother's advice, and I respect her feelings; I shan't go on a Sunday." "And you can't go any other day, because you have so much to do." "Well, rather than go on a Sunday I shan't go at all. If I had no scruples of my own about it, I would have no pleasure in going, feeling that I went against my mother's wishes." This prompt and decisive reply gained for the youthful Garfield a moral victory.

And this is what is wanted in the world. Youth, manhood, and old age need the courage to say "No," when asked to do wrong,—to respond with a hearty "Yes," when asked to do good,—to be fearless in doing plain duty. Supposing a person were desirous of crossing a steep and dangerous precipice by means of a narrow plank, what must he do? Must he get upon it tremulously, walk slowly along, and all the while keep his eye fixed on the dangers beneath? Certainly not. He must look up,—look towards the goal,—and with firm and steady step push his way courageously along. If he look down, the probability is he will become dizzy and fall. So must it be in the affairs of daily life. A person must be courageous if he is to do his work well and succeed in life. If he see an obstacle in the way,—if he see a difficulty in his path,—he must not be "cowed" thereby, but manfully overcome it. Difficulties and obstacles must not be turned over in the mind repeatedly, and the question asked, How can they be conquered? They should be looked at as little as possible, and viewed only as a means to overcome them. The poet struck an encouraging chord when he wrote,—

"Courage, brother! do not stumble,
Though the path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble,
Trust in God, and do the right.

"Let the road be rough and dreary,
And its end far out of sight;
Foot it bravely, strong or weary,
Trust in God and do the right.

"Perish policy and cunning,
Perish all that fears the light;
Whether losing, whether winning,
Trust in God, and do the right."

DON'T BE AFRAID OF RIDICULE.

Ridicule is the expression of another's laughter. It is the mockery, expressed by word or look, of what another does or says. It is the sneer of the would-be critic,—the mocking tone of the inconsiderate observer. Ridicule has a keen edge, and a killing influence, and hence it is well to be fortified against its deadening tendency. It often pierces the heart of him who is the subject of it, and damps, if it does not kill, his ardour for attempting anything out of the common. Many a one is deterred from trying to accomplish a thing which, to him, is new and difficult, simply by the dread of what others will say of his workmanship. The question, "What will people say?" is to some a serious drawback.

"A mocking tone hath an edge more keen
Than the warrior's sharpened sword;
The heart may have scar'd and stricken been,
But 'twill shrink from a taunting word:
The hardest lesson of life's stern school
Is—patient endurance of ridicule."

The worthless nature of ridicule is seen by considering the character of the persons from whom it generally comes. What sort of persons are they who are mostly given to ridicule the work of others? As a rule, they are those who could have done no better if they had tried. The fact is, ridicule often comes from persons who are afraid to attempt the work themselves, or do anything out of the ordinary way. Dr Thomas Arnold, in writing to one of his former pupils whose shyness made his college associations unpleasant, said, "It is an immense blessing to be perfectly callous to ridicule; or, which comes to the same thing, to be conscious thoroughly that what we have in us of noble and delicate is not ridiculous to any but fools, and that, if fools will laugh, wise men will do well to let them."

Seeing, then, that ridicule of honest effort arises mainly from the want of consideration on the part of those who indulge in it, a person can well afford to look with disdain on all such "cold-water" treatment. Let a man be conscious of his own integrity, and of the fact that his work is the result of honest effort, and then he may well despise ridicule from whatever source it may come. Men who are noble and true, and capable of honest work, are not the ones to laugh contemptuously at the work of others. If they see a defect, they would the more readily point it out, so that future attempts might be more successful. It is one of the traits of true manliness to help and not dishearten another,—to give a brother a lift by the way, and not a push back down the steep hill of life. Men, therefore, may rely on this that if they do their best they have no cause to fear what others may say. Yea, they may rather rejoice in the fact that,—

"He who does the best his circumstance allows,
Does well, acts nobly; angels could no more."

CONCLUSION.

In drawing these papers to a close, it is perhaps hardly necessary to say that the subject is far from being exhausted. In fact, such is the nature of life, and such the variety of elements essential to gaining success, that it is next to impossible to write all that might be said thereon. Still, there are some points which have not been touched upon that call for at least a passing notice.

One of these is THE RIGHT USE OF TIME. Now time is the measure of our life. To us it denotes the period of our existence. Hence the amount of deserved success a man is likely to meet with depends upon the use he makes of time. The true life of a single day does not consist merely in spending twenty-four hours, but in doing as much as possible during that time. Bailey wisely says in "Festus,"—

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

Such a use of time implies living to purpose,—accomplishing all that can be done in the hours which make up the brief span of human existence.

Another element which leads to success is FRUGALITY. "Waste not, want not." The neglect of this has brought many an one to penury. When things go well with men they too often increase their expenses with an unsparing hand. The consequence is that a period of flourishing years is sometimes followed by the pinchings of poverty. Those who know Consett life best have seen this frequently exemplified. Who, during the last twenty years, were better able to live through a strike, or want of work caused by dulness of trade? Was it the "big-moneyed" man who made his 20s or 30s a-day, or the poorer man who had to be content with 5s or 6s? It certainly should have been the former, but, alas! in too many cases the latter were better off in times of distress. Extravagance and want of frugality is the sure road to a non-successful life.

"What numbers once in fortune's lap high fed,
Solicit now the cold hand of charity."

PATIENCE is another necessity. Man is apt to be impatient, and can hardly bear to wait till his labours have had time to bring about the long-desired result. And yet the farmer has to exercise patience, and hope through the seasons of ploughing and sowing until the time of harvest. Man needs to work and wait in all the walks of life, being encouraged at the same time by the adage, "All things come to the feet of him who can wait."

Let a man, then, strive to do his work well,—let him be persevering and courageous in the affairs of life,—let him use up the hours as they come to the best advantage,—let him not be weary in well-doing,—and his life will not be spent in vain.

HASTINGS.

Correspondence.

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

THE DEFUNCT DEBATING SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I observe with regret your announcement that the Consett and District Parliamentary Debating Society has practically ceased to exist. But ought not the fate of the society to serve as a warning to those who would fain with ruthless hands despoil our National Church, for the question before the House at its last meeting as a House was none other than "Church Disestablishment?" And how fervently can many to the collapse of this society apply the oft quoted words—

"And so may e'en another perish
Who dares such deed as he."

—Yours in black, GAUDENS EXULTANSQUE.

Consett, Dec. 13th, 1886.

THE CONSETT WHEELBARROWIST ON THE ROAD.

James Spark, ironworker, who started on the 6th inst. on a wheelbarrow journey to Wolverhampton and back, has written a letter, of which the following is the effect:—

On the Monday, which was very windy, I travelled with my wheelbarrow from Consett to Bishop Auckland, 22 miles. On Tuesday, I pushed as far as Northallerton, 29 miles. The weather was wet. The next day I found my way to Ripon, 18 miles, the day being a stormy one, with rain. Thursday was a dull, wet day, but I got to Bradford, a distance of 27 miles. On Friday there was a good deal of rain and wind. Night found me twenty miles further, at Ripponden. I experienced very bad weather on the Saturday, and finished the day's tramp of 14 miles at Middleton. My total mileage for the week has thus been 139; I have 67 more to "do" before I arrive at Wolverhampton. All through the week, therefore, I have had exceedingly adverse weather, being often wet through. A gale of the utmost severity blew over the hills on Wednesday and Thursday. I tried to make the journey from Ripponden to Manchester on Saturday in the wet; but my foot was lamed through a blister, and I could not. I have had several tough bits of walking. Several whole days I had to work my hardest to make headway in face of the boisterous gale; and on Wednesday the wind turned my barrow completely topsy turvey. However, I am in good health, and shall leave on Monday morning for Macclesfield, through Manchester and Stockport, a distance of 26 miles. On Tuesday I shall go to Stafford, and I expect to be in Wolverhampton on Wednesday.

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NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

The Oddfellows' Lodge at Stanhope will celebrate its jubilee next year. Mr William Raine has for the past 49 years held the responsible office of honorary treasurer, and during that long period has only missed one monthly meeting.

Much sympathy is felt with Mr John Carrick, mining farmer, Ireshope Plains, on account of the loss he has sustained by having his horse "Alfred" in a hole on the Fell, into which the poor animal had strayed.

Mr G. Lamb, keeper to Mr J. W. R. Hillyard, Horsley Hall, shot on the estate, on Saturday, a *rara avis*—a piled blackbird (*Turdus merula*). It had a white head and breast, white legs, and the wings were also tipped with white.

The Wolsingham public are beholden to Mr W. W. Peart for having erected in a very conspicuous place in the Market Place a Town Clock, but unfortunately, for want of light, it is placed under very serious disadvantages, as it cannot be seen during the dark nights. If there is one thing that the old town needs more than another it is light—more light!

Two young ladies—Miss Bostock and Miss Mary J. Urwin, had a sharp contest—in which they had no personal part—for a vacant post in Westgate Board School. The young ladies are about the same age, with similar qualifications; and the School Board were chiefly concerned with the question which should have precedence. One young lady already had a subordinate post in the school; and the Board felt a delicacy in putting one candidate over the other. Eventually, Miss Bostock was appointed to the post.

THE RAILWAY FATALITY NEAR ROWLEY.

On Friday afternoon, Mr J. Graham, coroner, held an inquiry, in the waiting-room of Rowley Station, into the circumstances attending the death of Thomas Pickering, aged 65, residing at Whickham Grange, near Castleside, whose dead body was discovered lying upon the Darlington and Consett Branch of the North-Eastern Railway, at the Whitehall depots, near Rowley Station, on Wednesday, 8th inst.

The first witness was William Forster, a signalman at Rowley box, living at Castleside, who stated that he saw Pickering on the railway on the 8th December, and was talking to him at 7·20 a.m. as he was coming past witness's cabin. Deceased was busy putting salt on the points, and clearing the snow out. He went down to the points at the bridge near Rowley Station, and afterwards returned past the cabin about 7·45. He went along to the distant lamp, which it was his duty to bring in every night and morning. Subsequently, Pickering went into his own (the platelayer's) cabin, on the opposite side of the station, to get his breakfast. Witness never saw him again alive. After his breakfast, deceased would have to go to a pair of points at Whitehall, close to where his body was found lying dead a short while after. The place was about half-a-mile west of Rowley Station. The weather was very wild and stormy, snow falling pretty heavily; the wind blowing north-west. Pickering was wearing a So'-wester, with the flaps tied over his ears. Generally speaking, he was an active man for his age, and could hear tolerably well.

Thomas Hall, engine-driver of the mineral train, No. 1172, and residing at Waskerley, deposed that on the 8th inst. he drove his locomotive with empty waggons from Consett Junction to Burnhill, leaving about one o'clock p.m. He would reach Whitehall about 1·25 p.m., the points there leading off to some depots. He was running with tender first, and was standing on the left side of the engine going up, the fireman being on the right. It was not snowing then, but there was a trifle lying upon the line. The wind was exceedingly strong, and the weather bitterly cold. Witness perceived the body of Pickering lying in the gutter on the north side of the down line, his head pointing to the west, and resting rather upon his right shoulder. He would be six or seven yards from the points, and his shovel was lying two or three yards to the west of him. Witness stopped the train, descended, and ascertained that life was extinct. He did not lift the body, but left it lying there till they travelled a little further west, when he told two platelayers, who went to the spot to remove the body.

P.C. Lewis, stationed at Castleside, stated that he saw the deceased about 2·30 the same afternoon lying by the side of the railway, as described by the previous witness. The body was cold, but not stiff, as he was able to straighten the left arm, which was lying across the breast. He turned the man over and examined him, and found blood oozing out of his mouth. Witness assisted to get him home to Whickham Grange. His watch was going, and a purse was found in his pocket, but without any money therein. His clothes were all right; there were some scratches and a little dried blood on the back of the right hand. There were no other marks or bruises about him. Witness stripped off the man's clothes, and scrutinised the body.

The Foreman (Mr T. J. Muse): Did you notice any blood coming from the ear?—Witness: Yes, a little dark-coloured blood from the right ear. There would be about two inches of soft snow where Pickering was lying. There was something on the surface of the snow indicating that he had been thrown eastwards, struck the ground, and then rolled nearer westwards.

Robert Canwick, driver of passenger engine No. 158, and living at No. 28, Surtees Street, Darlington, adduced that his engine and tender were separate, the engine running first. He was coming from Darlington in the direction of Consett on the morning in question. He left Burnhill at 8·40, and it was very stormy at the time, snow falling heavily, and the wind coming sideways. He never saw a single man on the line between Burnhill and Rowley. Their engine was different to others, the the reversing gear was on the left-hand side. He was on the left, and the fireman was on the right, keeping a good look-out. He neither saw nor heard anything of deceased till he returned back to Rowley Station at 2·15.

The stoker, George Layfield, of Gurney Street, Darlington, never saw anyone on the line between Burnhill and Rowley. He could not see through his window for the blasting snow, but had to look over the side of the engine, and shade his hands over his face to see ahead.

Mr T. Featherstone, stationmaster at Rowley, attested that a train left Rowley for Darlington at 8·30. There was no other train up or down until the passenger spoken of by Canswick, which was due there at 8·50, and would pass Whitehall depots about 8·49. There would a goods train proceed up from Consett to Darlington, passing Rowley about 9·30; and then nothing more up or down till Hall's train. The rails were double at that place, and the deceased was found lying on the line from Darlington.

The Coroner, in summing up, observed that there was no doubt that the man had been killed by some part of the engine. He might be busy cleaning out the switches, and was perhaps in a stooping position, with his south-wester covering his ears. He might miscalculate the time, and not seeing or hearing the approach of the train, might be forcibly knocked down by the buffer. The thick clothing worn by him would prevent the body from becoming rapidly cold.

A verdict of "Accidentally killed" was returned by the jury.

The Railway Company's representative asked for the expenses of their witnesses; but these were very properly refused by the Coroner.

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

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CHURCH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

BURNOPFIELD BRANCH.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Monday evening, in the National Schools, Burnopfield. A large number of members were present. The president (Rev T. Stirrup) presided. The secretary reported that forty adults had joined the society during the last year. The juvenile branch, too, has been augmented by a number slightly higher than this. The treasurer's report was very satisfactory, there being a balance on the right side of £4 2s 1d. This has been the most flourishing year of the society since its commencement. The following are the officers and committee for next year:—President, Rev T. Stirrup; vice-presidents, Rev P. Hughes, and Jas. Gilchrist, Esq.; hon. secretary, *Chas. W. Jolly; assistant secretary, *Tom Morgan; treasurer, *Wm D. Patterson; harmoniumist, *John G. Ramsay; committee, *Wm. Gordon, *Thos. Thompson, *M. Brabban, Wm. Hogarth, *Pax. Allan, John Mason, *Miss Gladders, *Miss E. Dand, *Miss J. Ramsay; librarian, Mr D. Patterson; superintendent of games, Mr Gordon. Those marked (*) are the same as before. Votes of thanks were proposed to the retiring committee for their services during the past year, and to the chairman for presiding over the meeting, both votes being carried with acclamation. This concluded the business of the evening.

SINGULAR PROPERTY DISPUTE AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

At the Consett Police Court on Monday, Henry Brown, auctioneer, &c., Leadgate,—a gentleman well-known in the North of England, as the redoubtable bailiff under the late Countess of Derwentwater — made a somewhat singular application for a summons against the Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Company, for committing damage to certain property belonging to him at Shotley Bridge. Applicant claims to be the proprietor of a large stone structure situate at the corner of Wood Street and Green Street, which has been for a considerable period in the occupation of the Gas Company, being utilised by them as offices, manager's residence, &c. The house, which is large, commodious, and well built, and formerly—prior to the erection of the Gas Works opposite—commanded a beautiful view overlooking the River Derwent; was originally erected by Mr Brown, but subsequently he heavily mortgaged the property. The Gas Company recognising the mortgagees as their landlords. A short while ago, Mr Brown attempted to take forcible possession of the premises, and with a short stick he broke several pains of glass in the windows. For this offence, he was prosecuted by the Gas Company, although Brown declared that he could do what he liked with his own property, and he was fined by the Consett Bench, and ordered to defray the damage and costs; but the defendant preferred to accept the alternative of seven days' imprisonment, even refusing anyone else from paying the penalties.—When Mr Brown made his application last Monday, the Magistrates' Clerk (Mr A. W. Granger) enquired if there was not some dispute regarding the ownership of the property?—Applicant: No, I claim the property myself.—Mr Granger: The Gas Company say not. It is the same property for which you were fined a short time ago?—Applicant: Yes.—Mr Granger: The ownership is disputed, and the Magistrates have no power to deal with the case. You will have to get the matter settled by commencing proceedings in a superior court.—Applicant: But the Magistrates dealt with the case when the Gas Company brought me up, and committed me to prison.—The Magistrates' Clerk: That was a different matter. The Gas Company were in possession of the premises, and you damaged them.—Applicant: It's not justice——The Chairman (Mr J. Annandale): We cannot grant your application, Mr Brown.—Applicant thereupon left the Court, muttering that it was "nothing but a farce."

The dispute as to who is the actual owner of the property is a critical point, and before it is effectually settled, will probably entail a great deal of litegation. It is perfectly correct, as alleged by Mr Brown, that he was successful in pursuing his claim at the Revising Barrister's Court; and in the absence of the mortagees, he was recognised as the owner thereof, and accordingly his name was placed on the registers as entitled to vote. The Gas Company give the following particulars as their version of the dispute:—

In 1843, Mr Henry Brown mortgaged the property to three persons named Rowe—two brothers and a sister, living at Prudhoe—for £300. On the interest falling into arrears, the property was let by Rowe and Brown jointly, on the express condition that the rent should be paid to Rowe, who was to keep the property in repair, and pay his interest out of the rent, any surplus to be allowed off the principal. For a long period the property was occupied by a Miss McCullagh, who carried on a "Young Ladies' Boarding School." In 1856, the house was taken on a ten years' lease by the Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Company, at an annual rental of £25, which was regularly paid to the mortgagees (Rowe). This lease expired, and the property was subsequently occupied for two or three years by Mr Martin Bell. About this date, however, the original mortgagee died without a will, and by a deed of gift, the surviving mortgagee (as the last one that died) assigned the mortgage debt into two trustees in favour of his two nephews (also of the name of Rowe). These nephews could never agree as to the division of the property, consequently they instructed their solicitors to sell all the property they could belonging the deceased Rowe. The house, however, at Shotley Bridge could not be sold, and the rent was allowed by the solicitors to be received by John Rowe, heir-at-law, being the oldest son of the oldest brother, in respect to his share of the division. Soon afterwards, he divided his share with a brother-in-law named Holmes, in consideration of money lent. Brown having paid nothing to the principal and nothing to the interest, these parties (Rowe and Holmes) continued to let the property; but the rents being so low, they could not realise their interest thereon. They then publicly advertised it for sale under a foreclosure, and this course was expected to have put an end to any disputes regarding the ownership. Some young branches of the Rowe family having recently grown up, still considered that they ought to have shares in the property, and spoke to Brown to push his claims with a view to securing a settlement from the owners in possession (John Rowe and Thomas Holmes) and endeavour to get the property sold. Brown, however, had not taken the slightest interest in the property for 16 years, although these younger Rowes had applied to him, but soon afterwards he began to think there was "something in it." Consequently, he has ever since continued to annoy the tenants—the Shotley Bridge Gas Co.—and they have been completely inundated with threatening letters and notices from himself, their agents, and lawyers from all parts of the northern districtn; no less than seven different solicitors having been concerned in writing letters and giving notices to the Gas Company. These negotiations always seem to collapse after passing the first stage. Lately, Brown sent a demand to the Gas Company for £940 damages in default of refusing to give him possession; but no notice was taken of his request. A fortnight afterwards, he proceeded to Shotley Bridge with the avowed intention of taking possession of his prorerty; but being frustrated in his efforts, he broke the windows with a stick. The Gas Company sought, about half-a-dozen years ago, the legal advice of their solicitor (Mr John Booth), and his decision was that the Gas Company, as tenants could not recognise anyone but the owners in possession (Messrs Rowe and Holmes), and that if Brown had any claim whatever, the proper course for him to pursue was to bring an action against those parties in court for recovery of possession—which he has never done. He expects the Gas Company will refuse the rents, and take the onus upon themselves to recognise him as their landlord—a course which would be contrary to all law. The Gas Company have had three separate leases of 10 years, the last one having been renewed in 1880.

The deed of gift was dated November 29th, 18 , between Joseph Rowe, of Prudhoe, and Andrew Patterson, of Eltringham, and Wm. Smiles, of Eltringham Pit Houses, in the parish of Ovingham. It assigned the mortgage debt of £300, and interest, to Andrew Patterson and Wm. Smiles, upon trust, into and to the use of the said trustees, their heirs and assegnees, for ever, subject to such equity of redemption as the said premises were then subject to. The trustees took possession of the property, and having allowed it to be taken up in the manner aforesaid, by virtue of the deed of gift it remained in possession of Rowe and Holmes. The Gas Company recognise these parties as their landlords, as according to the advice of their solicitor, the trustees could distrain upon the Company for the rent, if they happened to pay the same [illegible].

BENFIELDSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

A special meeting of the Board took place in the Benfieldside Edge School on Friday afternoon, when there were present Mr H. Carss (in the chair), Revs A. Baillie, and E. W. Jenkins, Messrs W. Telford, E. Sloane, and R. H. Barclay (Clerk).

ELECTION OF A NEW MEMBER.

The election of a member in succession to Mr Chas. Wilson, deceased, late chairman of the Board, was disposed of.

Rev A. BAILLIE moved, and Mr E. SLOANE seconded, the nomination of Rev G. H. Ross-Lewin, vicar of St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside.

The CHAIRMAN, as an amendment, proposed Mr John Smith, architect, Shotley Bridge. He spoke very strongly against the selection of the Vicar of the parish.

Mr TELFORD seconded the amendment.

A letter was read from the Chairman (Mr J. Priestman), stating that, had he being able to be present, he would have supported the election of Mr Ross-Lewin.

The voting was as follows:—For the motion (3):—Revs E. W. Jenkins, A. Baillie, and Mr Sloane; against (2):—The Chairman and Mr Telford.

The Vicar was declared elected.

The regular meeting was afterwards held, under the presidency of Mr Carss. All the above members were present excepting Mr Telford.

FINANCIAL.

The Finance Committee recommended the payment of accounts representing a total of £354 12s 11d.

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS.

The Government Inspector, having recommended that singing by note should be taught in the upper classes, instead of singing by ear, the Clerk stated that he had been informed by the teachers that they would be happy to teach singing by note, but in their present form, the school-rooms were not adapted for that purpose. It would be necessary, before introducing singing by note, to have a frame and glass partition inserted in the archways of the school, for the convenience of teachers and scholars.

After some discussion, the Clerk was instructed to invite tenders for carrying out the proposed alterations.

Miss Ridley, mistress of Derwent Street Infant School, applied for a pianoforte to accompany the children's singing exercises.

The subject was deferred.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It was resolved, on the proposal of Mr BAILLIE seconded by Mr JENKINS, that drawing—freehand and geometry—be taught as a class subject in the schools.

The Board authorised Miss Ridley to present small reward books to the infants, to encourage the children to attend regularly and punctually.

Mr A. McKean (schoolwarden) reported that the attendance was about as usual.

There was no other business of importance.

MR TAYLOR SMITH'S NEW VILLA AT LANCHESTER.

Mr Edward Taylor Smith, J.P., of Colpike Hall, having built for himself a new house, is about to leave Colpike, where the family has been so long located, and take up his residence in the newly-erected place of abode. The new house, which is named Park House, and situate within about two minutes' walk of Lanchester Railway Station, on the Consett Branch Railway, is a compact, admirably arranged, and handsome structure, commanding a splendid view of the surrounding country, the charms of which need no description. Messrs John Smith and Son, architects, Shotley Bridge, designed the building, and superintended the erection thereof. The work of furnishing and decorating the mansion was entrusted to the old-established firm of Bragg and Co., Newcastle, whose good name has grown and strengthened during nearly a hundred years, next year being the centenary year of their business. Messrs Bragg and Co., in making the arrangements have been left very much to the exercise of the excellent taste which has never failed them. In no way have they been crippled, *carte blanche* having been given them, and they have succeeded in producing a result which more than justifies the confidence reposed in them, and which must certainly give the highest satisfaction to Mr Taylor Smith and his lady. The richness and excellence of the work has been viewed with considerable interest by those who have had the privilege of seeing it. Only the highest encomiums will properly describe the charming effect produced. The work is done in the style of Louis XIV.—a style which for combined elegance and comfort cannot very well be surpassed, for in the time of the fourteenth Louis there was a love of luxurious ease, combined with good taste; and wealth to give expression to both. The materials used are of the highest class. Handsome silks and plush and real lace are ubiquitous. The furniture is of thoroughly solid make and of finished workmanship, and the designs, though differing in the various apartments, are in harmony with the general idea. Palpably the chief aim has been to get real excellence of workmanship with tasteful arrangement and comfort. Not only this country, but the continent of Europe, has been drawn upon for materials, rich and rare, and even the far East has been made to contribute to the floor coverings and mural decorations. Anyone passing through the different chambers cannot but be struck with the beauty of the main plan, and of the subordinate designs so to speak, each perfect in itself, and forming part of a harmonious whole. The charming diversity of material and colours beautifully blended so delight the eye that one does not quickly tire of regarding them. The handsome entrance hall is paved with Minton tiles. It is hung with beautiful tapestry curtains, and Persian rugs are disposed to appropriate places. Beautiful carpets adorn the staircase. Immediately facing one on ascending the stairs is a fine large window hung with tapestry and Colbert lace curtains. At either side of the window are pedestals, on which stand vases. Covering large archways at the head of the stairs are crimson cloth curtains, with heavy masses of fringe at the bottom. The bed-rooms are most completely and costly equipped with everything likely to promote solid comfort or satisfy the desires of an artistic mind. Costly and beautiful hangings on the bedsteads and at the windows and doors, all having dadoes of plush, and being lined with warm, draught-proof material, serve the double purpose of decoration and the interception of unpleasant currents of air. The beds are supplied with the finest spring mattresses, upon the top of which are other mattresses, and merino blankets of the finest description, the whole surmounted by real lace quilts, lined with rich satin. The bell-pulls and other appointments are in harmony. Throughout the house the curtains at the doors are suspended from a jointed brass rod fixed in such a manner that no withdrawal of the curtain is necessary when the door is opened. All the window curtains, the curtains in the vestibule, at the stairhead, &c., can without the slightest trouble be drawn or withdrawn by merely pulling a cord. In the sleeping chamber is a very handsome walnut suite of furniture, solid, and at the same time of chaste design, and every provision for comfort and luxury is made. Terms used in respect to one bed room may apply generally to all, though the materials are different, the hangings of some being of French tapestry and of different coloured silks, and various kinds of woods being called into requisition for the furniture. From the bed-rooms we passed into the private chapel, the floor of which is of a very beautiful and appropriate design of parquetry, composed of oak and inlaid walnut combined. The altar, reredos, tabernacle, chairs, *prie Dieu*, and other furnishings are of oak, and are of home design and manufacture. Nothing in the house perhaps is more striking than the hand-carving which is put in the chapel. Beauty of design and careful attention to detail have produced a result that will bear the most critical scrutiny. Indeed, close examination, instead of revealing weakness, confirms its merit. The walls and ceiling are decorated in a most tasteful and appropriate manner. From the chapel we went to the boudoir, which is furnished in *bijou* style. The chairs, tables, &c., are of the Chippendale period, covered in Genoa velvet, silk, plush, and other costly fabrics. The carpet is a large velvet pile, and the windows, doors, and the fireplaces are all decked with materials in keeping. Descending the stairs, we came to the drawing-room, on entering which the first thing which catches the eye is the graceful arrangement of drapery over two handsome mirrors, relieving the glare of the large surface of crystal and gilt. The materials used are plush and soft silks. The mantle-piece, door, and windows, are fully draped with kindred fabrics, and when drawn one can scarcely exaggerate the feeling of comfort and repose imparted. At once, elegant and luxurious, the furniture is in every way suitable and in harmony with the rest of the appointments. In the dining-room we found furniture of walnut, the chairs, &c., being covered in morocco, and the draperies being of plush and tapestry woven in one. The windows in every room have real lace summer curtains, and are also furnished with outside Spanish blinds, which exclude the sun and mellow the light within, while also tending to prevent a draught when the window is open. The lighting of the house will be by oil lamps, which are of the most recent and approved designs, and the fittings are arranged so that they can, whenever required, be used also for gas. In conclusion, we may add, that the works has been done under the personal supervision of Mr Fielding, Messrs Bragg and Co.'s foreman, who has designed and produced a result which for comfort, luxury, and elegance could not well be surpassed.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A GIRL NEAR TOW LAW.

On Friday afternoon, an inquest held in Wm. Waugh's beerhouse, Thornley, a secluded hamlet, lying on the northern slope of the Wear Valley, midway between Harperley and Tow Law, touching the death of Ann Atkinson. Mr James Ayton was foreman of the jury, most of whom came from Tow Law.

Mrs Ann Atkinson, of 13, Kirby Street, North Stockton, widow, deposed: Deceased was my daughter, and was 16 years old last April. She was a general servant in Stockton, and left her place on Saturday night. I don't know why. I was not aware she had left till I got a telegram from Thornley, saying, "Come at once; your daughter's very ill at Mrs Carrick's, Thornley." When I got the telegram I could scarcely credit the truth. I next saw deceased a corpse, at my sister's. She had not been doing what I should have liked her to have done. She kept very low company. She would not come home; I got nothing but abuse whenever I spoke to her, and when she met me she turned her back on me.

The Coroner: Has she ever spoken about making away with herself?—Witness: Never, sir.

Have you any other family?—I have seven.

How long has she been away from you?—Since she was fourteen. I couldn't afford to keep her at home.

Re-examined: I don't know whether she was turned away from her place. I have never seen her master. When I got a message from Thornley I sent a neighbour to inquire, and found the story of her removal correct. I heard that the master said he could not do with the girl vomiting, and that deceased told her master she had taken sixpennyworth of laudanum. Witness went on to give conversations showing that laudanum had, as alleged, been bought. From the conversation it was judged deceased was getting laudanum regularly. Witnessed was so overwhelmed that she was unable to go and see deceased's master. What had caused the girl to do this witness could not tell.

Jane Carrick, widow, said: Deceased reached my house at eight o'clock on Saturday night. She said she was poorly and very cold, and I made her tea and toast, after which she washed herself and went to bed. Next day deceased was sick and partook of but little food, and I put her feet in mustard and water at night. Next morning deceased, though still sick, said she was a little better. On Monday night the symptoms made me a little anxious, and I sent a telegram to her mother next morning. On Wednesday deceased was restless, and I sent for Dr Hood, Tow Law, who sent down some medicine at night, after the girl's death, which took place at five o'clock. I also sent for Mrs Stedding, a neighbour. Deceased died quietly.

Sergt. Christison: She made a statement?—Yes; I questioned her, and she said she had broken a mug, that she was ill, and could not make the bed. Her master gave her her money, and she went away. At eleven o'clock she went to her sister Meggie's, and sat in a chair; but the sister said she could not do with her, and advised her to go to her brother William's. Deceased also admitted taking sixpennyworth of laudanum on Friday night, but she vomited it.

Dr Hood, Tow Law, gave evidence to the effect that he found the girl suffering from great prostration, and she declined to answer any questions. The *post-mortem* examination (at which Dr Johnston was also present) showed a well-nourished body, but witness could not say whether death was the result of irritant poison.

The Coroner: Do you think there was an irritant poison?—Doctor: I really don't know; there might be or there might not.

Then death might either be the result of disease or the poison?—It might.

A Juror: Do you consider laudanum an irritant poison?—No; in any case laudanum would not have produced the symtoms I have described.

The Coroner: Laudanum is a narcotic?—It is.

A Juror: Could you suggest any other kind of poison?—It's not my place to suggest. Death was caused by gastro-intestinal inflammation and irritation.

The Coroner summed up, saying that a variety of stories of the case had been afloat, and he directed a *post-mortem* examination. The doctors had found no evidence of incipient maternity, and he advised the jury to give a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony, as they could go no further than what they had heard.

The jury unanimously agreed they could carry the case no further, and they found a verdict that death had taken place from gastro-intestinal inflammation and irritation.

Cricket.

CROOK CRICKET CLUB.—At the annual meeting of this club, the hon. secretary, Mr T. Wilson, read the report and financial statement, which showed a balance of £3 5s 5d in hand. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr G. Emmerson; vice-presidents, Mr J. Smedley and Mr M. Coates; captain 1st team, Mr C. Turnbull; vice-captain 1st team, Mr J. Harding; captain 2nd team, Mr J. Wilkinson; vice-captain 2nd team, Mr T. Furness; hon. secretary, Mr Thos. Wilson; hon. treasurer, Mr J. Race; committee, Messrs W. Reed, T. Woodman, S. Barkass, E. Taylor, R. Scales, E. Milburn, T. Buston, G. Thompson, and W. Hare.

Trade Notes.

THE DISPUTE AT PELTON FELL COLLIERY.—In connection with the notices given to over thirty men at the above colliery, a mass meeting was held at the foot of "Burnt House Bank," on Friday last. There was a very large attendance, and the question was discussed regarding the dispute. Delegates were chosen to see the officials at Durham, and to report the matter to another meeting to be held shortly. Feeling runs very high at the colliery.

DURHAM MINERS' ASSOCIATION.—The annual council of the Durham Miners' Association was held on Saturday, in the Miners' Hall—Mr J. Foreman presiding. There was a full attendance of delegates, and over 30,000 members were represented. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr John Foreman; corresponding secretary, Mr Wm. Crawford, M.P.; financial secretary, Mr Wm. H. Patterson; treasurer, Mr John Wilson. The remainder of the day was occupied in discussing alterations and amendments made in various rules.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Wrongs made Right.—Every day that any bodily suffering is permitted to continue renders it more certain to become chronic or dangerous. Holloway's purifying, cooling, and strengthening Pills are well adapted for any irregularity of the human body, and should be taken when the stomach is disordered, the liver deranged, the kidneys inactive, the bowels torpid, or the brain muddled. With this medicine every invalid can cure himself, and those who are weak and infirm through imperfect digestion may make themselves strong and stout by Holloway's excellent Pills. A few doses of them usually mitigate the most painful symptoms caused by undigested food, from which they thoroughly free the alimentary canal and completely restore its natural power and action.

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

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, December 13th.—Before JAMES ANNANDALE, Esq. (chairman), J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq., and W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

James Conway was summoned by Sergt. Thornton for being drunk and using bad language at Dipton, at 11 30 on the 22nd ult.—Defendant did not appear, and was fined 10s and costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

James Chambers pleaded guilty to being intoxicated at the same time and place, and was fined 5s and costs.

Lawrence Dolan and *Henry Longstaff*, also charged by Sergt. Thornton with drunkenness at Dipton, on the same date, were similarly fined.

Thomas Stobbs and *James Mooney* were severally summoned by P.C. Henderson for being intoxicated at Dipton, having been ejected from public-houses. As the defendants failed to appear, they were mulcted in 10s each and costs.

Sylvester Murray, miner, was found guilty, upon the testimony of P.C. Johnson, of being very drunk and disorderly at South Medomsley, on the 27th ult., and was fined 10s and costs, or seven days' hard labour.

John Britt, charged by the same officer with committing a like offence at Dipton, on the 28th ult., was let off on payment of a penalty of 5s and expenses.

Thomas Dolan was fined in a similar amount for drunkenness in Sherburn Terrace, Consett, on the 4th inst.—P.C. Turnbull stated the facts.

Peter Campbell, an old man, pleaded guilty to a charge, preferred by P.C. Lawson, of having been drunk and disorderly at Blackhill, at 11 o'clock on the 27th ult.—Fined 1s and 5s 6d costs.

Joseph Stephenson was accused by P.C. Lawson of having been drunk at Cutlers Hall, Benfieldside, at 9 p.m. on the 27th November, and was fined in a like penalty.

James Griffiths, a "blackleg" at South Medomsley, having been found by P.C. Martin lying on his back in Sherburn Terrace, Consett, on the 4th inst., in a helpless state of intoxication, was fined 10s and 8s 10d costs.—Prisoner was admitted to bail, but failed to surrender to his recognisances.

William Robinson, of Allendale Cottages, was also summoned by P.C. Lawson for having been drunk and fighting in Middle Street, Consett, on Thursday night last, was ordered to pay a penalty of 5s and expenses.

Peter Thompson, of Dipton, pleaded guilty to being drunk and incapable at Consett at six o'clock on the preceding Saturday evening.—P.C. Jameson was called upon to eject the defendant from a grocer's shop, and he behaved in a very disorderly manner upon the streets.—A fine of 5s and costs was imposed.

Michael Connor, labourer, working at Shotley Bridge, was brought up by P.C. Turnbull for drunkenness and disorderly conduct at Consett, on the preceding Saturday night, and was mulcted in the same penalty.

William Harinty, charged by P.C. Lindsay with drunkenness at Consett last Saturday evening, was also fined 5s and costs.

A PAIR OF FEMALE TIPPLERS.

Mary Myers, an elderly woman, of South Medomsley, who was represented by her daughter, was summoned upon two charges of drunkenness.—P.C. Johnson spoke to finding the woman in a beastly state of intoxication at South Medomsley, on the 26th and again on the 27th November. On one occasion she was lying in the middle of the road in a helpless condition, and had to be carried into the house by the neighbours. She was a habitual drunkard, and had been summoned to attend almost every Court.—Defendant's daughter admitted both offences, and the penalty of 2s 6d and costs was inflicted in each instance.

A tottering old woman, named *Rose Finnigan*, was placed in the dock to answer a charge of incapable drunkenness.—P.C. Robinson adduced that last Saturday afternoon, about two o'clock, he found the prisoner at West Stanley in a beastly state of intoxication. She had a crowd of several hundred people around her. She had fallen against something hard near to Mr Watson's butcher's shop, and injured and bruised her face.—Prisoner said she had a husband and a son working at Dipton, but they would not pay the fines.—Inspector Davidson, in answer to the Bench, stated that when prisoner was locked up at Lanchester on Saturday, she remained speechless for five hours. After that, she made a statement to the effect that she set off to visit a daughter, but got drunk at Stanley.—The Bench dismissed the summons, but advised the prisoner to quit the neighbourhood at once.—She promised to comply with the request of the Court.

THREATENING HIS WIFE.

John Middleton, an elderly man, a brake-driver, living at White-le-Head, was summoned by his wife Mary Middleton, for having threatened to kill her, on the 29th ult.—Complainant stated that on the night in question, her husband came home in an inebriated state, and having abused her, he struck her twice. He also lifted the poker to Mrs Middleton, and swore that he would kill her.—Jane Kirkley, married woman, called by the complainant, declared that Mrs Middleton provoked her husband so much, that he took up the poker to her, but did not threaten to do anything to her with the weapon.—Defendant denied that he was drunk, and stated that had he been under the influence of liquor, he would doubtless have received a "bit of blue paper" form the police.—The Chairman: You are not charged with drunkenness.—Defendant then alleged that it was his wife's daughter that had caused all the mischief. She had been staying at his house since Shotley Bridge hirings, and when he ordered her out of the place, the wife avowed that she would go along with her.—The Magistrates bound the defendant over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for three months, besides pay the costs incurred.

SCHOOL BOARD PROSECUTIONS.

Mary Ramsey, of Blackhill, was summoned by Mr A. McKean, per instructions from the Benfieldside School Board, for not causing her child to attend school.—The facts having been narrated by the schoolwarden, Mrs Ramsey produced a medical certificate, showing that the girl was unwell.—Mr McKean affirmed that he observed the child running about selling milk. He did not press for a conviction, but merely asked for an attendance order.—Mrs Ramsey said that she only sent the child out to sell milk when she was able to go.—Mr Wilson, J.P.: She ought to have been at school then.—The Bench issued an order for the girl to attend Mrs Clements's private school.

In the case of *Catherine Quinn*, a widow, of Shotley Bridge, an attendance order was granted for St. Mary's Roman Catholic Schools, Blackhill.

The following parents were proceeded against by Mr Wm. Ward, on behalf of the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee: *Joseph Dinnick*, Consett, order to attend the Wesleyan Schools; *Joseph Gibson*, Consett, order to attend the National Schools; *William Gregory*, Crookhall, order to attend Brooms School; *Michael Hymes*, Consett, fined 5s; *Thomas Boyle*, 5s, including costs; and *James McGee*, Consett, order to attend the National Schools.—Mr Ward explained that some of the cases were for the irregular attendance of scholars on Fridays, particularly in the afternoons—one of the boys having been absent six Friday afternoons out of seven. This fact materially affected the average attendance for the whole week, and the attendance Committee hoped the Court would assist them in their efforts to improve this state of things.

SHOCKING CRUELTY TO A DOG.

John Burns, a boy, whose parents are respectably connected at Shotley Bridge, was placed in the dock to answer a summons charging him with cruelty to a dog, the property of the Manager of the Shotley Bridge Co-operative Stores, on 16th ult.—Mr J. B. Lazenby, Newcastle, appeared in defence.—The prosecution was instituted by Inspector Richard Warr, of Newcastle, on behalf of the R. S. P. C. A., and the evidence adduced by P.C. Forster was based upon the boy's own admission, that he threw a stick at the animal whilst he was in a wood upon his uncle's farm; the dog being in the act of running off with one of their fowls. He accidentally struck the animal on the eye, knocking it out.—The owner gave evidence to the effect that the dog was not in the habit of stealing fowls.—Mr Lazenby submitted that there was no malicious intent on the part of the boy. He happened to be gathering sticks upon his uncle's farm on the date referred to, when he perceived the animal running off with one of the hens. He contended that the boy was perfectly justified in throwing a stick or any other missile after the animal, to check its career.—The uncle was called, and attested that he had had a number of fowls stolen and injured in this manner, and he had reason to suppose that this animal had committed the depredations.—In answer to the Inspector, witness stated that his poultry were allowed to range three fields and the wood. He had never complained to the owner of the dog or any of the Store butchers of what he suspected. He did not see any fowl injured or stolen on the 16th ult. It was possible for the hens to be stolen by foxes or any other animals.—Mr Lazenby stated that it was clear the dog was a trespasser.—The Magistrates, after a short consultation, believed that the defendant had been guilty of wilful cruelty; but in consideration of the fact that the costs were exceedingly heavy, he would only be fined 1s and expenses—25s in all. He was warned not to commit a similar offence, otherwise he would be severely dealt with.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

George Bell, a youth of 17 years, was summoned for doing damage to trees to the amount of 6d, the property of Mr Greenwell, of Broomshields Hall, near Satley.—About eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, 21st ult., P.C. Phillipson observed the defendant destroying trees growing in a plantation near Hill House, Allansford.—Defendant was represented by his mother, and the officer stated that another boy was along with the defendant, but as he was only 12 or 13 years old, he did not summons him.—Bell was fined 1s, 6d damage, and 7s costs.

POACHERS IN TROUBLE.

Thomas Williamson, alias "Tom Boy," of Consett, an old offender, against whom a long list of previous convictions were forthcoming, failed to appear in response to a charge, preferred against him by Sergt. Pratt, of trespassing in search of game on an open fell at Templetown, belonging to the Consett Iron Company, on November 22nd. The officer came across the defendant in the act of placing the four nets (produced) upon the rabbit holes, and as soon as Williamson perceived him he ran off.—Defendant was fined 20s and costs, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

Emerson Beckwith, a steelworker, of Consett, was likewise charged with trespassing in the day time, on land in the occupation of and belonging to Messrs John Annandale and Sons, paper manufacturers, Shotley Bridge, in search of conies.—P.C. Phillipson deposed that on Thursday afternoon, 2nd inst., about 2 15, he observed the defendant in a small plantation on the Northumberland side of the River Derwent, almost opposite the paper mills. Witness was standing at the Durham edge of the water, and he saw Beckwith place the two nets (produced) over the rabbit holes. The officer shouted, "I think you have got plenty of nets there, Beckwith," and afterwards he plunged through the river and chased the defendant, but he succeeded in getting away. The man was trespassing within 40 yards of the boundary of Durham county.—Defendant denied his guilt, adding that he was never in the county of Northumberland that day.—The Magistrates found him guilty, and fined him 20s and costs; or one month's hard labour in default.

SEVERE SNOWSTORM.

CONSETT.

On Tuesday night, a heavy downfall of snow was experienced in Consett and the neighbourhood. The weather was seasonable but cold. Wednesday however, was a most bleak and wretched day, snow, sleet, and rain falling incessantly, whilst a biting east wind raged. Yesterday (Thursday) more showers of snow continued to fall.

TOW LAW.

The weather was of the most wintry description all day on Wednesday, a strong gale, accompanied by sleet, having blown nearly the whole day. On Wednesday night the wind was very violent, and snow was falling.

THE ATTWOOD MEMORIAL PORTRAIT AND TOW LAW MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

We understand that the memorial portrait presented to the late Mr Charles Attwood, on the 9th February, 1863, by public subscription, and which for many years adorned the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute at Tow Law, is about to be removed to the South of England, having been presented by the late Mrs Attwood to a nephew of Mr Attwood's. The portrait was removed a few years ago from the Mechanics' Hall to Hollyrood House, Wolsingham, but for what reason or by whose authority is not known. It was always expected that the memorial portrait would continue to adorn the Hall of the Institute—at least as long as the Institute existed, and there is no likelihood of it going down as yet, in fact it never was in a more flourishing condition both as regards its members and funds; and only on Monday night last another instalment of new books were added to the library, making a total of 250 volumes Mr England has added to the library since he became treasurer. We understand the Committee of the Institute have been in correspondence with the representatives of the late Mrs Attwood respecting the memorial portrait, but with what result is not yet known. Would it not be much better if the memorial portrait of the late Mr Charles Attwood could be returned to the Hall of the Institute which his kind benevolence founded; or at least be presented to some other public institute in the county of Durham, where his great abilities and many virtues were known and appreciated?—*Communicated.*

BAZAAR AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

It will be in the recollection of our readers that about two months ago, the new Sunday-school in connection with St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside, was considerably enlarged, and a caretaker's house erected thereto, the formal opening taking place at the celebration of the harvest festival. A debt of about £300 remained upon the buildings, and for the purpose of reducing or clearing off this liability, a sale of work was successfully held in the Temperance Hall, at Shotley Bridge, last Friday and Saturday. The idea was first propegated nearly twelve months ago, and since the commencement of the year, the principal lady members have been industriously plying their fingers and skilfully producing an extensive and varied assortment of useful and ornamental goods, toys, knick-knacks, &c., suitable for this season of the year. The result of their labours was that the several stalls in the Hall, before the opening ceremony on Friday, were heavily ladened with every conceivable article of beauty or utility. The stalls, arranged around the room, were erected by Mr A. Houliston, joiner, and the interior of the building had been prettily and artistically decorated by a number of ladies, the whole representing a Chinese or Japanese Fair on a small scale. A select but fashionable company had assembled together, when the inaugural ceremony was performed by Rev G. H. Ross-Lewin, vicar of the parish, who briefly described the objects of the sale, and congratulated the ladies upon having been instrumental in attianing such a large and beautiful display of useful and fancy articles. He tendered his sincere thanks to the ladies for their painstaking endeavours, and expressed an earnest hope that their bazaar might prove a great success. (Applause.)—Mr J. Booth followed with a neat and suitable speech; while Mr Jas. Annandale, J.P., and Rev H. H. Ross-Lewin (curate) delivered appropriate addresses.—The sales were then proceeded with, the undermentioned ladies gracefully attending to the stalls:—Mrs J. Annandale, The Briary (refreshment stall); Mrs J. Booth, Summerdale; Mrs Brutton, St. Cuthbert's Lodge; Mrs Collinson, Shotley Grove; the Misses Ross-Lewin, Benfieldside Vicarage; Mrs W. Dickinson, Shotley Villa; Mrs Ormerod, Cutler's Hall; Mrs J. Richardson and Miss Renton, Orchard House. They were ably assisted by a number of the senior Sunday-school teachers. The articles were pretty briskly disposed of; and during the afternoon and evening, the sale was largely patronised. Refreshments were supplied in the ante-room. Musical selections were rendered at intervals, and various other attractions were provided, the chief being the *tableaux vivants*—*i.e.*, characters pourtrayed by living figures attired in suitable costumes. This department was under the supervision of the Misses Piele, of Greenwood; and performances were given each night in the Reading-room underneath the Hall, and were witnessed by a delighted audience on both occasions. The characters reproduced were faithfully and most admirably sustained. The first group represented four scenes from Shakespeare's "Macbeth"—The witches round the boiling cauldron; Lady Macbeth urging Macbeth to stab the king with a dagger; the ghosts of the king; and Lady Macbeth walking in her sleep. The other piece was a representation of the "Three Ladies of Lea"—showing the young maids and their various lovers being rejected, and the old maids in their later days, the whole being of especial interest to young men and women, and caused peals of laughter. The bazaar was reopened on Saturday, and was even as successful than on the preceding day. The total sum realised on the two days was about £170.

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

BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

At the monthly meeting, held on Wednesday night, in the Bank Buildings at Shotley Bridge, there were present: Messrs J. Annandale, J.P. (in the chair); R. Murray, J. Eltringham, W. Wheatley, J. Lax, F. Priestman, Hy. Carss, A. E. Turner, the Clerk (Mr J. Booth), and the Surveyor (Mr J. Dixon).

THE ASSESSMENT OF COLLIERIES.

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION.

A deputation of the overseers of the parish of Benfieldside, consisting of Messrs Richard Murray, William Raw, and Henry Carss (assistant overseer), attended the Board, and laid before the members the fact that the Assessment Committee of the Lanchester Union had refused to assess the Consett Iron Company for their colliery at Medomsley Edge, which had recently ceased to be worked. Mr CARSS explained that this action involved a loss to the township of £66 8s, and as the Benfieldside Board were concerned for one half of the amount, it was a question of the utmost importance to the Board whether they should lose this money. It appears the system that has been in vogue in that township for upwards of 21 years is that a colliery should work for a year, and then pay rates the following year on the coal vend for the preceding twelve months.

Mr RAW explained that the manager returned the number of chaldrons from June, 1882, to 1883 as 365, and paid rates upon the same at 1s 6d per chaldron on the following September and March; in 1883-4 929 chaldrons were returned; and in 1884-5 3,088 chaldrons, for which the company paid rates. In June, 1886, they returned 5,856 chaldrons, but the Assessment Committee had refused to rate the Company simply because the pit had not been worked. The Company had furnished the overseers four different returns, and under the system of credit allowed to them, had only paid rates on three of them. The representatives of the Company promised to pay rates upon this last return provided the colliery should be re-started; but in case of it not being worked, the township would lose the amount due on a rateable value of £342.

Mr MURRAY explained that the mouth of the colliery was situate outside the Benfieldside township, and the only way to assess the Company for the coal wrought out in their township was to accept the return furnished by the manager.

The CHAIRMAN: We understand that the Consett Company have not declined to pay, but the Committee have refused to assess?

Mr RAW: Yes.

Mr CARSS: If the Committee had assessed the colliery, and allowed the question to be fought out by the Company and overseers, it would not have been half so bad.

Mr ELTRINGHAM believed the representatives of the Iron Company were to blame, because, in the first instance, they objected to allow the Committee to assess them.

Mr RAW did not contemplate that the Consett Iron Company's officials should exercise such power over the Assessment Committee.

Mr TURNER: They have evidently used it.

Mr CARSS pointed out that Mr Hedley, viewer, as the representative of the Consett Iron Company, was one of the three signatories when the Committee refused to assess the colliery; but the overseers had on two occasions since appealed before the Assessment Committee, but without success. Their decision, given in writing, was to the following effect:—

"With reference to your appeal to the Assessment Committee in the case of the Medomsley Edge Colliery, I am directed to convey to you the resolution handed by the Committee on Thursday last, viz:—The Committee is satisfied that the Benfieldside parish lost in 1881 £21 rateable value owing to the system of the rating of collieries being defective—(Mr Raw: If the system of rating collieries is defective, then the sooner somebody else is put in the better)—but, in justice to the Consett Iron Company, they could not ask them to pay any rates for this colliery so long as it is lying idle.—Yours, &c.,

"W. H. RITSON."

Mr ELTRINGHAM explained that owing to some misunderstanding a certain portion of coal worked out of the Benfieldside township in 1881 was paid over to the township of Medomsley; and although the £21 went to the Union authorities it was lost to that Board.

The Board considered this irrelevant to the present question.

Mr ELTRINGHAM had been told that the £21 had been refunded to the Benfieldside township; but Mr CARSS denied that this was correct.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: That is the impression of two members of the Assessment Committee.

Mr CARSS stated that they could not take a hypothetical quantity in the vend of collieries before assessing them; and Mr RAW remarked that the overseers had always accepted the returns furnished by the manager of the colliery.

The Clerk stated that one or two other townships were interested in the same colliery, and he inquired what position these parishes were in, but Mr CARSS could not answer that question.

After a protracted argument, chiefly between the overseers, Mr Carss, and the Clerk, the latter gentleman expressed an opinion, after consulting various Acts of Parliament, that the overseers themselves had a *locus standi* to appeal against the action of the Assessment Committee at the Quarter Sessions. He advised the overseers to give the requisite notices for carrying on an appeal, to convene a vestry meeting of the ratepayers authorising the overseers to prosecute the appeal, and to submit the whole question to eminent counsel for his opinion, as it was a point of considerable importance not only to that township, but to all the other parishes in the Union.

The deputation thanked the Board, and withdrew.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Appended is the Surveyor's (Mr Dixon) monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the month your workmen have been employed on the several highways and streets in your district, scraping, and laying-on materials. About 400 tons of stone have been laid on your roads. I have received from Messrs Ord and Maddison 200 tons of limestone; and 100 tons of whinstone from Mr T. S. Salter.

As instructed at last meeting, I have laid down a kerbstone in Ritson's Road, and also prepared plan and specification for the formation of this road. The same have been laid before your Highway Committee.

With regard to the application of Mr Ramsey for the waste land on Number One Bank, I have let him the ground at 2s 6d per year, on precisely the same terms as the last tenant.

Several of your lamps have been broken by stone-throwing. The lamps from Shotley Station to the Briary Bank Top have all been more or less damaged. A Bray's lamp has been erected during the month at the corner of the Rose and Crown, Blackhill.

I have collected and paid to treasurer during the month the following:—General district rate, £47 5s 9d.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN DIXON.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—I have inspected your district during the month. I find the ashpits well cleaned out, and I consider your district is in a good sanitary condition. Your Sanitary Committee have had two inspections and will report thereon.

As instructed at last meeting, I returned Mr Geo. Smith's plan with written instructions of what the Board required to be done.

According to directions from the Medical Officer, I took a little girl to the Infectious Hospital on the 7th inst., suffering from scarlet fever.—I remain, gentlemen, yours &c.,

JOHN DIXON.

Mr G. Smith, Blackhill, attended the Board, and enquired the reason they had rejected his plans, as he did not see the necessity for a back street, when he did not intend to build on the ground at present.

The members explained that it would be necessary for Mr Smith to show the back street upon the plan before they could approve of the same.

He promised to submit another plan.

THE FORMATION OF RITSON'S ROAD.

A long debate arose on the question of completing this street, Mr ELTRINGHAM avowing that he was opposed to forming any footpath along the road.

On the proposition of Mr CARSS, seconded by Mr LAX, it was agreed that notice be served upon the various owners of Ritson's Road to make the carriage-way as far as the line of Mr Cheesmond's house from Durham Road to Ritson's Street, in accordance with plans and estimates, the Board undertaking to make the footpath.

A letter was read from Mr Thos. Raine, joiner, with reference to the alleged encroachment upon the footpath in Ritson's Road with the steps leading to his workshop. He stated that there was no footpath there, and he would prove this by the report of the last meeting. (Laughter.) With regard to the dangerous position of the steps, they had been placed there for more than seven years, and the roadway was wider at that point by six feet than it was at the Durham Road entrance. If the Board persisted in having the same removed, he referred them to Mr Murray, the owner of the premises.

Mr TURNER thought the steps were of some advantage, as they would tend to keep conveyances off the footpath. (Laughter.)

Mr MURRAY consented, and promised to remove the steps as soon as the Board intended to make a proper footpath along that road. He suggested, however, that they should be fenced off for the present, and thus prevent pedestrians running against them in the dark.

The Clerk advised Mr Murray to write him a letter to the effect that he would undertake to remove the steps as soon as the Board intimated that they were prepared to complete the thoroughfare.

Another communication from Mr Raine, addressed to the Chairman, drew attention to the great need of a gas lamp in Ritson's Road, and suggested that the same be erected opposite Mr Cheesmond's cottage. There was a vast amount of traffic along the road, and a lamp would be very beneficial to the occupiers.

The CHAIRMAN: I suppose the lamp is to prevent people from knocking against the steps. (Laughter.)

The letter was deferred to the Highway and Lighting Committee.

WANTON DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

The Inspector reported that two globe street lamps and six square lamps had been wilfully broken since the last meeting.

Mr CARSS called attention to another species of malicious destruction. Mr Brown, saddler, had had on two occasions, every pane of glass broken in his workshop; Mr Wilson, joiner, had 20 squares of glass smashed in his place by young fellows.—(Mr TURNER: They are worse here than at Blackhill.)—Mr W. Wilson had several windows deliberately broken in his loft; and other parties had suffered similar depredations, usually committed on Saturday and Sunday nights.

The Clerk explained that he had written to Mr James Oliver, superintendent of police, Consett, as ordered last month, and had elicited a reply from Mr Oliver, intimating that he had made enquiries of his officers as to the alleged damage, and wished the Clerk to inform him if the damage was done to public or private property? He (Mr Booth) responded to the effect that the damage was done to the lamps, the walls on Durham Road, the drinking fountain, &c.; also the Board wished to prohibit people driving cattle along the footpaths, and generally to prevent breaches of the clauses of the Town Improvement Act. The Clerk added that it was the duty of the police to look after all these matters.

Mr WHEATLEY: We have got a fresh policeman now. The last officer we had was of no earthly use. The lads came into our yard on Sunday nights, after the family had gone to church, and pulled every object they saw to pieces, right before the eyes of the constable.

The Clerk: It is shameful the amount of damage that is being done.

Mr CARSS said the Board must not overlook the fact that it was as much the duty of their Inspector as well as of the police to attend to these matters.

The Inspector explained that the difficulty was that people refused to tell either the police or himself the names of the depredators. The only thing was to catch the offenders themselves.

The Clerk suggested that a reward of £3 or £5 might induce the people to give the necessary information to bring the offenders to justice.

The Board decided to have a number of posters circulated, offering rewards of £3 to people divulging the requisite information leading to the punishment of the depredators.

DR PAGE'S RECENT INSPECTION.

The Sanitary Committee presented a lengthened report relative to the memorandum of advice forwarded by Dr Page, Local Government Inspector, touching to his recent inspection of the district.

It was accordingly resolved, on the proposal of Mr ELTRINGHAM, and seconded by Mr TURNER, to serve notice upon the owners of property in different streets, referred to in the report, to abate nuisances on their properties.

Mr ELTRINGHAM also moved, and Mr WHEATLEY seconded, that notice be served upon Mr W. Brown, Front Street, Shotley Bridge, to provide a proper ashpit to his house, and submit plans of the same before building.

The Inspector remarked that Mr Coulson complained that Mr Brown had commenced to lie his ashes, &c., against his pantry wall, and he had been obliged to take all his food out of the place.

THE DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS ACTS.

Messrs Eltringham, Wilson, Murray, and Carss were appointed a sub-committee to formulate bye-laws for regulating the above places, the supervision of which has been transferred from the police to the local authorities.

THE BLUE BRIDGE ACROSS THE DERWENT.

The Clerk stated that he had written to Mr Wilson's representatives, directing their attention to the unsafe condition of this bridge, but had not received any reply.

The Surveyor: It has been patched up.

Mr LAX: Is it satisfactory?

Mr DIXON: It will never be satisfactory till they pull down the bridge and build a new one.

Mr CARSS proposed that the Surveyor should be instructed to examine the bridge minutely, and ascertain if it is still dangerous to life or limb, and report at the next meeting of the Board.

This was carried.

FINANCIAL.

On the motion of Mr LAX, cheques were ordered to be signed, in payment of the current month's accounts, amounting to £145 8s 8d.

CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

The communication from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, in relation to the Queen's Jubilee celebration next year having been read, the CHAIRMAN stated that he acknowledged the receipt of the Prince's letter, and added that it would afford him the greatest pleasure to bring the subject before his colleagues.

Mr CARSS: I move that the letter lie on the table for six months.

Mr WHEATLEY: I second that. We have subscribed plenty of money lately.

Mr ELTRINGHAM said he would not subscribe.

The Clerk pointed out that His Royal Highness did not ask the members of the Board collectively to subscribe anything; but as the Prince evinced a deep interest in the colonies, this seemed to be a favourable opportunity of bring the subject before the public, and thus giving any individual gentleman the privilege of subscribing towards the object in view.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Mr George Eltringham wrote to the Board complaining of the unsatisfactory condition of Blackberry Street, at the north side of Murray Street, Blackfine. The water, he said, stood in pools, especially at the low end, and as the owner of the greater portion of the property, he would like the proprietors served with notice to make the street to the satisfaction of their Surveyor.

The Board authorised the Surveyor to visit the place, and submit an estimate of the cost for forming the street.

After dealing with some unimportant questions, the Board rose about 8-30 p.m.

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

"CATARRH OF THE BLADDER."—Stinging irritation, inflammation, all kidney and kindred complaints, cured by "Buchu-paiba." At chemists. Newbery and Sons, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

"HOW TO DEBATE."—This is a handy little work containing the rules of debate, hints on public speaking, and other useful information for members of debating societies. The work, which is published at the small price of fourpence, may be had at Robert Jackson's bookseller, 8, Newmarket Street, Consett.

WOLSINGHAM COUNTY COURT.

SATURDAY, Dec. 11th.—Before His Honour E. J. MEYNELL (Judge).

CLAIM AGAINST A RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

JOHNSON *v.* EGGLESTON.—His Honour delivered judgement on the claim of T. V. Johnson, Presterley, against Mr Eggleston, surveyor to the Weardale Rural Sanitary Authority, for £8 5s, for work done by himself, with a horse and cart, at 7s 6d per day, in removing rubbish which had been excavated from Presterley Sewerage Works.—His Honour found for the claim, except 7s 6d for work done by direction of Mr Proud, clerk of the works.—The verdict carried costs of witnesses.

IMPORTANT ACTION AGAINST A WEARDALE MILL-OWNER.

RUTTER *v.* WOOLER.—A case of considerable importance to mill-owners, as regards dams and water races, was heard by Judge Meynell. Mr W. Rutter, farmer, and assistant overseer at Wolsingham, sued Mr George Richard Wooler for £49 17s, damages to stacks and stock, caused by flooding, consequent upon alleged alterations of a mill-race dam at Wolsingham on the part of defendant. Mr G. Maw, Bishop Auckland, appeared for plaintiff, and Mr E. Wooler, Darlington, represented the defendant.

Mr Maw said the defendant was a property-owner, and the joint owner of a mill at the south side of Wolsingham. The race, which ran from west to east, had formerly two sluices by which the water flowed into it from the Wear. Below the sluices was formerly a dam situated about 40 yards below. Five or six years ago the dam became very much out of repair, and there was a great deficiency of water down the race, and Mr Wooler, instead of repairing the old dam, and no doubt for the purpose of getting a greater volume of water, altered it and placed it at the mouth of the sluices. Previously being 40 yards below, it took a considerable volume of water before the race got full. Defendant also at the same time altered the sluices, which were three feet wide each, and enlarged them by adding a third sluice, making the width above 10 feet. The mouth of the race being widened, and a new dam placed at the mouth of the sluices caused a much greater volume of water to collect immediately at the mouth of the sluices. Plaintiff resided nearly a mile below the sluices, but his garth, stables, and haysheds adjoined the race at the south end of his property. Previous to the alteration of the sluices and dam the race was never known to overflow, and the oldest inhabitant of Wolsingham could not remember such a circumstance. Shortly after the dam had been completed in 1883, the commencement being in 1880, a larger volume of water came down, even when the river was low, and when there was the slightest fresh in the river it caused the race to be very full indeed, and in February, 1883, there was a high flow which caused the race water to overflow its banks. Again, in May, 1884, there was a high rainfall, and the water again overflowed from the race. His client at that time complained to Mr Wooler, who made a promise that in future he would see that one or two of the sluices were kept down, so that further damage should not take place. In 1885 a slight flood occurred, and the race again overflowed, and in March, 1886, there was a fresh in the river, when the race again overflowed. Coming to the 6th November last, on that morning his client arose for the purpose of attending to his cattle, but he was unable to get to them, for after wading in the water up to his waist, he had to return. He then went up to the sluices and found the three open and the race overflowing at the high end of the village, on to land belonging to Mr Brownless, and adjacent country on to his land. He saw two men named Briggs, employed by defendant to look after the sluices, endeavouring to put them down, and immediately after this had been done the water began to abate. His client upon returning found several hay and corn-stacks surrounded with water, and consequently damaged, whilst in the byres a number of beasts were standing in the water, and one valuable shorthorn cow had deteriorated in value as a result. He contended that this overflowing of the banks was due to defendant altering the sluices, which caused the water to come upon his client's land, and therefore the latter was entitled to damages.

Plaintiff, who produced plans showing the situation of his premises, the race, and the dam, bore out the statements of his counsel. He said there were several mills on the race. The first was pulled down about three or four years ago, and the second mill was occupied by Messrs Horsley Bros., woollen manufactory. He knew for a fact that they did not use the water, as they had steam, and the race had a free course through the mill; and under the mill were two culverts, which were always open. Formerly there was an over-wash, causing the extra water to go back to the river, and that was done away with and built up partly. Near his premises was a mill known as Sedgewick's, which had a culvert and bye-wash. The next mill to it belonged to Angus, and it adjoined his premises, and this lot formed one property at one time. Since the alteration of the dam and sluices, in the case of flood more water came down than the race could hold, and his property, lying at a low level, became submerged. When he complained to Mr Wooler about it, witness told him that the dam was more to blame than Briggs. Mr Wooler informed him that he never intended to use the extra sluice except in droughty weather. Briggs, who was the occupier of a forge, was employed by Mr Swinburn and Mr Wooler to attend to the sluices. On another occasion he complained to Briggs, who said they were done with the matter, as Mr Wooler had employed Ralph Johnson to look after the sluices. On the morning of 6th Nov., when the damage was done for which the present claim was commenced, he noticed that the race was overflowing its banks at every place where the land was level with them, and at the time the Wear was not running into the race at any place other than the sluices. Witness asked defendant to come down and see the damage which the flood had caused, but he declined. Plaintiff gave particulars of the damage done to the stacks, which were rendered almost unfit for eating purposes.—Cross-examined by Mr Wooler: He knew about a litigation that took place in 1804 between the owners of Briggs' mill and the mill adjoining his. He got a copy of the award after the disturbances took place about the present floods. The cause of that action was not owing to floods. He was not aware that his predecessors had to maintain the race banks. He believed that Hall, the occupier of the mill which was now dismantled, did attend to the sluice. He could not say if the abolition of this mill caused a greater flush of water, but probably it might. A flooding of Leazes Beck, which emptied itself into the race, would not be sufficient to cause an inundation.

James Little, spinner, who had worked 17 years at Horsley's mill, the factory next the disused one on the race, said he was at the dam about seven o'clock on the morning of 6th Nov., when he saw the three sluices up, and also witnessed Mr Briggs and his son putting them down, and he left them "braying" down with a stone. Before the sluices were put down he noticed the race was full, and that the water was running over the field belonging to Brownless. There were only two sluices before the alteration.

His Honour asked if that was in dispute?

Mr Wooler: I am told that there has always been three.

Witness: There are three now, and the mouth of the race was considerably wider. More water came down now than formerly, even in droughty weather.—Cross-examined: He remembered Jon. Hall having a forge, and he used to attend to the sluices. After the place was disused he was not aware that his employers attended to it. He could not say whose duty it was to attend to them. He had attended to the two old sluices, but had never touched them since Hall's mill became disused.

Messrs G. Ayre, J. A. Henderson, H. Brownless, R. Little, J. Horsley, Wm. Henderson, J. Coates, A. Walton, and J. J. Dexey gave evidence in support of plaintiff's case, as regards the number of sluices and the state of the flood.

Mr J. Vickers, auctioneer, &c., Tow Law, gave his valuation of the damages to the hay, peas, and oat stacks; and Messrs T. P. Dolphin, T. Jackson, and R. Herbert supported the amount claimed for damages to the stacks.

Mr John Nicholson, veterinary surgeon, West Auckland, spoke of the condition of the shorthorn cow, which, when examined on 9th Nov., he found suffering from bronchial pneumonia, caused by cold and dampness. The cow had to be blistered. He examined her again last Tuesday, and her lungs were not yet better. Witness considered she had decreased in value about £8 or £10.

The case for plaintiff then closed.

Mr Wooler submitted that his client had no case to meet. Defendant was a mill-owner on the race and not a tenant; no duty was cast upon him, and Mr Maw had not shown that it was within his duty to put the sluices down. He submitted that the proper person was the tenant or some of the tenants, and plaintiff's side had said that whilst Hall occupied his mill he attended to the sluices, and surely it was not a duty devolving upon the owner, who might be living in London or America. The flood was not caused by any act of defendant's. Mr Maw had not shown any enlargement.—His Honour, however, held he had shown it.—Mr Wooler also submitted that the sluices were put down, with the exception of a very small space, on the previous night (Friday), by a man named Johnston, before the flood took place, and therefore it was impossible for the flood water to come over from that direction and commit the damages. Then they would have the evidence of Mr Mitchell, who had kept a rain gauge for a great many years, and who registered an extraordinary rainfall on this occasion, and that being so, the flood was caused by this downpour, the brooks running into the race, which drained the whole of the valley between the dam and the outlet, therefore the defendant could not be held answerable for that. He would call witnesses to show that this extraordinary rainfall was sufficient to cause the flood without a particle of water coming through the sluices; witnesses including clergymen that went to see the flood and saw distinct traces of the Wear having overflowed its banks into the race. He held that defendant was not answerable and that it was the extraordinary rainfall, and could only be considered as an act of God. Proceeding to quote a case bearing upon the question, he said there was quite a dearth of cases of that sort. One authority he submitted held where a combination of causes produced the effects complained of, they could not hold the defendant answerable. Such a case, he held, fitted in with his client's, the flood not being caused by any act of defendant, but was really caused by the brooks and the unprecedented rainfall.

Amos Mitchell, draper, said he had kept a rain gauge and register for eighteen years. The rainfall during Nov. 5th and 6th was 2·77, which was the largest amount he had registered over a period of eighteen years.

Joseph Briggs, who met Rutter and went with him to the sluices, said he found only about 10 in. of water coming through, and the pins out. He and his son-in-law tried to put the sluices down, and eventually did so by means of a stone. In the locality of Fidler's Bridge he saw the flood-water rushing into the race and upon the road. The water coming through the sluices could not cause the flood on Rutter's land.

Johnston, quarryman, gave evidence in support of Mr Wooler's statement.—Cross-examined by Mr Maw: Defendant never agreed to give him 15s a-year for looking after the sluices. He might say he would give him a shilling or two. Witness, after a lot of questioning, said, "Yes, Mr Wooler might say he would give him that amount to look after the sluices, but never 15s." He would swear that the sluices went down 8 inches when he took the pegs out on Friday night.

His Honour said he would make a note of the unsatisfactory manner in which the witness had given his evidence.

Alfred Blackett and Rev M. R. Sharp, curate, spoke in support of the defendant's contention that the flooding of the land about Leazes Beck and the Wear having entered the race below the sluices were the causes of the inundation of plaintiff's land.

The hearing of the case was then adjourned until next February. Mr Wooler intimated that he had 18 witnesses altogether.

BENEFIT CONCERT AT CONSETT.

An evening concert was given in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Monday night, under the auspices of the Consett Iron Company's Work-people's Brass Band. The Hall was well packed, a goodly number evidently sympathising with the object of the concert—viz., for the benefit of Mr Edward Williams, leader of the band, who is about to go abroad. In the back part of the Hall, however, the company was not as select as might have been desired, several boisterous characters evidently thinking that there was more fun in spoiling the effect of the music than listening to it. The quintette, "The cuckoo sings in the poplar tree," was most shamefully interfered with, seemingly about 20 or 30 leather-lunged youths desirous of repeating the note of the cuckoo. The performers in this piece, who sang their several parts in good time, style, and tone, were ultimately compelled to quit the platform without rendering the whole of the piece. The performers, considering they were of local talent, went through their several pieces in a highly-creditable fashion. The style of one of the soprano singers might be much improved by a change in the manner of inhaling. Her singing, however, was good both in tone and effect. The programme was as follows:—Part I.—Selection, "Reminiscences" (*Verdi*), by Brass Band. Played pretty well, with the exception of one or two slight hitches. Occupied rather too much time—in fact, the length of the piece was rather out of keeping, judging from the way in which it was received. Quintette, "In this hour" (*Pinsuti*), Misses Cairns, Bell, Ridley, and Messrs Stephenson and Surtees. Sung in a creditable style, the performers being loudly applauded. Song, "White squall" (*Barker*), by Mr C. Stephenson, was well received by the audience, the song being rendered in really good style, and the accompaniment admirably played by Mr Ridley. Song, "Tell me, my heart" (*Bishop*), sung by Miss Bell, who was vociferously cheered. Violin solo, "Home, sweet home" (*Farmer*), which was played in a skilful manner by Miss Nixon, received an *encore*, the performer being obliged to make her re-appearance on the platform. Song, "Close to the threshold" (*Parkes*), was well sung by Miss Cairns, and duly appreciated. Selection (Irish airs), "Hibernia." This was fairly well played by Mr J. Stephenson's band; the different instruments, however, were not easily distinguished. They almost made as much noise in the preparation as they did in playing the piece. Their efforts, however, were rewarded with applause. Part II.—Recitation, "The Spanish champion," Mr B. Ward, was admirably rendered, and evoked the plaudits of the auditory. Song, "The sons of the sword," by Mr P. Surtees, was loudly cheered. Song, "Home, sweet home" (*Bishop*), was exceedingly well sung by Miss Cairns, and accompanied in an able style by Miss Nixon and Mr Ridley. Cornet solo, "Zerlina" (*Ettling*), was ably executed by Mr E. Williams and band, and was well received. Song, "Last rose of summer," was sung by Miss Bell, and elicited the approbation of the company. Quintette, "The cuckoo sings" (*Macfarren*), by Misses Cairns, Bell, and Ridley, and Messrs Stephenson and Surtees. This piece was well sung, but shamefully interrupted as before-mentioned. Quartette (instrumental), Messrs Edwd. Williams, J. Lamb, T. Pattison, and M. Hobday. The piece was capitally sustained throughout, and seemed to be taken with a good deal better than some of the songs. The brass band was under the excellent leadership of Mr T. Woods, the well-known bandmaster, Newcastle; while Mr J. Stephenson conducted his full orchestral band. The National Anthem brought the concert to close.

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Respectfully announces that he supplies, on the shortest notice, and at the lowest prices, BRICKS, SANITARY PIPES, CHIMNEY TOPS, LATHS, HAIR, CEMENT, PARIS PLASTER, &c. 31x

---

PIANOFORTE TUNING.

EDWARD J. SLOANE

Having completed a COURSE OF LESSONS upon PRACTICAL TUNING (under Mr. WATSON Newcastle-on-Tyne), is now PREPARED TO ATTEND ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY.

ADDRESS:—
POST OFFICE, BLACKHILL. 136w

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

SPECIAL NOTICE AS TO PRICES.

Mr. G. RICHARDSON, SURGEON DENTIST, Inserts his well-known "Superior Quality" of ARTIFICIAL TEETH (by a New Painless Process) at less prices than usually charged for common quality and inferior workmanship. For comfort, durability, and natural appearance they are unsurpassed. Every Tooth Guaranteed.

☞ Please Note the only Address—
6, BLACKETT STREET, NEWCASTLE,
Third door from Northumberland Street.

NOTE.—Rail Fare allowed to Country Patients.

CONSETT MAGIC SOAP DEPOT.

PRESENTS! PRESENTS!! PRESENTS!!!

Just arrived a Large Supply of Beautiful Toilet Sets, which are the most useful Present for the Present Season—6d. and 1s. each.

HARRISON'S
MAGIC ARIZONIC SOAP;
AND
FURNIVAL'S MAGIC WASHING FLUID
Still stand unrivalled as the Magic Cleansers.

All the BEST TOILET SOAPS in Stock.

J. W. BERRY,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT. 194x

CHURCH PRAYER BOOKS
AND
CHURCH HYMN BOOKS
IN
GREAT VARIETY
AT
ROBERT JACKSON'S,
9 and 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

SPECIAL INFORMATION!!

YOU GET BEST POSSIBLE VALUE IN BOOTS AND SHOES, &c., BY BUYING FROM

JOHN GIBSON,
PRATICAL BOOTMAKER,
CORNER OF
FOUNDRY ROW AND BESSEMER STREET,
BLACKHILL (near the Railway Station),

All kinds made to Measure.

Special and Personal Attention to Fitting all kinds of feet.

REPAIRING:—
Only Leather of most durable Quality used.
Gentlemen's Boots Soled and Heeled, from 2s 9d.
Ladies ,, ,, ,, 1s 9d.
Best Elastics put in—Gents., 1s 8d; Ladies, 1s 2d.

GO AND SEE

CORNFORTH'S BABY SHOW.

2000 BIG AND LITTLE BEAUTIES,
From 1d. to 10s. 6d. each.

A Fine Assortment of ALBUMS, PURSES, PENKNIVES, VASES, &c.
TOYS in great variety at all prices.
CHRISTMAS CARDS in latest designs.

Christmas Trees and Bazaars Supplied at Wholesale Prices.

H. CORNFORTH,
21, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 161x

Public Notices.

71 IS the WINNER of the PONY and CART, Drawn for at Consett. 193x

REMEMBER the MEDOMSLEY SONS OF TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL, on New Year's Day. See Bills. 175x

REDUCED FARES TO AMERICA.

AMERICAN, and other Lines, £2 16s. 0d. Luggage and Passengers taken Free to Railway Station.—Write or call upon A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 173x

MISS COULSON,
DRESS AND MANTLE MAKER,
TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT.
ALL MOURNING ORDERS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ELECTORAL DIVISION.

BLACKHILL POLLING DISTRICT.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the Liberal Electors of the Blackhill Polling District will be held in Temperance Hall, Blackhill, on Thursday, December 23rd, 1886, at Half-past Seven o'clock, for the purpose of Electing Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Representatives, for the Council of the Division. All Liberals are Invited. 195x

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

MR. A. PARKER'S ANNUAL BALL will be held in the above, on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31st, 1886.

ADMISSION—Gentlemen, 1s. 6d. each; Ladies, 6d. each. M.C., Mr P. McAlone.

Dancing to commence at Nine p.m. 190w

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

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

SUN { FIRE OFFICE, ESTABLISHED 1710.
LIFE OFFICE, ESTABLISHED 1810.

FIRE.—The oldest purely Fire Office in the world. Home and Foreign Insurances. Prompt Loss Settlements.

LIFE.—Profits divided every five years. Large Bonuses. Tontine Bonus Policies granted. Very low premiums without participation in profits. No partnership liability. Simple Proposal Forms.

For further information apply to the Agent for CONSETT—Mr THOMAS WM. WELFORD, Jun., (Fire only), or to any of the Local Agents of the Society.

Public Notices.

Re ROBERT DAVISON, of Lane Ends, Castleside, Deceased, Innkeeper and Farmer.

HAVING been appointed by the Executors under the Will of the above-named deceased, to COLLECT THE ACCOUNTS OWING TO THE ESTATE, all Persons indebted to the same are requested to pay the amount of their indebtedness to me, the only person entitled to receive the same, at my Office as below, without delay.

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A.,
130x Town Hall, Consett.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOLS, SHOTLEY.

A CONCERT will be held in aid of the above in the School-room, on Thursday, the 23rd instant, commencing at Seven p.m. Admission—One Shilling; Children, Half-price.
201x R. W. WILSON, Vicar.

THE "LOYAL CHRISTIANNA" LODGE OF ODDFELLOWS (MANCHESTER UNITY).

THE MEMBERS of the above will meet at the Lodge-Room, Golden Lion Inn, Leadgate, on Friday, December 24th, 1886, at 6·30 p.m., to transact the usual Lodge Business.—By order,
181x P.G. WILLIAM HECKFORD, N.G.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL, LEADGATE.

The Choir of the above Chapel beg to announce that they intend rendering

A SERVICE OF PRAISE
IN THE ABOVE CHAPEL,
ON CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25th, 1886.

Organist, Mr. J. W. HEDLEY; Conductor, Mr. GEO. HEDLEY; Chairman, Mr. E. B. FOSTER.

Doors open at 7; to commence at 7·30.
Admittance—Reserved Seats, 1s.; Unreserved, 6d.
Tickets may be obtained from any Member of the Choir, or at the Door. See programmes.
Proceeds in aid of the Choir Fund. 198x

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH, BLACKHILL.

THE ANNUAL
TEA PARTY & CHRISTMAS TREE
Will be held in the
AGRICULTURAL HALL, BLACKHILL
(Kindly lent for the occasion by R. Murray, Esq.),
ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1886.
Tea on the Tables from 3·30 to 6 p.m. Tickets, One Shilling each.

EVENING SERVICE in ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH
at 7·30 p.m., the same day.
PREACHER:
THE REV. CANON BODY, D.D.,
OF DURHAM.
Collection for Church Funds. 177x

NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

TO THE INHABITANTS OF SHOTLEY BRIDGE, BLACKHILL, CONSETT, AND DISTRICT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I, your humble servant, feel bound at the shutting of the old year's curtain, and opening of the new, which I hope will be a Happy Year for all, to return thanks for the kind patronage you have bestowed upon me the many years I have been in your midst, and respectfully solicit a continuance of your support. I am informed of a movement being on foot to do me out of that patronage and support, as they thought I would never sweep again. But, thank God and my medical gentlemen, I am here yet.

Detractors' schemes cannot me lick,
Let their broom be e'er so new;
For something might onto it stick,
That never was in a flue.

Compliments of the Season to all,
Faithfully yours,
J. J. HARRISON, Sweep, &c.
Mansion House, Mayor's Chambers,
Shotley Bridge. 187x

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1886

CHRISTMAS FAT STOCK SALE.

- 31 Prime Fat Cattle, fed especially for this Christmas Sale, consisting of neat Cutting, Light, Medium, and Heavy Weight Bullocks and Heifers, up to 75 stones.
- 200 Prime Fat Sheep, H.B., Mule, and Black-faced Wedders, extra prime.
- 2 Veal Calves.
- 9 Small Pork Pigs.
- 12 to 15 Calving Cows and Heifers.
- 6 Wintering Heifers, and 3 Geld Cows.
- 1 Draught Mare, 16-2 h.h.
- 1 Useful Cur Bitch, 4 years old.
- 2 Tons of Potatoes, good quality.
- A quantity of Fat Geese, Turkeys, and other Poultry, &c.

Sale at 12 o'clock prompt.
205x NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

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

By Mr. J. G. Smith.

Clough Dean, near Tantobie.

J. G. SMITH is instructed to OFFER FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at Mrs. ELLIOTT'S, Commercial Inn, Tantobie, on Tuesday, December 21st, 1886, at 7 o'clock in the Evening, all that Valuable

FREEHOLD PROPERTY,

at Clough Dean, near Tantobie, comprising a Dwelling-House, containing Parlour, Bed-room, Kitchen, 2 Attics, and Pantry, with Cow Byre, Piggery, &c., and the well-arranged Garden, the whole covering an area of about an Acre, in the occupation of Mr. David Haughan.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. MATHER, COCKROFT & Co., Solicitors, Bank Chambers, Mosley Street, Newcastle; or to the Auctioneer.
3, West Street, Gateshead, 11th Dec. 1886. 172x

By Mr Joseph Oley.

Victoria Garesfield Colliery.

MR. J. OLEY, instructed by Mr. J. SMITH, who is about to Emigrate, will SELL at the above place, on Monday, December 20th, 1886, at One o'clock p.m., the whole of his Valuable HOUSE FURNISHINGS, &c. Particulars in Posters.

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

By Mr. George R. Hobson.

Catchgate.—Thursday, December 23rd, 1886.

MR. G. R. HOBSON will OFFER FOR SALE, at the above place and date, a quantity of FAT GEESE, TURKEYS, DUCKS, CHICKENS &c., &c.

Sale to commence at Seven o'clock in the Evening. Entries taken.
Sale Offices, Catchgate, Lintz Green. 197x

GEORGE R. HOBSON,
AUCTIONEER & VALUER.
OFFICES:—
CATCHGATE, VIA LINTZ GREEN. 220v

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

THE ANNUAL PRIZE SHOW and SALE will be held on Monday First, December 20th, 1886. Entries comprise—

60 Prime FAT CATTLE,
275 Prime FAT SHEEP, and
17 DAIRY COWS.

The Entries for Prize Competition are considerably in advance of last year, and include a number of the best finished Cattle and Sheep that have ever been presented at this Mart, from some of the most noted feeders in Durham and Northumberland.

Judging at 10 a.m. Luncheon at Mr. GEORGE DINSDALE'S Mart Hotel, at 11. Tickets, 2s. each. Sale at 12 o'clock. Admission to Show Yard by Catalogue, 6d. each. Trucks at Station.
178x J. VICKERS, Auctioneer, Tow Law.

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

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Saturday, December 18th, 1886.—9, Edward Street, Tanfield Lea.—Important Sale of Excellent Household Furniture, including Mahogany High Chest of Drawers; Lobby Drawers; Sofa; Hair-seated and other Chairs; Bedsteads and Bedding; Desk Bedstead; Carpet and Oil Cloth; Mahogany and other Tables; and other Furnishings and Miscellaneous Effects.

MESSRS. A. & R. J. BRODIE are instructed by Mr. GEORGE PYLE, who is declining housekeeping, to SELL BY AUCTION, at No. 9, Edward Street, Tanfield Lea, the whole of the Excellent Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS.

Sale to commence at Half-past Twelve o'clock. Particulars in Posters. 109x

Wednesday, December 22nd, 1886.—Whickham Grange, near Cold Rowley, Castleside. Re THOS. PICKERING deceased. Sale of Farming Stock, Implements of Husbandry, and Household Furniture, including 2 Valuable Cows, 2 Calves, Prime Fat Pig, about 4½ Tons Prime Old Land Hay, 4 Tons Coals, 11 Hens and Cock, 2 Pairs Stillyards, Surveyor's Chain, Ladders, Gripes and Forks, and other Land Implements and Sundries, together with the Mahogany and other Household Furniture, Milk Bowls, Excellent Churn, Feather Beds, and other effects.

MESSRS A. and R. J. BRODIE are instructed by the Representatives of the late THOMAS PICKERING, deceased, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at Whickham Grange, near Cold Rowley, on Wednesday, December 22nd, the FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, and Household FURNITURE belonging the Estate. Full particulars in Posters.

Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt.

Whickham Grange is about Fifteen Minutes walk from Rowley Station, on the Stockton and Darlington Railway. 188x

Valuable and Well-built Freehold Properties for Sale.

MR. ADAM BRODIE respectfully intimates that the following PROPERTIES NOT HAVING BEEN SOLD at the Auction at Mr. GEORGE BROWN'S, Railway Hotel, Consett, on Thursday, December 16th, 1886, may be Treated for Privately—

1.—FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, in Delves Terrace, Consett, containing Five Rooms and Kitchen, with Stable and Cart Shed behind, as occupied by Mr. S. D. Cooper, as Tenant.

2.—FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, in Medomsley Road Consett, containing Five Rooms, with Large Yard, Front Garden, and every Convenience, occupied by Mr. Graham, at a Rental of £20 a-year.

3.—Four Superior TENEMENTED HOUSES, in Flats, situate in Aynsley Terrace, Consett, producing a Gross Annual Rental of £72 16s. 0d.

4.—Twelve Excellent COTTAGES, Nos. 1 to 12, William Street, Consett, in good repair, occupied by twelve rent-paying Tenants, bringing in £93 12s. 0d. a-year.

As the whole of these valuable lots will be sold to pay a good percentage on the outlay, this is a favourable opportunity for Capitalists and others.

Also, 14 SHARES in the Spennymoor and Tudhoe Gas Company, Limited.

Apply to the AUCTIONEER, Town Hall, Consett.

Also, WANTED immediately, 100 Fully-paid SHARES in the Consett Water Company, Limited.

CONSETT POLLING DISTRICT LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Association, which includes all Liberals within the District, will be held in the Smaller Hall of the New Town Hall, Consett, on Saturday, December 18th, 1886, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening, for the purpose of Electing the Officers for the ensuing year, and for Electing Representatives on the Central Association for the Division of North-West Durham. All true Liberals are especially requested to attend.

NORTH WEST DURHAM EMIGRATION AGENCY.

ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, is the Sole and only Agent in Consett for the following First-class American Lines of Steamers—The Cunard, White Star, Inman, Guion, Beaver, Allan, Dominion, and American Lines of Steamers to New York, Quebec, and Philadelphia; and the Orient and Queensland Royal Mail Steamers for Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and other Australian Ports. He is also the only Authorised Agent for the Queensland Government in North-West Durham, and is specially appointed to Book Assisted Passages at £7, including Ship's Kit, for the rising Colony of Western Australia. The public are informed that as the rates in all cases are fixed by the various Companies themselves, and not by any Agent or Sub-Agent, no person can, consistently with the conditions of his appointment, book passengers for less than the advertised rates. Full particulars and every information relating to the different fields of emigration may be had on application.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—ADAM BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT. 577w

SPECIAL EMIGRATION NOTICE.

DOMESTIC SERVANTS WANTED FOR QUEENSLAND at once. A Special Steamer is also about to be despatched for Western Australia, for which Assisted Passages will be granted to Navvies, Farm Labourers, and others.—Forms of Application may be had from Mr. ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

SPECIAL EMIGRATION NOTICE.

ALL STEERAGE FARES by the Conference Lines of First-Class American Steamers are reduced to £2 16s. 0d. and £3 0s. 0d. to New York and Philadelphia.—Apply to Adam Brodie, Town Hall, Consett. 189x

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

TO PARTIES EMIGRATING.
ASSISTED PASSAGES TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
CHEAP FARES TO AMERICA & CANADA

AND lowest possible fares to QUEENSLAND, NEW SOUTH WALES, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, NEW ZEALAND, CAPE TOWN, NATAL, or any other part of the world.

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station free of charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer and Emigration Agent, Dipton. 496w

Business Announcements.

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

TEETH AT ALL PRICES.

MR. D. POWELL,
SURGEON DENTIST,
NUN STREET (Corner of Clayton Street),
NEWCASTLE,
May be personally Consulted every Week Day, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
CONSULTATION FREE.

IMPORTANT ADVICE.—Before seeking the aid of the Dental Profession, ask the people where to go, and have the recommendation of the many, they are the best judge. Don't go by one or two persons, or paid agents; have the advice and experience of at least a dozen individuals, then you may consider you have got to the right man.

OBSERVE LARGE BLUE LAMP AND SEE THAT YOU GET INTO THE RIGHT DOOR.
Over 20 Years at the same Address. 186

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
Established 1780.
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET),
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold & Silver GUARDS, ALBERTS, &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

Business Announcements.

HOW TO GET STRONG AGAIN!
BY USING
GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT
36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage Paid on 6 Bottles and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,
IMPORTER OF PURE WINES,
9, GRAINGER STREET (between Nun Street and Newgate Street), NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.
MR. T. C. CAMPBELL
SURGEON DENTIST,
9, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH AT REASONABLE PRICES
COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET
From 30s. to £4 10s.
PARTIAL SETS OR SINGLE TEETH
From 3s. to 10s. per Tooth.

Every Set is adapted to the mouth on the most improved principles, without extraction of Stumps or other painful operation, guaranteed to fit perfectly and warranted.

Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas.

Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.

Country Patients visiting Mr. CAMPBELL'S Establishment in Newcastle will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and, whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare

NEW REMEDIES
FOR
COUGHS,
COLDS,
BRONCHITIS,
ASTHMA,
AND ALL
CHEST AFFECTIONS.
ROBERTS, CHEMIST, NEWCASTLE.

TO ADVERTISERS.

ALL Orders for Advertisements for insertion in the *Consett Guardian* must be WRITTEN, and sent in not later then NINE o'clock on Friday mornings to ensure publication.

WE use great care to secure the correct printing of advertisements; but we cannot be responsible for inaccuracies nor from any consequences arising therefrom.

PARTIES making inquiries by letter respecting advertisements must enclose an addressed stamped envelope.

IT is contrary to Post-office Regulations for letters to be addressed to initials or fictitious names at any Post-office. Advertisers are desired to bear this in mind.

APPLICANTS for situations and others who reply to advertisements are recommended to forward copies of their testimonials, and not the original documents.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 1886.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

JOHN TAIT.

"After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well."
—*Shakespeare.*

It was with feelings of mingled concern and regret that I read the announcement of the death of the late Mr John Tait, of Consett. My surprise was the more intensified from the fact that, little more than a week had elapsed since he had written a very kind letter to me. He was then in his usual health, and after a passing gossip about things in general, he told me that a dear friend in the Burnopfield district had generously made him a present of a fine turkey to fatten for Christmas cheer, and that it was his (Mr Tait's) wish that I, and another literary friend whom he named, should pay him a visit, and dine on the turkey on Christmas Day. I am a very irregular epistolary correspondent, and had not replied to Mr Tait's letter. I happened, however, to be thinking about him on Monday last, and not knowing that he was then dead, I determined to write that evening, to thank him for his kind invitation; and to state that, although I could not have the pleasure of feasting with him on the day named, I would make it a point of duty to call upon him on the occasion of my first visit to Consett. The reader knows the rest. I read of his death in the *Evening Chronicle* that afternoon. Poor old gentleman, he never complained to me; but I have long thought that it cost him a hard struggle to make both ends meet. To my mind, there is something saddening in the thought of a man toiling by muscle, brain, or pen after he has become weary and worn with the toil and cares of years. It was the predominance of this feeling that led me to refer to the abilities of the deceased gentleman whenever opportunity offered. His native energy was marvellous, and it is a credit both to his memory and his family that he accomplished what he did. He was somewhat eccentric, it is true, but then should some of us live the matter of other thirty-five or forty years there is a probability of our being eccentr too. Mr Tait lived to see a complete revolution in the educational system of this country. The change was against him; but he continued to weather the storm, a solitary vessel amid the wreck. Like other public men, the deceased gentleman had a following of admirers and detractors. Society is made up of such; but in this instance the objections of the last-named order did not assume a very malignant form. Mr Tait was said to have been addicted to egotistic ideas; but then, who shall say that a good opinion of self can be justly classed as an objectionable trait of character? It may be so in the case of brainless shrimps who part their hair in the centre, and strut as if they had been just wound up and set agoing; but a good opinion of one's abilities is a very different thing. To blow one's own horn is a very harmless pastime, and cannot certainly be set down as being a very heinous sin, especially in an age where the tendency to detract rather than to reward is in the ascendency. A proneness to extol his intellectual accomplishments was the only failing ever laid at the door of Mr Tait, and all things considered, the charge was certainly a light one. He was a most assiduous worker, and it will be a long time before the remembrance of his familiar form will fade from the treasure tablets of the memory.

DEATH.

Ah! my reader, this is in truth, a melancholy subject, but let us hope that it will be a long time before the dread messenger knock at either your door or mine.

"Cowards die many times before their deaths,
The valiant never taste of death but once."

I was reflecting on the fact, that more familiar faces have this year passed from the land of the living than during any previous season since I became acquainted with the district. The coming Christmas will witness several vacant chairs, whose occupants were last festive season in full possession of all the blessings that render the life which now is enjoyable. There is much truth embodied in the sentiment expressed by the poet when he said:—

"All men think all men mortal but themselves."

I have, however, no intention of preaching or writing a sermon, even if I could. I merely wished to point out that several old friends have recently been folded in the cold embrace of death, and that the echo of their footsteps will never more be heard on earth. To all except the utterly callous, these monitors carry more or less influence in their train. It is well to be reminded occasionally that life is a gift that hangs by a very slender cord, which at any moment may snap asunder, There is no necessity to turn melancholy in view of these uncertain changes; but it is wise to be regulated by method in all things. A vessel without a rudder is very unlikely to reach the coveted haven. The knights of old caused mottoes to be engraven on their shields; and of all the writers, outside the limits of the inspired page, I know of no better or sounder reasoning on the rules for utilizing the present than gentle John Milton when he wrote the lines:—

"Nor love thy life, nor hate; but whilst thou livest,
Live well; how long or short permit to Heaven."

A WORD IN SEASON.

The Vicar of Consett acted judiciously when, preaching the other Sunday morning, he cautioned his congregation about keeping the details of the revolting scandal now engrossing the reading public from the younger members of the family circle. It would appear that no sooner is one demoralising drama in high life (*sic*) closed than the curtain is again raised, and another company of actors is ushered on the scene. It is to be regretted that people who sit in high places should set the world so sorry an example. The great have all the advantages accruing from wealth, education, and position; but from the glimpses from time to time into their inner life, it is evident that not a few of them turn their opportunities to bad account. The cultivation and practice of morals seems to have gone out of fashion in the circles referred to. Gilded prayer books are pretty ornaments, and people who use them may be naturally supposed to have some claim to common delicacy; but the revelations of the past few days have disclosed a state of morals, such as might be looked for only in the lowest haunts of vice and dissipation. With what harrowed feelings of contempt must every honest man regard the woman, who had the cool effrontery to state that she considered a man—whom all the world knew had seduced a man's wife, and had been divorced from his own—to be a fit and proper associate for her daughter, then a young, inexperienced wife! Alas! for the training of such a mother. No marvel that daughters fall into the paths of error and degredation. Without the invaluable advantages arising from moral instruction, maternal or otherwise imparted, the chances of what Burns calls "stepping aside' is, of course, considerably increased. If our favoured neighbours in fashionable circles had a little more work for their heads and hands, we should hear less about their sins. Slothfullness is a fruitful incentive to immorality; with all their train of pleasures things are so well balanced that it is very questionable their state is so very blissful after all. There is, I believe, much truth in a passage which occurs in Burn's "Twa Days:"—

"Faith man, were ye but whiles where I am,
The gentry ye wad ne'er envy 'em
For human bodies are sic fools,
For a' their colleges and schools,
That when nae real ills perplex them,
They make enow themselves to vex them."

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.—The monthly meeting of this Board took place in the Dipton Schools on Wednesday evening—Mr J. A. Curry presiding. Present: Messrs William Robson, C. Holmes, E. Wilkinson, and W. W. Thompson (clerk).—A letter was received from Mrs Martin, Catchgate, stating that her husband was ill, and could not attend the Board.—The Master (Mr Hy. Prevell) reported that the attendance continued to be only moderate. He also stated that a number of parents persisted in sending their children every alternate Monday without their school pence.—The Board directed the Attendance-Officer (Mr D. Mole) to institute proceedings before the Magistrates against all parents offending in this respect.—Miss Brown, assistant mistress tendered her resignation, which was accepted.—It was agreed to advertise for a successor in the *Consett Guardian* and the Newcastle papers.

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—On Thursday se'nnight, the ordinary meeting of this Board was held at Chester-le-Street. Mr Thomas Robson presided, and the Board preceeded to fill up the various offices:—Messrs Joseph Armstrong and Robert Turnbull were re-elected inquiry officers for the ensuing year. The Board, acting upon the recommendations of the Local Government Board to divide the Union into three medical relief and vaccination districts, made the dirtricts as follows;—Chester-le-Street, Harraton and Birtley, and Witton Gilbert. There were three candidates for the Chester-le-Street sub-district—namely, Drs Renton, Brown and Taylor, of Chester-le-Street, Dr Renton was unanimously elected. There were two candidates for the Harraton and Birtley districts, and Dr Wilson, was elected by a majority of six votes over Dr Massam. For Witton Gilbert, Dr Allen was appointed. After the meeting of the Guardians the members sat as the Sanitary Authority, and proceeded to elect a medical officer of health, having decided to elect one, instead of two, as at present, for the whole of the Union. There were three applications—namely, Drs Brown, Duncan, and Taylor, of Chester-le-Street. Dr Duncan was elected.

SUNDAY SCHOLARS' FESTIVAL.—On Friday night, in the Burnopfield School-room, the prizes were distributed to the scholars of the Lintz and Burnopfield Sunday-schools by Miss Edith Watson, of Burnopfield House, in the presence of a number of the parents and friends of the scholars. The prizes are secured by marks, of which every scholar in the school can gain 312 in the year. The greatest number was obtained by Sarah E. Morgan, of Burnopfield School, whose record was 300. Miss Maud Watson then presented four special prizes to the four best scholars of her class, which were gained by Henry Hanover and Wm. Hindhaugh, who each received a silver scarf-pin, and Joseph Biggs and John J. Morgan, who each received a book, entitled "The Gorilla Hunters" and "Stories of the Sea in former Days." After the presentation, three hearty cheers were given for Miss Watson, who then left the room. A piece, entitled "Christmastide," representing an old English noble's Christmas feast, was then given. The four principal characters were taken by John Robinson, as "Father Christmas;" John R. Biggs, as "Jack Frost;" and W. Hood and J. Morgan as "Lord Misrule" and "His Fool." The performance was well rendered. The singing of the National Anthem brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROSECUTION AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Chester-le-Street Guardians, on Thursday se'nnight—Mr T. Robson presiding—a letter was read from Mr George Curry, Chester-le-Street, calling attention to the fact that Mr George Graham would not allow him to carry out the sanitary operations ordered to be done by the Chester-le-Street Sanitary Authority in the immediate rear of his house.—Mr Barras, sanitary inspector, reported that Mr Graham had not carried out the sanitary work in connection with his property, of which he had received notice.—The Board severely commented upon Mr Graham's conduct, especially considering, as had been reported to them, that Mr Graham would neither obey the order of the authority, nor allow Mr Curry to make the alterations requisite to place his premises in a sanitary condition.—The Inspector was ordered to take proceedings against Mr Graham, to compel him to comply with the injunctions of the authority.

On Wednesday, at Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions, *George Graham* was charged with neglecting to carry out an order issued and served upon him by the Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary Authority, instructing him to make alterations to his property in Graham's Yard.—Mr Barras, sanitary inspector, said the order was issued by the Chester-le-Street Sanitary Authority in consequence of a survey made by a committee of that body of defendant's premises in Sept. Defendant had been instructed to provide water-closet accommodation in Graham's Yard, and he neglected to do so. He had, indeed, put two pots where the old privies were, but they were of such a crud, construction that they were actually worse now than before. There were 40 people in the yard, and one of the pots was in a place which the defendant kept locked. Witness and Dr W. M. Renton had both examined the place, and were not satisfied that Mr Graham had carried out the order as issued.—Dr W. M. Renton, Medical Officer of Health for Chester-le-Street district, said that the whole of the premises were in a most dilapidated condition.—The Bench ordered Graham to pay a fine of 20s and costs, and to put the premises in compliance with the order of the Sanitary Authority within one month, and the fine would be reduced one half.—Mr F. Harle, who conducted the case for the Authoritp, asked for an order under section 67 of the Public Health Act, declaring that the premises were unfit for habitation until the order of the Bench was carried out.—The order was granted.

CATCHGATE CONSERVATIVE WORKING-MEN'S CLUB.

On Wednesday evening, the first annual dinner in connection with the Catchgate and District Conservative Working-men's Club was held in the Town Hall. Amongst those present were—Mr W. Armstrong, chairman; Mr W. T. Tait, vice-chairman; Mr J. Lyons, hon. secretary of the Northern Union; Mr S. D. Cooper, secretary of the North-West Durham Conservative Association; and Messrs J. Hall, jun., Annfield Plain; W. S. Telford, Catchgate; Dr Mantle, Catchgate; W. French, sen. and jun., Kyo West House; W. Hobson, Harperley Mills; G. Hobson, Catchgate; R. Waugh, Kyo; J. Lewins, Catchgate; J. Lumley, Annfield Plain; R. and J. W. Humphrey, Loud Farm: E. Oliver, Catchgate; J. Moor, Kyo; G. Wailes, Annfield Plain; H. Brown, Annfield Plain; R. Adamson, Annfield Plain; J. Neal, Kyo; M. Hobson, Harperley Mills, &c. Letters and telegrams were also read from Messrs J. Booth, E. D. W. Balleney, R. Murray, J. W. Walton-Wilson, J.P., R. L. Armstrong, Dr Manders, W. Brotherhood, and others.

After full justice had been done to the excellent dinner provided by Mrs Forster, served up in capital style, the CHAIRMAN gave the toasts of the "Queen," followed by the "Bishop and Clergy," and both having been duly honoured, Mr COOPER proposed the "Army and Navy." He referred to the establishment of a volunteer corps at Consett, about 360 men having enrolled their names in the corps at the Conservative Club Rooms there. He was very sorry that the member for this division (Mr Atherley-Jones) should have thought fit in a speech of his to stigmatise it as a political movement. ("Shame.") It was not a political movement, but was started by a few young men, and the Committee of the Conservative Club willingly granted the use of their room for such a purpose—that men of whatever shade of political opinion might enrol themselves. (Applause.) Mr Atherley-Jones also said that he had heard there was going to be a Conservative colonel, but he trusted there would be a Liberal major. He (Mr Cooper) did not know where Mr Atherley-Jones obtained his information from, but it must be very galling for their member to learn that the gentleman asked was Mr Jenkins himself, who is supposed to be an advanced Liberal. (Applause.) He trusted the corps would be a success. (Loud applause.)

Mr TEASDALE having replied, Mr TAIT, in a few choice remarks, gave "The Conservative Cause."

Mr LYONS, in response, congratulated them on the success of their club, and their first annual dinner. They had begun their dinner at a very auspicious period—viz., when they had in office a powerful Conservative Government with two of the ablest men the Tory party had ever produced. (Cheers.) Again, they were entering upon an important period as regards political life. He referred to the Queen's Jubilee—(applause)—and they could not do less that night than congratulate themselves upon the fact that this was their first anniversary and almost occurred in date with that important period in English history when Her Majesty had reigned for fifty long years in the hearts of her loyal and grateful people. (Loud cheers.) As to the cause itself, it had never been in such a flourishing or healthy condition, and to-day it had attained the full form of manhood. (Cheers). Owing to the great principles that Lord Beaconsfield taught from year to year, they found to-day that the Conservative principles had united the great mass of the people, and now they found the working men of the great constituencies of the country sending Conservatives instead of Radicals to the British House of Commons. (Cheers). The condition of the country some time ago was rather ill, because they had a queer sort of a doctor, instead of Dr Salisbury. (Laughter). They had—should he call Mr Gladstone?—"a political quack." (Laughter). The Emperor of China adopted this plan with the medical profession, viz.; he paid his doctors a good salary when he was well, and as soon as he became ill, their salary ceased. Needless to say, therefore, that his Majesty was always well (laughter). Apply that to the condition of the body politic—if they had the power to stop the salaries of their political doctors they should not have men of the calibre of Wm. E. Gladstone playing ducks and drakes at home, and with the integrity of the empire abroad (laughter). Of all the political weather-cocks Mr Gladstone took the cake—(laughter)—for he had certainly boxed the political compass. He commenced his career described as the hope of the Tories, afterwards a Peelite, then to Whiggism and Liberalism, then into the arms of "Joseph and his brethren"—(laughter)—and became a Radical, and now, to crown his career, he falls into the lap of Parnell and becomes a "grand old moonlighter." (Laughter). How people could be infatuated with him and follow him about like a flock of political sheep he (the speaker) failed to understand. He had been consistent in nothing but his inconsistency, and if he declared in the strongest language that he would support one thing and go against another, he would afterwards reverse it and he would attack that very thing he promised to support. (Applause). Take the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. Mr Gladstone said he was not prepared to disestablish it, then in six or eight months afterwards he proposed the resolution for it. The same applies to Home Rule for Ireland. He ridiculed Mr Isaac Butt and his notion in 1872, and how he will grin for it, and fall into the lap of Mr Dillon and Mr Parnell just to try to get a majority in the House of Commons, (applause) but the people have rejected his Home Rule Bill, the scheme, and Mr Gladstone himself (cheers). He thought the following epitaph would be a very excellent one:

"Here lies our good William, whose genius was such,
We neither can praise it or blame it too much;
Who, born for the universe, narrowed his mind
And to party gave up what was good for mankind."

(Loud laughter and cheers).

Mr W. Fainsen, junior (hon. sec. of the club) read the report, which was highly satisfactory.

Mr COOPER proposed "The Catchgate Conservative Working-Men's Club" which was responded to by the chairman and vice-chairman.

Dr MANTLE next gave "The Press," which was responded to by Mr J. G. MANN.

The proceedings were interspersed with songs by Messrs J. W. Humphrey, Dr Manders, W. S. Telford, and S. D. Dooper, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

LANCHESTER RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The monthly meeting was held at Lanchester yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. The members present were Rev J. P. De Pledge, J.P., Messrs W. Logan, J. Wilkinson, J. Lax, George Hobson, J. Collinson, J. A. Curry, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson.) Owing to the illness of the Inspector (Mr J. W. Rounthwaite), all important matters were left over for consideration at a meeting to be held a fortnight hence.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The Medical Officers submitted the following reports:—

Lanchester District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—The following are the fresh cases of catching diseases that have appeared in this district since my last report:—45 cases of measles at Cornsay Colliery, 7 at Hamsteels Colliery, and 3 at Quebec.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON.

Lanchester, December 16th, 1886.

Medomsley District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—During the month, the following cases of infectious disease have come under my notice —3 cases of scarlatina at Derwent Cottages. A great many are ill of sore throats from cold. I am not aware of any fresh cases of fever at Allendale, Westwood, or Croniwell; all places seem now almost free.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. T. BOLTON.

Ebchester, December 15th, 1886.

Eastern District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—There is a marked improvement in the condition of the district as regards zymotic diseases. Only six cases of mild scarlatina and nine of whooping cough have been notified to me during the month. The latter appeared at Dipton and Beamish, and the former at Tanfield Lea, Annfield Place, and Burnopfield. Excepting those at Beamish that I cannot account for, all the others have occurred in, or near to, infected premises. The epidemic of whooping cough prevalent in Dipton and neighbourhood during the last four months, is now practically ended; and the cases at Beamish, of the same disease, are well isolated. All the cases of scarlatina have either recovered or are convalescent.

The mortality for the month is very much below the usual average. Eighteen deaths were registered, being equal to an annual ratio of 12·65 per 1000. Two deaths were due to infectious diseases—viz., enteric fever and whooping cough.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

T. BENSON, Medical Officer.

December 14th, 1886.

The CHAIRMAN regarded the reports as exceedingly satisfactory, and the same having been adopted, the Authority adjourned.

A successful concert in connection with the Swalwell Band of Hope was given in the Board School, on Monday night, when the following took part:—Mr and Mrs A. Richardson, Mrs Emmerson, Miss Frazer, Mr Griffith, Mr Bonner, Miss Barklim, Mr W. Speers, Mr S. Emmerson, and Mr Dowling.

ACCIDENT ON THE RAILWAY.—A serious block occurred on Monday night, at Mickley, on the Newcastle and Hexham branch of the North-Eastern Railway, in consequcuce of some mineral waggons having gone off the line while being shunted. The slow train from Hexham, due in Newcastle at 8·25 p.m., was detained for an hour at Stocksfield, and did not arrive until twenty-five minutes past nine, and the express, due at 8·40 was kept at Riding Mill, and arrived a few minutes after the slow train. The train due at Hexham at ten minutes past seven was also considerably late. Much inconvenience was caused by the delay.

PARISH CHURCH—ADVENT SERVICES.—On Wednesday se'nnight, an eloquent and impressive sermon was preached by Canon Lloyd, Vicar of Newcastle, from the words, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Prayers were read by the Rector (Rev M. Green), and the lessons by the curtate (Rev J. Kirk). The anthem, which was very efficiently rendered, was Barnby's "Sing and rejoice," the quartette being taken by Mrs Green and Messrs Smith, Forster, and Viner. The offertory was for the choir fund. During Advent, carols are sung in the church after Sunday evening service.

On Sunday the organ in the newly-erected Catholic Chapel at New Houses, near Waterhouses, was opened by Mr A. Carr, of Durham.

ADVENTURE WITH A RUNAWAY HORSE.—One night last week, Mr L. Trotter, secretary of the Durham County Colliery Mechanics' Association, and his father-in-law, Mr W. Hall, had a narrow escape in driving from Waterhouses to Durham. They had attended a meeting at Waterhouses, and in driving home all went right until they reached the Flass Inn. Here from some reason or other the horse bolted, and galloped at full speed over stone heaps and through ditches, Mr Trotter and his father-in-law holding on to the trap and reins for their lives. On nearing the brow of the hill, near Mr Robson's farm, Relly, they were enabled to stop the horse. Mr Robson was fortunately attracted to the spot at the time, and, with the assistance of his men, he released Mr Trotter and Mr Hall from their predicament. Excepting the loss of Mr Trotter's hat and whip and a severe shaking, the couple were no worse for the adventure, the rest of the journey being performed with safety.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENQUIRY.—On Monday, Mr T. Codrington, M.I.C.E., inspector appointed by the Local Government Board, held an inquiry at the Angel Inn, Corbridge, to determine the reasonable cost at which a supply of water might be furnished to the village. The Hexham Rural Sanitary Authority was represented by Mr J. M. Ridley, J.P. (chairman), Mr I. Baty, jun. (clerk), Mr H. Laws (engineer), Mr J. W. Maclagan (medical officer), and Mr R. Thompson (inspector). There were also present Messrs T. Reed, J. E. Middlemiss, J. Harle, and T. Blandford, members of the Parochial Committee, and a large number of ratepayers.—After a full investigation, Mr Ridley proposed a vote of thanks to the inspector for the excellent manner in which he had conducted the inquiry, which was seconded by Mr Lockhart, and carried.

WEARDALE OVERSEERS IN A DIFFICULTY.—The overseers of the parish of Stanhope have been placed in a critical position. The district auditor had informed them that no new rate was to be levied until the one previous was all paid in. A fresh rate was asked for some months ago, but the requirement of the auditor not having been complied with, the overseers refused to levy it. Meanwhile the School Board, who look to them for cash, signed the customary cheques to their staff of teachers, who had them cashed in the ordinary way; but there being no balance to the parish's credit at the bank the cheques were returned. The overseers' private property was in jeopardy of being seized, and those gentlemen called a meeting at once and levied the rate, which is being collected with all despatch. The overseers are determined to resign.

EXCITING CO-OPERATIVE MEETING.—On Saturday evening, a crowded meeting of the Stanhope and Frosterley members of the Stanhope Store took place in the large room—Mr G. Moses in the chair. At a similar meeting, held a fortnight ago, it was decided to form a branch store in the village of Frosterley for the convenience of 70 or 80 members residing there. A number of the Stanhope Store members, not being present at that meeting, were dissatisfied, and intimated that the meeting was not thoroughly representative, and the opinion of the bulk of the members had not been ascertained. Another meeting of the members was called, to which all were again invited, there being a good muster, to reconsider their former action. After considerable heated discussion it was again decided to open out a branch store at Frosterley and try it for a year, and if it succeeded to continue it.

In Memoriam.

MR. JOHN TAIT, OF CONSETT.

It is with unfeigned regret that we have to announce the demise of Mr John Tait, schoolmaster, Consett, which unexpectedly took place at his residence, in Sherburn Terrace, Consett, about 2·30 last Sunday afternoon, at the advanced age of 74 years. Deceased enjoyed remarkable health, and was in excellent vigour and spirits till Thursday morning—indeed, he had been visiting the Conservative Club, and remained till a late hour on the Wednesday evening. It was at first alleged that his illness was caused by inflammation, and his death is attributed to this cause. He rallied somewhat on Saturday morning, and expressed a hope that he would be able to resume his scholastic duties on Monday morning. Alas! he did not live to see this expectations fulfilled, for he gradually became worse, and breathed his last on the Sabbath afternoon. In his last illness he was attended by Drs G. Renton, R. C. Richards, and E. Kirkhouse. He passed away as he was indulging in a sweet sleep. Mr Tait leaves a widow and grown-up family, consisting of four sons and three daughters, to mourn his demise. The Vicar of Consett (Rev F. Steggall), preaching in the Parish Church, on Sunday evening, made a touching allusion to the melancholy event; and at the close of the service the choir sang, with due solemnity, the well-known hymn, "Days and moments quickly flying," as a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr Tait was in many respects a most remarkable man, and was looked upon as a celebrity in a circumscribed sphere. Of his early days, however, but very little is definitely known. He was born in some remote part of the borders of Scotland—the exact locality has not been defined—and was originally educated as a candidate for the Church of Scotland. Certain circumstances made his academical course of short duration, and he adopted the profession of a schoolmaster, in which he has been actively engaged for nearly 60 years. He first settled down, after leaving his native heath, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, where he spent a considerable portion of his lifetime, and subsequently for a period of 16 years he was employed under the late Lord Durham. For a lengthened period he resided in the neighbourhood of Houghton-le-Spring, Sherburn Hill, Fence Houses, &c. About 16 years ago, Mr Tait came to Consett, and conducted a school in the vicinity of the North-Eastern Bank; but this structure being converted into a warehouse by the Messrs Davison, he went to Blackhill. After a few years' sojourn there, he returned to Consett, where for the past few years he has successfully conducted a middle-class school at the Educational Institute in Sherburn Terrace. The deceased possessed a wonderful intellect, and his scholastic attainments were marvellous. He had studied the whole routine of mathematics, and was able to read his Bible in six different languages—viz., English, German, Greek, Latin, French, and Hebrew. He was an excellent linguist, and could read the foreign languages most fluently. Mr Tait was a learned and thorough student of theology, history, geology, &c., and was an ardent lover of nature. He possessed an extensive knowledge of almost every subject, no matter how abstruse or complicated; and possessed the tact of elucidating difficult problems. As an instance of his extraordinary skill, we may mention that at the age of 64 years he commenced to learn phonography, and obtained a certificate from Mr Isaac Pitman, the inventor, in 1863. Since then he has introduced the art of shorthand into his school, and it was only a few weeks since that he succeeded in passing a boy, named John Barrow, as a phonographer. Mr Pitman, in awarding a certificate of proficiency to this pupil, wrote complimenting Mr Tait upon his exceptional ability, and also informed him that Consett could boast of having the oldest and the youngest phonographers in the Kingdom! Up to the period of his demise, Mr Tait was hale and hearty; and was as active at 70 as he was when he had attained the age of 40 years. He retained full possession of his extraordinary faculties to the very last. He was an enthusiastic sportsman, and greatly devoted himself to shooting, angling, and other innocent pastimes. By his kind and genial temperament he enlisted the esteem and admiration of all persons who might differ from him in his views or opinions. He was widely known throughout the district, and his well-known patriarchal figure moving about in our midst will be much missed. He was a painstaking tutor, and evinced a deep interest in the welfare of his scholars, even in years after they had passed out of his care. In all philantrophic and educational movements promoted in the interests of the community at large, Mr Tait was sure to be found a staunch and strong supporter. His extensive knowledge caused him to be regarded as an authority in matters of controversy, and he frequently contributed letters to the local press on current topics. In politics, Mr Tait was a thorough Conservative, and did signal service to the cause both in North Durham and the newly-constituted Parliamentary Division of North-West Durham. He was an ardent admirer of the late Lord Beaconsfield, and never lost an opportunity of dilating upon his great accomplishments, and of speaking in terms of the highest praise of the home and foreign policy pursued by this eminent Statesman. Mr Tait had but little sympathy for the fossiled Toryism of the old school, but himself professed to be a Tory of the Lord Randolph Churchill stamp—ever energetic and watchful. He was a member of the Conservative Association, the Primrose League, and the Conservative Club at Consett. He was a faithful adherent of the Church of England, and regularly worshipped in the Parish Church. In one or two respects, he was regarded by some as a little eccentric; but he was an enthusiast in whatever he took in hand, and all who came in contact with him invariably treated him with the utmost courtesy and respect.

The remains of Mr Tait were interred in Benfieldside cemetery, on Wednesday afternoon, the funeral being attended by a large and respectable company. The weather was of the most wretched description, snow and a drizzling rain descending the whole day, and this fact doubtless prevented many citizens from paying a last mark of respect to the memory of the deceased. The body was encased in a black fringed coffin, and bore a simple inscription. The procession was headed by the elder scholars formerly under the deceased's tuition; and the hearse was followed by five mourning coaches, containing the widow, sons, daughters, and other relatives of the deceased. Amongst those who followed the *cortege* were Rev A. Baillie, Blackhill; Mr W. Jenkins, J.P., Mr T. L. Gledstone, and other prominent gentlemen. The service was impressively conducted by Rev F. Steggall (vicar), assisted by Rev C. S. Wilson (curate). It was intended that four schoolmasters—Messrs A. Jackson, G. T. Hyden, J. Dawson, and J. C. W[illegible] should act as [illegible] bearers, but the latter gentleman not daring to face the storm, he was substituted by Mr Goudie. A favourite hymn of the deceased's—"Sun of my soul"—was sung at the grave. A large number of wreaths of beautiful flowers and *immortelles* were placed upon the coffin by the scholars, the members of the Primrose League, and other bodies of which Mr Tait was a member. The Church bell was tolled as the mournful procession passed through the streets, and the blinds of the dwellings *en route* were drawn.

MR GEO. RACE, OF WESTGATE.

Weardale has lost one of its greatest men. Mr Geo. Race, sen., of Westgate, a well-known and much respected man, died on Saturday at his residence, at the ripe age of 76 years. Mr Race was a man of no common range. He was an accomplished local geologist, a powerful local preacher in connection with the Primitive Methodists, and one of the most trusted men in Weardale. Throughout his native dale, throughout the Primitive Methodist churches of the North, and amongst a large circle of scholastic friends, the intelligence of his death will be very sad. The family of Race has been located in Weardale for centuries. Anthony Race, mentioned in the records as one of John Wesley's converts, was grandfather of deceased. This Anthony, after preaching the gospel of Christ for about 40 years in the dales, died in 1818, leaving a large family, one of whom was Nathan Race, father of deceased, born August 15, 1810. In early life George Race was a leadminer. The theory and practice of leadmining he perfectly understood, and his experience in this work greatly aided him in after life in his geological researches. Mr Race afterwards carried on the present business of the family—that of drapers and general merchants. It is during this period he found time at home for intellectual pursuits. From the first introduction of Primitive Methodism into Weardale, George Race figured as a local preacher. For between forty and fifty years he was the leading member of the Weardale Circuit, and his house was a centre of genial hospitality and kindly service. In politics Mr Race was a staunch Liberal, and took a prominent part in all these movements. One grand characteristic in this remarkable man was his strong social affection and hospitality. He was an excellent metaphysician, being thoroughly conversant with all branches of philosophy from Thales and Socrates to the latest phases of psychological research. At Race's, every honest thinker was at home, and a pleasant and profitable hour was his reward. As a local geologist Mr Race was second to none on the record, having made this a lifelong special study. The shales of that part of the carboniferous system which forms Weardale was thoroughly known to him. In 1878 he published a pamphlet on the "Formation of Valleys" being a testimony of the Yoredale rocks as to their form and mode of stratification. Mr Race had prepared a far more comprehensive work on geology, in which he entered upon a consideration of the evidences of chemical action; but the manuscripts and drawings of this work remain unpublished. Considering that Weardale presents an excellent section of strata in the beds of its streams and in its leadmines, it is a favourable field for study, and the labours of Mr Race in this branch of science have been of great and acknowledged value. Mr Race occasionally wrote sketches of local characters. One of these, "An Early Weardale Methodist," was an account of his grandfather, Anthony Race, and preserves a remarkable view of the period immediately following Wesley. Mr George Race was personally known to Aaron Ritson and Phœbe Featherstone, two of Wesley's converts, and remembered the reverent bearing of his aged grandfather. His death removes a connecting link between the times in which we live and the most interesting period in the history of Nonconformity in Weardale. Deceased leaves a son, Mr George Race, builder, a daughter (Mrs Moore), and a wide circle of friends. He was in his political views an advanced Radical, having been among the early reformers of '32, and an ardent sympathiser with the Chartist movement of 1848. He was a successful business man, largely gifted with practical wisdom, a man of large-hearted benevolence and unswerving integrity. Mr Miller, son of the famous Hugh Miller, of Edinburgh, now holding a high position in the survey of England, has testified to the untold value of Mr Race's patient geological observation and discoveries. He was as public-spirited as he was generous, and there are few persons of whom so much can be remarked that that was kindly and noble in word and deed. His demise creates a gap in the social ranks of Weardale which could be filled by no other than his surviving son, George Race, jun., who inherits much of his father's genius along with the family traditions and the example of a well-spent life. The hon. Baronet who represents the Weardalians in Parliament used to call on George Race whenever he visited the dale. His death will create a gap among the serial ranks of Primitive Methodism in Weardale, which will be difficult to fill.

> "He needs not a tablet to reward his worth,
> It will live when fame's laurels have perished;
> And the mouldering marble of earth,
> And the world and its heroes have vanished."

On Tuesday, the remains of Mr Race were interred in the burial-ground of St. Michael's Church, Westgate. There were present a large number of friends, notwithstanding a prevailing snowstorm. The coffin—oak, brass-mounted, and covered with wreaths—was taken to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, and the burial-service was read by Rev J. Taylor, superintendent minister (Westgate Circuit), assisted by Revs E. Phillipson and T. J. Watson (Auckland Circuit) who gave out the hymn, "How blest the righteous when he dies;" D. M'Kinley (Allendale Circuit), F. Watson (South Shields), and J. C. Nattrass (Wesleyan minister). At the conclusion of the service in the chapel, Rev D. McKinley, formerly of Westgate, gave a most touching address bearing on the many good qualities of deceased. He felt deeply the loss of their friend, than whom no one had so deeply affected his own nature. The speaker dwelt upon the strong manhood, the gentle, sympathetic, and kindly feeling of the deceased, whose good nature found expression in many forms. As a philosopher Mr Race was able to sound the depths of the various systems of thought. The rev. gentleman next dwelt upon the time when deceased was an ardent preacher of the gospel, and advocated effectively the belief which had blessed many of the elder neighbours and friends who were there to pay their last respects to deceased, and he said if Christianity had done nothing more for some of them than to have brought them into the circle of the life of George Race, it would have been a great boon. His life was private; but he was a consistent Christian, a searcher of the truth, and an attentive listener of the truth in that chapel. Now the memory of Race was their's; and his life, now that he was gone, seemed to be more precious. He hoped that the life of George Race would be an example for them.—The interment then took place, the chief mourners being deceased's son and daughter, Mr G. Race and Mrs Race and family, Mrs Moore and family, Mr N. Race; and a large number of the Primitive Methodist local preachers and members and many distinguished and close friends of the deceased gathered to show respect to the memory of one of the brightest of Weardale's sons.

A gentleman who was habitually taking liberties with the Queen's English was returned as member for a Colonial Parliament. Delighted with the importance of his new position, he rose, on the first chance that offered, to make his maiden speech. "Gentlemen," he said, by way of introduction, "what 'ave we before the 'ouse to-night?" "I think we have 'h' before 'ouse,' gentlemen," was the prompt reply of a witty but rude member of the opposition.

Another Fragment.—Mrs. Glubber: "Lawks a mussy me, Mrs. Pratt! Who'd ha' thort to hev seein' you pop in 'ere, a-ketchin' me promiskus, jest after yer bereavement too; but you rally shouldn't look so melancholick." Mrs. Pratt: "I can't 'elp it, Mrs. Glubber. I've just bin to hev my potygraff took fur my late 'usband's relashuns; and the hartist he ses, ses he, try to look as you looked doorin' yer 'oneymoon—and I tried. I s'pose my fetshures ain't got settle down easy yet. Time wurks wonders tho', don't it?—'speshully when hassisted with a strong cup o' green tea, and the taste of a drop of something in it."

Great is the force of habit. The seaman cannot sleep soundly on the shore because he misses the tossing of the ship and the roaring of the wind. We lately heard of a forlorn widow who, the third night after her husband's death, sat at the window watching the stars with sleepless eyes. At last her thoughts, sad and weary, broke into soliloquy: "This trying to go to sleep," she said, "without a quarrel of some kind, is so new that I can't stand it." Just then, two men under her window fell to fighting. She watched the conflict to the end, then quietly undressed, saying, "That's kind of home-like," and in a few minutes was in bed and fast asleep.

Martial Affection.—Martial affection is a beautiful thing, and every fresh exhibition of its tenderness and loyalty affects us to tears. A wife—possibly an old wife—on a certain occasion fell overboard. The husband rushed frantically about the deck, literally tearing his hair out by handfuls, and crying in the most beseeching tones: "For Heaven's sake save her; she is my wife!" The noble sailors thought of their own sweethearts, and ran all risks, and at last brought the poor woman into the cabin of the swooning husband. The look of gratitude he gave them fully repaid them for all their efforts. Then, recovering his equanimity, he thrust his hand into his wife's wet pocket, pulled out a somewhat plethoric purse, and with infinite relief said: "Old woman, the next time you tumble overboard, leave that purse behind. You scared me almost to death."

Football.

FIXTURES.

Dec. 18.—Consett v. North Durham 2nd, at Consett.
" 18.—Consett Sextons v. Crook, at Consett.
" 18.—Leadgate v. Tanfield Lea, at Leadgate.
" 18.—Leadgate 2nd v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, Leadgate.
" 18.—St. Cuthbert's (Benfieldside) Junio[illegible] Lanchester Juniors.
" 18.—Medomsley v. Brunswick, at Med[illegible]
" 18.—Tantobie v. Hobson, at Hobson
" 18.—Tantobie 2nd v. Ouston, at O[illegible]
" 18.—South Moor v. Catchgate, at Catchgate.
" 18.—Burnopfield C.E.T. Range[illegible] v. Wrekenton, at Burnopfield.

Crook 1st v. Darlingt[illegible] Athletic (A).—Played at Darlington. S[illegible]—One goal each.

Gateshead v. Chest[illegible]-le-Street (A).—Owing to the inclemency of [illegible] weather, this fixture was not played on We[illegible]

Chester-le-Street Juniors v. Ouston (A).—Played at Ou[illegible], and resulted in a victory for the visitors by three goals to nil.

Pelton Fell (Newfield Wanderers) v. Threslington Colts (A).—Played on the Newfield ground, when the Colts won by six goals to one.

Medomsley 2nd v. St. Cuthbert's (Benfieldside) Juniors 2nd (R).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the visitors by one goal to nil. The goal was obtained by Judge.

Consett Sextons 2nd v Hamsterley Rangers 2nd (A).—Played on the Consett ground on Saturday. The Sextons were successful by taking 4 goals to nil.

Hamsterley Rangers v. Consett Sextons (A).—Also played at Consett, on Saturday afternoon. Hamsterley obtained 2 goals, and the Sextons 1 goal and one disputed.

Consett 2nd v. Percy Park 2nd (R).—This match had to take place at Consett last Saturday; but the state of the weather prevented the fixture coming off.

Northern v. Ryton (R).—Played at Ryton on Saturday, in the presence of a large number of spectators, and ended, after a fast and exciting game, in a win for the visitors by two goals, one try, and one minor point, to one goal and two minor points.

Albert House v. Medomsley Scratch (A).—Played at Medomsley, and after a well-contested game resulted in a victory for the Albert House by 2 goals to nil. Teams:—Medomsley—Goal, Milburn; Charlton, Robinson, Campbell, Ward Bailey, Tarn, Bell, Eccles, Hornsby, and Radcliffe. Albert House—Goal, T. Mole; Thomson, Waggot, Bell, Mason, Davison, Jennings, Cooperwaite, R. Turnbull, M. Cook, and F. Moffatt.

Leadgate v. Tow Law Rebekins (A).—Played on Saturday on the ground of the former, and after a hard but pleasant game of two forties, resulted in a draw, each side scoring two goals. Teams:—Leadgate—Goal, J. Monaghan; full backs, J. Coulthard and J. Warlow; half backs, W. Breats (captain), R. Bousthead, and J. Bunney; right wing, T. Reed, J. Snowdon; centre, A. Barabope; left wing, M. Nicholson and F. Jackson. Tow Law—Goal, T. Doran; full backs, F. Morgan and J. Allen; half backs, P. English, J. Robson, and A. Roney; right wing, J. Cogan and J. Westgarth; centre, N. Crinnion; left wing, J. Hildreth and F. Ward.

Leadgate 2nd v. Catchgate Red Stars 2nd (A).—The same day these teams played on the ground of the latter, and after a very pleasant game, resulted in a victory for the visitors 3 by goals to nil. Leadgate team—Goal, R. Brown; full backs, J. Graham and C. Surtees; half backs, T. Warlow, T. Kennedy, P. Muldoon; right wing, J. McGee and J. Brown; centre, T. Bullock; left wing, J. Warlow (captain) and W. Walton.

Swalwell v. Dunston (A).—Played on the Swalwell ground on Saturday, before a large number of spectators. The visitors won the toss, and elected to play downhill. E. Nelson kicked off for Swalwell, but the visitors soon got possession, and scored their first and only goal within a minute from the commencement. The home team soon equalised from the foot of E. Nelson, and added two more goals during the first half. On the commencement of the second half play was very even. The Swalwell men added another goal to their score, the match thus terminating in a victory for Swalwell by four goals to one. This is the first match either teams have played this season.

Association Football at Leadgate.—A new club entitled "The Exiles" has been formed at The Brooms, Leadgate. Upwards of thirty members have already joined the club. Anyone wishing to become a member can do so by communicating with the secretary. It is probable that this club will in a short time become very prominent, as its members are mostly connected with the other clubs of the district. A field near the Brooms has been kindly granted by Mr E. Kinleside to the club to exercise in. The club will have their first practice to-morrow (Saturday). The following have been elected officers:—Captain, Mr J. Bowden; vice-captain, Mr M. Clare; secretary, Mr B. McAloon; corresponding secretary, Mr J. Costello, No. 217, Leadgate.

Burnopfield C.E.T. Rangers v. Crookgate Rovers (A).—Much interest was manifested in the above match on Saturday, there being a keen rivalry between the clubs since the Rovers defeated the Rangers in their first match this season. Unfortunately the Rangers were without the services of their captain, while the Rovers were not so strong as they might have been. The game was played on Crookgate ground in two "thirties," and Dewyer, home captain, winning the toss, choose to play uphill. Hogarth kicking off for the Rangers, they soon transferred play into the Rovers territory, where, after about 7 minutes give and take play, they scored from a scrimmage. On restarting, the Rovers gradually worked the ball up the field, only to be returned again, and at half-time the score stood—Rangers, 1 goal; Rovers, nil. Play being again resumed, the home took the aggressive, and about five minutes from the start they scored from the toe of Gailes. The ball being again in motion, the Rovers carried it into their opponents quarters, but owing to the bad play of their forwards (with the exception of Gailes and Dewyer), could not score. The Rangers got possession and took the ball up the field, but, being checked by the home half-backs, one of their members played foul, and a dispute arose, from which the Rangers abruptly quitted the field, leaving the game drawn, 1 goal each. Teams:—Rangers—Goal, W. Gordon; backs, J. Potts and Rev Mr Hughes; half-backs, Jos. Lamb (captain), W. Moody, and P. Allan; forwards, G. Minto, W. Hogarth, J. Mason, J. Gordon, and H. Layton. Rovers—Goal, J. Pryde; backs, Jas. Harrison and J. Treacy; half-backs, W. McIntosh, M. Allan, and D. Harrison; forwards, Dewyer, J. Gailes, E. Henderson, S. Cooper, and W. H. Dawson.

Medomsley v. Burnopfield (A).—Played at Burnopfield on Saturday. The home captain lost the toss and kicked off up the incline. Medomsley were soon at work round the home goal, and Walton scored by a neat shot after 10 minutes' play. Burnopfield now had a look in, but were cleverly tackled and driven back by Campbell and Little. Middleton was lying in wait and passed to Archer, who scored again. "Hands" was claimed, and the visitors waived the point under protest. For a short time Murphy had his work set to keep out shots from the home team, but he was equal to the occasion, and kept his citadel intact in grand style, playing a much improved game. Till half-time the home goal was in a chronic state of seige, but no further score was made; and the teams crossed over—Medomsley, 1 goal; Burnopfield, 0. On resuming, the game was more open, the play on both sides much improved, and visits to both goals were of frequent occurrence. The home forwards put in some good work, but were well looked after by the Medomsley back division, who kicked and tackled exceedingly well. After some desultory play Middleton broke away in the centre, and outpacing the half and full backs shot a grand goal amid applause. Medomsley still kept up the seige, but owing to the good play of the home goal-keeper, who saved time after time almost miraculously, the score remained unaltered at the call of time—Medomsley, two goals; Burnopfield, 0. For Medomsley, Murphy, Little, Taylor, Hetherington, Walton, and Middleton played a good game; and for Burnopfield, Cooke, Jolly, Cawthorne, and Bell were conspicuous.

"Rough on Corns."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions. 1½d. and 1s. bottles.

Sporting Items.

Rabbit Coursing at Swalwell.—The rabbit coursing promoted by H. Bayne, Blair Athol Hotel, was brought to a conclusion on Saturday. There were 36 entries; but, owing to darkness setting, 9 divided. W. Pearson was judge.

Shooting at Swalwell.—The All-England handicap promoted by Mr C. Massey was concluded near the house of Mr Jas. Errington, Clavering Arms. On account of darkness setting in the stake was divided.

Pigeon Shooting Match at West Pelton.—On Saturday afternoon a pigeon shooting match took place in a field, between Thomas Mason, Pelton Fell, and Thomas Little, Chester-le-Street, 11 birds each, 21 yards rise, for £10 a-side. Eventually Mason. Score:—Mason, 7; Little, 5.

Pigeon Shooting Handicap at Leadgate.—The pigeon shooting handicap, with £2 added by Mr J. Thirlwell to a sweepstake of 3s each, was concluded on Saturday, in a field adjacent to the house of Mr J. Hardy, Coach and Horses Inn, Leadgate. There was a good attendance of spectators. Scores:—Durham, 1110; Cathedral, 11111111; Sandy Grant, 0; Gay City, 0; Greater Scott, 1110; The Sinner, 1110; Jawblades, 0; Cruickshanks (1st lot), 10; H. Dixon (1st lot), 110; Little Jack, 1111110; Bricks Fell Down, 1111111 0; Martin Nolan, 11111111; Niveling Clink, 111 110; Cruickshank (2nd lot), 0; Hy. Dixon (2nd lot), 11111110. Cathedral and Martin Nolan received 1st and 2nd, and Dixon (2nd lot), third prizes. Mr Hy. Applegarth officiated as judge; Mr J. Thirlwell was trapper, and Mr Geo. Jackson acted as score-keeper. The birds were in first class condition.

Rabbit Coursing at Consett.—A good company visited these grounds on Saturday afternoon to witness the final ties of the £30 rabbit coursing sweep promoted by Mr J. Inglis, of the Shakespeare Hotel, Consett, the best of five courses. Results:—Second round—Oates's St. Gaitien beat Nicholson's Pretty Poll by 3 to 1, Routledge's Wild Tommy beat Vickers's Jenny Pet by 3 to 1, Lamb's Hard Lines beat Smithson's Daisy by 3 to 0, Jackson's Castor Oil beat Walker's Pose by 3 to 1, McKay's Masher beat Vickers's Annie Laurie by 3 to 1, Brown's Turpin beat Wardle's Little Sister by 3 to 1, Curry's Nelly keep Straight a bye. Third Round—Nelly keep Straight beat Castor Oil by 3 to 0, St Gaitien beat Wild Tommy by 3 to 1, Turpin beat Hard Lines by 3 to 0, Masher a bye. Fourth round—Curry's (Dipton) Nelly keep Straight, Oates's (Dipton) St. Gaitien, Brown's (Castleside) Turpin, and McKay's (Easington Lane) Masher divided the stakes. N. Lamb was pistol-firer and J. Dodds judge.

Wrestling in Weardale.—The Weardale Athletic Club's All Weights Silver Cup competition was held at Wearhead on Saturday evening. The contest secured the large entry of twenty, embracing the leading exponents of the art in the district. Some fine play was witnessed—the progress of the young light weights being marked. Umpires, Mr Wm. Wearmouth and Mr J. Brown. Results:—First round—J. Peart threw J. Pattinson; J. Peart threw J. Hutchinson; J. Watson threw N. Peart; J. Greggs threw T. Harrison; T. Gardiner threw T. Whitfield; Isaac Wearmouth threw O. Featherstone; W. Bell threw J. Wall; W. Wilkinson threw R. Philipson; T. Whitefield threw J. Coulthard; T. Rutherford threw T. Foster. Second round—Peart threw Greggs; Bell threw Rutherford; Wearmouth threw Peart; Wilkinson threw Gardiner; Whitfield threw Watson. Third round—Peart threw Wilkinson; Whitefield threw Wearmouth; Bell odd man. Fourth round—Bell threw Whitefield; Peart odd man. Final—Bell threw Peart twice and won.

Concert.—The Stanhope Wesleyan choir gave a concert in their Day-school on Saturday evening. There were over forty performers. Mr Joseph Ward presided; Mr Robert Ward conducted; and Miss Tempelty presided at the harmonium. There was an excellent company, and a good programme was gone through. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

Local Law Case.—In the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) on Friday, before Mr Justice Kekewich—the case of Smith, Patterson, and Co., Limited, v. Thomas Smith came on. This was an action brought by plaintiffs, who carry on business as iron and brass founders, sanitary engineers, and millwrights, at the Pioneer Foundry at Blaydon, for the specific performance by the defendant of an agreement by which he, as their manager, acquired certain land between the plaintiffs' property and the North-Eastern Railway Company, and which he so acquired, it was alleged, for the plaintiffs. The case, which occupied two days last week, was brought to a conclusion on Saturday. The judge (after hearing the evidence of Col. J. A. Cowen) asked the opposing council to adjourn to his own room. The result of the conference was a compromise. Smith, Patterson, and Co. are to have a lease of the entire plot of land they asked for, and T. Smith is to have permission at a rental rent to use the west branch only of the siding across Townley lane to his works.

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

Hymns for Sunday School Anniversaries, &c., printed on the shortest notice, and at the *cheapest* rate, by Robert Jackson, Consett.

Floriline!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the liquid "Floriline" sprinkled on wet tooth-brush produces a pleasant lather, which thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasites or impurities, hardens the gums, prevents tartar, stops decay, gives to the teeth a peculiar pearly-whiteness, and a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed teeth or tobacco smoke. "The Fragrant Floriline," being composed in part of Honey and sweet herbs, is delicate to the taste, and the greatest toilet discovery of the age. Price 2s. 6d., of all Chemists and Perfumers. Wholesale depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road, London.

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

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

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

A WORD TO THE WISE

Being Warnings and Counsel to Young Men on Marriage, the Cause and Cure of Consumption, Loss of Flesh, Spitting of Blood, Weakness, Local Debility, Loss of Memory, Lassitude, Lowness of Spirits, Languidness, Incapacity for Exertion, Study, or Business, the Mind Irritable and Desponding, Palpitation of the Heart upon the least excitement, want of Vital Energy, Nervous Debility, Dimness of Sight, Premature Decay, and other fatal Diseases, which generally result from unskilful treatment and ignorance of nature's laws, with clear instructions [illegible] Address, Messrs. Wilkinson & Co., [illegible] Square, Sheffield, Eng.

1830. ESTABLISHED 1830.

Business Announcements.

TO THE WEARY.

"Throw Physic to the dogs,
I'll none of it."—*Shakespeare*

TRUTH. DO READ THIS. TRUTH

No Person Need Despair

A SPEEDY RESTORATION TO HEALTH AND STRENGTH,

If he or she will carefully peruse the following, and learn that the great

SELF-RESTORER,

OR

DR. BELL

PATENT VOLTAIC BELT

Is the safest, grandest, and most certain discovery ever known for the cure of all bodily ailments arising from indiscretion and other causes. To those afflicted with Nervousness, Nervous Debility, Loss of Physical Power, Weakness of Body and Mind, &c., this invention presents a means of cure of so unfailing a character that the greatest sufferers from any of the above distressing complaints may, with confidence, rely upon being quickly restored to a sound state of health and strength. In fact, the many marvellous cures performed by the "Self-Restorer" (Undeniable proof of which can be given) at once places these extraordinary Instruments far beyond anything of the kind hitherto offered to the public. In order to prove that these Belts are all they claim to be, it would be as well to mention the following circumstance:—

In the High Court of Justice (Queen's Bench Division) an injunction was granted on January 24th, 1884, restraining several unprincipled persons from selling any colourable imitations of the "Self-Restorer" Belt, the Jury giving the proprietor a verdict with costs and damage, for such infringement. The belt was also explained, and its Electrical powers fully tested in open Court, both before Mr. Justice Hawkins and the Jury, upon the same occasion.

Can any other Manufacturer of Electric Belt produce evidence of so severe a test. Surely, after such a proof as this, the most sceptical will believe that it really possesses the great restorative powers ascribed to it.

It may be as well to mention that the action of the "Self-Restorer" is gentle but exceeding effective. The mild, but beneficial current generated by its use, braces the system, and by its benign influence gradually builds up the frame until the mind begins to get brighter, the natural functions become stronger, the elastic spirit of youth once more apparent, and so the progress towards recovery steadily goes on until the patient ultimately realises the fact that he is *once more young*. In cases of weakness, arising from any of the before-mentioned causes, these Belts are at once the most simple, and at the same time the most certain remedy ever invented or discovered. They are entirely self-acting, and no acids being required, can be worn at any time without any wetting process or inconvenience to the patient, the salt contained in the insensible perspiration being sufficient to keep it in action.

The Cures performed are not of a fleeting character, but permanent, providing the instructions sent with each instrument are carefully adhered to. It speedily removes the most miserable feeling, "lowness of spirits," so often experienced; and, after being worn a short time, enables a man to look at the future in a more hopeful light, as the certainty of a rapid cure relieve the mind of a great burthen.

How many persons who, by living too generously, have become prematurely old, and consequently have these wretched, morbid feelings? They have an idea that nature is decaying, and the pleasures of life have departed. In nine cases out of ten this is far from being the fact. Nature has not decayed; it is simply lying dormant, and needs but a little assistance to once more assert its presence. "The creaking gate requires oil, or it will continue to creak." So it is with the human frame. Assist it where weak, put it in a position to recover itself, and you will find that after all life has its pleasures, and you the restored inclination to partake of them.

The beneficial action of these truly life-giving Belts upon the human frame has been proved so conclusively, by thousands of unsolicited testimonials, that no shadow of doubt remains as to their extraordinary efficacy. They can be worn by either sex with the greatest ease and comfort, without fear of discovery, and by a delicate arrangement can be adjusted to act directly upon the weakened parts, so that immediately upon contact with the body an electric current is at once produced of a mild, but withal of so efficacious a character, that an almost instantaneous improvement becomes noticeable. The heavy hanging feeling wears off, the eye becomes brighter, the brain clearer, until at last the patient feels in his own mind that he is once more in the possession of the greatest blessing upon earth, viz, Health, Strength, Energy, and Manly Vigour.

In cases of Gout, Rheumatism, Paralysis, &c., there is no cure in the world to be compared to these Belts. Nature requires assistance in all these complaints, and that assistance to be thoroughly effective, must be obtained from Nature herself—thus, by calling into operation Electricity, a natural ally, congenial to all constitutions, is obtained, and the result is, in almost every case, permanent cures are effected. Again in case of Consumption, these belts have been the sole means of restoring thousands of both sexes to a healthy and vigorous existence when that fell disease "Consumption" had in the opinion of many eminent medical men, marked them as its victims. These are facts which can be proved to be absolutely true.

To persons desirous of further information, instructions will be given away, in 130 pp. pamphlet, showing sufferers how they may be restored to Health, Strength, and Manly Vigour, without the *Aid of Medicine*, or will be sent, post free, together with all particulars as to regimen, diet, &c. Address—W. WRIGHT, Esq., Secretary, Volta House, 175, Wardour Street, Oxford Street, London W.

THOUSANDS OF TESTIMONIALS MAY BE SEEN AT THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The Prices of Dr. BELL'S MEDICO-MAGNETIC or VOLTA BELTS are

£2 2s., £3 3s., and £5 5s each,
According to Power.

The instrument can be sent to any part of the known world, through the Post, securely packed, upon receipt of remittance. P.O.O. made payable to Mr W. Wright, at the Charing Cross Post Office, London.

Measurement round the body, just below the hips, must in all cases be sent.

Note the Address:—

VOLTA HOUSE,
175, WARDOUR STREET, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Having been asked upon many occasions how it is that our Belts are higher priced than those now being advertised by new firms (with whom we have no connection whatever) we beg to call attention to following:

This Appliance is POSITIVELY WHAT IT PROFESSES TO BE—an "ELECTRIC BELT," which may be proved before purchasing by the Galvanometer, &c. It was explained and fully tested before Mr Justice Hawkins and a Jury in the Court of Queen's Bench, January the 24th, 1884. Moreover, it ENTIRELY DIFFERS from anything of the kind advertised.

A perusal of which will at once show the most [illegible] that our Belts are without doubt, infinitely superior to anything of a like character, and are as beneficial to exhausted nature as represented.

They having stood the test for 30 years, as still further guarantee of their genuineness [illegible]

Business Announcements.

GORDON'S EXTRACT

Is as much a Curative for Dyspepsia (Indigestion), Liver Complaint, and Kidney Diseases, as Bread for Hunger, or Water for Thirst.

Cures Coated Tongue, Dizzy Head, Bilious Vomit, Stomach Miseries, Agonies after Food, Accidental Indigestion, Chronic Dyspepsia, and a Hundred other Disagreeable and Painful Symptoms. "Gordon's Extract," Two Shillings, at all Chemists.

"GORDON'S EXTRACT"
saved her children from being motherless as well as fatherless.

November 29, 1885.

Dear Sir,—I write to thank you for the two bottles of "Gordon's Extract" you so kindly gave me, and I am happy to say I am much better. I was suffering from a dreadful form of indigestion. I could not drink a drop of tea or coffee for months, if I did I suffered dreadful with the wind. At times I have been almost choked, continually belching up wind until my throat swelled so much I have had to struggle for my breath. Then I was seized with a dreadful trembling in my inside and all my limbs, with an awful sensation as though I was going out of my mind, and kept bursting into tears. I felt afraid to be left alone. No one but the Lord and myself knows what I have suffered; I also got very irritable. I am happy to say the above symptoms I have described have nearly all disappeared, and I have only taken one bottle and half the second bottle, and I do hope by the time I have finished taking that I shall be quite well, but if I had the means I should always keep some by me, for this is the second attack I have had, and this second time your valuable medicine, "Gordon's Extract," has saved my life. I can now take a cup of tea and enjoy it without feeling any pain. I have given all your books away, and have and shall continue to recommend it to every one I know. You are quite welcome to make what use you like of this letter, or anyone can come and see me or write to me, and I will tell them that your "Gordon's Extract" has twice saved my life, and my poor children from being left motherless as well as fatherless.

Yours truly grateful,
MRS. PHILLIS HUMPHREYS.
3, Briggs Row, Lower Richmond Road, Putney.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

A SONG.

When the summer sun was shining
In the lovely azure sky,
And the flowers were blooming brightly,
Then they took me home to die.

Thinking ere the flowers were faded,
Or the summer on the wane,
Quiet and for ever silent
I should be released from pain.

Little knowing "Gordon's Extract"
Would renew my life once more,
And the boy they loved and cherished,
Should be merry as of yore.

Thanking God for every mercy,
And the heaven-sent cure renowned,
Which restored [illegible] life fast [illegible],
Making me [illegible] strong and sound.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

What a Ladies' Fashion Journal, of large circulation, says:—

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STOCK FATTENING.—The evidence in favour of the early fattening of cattle continues to increase in importance. The experience of American feeders, according to the best authorities, proves conclusively that the cost of putting on weight constantly increases with the age of the animal. It is even asserted that careful experiments prove that slow increase in weight costs more than double as much as rapid increase, provided that an intelligent system of feeding be followed. Nor is this all, for in the carcases of cattle under two years of age the proportion of lean to fat meat has usually proved greater than in the case of older animals. Where it is otherwise, the explanation is that the young cattle were fed too profusely on fat-producing food. While an animal is rapidly growing, its tendency is to lay on muscle, or lean flesh, and it will do this if properly fed. Some advocates of early fattening even contend that the marbling of the meat, which is so highly esteemed, can be more easily ensured with animals well fed from birth than with those kept poorly till they are three years old and then rapidly finished off; for, whereas in the former case, by judiciously mixing fat-producing and lean-producing food, marbled meat can be laid on gradually, in the latter case the muscle, or lean, is first produced, with scarcely any fat, and rapid finishing causes a deposit of fat on top of the lean. These views, held by many experienced feeders, are entirely endorsed by the *National Live Stock Journal* of Chicago, than which there is no better authority on such subjects in the United States. Maize is too freely used in that country for feeding, and Professor Sanborn reports, as the result of careful experiments, that he is able to produce a much larger proportion of lean meat by feeding on oats and bran than by feeding on maize. There is great need of extensive experiments for ascertaining the mixtures of food most conducive to the production of the happy mean between fatness and leanness in meat.

FARM HORSES require as much care and attention as any other kind of stock, when there is a prolonged deep snow, or when from any stress of wintry or wet weather they remain for several days and perhaps a fortnight doing little or nothing. The danger in this case arises owing to the sudden change from daily toil and continuous activity to the perpetual rest of every physical organ. If allowed to remain in their warm stables they are tolerably sure to have swollen legs under such circumstances. If fed as usual, on considerable quantities of oats or beans, indigestion ensues, together with other worse internal ailments. Consequently, all who are wise take off half the usual allowances of corn from their working horses when a lengthy period of enforced idleness ensues, and instead of allowing them to remain tied up in the stalls turn them into a straw-yard or some paddock in the daytime, when they are able of their own accord to get a little wholesome exercise and also fresh air. Of course there is always some work to be done with the team, provided a deep snow does not make egress from the homestead next to impossible. Foldyard dung may be carted to distant fields, or chalk, marl, or lime be fetched from neighbouring or even far away localities to form compost heaps for pastures. Nor should it be forgotten at such a period as the present, that according to the opinion of many old experienced farmers, the arable land has suffered greatly in recent years through the time-honoured system of liming it having been so generally abandoned. Professor Pritchard, in a recent lecture, pointed out that one capital reason why horses suffer so much from indigestion in the winter season is the common practice of allowing them to drink after feeding heartily. If the precaution were taken of allowing them to have their fill of water before having their feeds of corn and other provender, they would suffer far less in his opinion. If, in addition, the practice of always giving chilled or lukewarm instead of cold water to horses were always adopted, they might be allowed to drink freely as soon as they come in from the field, even although in a profuse state of perspiration.

ENSILAGE WITHOUT A SILO.—The practical success of ensilage without a silo—that is, preservation of grass and other green forage in open-air stacks under pressure—opens up a new prospect of great economy in the feeding of dairy cattle. For summer consumption grass cannot be improved upon; but for winter milk-production hay is too costly. Here comes in the cultivation of heavier-cropping foliage plants, both for summer feed on the existing system and for winter feed in the form of silage. In September Professor James Long shallow-ploughed an oat stubble and sowed a mixture of 16lb. per acre of giant trifolium and 20lb. of rye-grass. At the present moment the plant, though sown at such an unusual time of year, is as fine as if it had been sown last spring. It will be cut when ready and a second cut from the rye-grass taken in autumn, when the stubble will be sown with a mixture of the stronger hardy grasses and left down for two years. Similar grass cultivation has been adopted by Mr. C. M. Allender on the Aylesbury dairy farm near Horsham, and has succeeded admirably. Professor Long's estimate is that a yield of 10 tons per acre of the green fodder will keep six cows for more than four months, and if the second cut gives him five tons he will keep the six cows for two months longer. That is for the succulent food, not including cake and corn in addition. If the same 15 tons be made into silage it would keep six cows during three winter months. Here we have the remarkable result of two acres cultivated under artificial grass, and half the produce made into silage, supplying the bulk of the food of six cows for nine months. In turn, the land would grow a great weight of tares for silage, in time to be followed the same year by maize or sorghum saccharatum, perhaps 20 tons per acre. And both maize (as a forage plant) and sorghum are cleansing crops. This is new light on the feasibility of substituting for wheat husbandry a system of agricultural grass husbandry, maintaining live stock the whole year through.

SKATING ON THIN ICE.

Winter has set suddenly in, and on this November night when our story opens the snow is beating down in wild, white blinding showers, to be whirled away by a blustering north wind into great waves in the centre of our streets and into deep drifts along the pathways and in secluded corners. Slowly, surely, and noiselessly it falls; but the storm is strong and raging, and the wind howls and shrieks around the gables of the snug close shut houses. It is scarcely nine o'clock. Yet the streets of Consett are wholly deserted and the fierce elements expend their force almost wholly upon inanimate nature and stout, unyielding stone and mortar. The town might be asleep and dead were it not for the glimmering gas lights and the bright gleams proceeding here and there from warm, curtained windows behind which happy families are assembled, and one or two brilliantly lighted bars wherein men make merry with song and laughter and a variety of liquid creature comforts. The sky is blotted from sight by the thick falling snowflakes, and the air is damp, cold, and grey. Let us hasten out of the inhospitable night.

We cross the Middle Street, continue straight along the thoroughfare until we arrive at Delves Lane and then, passing on, we turn into a cross street and enter the sitting-room of one of the comfortable little abodes situated within it. A great crimson fire is leaping up the chimney, a bright lamp burns upon the supper table, a kettle simmers upon the hob, a cat purrs in the corner, and everything is indicative of peace and homely plenty. A white-haired yet red-cheeked and active dame of sixty is stirring about the apartment, arranging the forthcoming repast and showing every sign of anticipation; and presently, she hears the front door open, a slow, heavy foot walks along the passage, the sitting-room door opens, and an old man peers in as he removes his powdered overcoat, which he first shakes vigorously and then turns back to hang in the hall.

Then he walks back into the snug sitting-room, divests himself of his coat, from an inside pocket of which he draws an old newspaper, assumes a warm flannel jacket, and drops into the easy chair in his accustomed corner.

All this has been done in silence, but now the old man—grey bearded and wrinkled—opens his lips and, leaning eagerly forward toward his partner, begins:

"Mary!"

He speaks as though he had something of importance to communicate.

"Well, John?" she asks in a thin clear voice.

"What do you think, Mary? I have news of my brother Bill!"

"Brother Bill," be it explained for the edification of the reader, is a character far out of the present sphere of action. In youth a rolling stone who had gathered no moss, he had left the Tyneside (thirty years ago) to push, if that were possible, his fortunes in a foreign land. At least this was generally surmised, and no doubt it was correct, for one of his intimate friends had seen his passage ticket abroad whilst, a few years after his departure returned emigrant — some signal failure who had drifted dismally back to the shores of Old England on realizing the stern fact that only hard workers were wanted in Australia—brought more definite news of him to the effect that he was employed on the sheep walk of some great squatter. After this, however, "brother Bill" dropped altogether out of sight, and almost out of mind. He was, to his friends in England only as a memory—the memory, as it were, of one who had passed away from earth.

Thus it is not strange that on mention of his name this night, the old lady lifts her eyes in astonishment and starts in surprise, almost dropping the little steaming kettle she had taken in her hand for the purpose of preparing John's winter "nightcap"—a stiff glass of whiskey and water.

"News of brother Bill, John? Never!" She ejaculates incredulously. Why he's neither been seen nor heard of for thirty years!"

"Oh, but I have, Mary. Do you see this paper?"

He is holding up the dingy yellow crumpled newspaper he had taken out of his pocket.

The speaker's wife looks towards him and nods in the affirmative.

"Well," he goes on, "I got it from a stranger—a sailor, I should say—in the Queen's, Head to-night. I was in the bar, and the stranger got on about his strange experiences abroad, especially in Australia. We began talking and I told him that I believed I had a brother out there. He showed me one or two curiosities he had with him, and in pulling out a tobacco pouch made of kangaroo skin, this paper fell upon the floor. I picked it up and returned it to him. He took it and as he did so observed, 'Oh, yes, by the way, didn't you say your name was Smith?' I didn't exactly remember having made any remark about my name ;but being uncertain I replied 'Yes, my name is Smith.' 'Why this might be about some relation of yours,' he answered, passing the paper back and pointing out to a part of the paper. I took the paper, Mary—it is called the *Victoria Vindicator*—and read it. And what I read really does relate to brother Bill. He is dead, too, poor fellow."

"Dead?" echoes the old woman.

"Yes, dead, Mary. But we might have expected it. Though he was ten years younger than I, he had lived a wild life of it long before leaving the Tyneside."

"Good gracious, John, and we never to hear it! What does the paper say? Did he get married out there, how did he succeed, and has he left any children?"

"The paper tells all that, Mary. Listen, and I will read it."

The old man takes out his spectacle case, adjusts a pair of heavy gold-rimmed glasses upon his nose, unfolds the *Victoria Vindicator*—a small, many-paged newspaper printed something after the style of our cheap London journals of fiction, and, after a preliminary ahem, proceeds:

"DEATH OF AN OLD VICTORIAN.—It is with deep regret that we have this week to announce the death of Mr William Smith, of Thompson's Creek, Bayary, at the age of about sixty, after a short illness. An attack of fever, acting upon a frame enfeebled by age, brought about the fatal issue. Mr Smith has been associated with this colony for twenty years, the last fifteen of which were passed in considerable affluence. On his first arrival here he found employment upon the home farm of the Hon. Peter Thompson, and afterwards he undertook the management of a sheep walk further inland, in which pursuit he is understood to have amassed a large fortune. For many years past, however, he had lived in retirement at his villa a few miles out of our city. He was married in 1863 to the second daughter of the Hon. P. Thomson, by whom he leaves one son, recently arrived at his majority. Deceased was greatly respected by all who knew him and his demise will be deeply regretted by a wide circle. He hailed originally, we believe, from Tyneside, England."

The old man has come to the end of the paragraph, and is quietly removing his spectacles.

"Good gracious, John! It really must be your brother Bill. A large fortune and a son, too, did you say?"

"Of course. Didn't you listen?"

The remark is uttered in a petulant tone, for he has read the news in his best style.

"I did, John; but it all seems so wonderful. Thank God, the poor fellow died comfortably and with friends. It might have been very different. I have often thought of him."

"Yes, Mary, we should be thankful for that at any rate. And we have been very, very comfortable ourselves. I have not a large fortune; but what we have will last us our lifetime."

"It will, John. What is the date of the paper, by the way?"

"June the 16th, Mary. Bill must have been dead nearly six months."

"Six months! How strange! And we never knew," she goes on garrulously. "Why our nephew might have got to England by this time if he cared to visit the country. And, do you know, I have felt queer for the whole of this week. I'm sure we're going to have a visitor. There has been such strangers in my cup every night lately, and then, look at the fire. Why there's a big stranger on the bar, and just before you came in a purse jumped out of the fire, and a black cat crept into the back kitchen this tea time."

"Rubbish, Mary. How can you talk thus?"

"Why, I am sure, John, and if there isn't a knock at the front door."

The old woman strains her head towards the passage, and the old man drops his paper.

"Rat, tat, tat! Rat, tat, tat!"

The knocks are heavy and distinct, and the occupants of the room turn and face each other in silence.

A second's silence, and then one of them speaks,

"Who can it be, John?"

"How do I know, Mary? Hadn't I better go and see?" And as he utters the words, he rises from his snug seat, walks slowly along the passage and opens the door, admitting a great blast of frosty air and a whiff of glistening snowflakes.

It is dark without, despite the presence of the white snow, and the old man's eyes are almost blinded by the sudden transition from light to darkness; but he hears a strong hearty, fresh young voice proceeding out of the night:

"Does Mr John Smith live here?" it asks.

"He does."

"I have called to see him particularly, to-night. Are you the gentleman?"

"I am. Come in."

The new-comer, a tall sturdy, brown bearded young fellow of twenty-five, perhaps, steps into the hall, carrying a small portmanteau.

Then the old man shuts out the night, and ushers the stranger into the warm snug sitting-room which presents indeed a cheering contrast to the wild outer night.

The pair have got into the sitting room and Mrs Smith peeps curiously up at the stranger from under her white eyebrows as she sits on the further side of the hearth.

The old man is inviting the younger to a seat which he has placed before the table exactly in front of the fire. But the bronzed, bright-eyed stranger still stands by the door, drinking in the light and warmth, yet apparently not a little apprehensive as to his reception.

When he speaks, however, his words are electrical.

"Uncle!" he cries, "don't you know me? I am your brother William's son and have just landed in England!"

"My boy, can this be possible? Why we have only this very night heard of my poor brother's death. I was reading it in that paper"—pointing to the crumpled journal lying upon the hearthrug—"to Mary, my wife, this moment!"

But the young man is shivering with cold, stoutly clad as he is, and for the next five minutes there is no time for further speech. Good Mrs Smith has sprung up and taken the young lad to her arms, disburdened him of his reefer jacket, and and then placed him in her own easy chair by the fireside, while she bustles away into the pantry to substantially supplement the repast set out for her husband and herself. The old man is for the moment stupefied and speechless with what has taken place, and he can only sit gazing with open-mouthed wonder at his new-found nephew, but Mrs S. only regards the advent of the young Australian as a due fulfilment of her omens. It would be wrong to say that she is not surprised ay, even started. But she had expected someone. That her dreams and feelings had assured; but even faith in her forecasts had never for one moment led her thus far.

When supper is over, and the edge of their surprise has been dulled, they listen to the young man's story.

His voyage to the Old Country had been an eventful one. He had sailed in an iron-built clipper and had suffered shipwreck in rounding the Cape of Good Hope. The vessel had drifted ashore in a great southerly gale and crew and passengers had barely escaped with their lives. He himself had lost the whole of his effects—personal luggage and papers, and, after re-shipping from Cape Town, on board a mail steamer bound for Southampton, had landed in England with only a few pounds in his pocket. The loss, however, was only trivial, excepting for its inconvenience. His outfit was gone. That, however, could be better replaced in England. And as he had only carried letters of credit from a Colonial bank he had suffered nothing, so to speak, in a monetary sense, though, of course, he would be troubled for a time by having to await further remittances in that respect from Australia, which might occasion a delay of a few months. But what grieved him most was the fact that many valued and valuable mementoes of his dear dead father were lost for ever, tossed about as they were at the bottom of the ocean. He had brought photographs of his father and mother, an unfinished letter which the dead man had been engaged at the last in writing to his brother in England, and a few presents from his mother to his aunt. But all were gone, and some could unhappily not be replaced. Then there were tales to tell of his father's early struggles and later troubles, to all of which the old folks lent an eager ear until the night was far advanced and Mrs Smith bethought herself that their guest would be tired and eager for bed, to provide which she at length retired reluctantly upstairs, leaving her husband listening entranced to the unceasing flood of talk still flowing from their nephew's lips—lips that had been pretty frequently wetted throughout that evening with the contents of a special bottle which the great occasion had caused to be brought from out its dusty bin in a corner of the cellar.

All next day, and for weeks after in the wintry weather, the snug little sitting room was the scene of interminable talks between the old people and their nephew. He was as they plainly saw, a sharp young fellow, full of perceptive power, and he reeled off descriptions of Australian life with the utmost facility; but of his father—and his father of course was the chief person of interest to his small audience of two—his details were exceedingly indefinite. Never for for a moment had they begun to doubt the young man's *bona-fides*. Christmas came, and this year their modest festivities were conducted on a much larger scale, and as their nephew Jack—he had been called Jack, of course, in compliment to his uncle in England—was somewhat short of cash, supplies not having as yet been arranged for from Australia, he was amply provided with the wherewithal to enjoy himself, which he proceeded to do upon that ample scale which his good fortune in far-away Australia justified. A day or two after his arrival in Consett he had written home; but no answer could be expected for at least three months, and meanwhile he was happy and comfortable, though anxious somewhat, as he said, to learn that his mother knew that he had arrived safely at his destination.

And old John Smith was never tired of telling his friends of the good luck which had befallen his brother and of introducing that brother's son into his own circle. And both the story and the young man were everywhere well received, for wealth has a charm peculiarly its own. In one instance, however, he was annoyed sadly. January had passed away, and fairly entered into, when one night, in the private room of his favourite public-house, he encountered a cynical old work-mate of earlier years, Caleb Briggs, by name.

"How do, Smith?" Caleb commenced.

"Pretty well. How's yourself?"

"Oh, tol-lol. Is your Australian nephew still with you?"

"Of course, he is, Briggs. Where should he be?"

"Can't say, Smith. But are you sure he *is* your nephew?"

"Why, what do you mean, man?"

"What I say. There have been impostors you know. How about his money? Is he flush with it, or have you to fork out whilst he is waiting to hear from home?"

Caleb Briggs laughs a sneering, biting laugh as he says this. It cuts Smith to the very soul, though he doesn't show it. And he answers:

"Don't fret yourself, Briggs. He has plenty of money of his own."

"That's all right then," responds Briggs, unfeelingly. "Don't take offence. I didn't mean any harm, you know."

"Of course not," answers Smith, as harshly as he can, and then he rises and, bidding Briggs a gruff good-night, departs from the Queen's Head, and his usual custom, after having partaken of but a single glass of grog.

In spite of his denial, however, the old man's nephew has got deeply into his uncle's affections and purse. He has already drawn from him some fifty pounds, and is even now mooting some prospective scheme which will complete the hundred, not to mention the fact that the old man has been all but induced to invest his floating capital, some five hundred pounds, in a South Australian limited liability sheep farming company. And, make what endeavour he will, he cannot banish the idle suspicions which the words of the cynical Briggs have implanted in his breast.

Next morning the conversation of uncle and nephew turn, as usual, upon sheep farming and the great profits realizable therein.

"By the way, uncle, what do you say to putting the five hundred we talked about into the Bangaroo sheep farming company? Its new subscription list closes, for Australia, next month; but it will be open an extended time, equal to that occupied in the transition of the mail, for English investors."

Previously, the old man would have said "Certainly, will you write off at once and I'll make any arrangements you wish with my banker?" But just now he his scarcely inclined to act. Not that he is in any doubt. Oh, no! He is too sure of his nephew's good faith for that. Yet, withal, he can only say,

"I'll see about it shortly. You said yesterday that we had a full fortnight to spare yet, didn't you? Well, it can wait then."

And directly afterwards, as though he feared to give offence by even the appearance of distrust, he adds:

"About that money. I'll draw you a cheque now."

"Oh, don't bother to-day, uncle. To-morrow will do."

And then the talk turns into the generalities and commonplaces of the day.

One day shortly after, Mr Smith encounters the cynical Caleb in the bar of the Queen's Head.

"How do, Smith?"

"Nicely, Briggs," he answers shortly. He has not yet forgiven Caleb for his suspicions.

"Is you nephew namesake still stopping at your place?"

Caleb Briggs is plainly uninclined to let the matter drop.

"Yes, he is. What then?"

"Not much. Only I met him in Newcastle on Wednesday. I'm sure it was him, though he didn't recognise me. He was with another man, a regular flash-looking card, and their talk—I couldn't help hearing it—was about 'bleeding the old man.' I was wondering if you were the old man meant?" and he looks cynically but seriously up in the grey, wrinkled face of the man before him

"I can't believe it, Caleb Briggs. There, you've been mistaken."

"All right, John Smith. I've only told you what I heard with my own ears. I thought it my duty to do so."

"Duty, some folks have fine ideas about duty. But I know an impostor when I see one and my nephew isn't one, Im sure."

"Let's hope your right," observes Briggs, as he retires, leaving Mr John Smith boiling with rage.

And whilst this conversation has been proceeding, a young man has been sitting with bowed head behind an adjacent partition before a glass of whiskey. He has listened to every word, and his face is white with fear or passion. It is the individual whom the unpleasant dialogue concerned—John Smith's nephew, himself.

"Were you at Newcastle on Wednesday, Jack?" asks the old man of his nephew that evening as they meet and seat themselves at the tea table.

"Wednesday?" the latter innocently enquires. "No. Yet, stay, let me see. No, of course, I wasn't, I was down at South Shields that afternoon, you know."

"Ah, indeed," is the old man's only comment.

"And, Uncle," continues the young man, "I forgot to tell you that an Australian ship is expected in Tyne Dock every day. The Sea Gull is her name. I knew the captain in Australia. He was a friend of my father's. I was thinking of bringing him up to see you when his ship comes in."

"Certainly, Jack. I shall be very glad to see him."

The old man is relieved now. How can there be any deceit hidden behind the frank blue-eyed face before him? And are not even the words he speaks a complete answer to the envious, malicious invention of that brute Briggs? So he brightens up, turns merrily from the table, takes up his pipe and spends the night in his usual merry way with the lad.

At breakfast next morning he draws forth his cheque book, fills in a form for fifty pounds, tears out the little oblong leaf, and passed it over to his nephew, who puts on his coat, takes the next train to Newcastle, cashes the cheque at the bank where his uncle does business, and then—is heard of no more. He is tired of figuring in a false and perilous position. He dare no longer continue the sport, profitable and pleasant as it is, of skating upon thin ice.

SERVICE OF SONG.—An evening concert of sacrec music was given in the Wesleyan Chapel, Tantobie, by the choir, on Saturday night, to a large and respectable audience. The anthems and choruses were the same as sung at the Wesleyan Service of Song at Newcastle, with additions from the works of Handel. Mr W. Jackson performed the duties of chairman. The choir commenced with the anthem, "This is the day," which was followed by the anthem, "Fear not, O Lord." The solo, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," was sung by Miss Polly Brown, who received an *encore*. The anthem, "My God, look upon me," was next given. The duet, "O, lovely peace," by Messrs Thirlwell and Forster, was rendered with much taste and skill. The anthem, "I love the Lord," was given by the choir. In the solo, "He wipes the tear," Miss Stoker made her *debut* as a soloist, and acquitted herself in a very creditable manner. The chorus, "All we like sheep," brought the first part to a close. Part II. opened with a duet on the violin and flute, by Messrs Forster and Gedling, who responded to an *encore*. The chorus, "And the glory," was followed by a tenor solo, "Consolation," by Mr Thirlwell, who was heard with grand effect. The duet, "Remember the Sabbath," by Misses Brown and Simpson, was followed by the anthems, "O Zion that bringeth" and "Praise the Lord." The quartette, "Along the river," having been sung, the "Hallelujah chorus" brought a somewhat lengthy programme to a close. Mr J. Gedling (White-le-Head) weilded the baton; Mr Jas. Gedling accompanied on the harmonium; and Mr M. Forster performed on the violin.

CONCERT.—On Tuesday night, a very successful concert was given in the British Schools, Iveston, by the following ladies and gentlemen:—Misses Todd and Thompson (Leadgate), Mrs Brears (Leadgate), Messrs Middleton, Cuthbertson, Dawson, Hyden (Consett), and Henderson (Iveston). Miss Todd opened proceedings by a pianoforte solo, "Happy thoughts," which was rendered in good style; also the song, "Eileen Alannah," showed good vocal powers, and was well appreciated. Mrs Brears, accompanied by Mr Brears, gained great applause for "Annie Laurie" and "McDonald's lament." This lady has a quiet, easy manner, which makes her singing very attractive. Miss Thompson sang in good voice "Gates of the west," and "Better bide a' wee." This latter gained a well-merited *encore*, which showed that Miss Thompson is still as happy as ever in her choice of songs. Messrs Dawson and Hyden sang in their usual good form, "I fear no foe." Mr Dawson's "Gathering of the shells" was a great success, and received an *encore* which was not responded to. Mr Hyden's comic song, "Wanted, a lady help," brought down the house, to which was added "Nursery rhymes," causing much merriment. Master Elsdon, a pupil of Mr Hemy, accompanied both gentlemen very efficiently. Mr Middleton's rendering of the "Powder monkey" was really creditable, and "Sailing" took very well indeed, and received its deserved place—great applause. Mr Cuthbertson has a rich bass voice. His two songs, "Every bullet has its billet" and "Hearts of oak," were exactly suitable for such a voice. The former song, being new to the audience, was well received. Miss Wharton accompanied several songs with precision, showing that great care had been taken in the preparation of each piece. The weather, unfortunately, was of the most unfavourable description, but there was, notwithstanding, a fairly large attendance. The proceeds were for the benefit of the schools.—At the close of the concert, a ball was held, and was patronised by a good number of couples.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

ARRIVAL OF THE CONSETT WHEELBARROW MAN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.—James Spark, who left Consett on the 8th inst. with a wheelbarrow, intending to travel to Wolverhampton and back, arrived at the latter town yesterday (Thursday), and met with a favourable reception.

On Saturday evening, Mrs Jackson, lady evangelist, of London, brought a successful series of mission services in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Consett, to a satisfactory conclusion, a coffee supper being held, after which speeches were made by a number of gentlemen.

CHRIST CHURCH.—The concluding lecture of the series of eight was delivered in the National Schools, Consett, on Monday evening, in aid of the Parish Church Improvement Funds. Rev Alex. Baillie, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Blackhill, delivered an able address on "Sir Walter Scott," before a good audience.

MR ATHERLEY-JONES AND THE ELEMORE EXPLOSION. — We understand that the Miners' National Union have resolved to ask Mr Atherley-Jones, M.P., barrister-at-law, to attend the inquiry into the cause of the Elemore disaster on behalf of the miners. Mr H. Forrest, solicitor, Durham, is acting as legal agent, and Messrs Cowey and Rowland will also watch the proceedings on behalf of the Union.

CONSETT POLLING DISTRICT LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.—As will be seen from our advertising columns, the annual meeting of the above Association will be held to-morrow (Saturday) evening, at 7·30, for the purpose of electing the local officers for the ensuing year, and also for choosing representatives on the council of the Central Association. As it is necessary that the meeting should be thoroughly representative in its character, it is hoped there will be a good muster of our Liberal friends.

A CHILD ACCIDENTALLY SUFFOCATED.—An inquest was held at Mr George Brown's, Railway Hotel, Consett, yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, by Mr Coroner Graham, respecting the death of John Dixon Kidd, an infant of 8 weeks, son of John and Jane Kidd, of Mount Pleasant, Consett, who was found dead in bed by its parents at 7·30 on Monday morning. The evidence adduced showed that the mother gave the infant some food about 3·30 a.m., and when the husband awoke at 7·10 the baby was dead.—Dr Kirkhouse, assistant to Dr G. Renton, stated that he had made a *post mortem* examination of the body, and gave his opinion that the child had died from suffocation.—The jury returned a verdict that the infant had been accidentally suffocated.

A LOCAL DISSOLUTION.—"Elfin," in the *Newcastle Chronicle*, says:—There has been a crisis in the legislative assembly at Consett. Here, about eighteen(?) months ago, a miniature Parliament was established. For a time both sides of the House were ably represented by honourable gentlemen with high-sounding titles, but the novelty of being a member of Parliament has worn off, and since the opening of the present session the attendance has been so thin that a quorum could not be found when the Chancellor of the Exchequer took his seat. A three-line whip was issued in the local paper last week, but honourable gentlemen persistently refused to turn up, and at the last sitting the House was dissolved. The ordinary debating society seems to hold its ground still, in most places, but the mimic Parliament does not appear to have been very successful anywhere.

THEATRE ROYAL.—This week, the energetic manager (Mr F. Gough) has brought to Consett one of the best dramatic companies that has ever visited this town. The performers consisted of Mr Rass Challis and his renowned company in "The Curate," a sensational but pathetic piece which has been pronounced by the clergy, the press, and the public to be the most powerful drama and stage sermon ever produced. It is a new and original comedy drama, which has been enacted in the metropolis and the leading provincial towns with overwhelming success. The plot is replete with stirring events, rivetting the attention of the entire audience, who are either moved almost to tears by the touching scenes represented, or provoked to mirthful laughter by the comical situations of the several actors. "The Curate" pourtrays a tale of two countries, and is reproduced in five acts. It is admirably staged, the scenes being real and faithful, and the elegant costumes military uniform, and the dramatic properties are excellent. "Rev John Audley," a poor curate, but a muscular Christian, is sustained by Mr Rass Challis, who is the son of a clergyman, and was at one time ordained a curate of the Church of England. He plays his part to the utmost perfection; his style being realistic and life-like. Mr Henry Rutland, as "Gilbert Westwood," a mesmerist and a Russian spy, is a villian of the deepest dye, and although one of the most prominent figures in the drama, he assumes his part exceptionally well. Miss E. Birch gives a capital poutrayal of "Dick," a trumpeter in the English army; and Miss Bessie Harlewood, also takes a leading part as "May Verner," a lost sheep, who elopes with Gilbert Westwood, after robbing her father, but is subsequently cast adrift by him, and ultimately rescued by the "mad curate," who makes love to her. Miss Ella Vane, who figures as a Russian lady, "Katina Vodski," also accepts a difficult part, which she rendered with the utmost skill. The other characters in the play sustained their parts most admirably; Mr F. C. Brookes, "Simon Peter Muggs," with his funnoisites, his songs and piccolo solo, being enrapturously applauded. The scenery is magnificent; a drawing room scene and the camp fire in the Crimean trenches being such as to evoke the admiration of the auditory. During the week, the drama has been well patronised, and as the piece will only be performed two nights longer, we would strongly urge upon everybody who wishes see a really excellent piece to favour the Theatre with a visit either to-night (Friday) or to-morrow (Saturday).

SALE OF PROPERTY AND SHARES.—A numerously attended sale was held last (Thursday) night, at the house of Mr Geo. Brown, Railway Hotel, Consett, at which Mr Adam Brodie presided as auctioneer. Several important lots of freehold property were offered, but none of them reaching the various reserves, they were withdrawn; but we are informed that negociations are going on in respect of several of the lots, which are likely to load to their changing hands. The first lot of shares were 50 of the Consett New Town Hall Company, which after a brisk competition, were run off a bargain to Mr W. Hogan, at £1. Fifty-nine shares in the Consett Water Company were quickly disposed of, Mr John Calvert taking 30 at £7 5s, Mr George Newmarch 20 at £7 4s, and Mr William Aynsley, nine at the same price. Four £10 fully-paid shares in the Spennymoor and Tudhoe Gas Company, with guaranteed dividend of 7 per cent., were then sold to Mr Christopher Parnaby, at £13 10s each. Fourteen shares of £10 each in the same undertaking — producing a dividend of 10 per cent.—as may be seen from our auction sale column, may be had by private treaty from the auctioneer. From this sale our readers will observe that great confidence exists in the public mind with respect to the limited liability undertakings in our midst.

BLACKHILL.

The annual meeting of the Liberals for the Blackhill Polling District is announced to take place next Thursday evening, in the Temperance Hall, for the purpose of electing the Association representatives on the Central Council, and for the transaction of any other business that may be brought forward.

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH.—As will be observed from our advertisement columns, a Christmas tree and sale of work will take place in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside, on Tuesday next. A public tea will also be provided. At night, Rev Canon Body, of Durham Cathedral, the well-known and popular missioner, will preach in St. Aidan's. The proceeds will go towards the Church funds.

ROYAL AUCTION MART.—On Monday, Messrs Nicholson and Murray held their weekly mart of fat and store cattle, when they had forward:—26 fat cattle, which sold from £7 7s 6d to £14 15s; 176 fat sheep and lambs, from 21s to 45s; 4 veal calves, 8s 9d to 27s; 4 bacon pigs, £3 5s to £5 12s 6d; 12 calving cows, £9 12s 6d to £17 15s; 11 store cattle, £3 10s to £9 15s; 13 small pigs, 12s to 22s 6d. A quantity of potatoes sold from £3 to £3 10s; turnips, 8s per load. Geese, 6s to 7s 6d, and turkeys, 7s to 8s 9d. Horse rugs, poultry, bran, &c., at about usual rates. There was a large company, and good wholesale prices all round.

EBCHESTER.

The Hon. Mr and Mrs Verecker have arrived at the Langham Hotel from Hamsterley Hall, Durham.

STANHOPE.

LECTURES.—Miss Earl, London, delivered three lectures last week in Stanhope High Street Mission Hall on "The Lord's prayer." Mr W. Egglestone presided.

QUARRY ACCIDENT.—Thomas Walton, Stanhope, while working at the Newlandside limestone quarries the other day, received severe injuries to his arm and side from falling stones which the frost and "fresh" had loosened higher up the quarry.

WESLEYAN METHODISM.—On Saturday evening, a concert was given by the Wesleyan Chapel choir in the Wesleyan Day School, Stanhope. Mr Jos. Ward presided, and there were over 40 voices. Miss Temperley played the harmonium, and Mr R. Ward officiating as conductor. A good company was present.

A LARGE FUNERAL.—On Saturday afternoon, the remains of the late Mr Joseph Elliott, eldest son of Mr John Elliott, Crawleyside, were interred in Stanhope Cemetery. He was 27 years of age, and leaves a widow and a host of friends to mourn his loss. The funeral was a very large one, as deceased was highly respected. Rev E. Philipson (Primitive Methodist minister) conducted the funeral service, and in a touching and affecting manner dwelt upon the excellent traits of character of the deceased. Miss Temperley presided at the organ, and as the *cortege* went into the chapel played "The march ecclesiastique" (*C. Vincent*). During the service the choir sang the anthem, "I heard a voice from heaven" (*D. F. Hodgen*). On the *cortege* leaving the chapel she played "The Dead March in Saul" (*Handel*). At the grave-side the choir sang a hymn. Deceased was an active worker for God and the church of his choice, and his death is deeply lamented.

TOW LAW.

On Tuesday evening a gospel address, illustrating the life of Abraham, was given in the Presbyterian Chapel, Tow Law, by Rev H. P. Slade, who exhibited a number of magic lantern bible pictures in connection with the lecture.

Mr John Walton, with his wife and family, left on Wednesday morning for America. Mr Walton has long been prominently connected with the Primitive Methodists and temperance bodies in Tow Law.

SAD DEATH.—On Sunday afternoon, a large concourse of people followed the remains of a young man, named Joseph Hillary, grocer's assistant, to the grave. Deceased died of inflammation of the kidneys, after two days' illness. His sudden decease evoked considerable sympathy.

AUCTION MART.—On Monday, at Mr J. Vickers's auction mart, at Tow Law, there were forward: 14 dairy cows, 18 store cattle, 6 calves, 40 fat cattle, and 385 fat sheep. Cows made up £19 10s; store cattle, to £9; calves, to 25s; fat cattle, to £16 10; and fat sheep, to 45s each.

ESH COLLIERY.

Several robberies of clothing have recently been perpetrated in the porch of St. Mary's Roman Catholic School-room, Esh.

WEARDALE.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—Considerable commotion was created on Friday night in Upper Weardale consequent on an attempted highway robbery on the moor between Cowshill and Allenheads. Mr Lowrey, gamekeeper to Mr W. B. Beaumont, at Allenheads, was returning home on that night, when he was intercepted on the highway near the county boundaries by three powerful-looking tramps, who demanded his money. On Mr Lowrey resisting, he was seized, and violence was about to be used when a neighbouring farmer (Mr Wm. Bell, Hill) hove in sight, causing the scoundrels to take to flight. They were pursued and captured by the police, who lodged them in the cells at St. John's Chapel. On Saturday they were conveyed by Sergeant George to Stanhope. Mr Lowrey having declined to prosecute, the three men apprehended by the police were liberated on Sunday.

WOLSINGHAM.

ENTERTAINMENT.—On Saturday night an entertainment was given in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wolsingham, entitled "Joseph and his Brethren" (sacred drama), by the members of the Crook New Connexion Mutual Improvement Association, numbering about 25 performers. The drama was executed in a most praiseworthy manner, and reflects great credit on the ability of the members of the class. There was an excellent attendance, and everyone seemed highly satisfied with the proceedings. The profits were to be divided between the Crook and Wolsingham Chapel funds. Mr W. Steel officiated as chairman.

WEST PELTON.

CONCERT.—On Saturday last, a grand concert was held in the Iron Room (kindly granted for the occasion by Messrs James Joicey and Co.), West Pelton, the proceeds being in aid of Mr John Dodds's family, two of whom have been seriously ill for a long period. The artistes were:—Madame Oxberry; Messrs Oliver, the celebrated baritone; Weams, Tyneside comic; Matthews, variety artiste; and Todd, champion Northumberland piper. The room was crowded by an appreciative audience, and the performers were repeatedly *encored*. Special mention made be made of the splendid singing of Mr W. Oliver, who is a great favourite in the district. The proceeds amounted to £16 6s, and after deducting expenses, the handsome sum of £11 1s 8d was handed over to the family. The chair was ably occupied by Mr J. Humble, West Pelton House.

CROOK.

SOUP KITCHEN.—A meeting was held in the Township Offices, Crook, on Wdenesday evening, presided over by Rev. J. King, M.A., to take into consideration the advisability of providing dinners for poor children during the winter months. On the motion of Mr T. Douglas, it was decided to start them, and that the town should be canvassed for subscriptions.

OXHILL.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—A concert of exceptional merit and ability was given in the Oxhill Board School, kindly lent for the occasion, on Monday evening, to a crowded audience, presided over by Mr G. Ridley, Stanley, with his usual urbanity, and gave further proof of his genial character and kindly nature. Too much praise cannot be given to Miss Polly Kay for the assiduous manner she has worked to bring the concert to so satisfactory an issue, she having secured the services of the vocalists, and contributed in every possible way to give a treat to the locality which will long be thankfully remembered. Mr P. Kay, manager, South Tanfield Colliery, very energetically assisted Miss Kay in her arduous task to gratify those who patronised their endeavours, and the enthusiastic manner in which the vocalists and instrumentalists were received gave evidence of the appreciation of their varied talents and abilities. The gratuitous services of Mr and Mrs South (Jarrow) cannot be too highly esteemed, and will long live in the hearts of those for whom they rendered such efficient help. The manner in which the other artistes—Mr Wales and Mr Atkinson (Jarrow), Mr Lowther (West Pelton), and Mr Martin (Annfield Plain)—acquitted themselves also deserves the highest praise. The highly-esteemed vicar of Beamish (Rev J. Crennal) kindly placed the whole of the lighting apparatus at the disposal of the members of the church, while Mr Green, Board Schools, spared no pains to contribute his share to the general success. The Primitive Methodist Society, in acknowledging the kindness of all, rejoice in the success of the enterprise, and feel that a debt of gratitude they cannot possibly pay is due to Mr Kay and family for the musical treat they have provided as well as the financial advantage they have given to the church.

CASTLESIDE.

Mrs Jackson, of London, commenced her evangelistic labours in the Castleside Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Sunday, and has conducted service every evening during the week.

CONCERT.—On Saturday evening, a concert was given in the Board Schools, Castleside, by the united choirs of St John's Church, and the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist societies, in aid of the village churchyard improvement fund. There was a very large audience, the building being almost filled. Mr T. J. Muse, in his usual pleasant style, presided over the gathering. The soloists were Mr Ward Davison, Blackhill; Mr P. Surtees, Consett; Miss Dent, Castleside, [illegible] were supplemented by the choirs. Mr [illegible]

MEDOMSLEY.

UNITED METHODIST CHOIRS SACRED CONCERT.—On Monday evening, an interesting gathering took place in the Templars' Hall, Medomsley, when the choirs of Victoria Garesfield (Primitive) and Milkwell Burn (Free Methodist) united to give a concert on behalf of Mr W. Matthews, who for many years has been connected with the Free Church, Consett circuit, but who unfortunately through illness has been laid aside for nearly two years. Rev James Martin presided, Mr John Eggleston, Milkwell Burn, was conductor, and Mr W. Briens, Victoria Garesfield, ably presided at the harmonium. The following well-selected programme was gone through in a creditable manner:—"Rejoicing to-day," choir; "Cry out and shout," choir; "Gathering shells," Mr John Eggleston; "Blessed be Thou, Lord God of Israel," choir; "Do you think that the moon could have seen us?" Mr L. Fenwick; "Open the Beautiful gates," Mrs Scott and Miss Iley; "The old sexton," Mr Wm. Pearson; "Teach me O Lord the way of Thy statutes," choir; "The Rose," choir; "How beautiful upon the mountains," choir; "Jerusalem, my glorious home," choir.

LEADGATE.

Mr John Ed. Parker, of Liverpool Corporation Water Works, North Wales, son of Mr John Parker, Leadgate, was on Tuesday, 7th inst., elected an associate member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Mr Parker was a pupil of Messrs J. and L. H. Armour, Gateshead.

READING ROOM.—On Saturday evening, a sacred concert was given in the Miners' Hall, Leadgate, the musical talent being ably represented by the Misses Bell, Miss Power, and Messrs Geo. and P. Hedley. Mr J. Hedley was harmoniumst. The chair was ably filled by Mr J. J. Hedley. Afterwards, there was a ham and coffee supper which was well patronised, and to which a number of gentlemen liberally subscribed, including the members of the Leadgate Local Board.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

BENEFIT CONCERT.—On Wednesday evening, a concert was given in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, for the benefit of Mr Jas. Robson, painter, Blackhill, who has been thrown out of employment for several weeks owing to an injury to his back. Owing to the unpropititious state of the weather, there was not a large attendance, but the artistes engaged acquitted themselves exceedingly well.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

CONSERVATIVE CLUB.—A smoking concert was held in connection with the above club on Tuesday evening, in the club-room, Chester-le-Street. The proceedings were of a most agreeable character, and consisted of glees, trios, songs, readings, and recitations. Mr F. Harle, vice-president, occupied the chair.

PRESENTATION TO CANON BLUNT.—On Wednesday night, a meeting of the parishioners was held in the Girls' School-room, Chester-le-Street, for the purpose of making a presentation to Canon Blunt, in recognition of the great work done by him in that wide and populous parish during the past fourteen years, and as a memorial of the great mission held in the town during the last few weeks. Rev H. Birley, senior curate, at the request of the Testimonial Committee, presented the purse.

DIPTON.

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES.—CONSETT CIRCUIT.—The quarterly meeting of the above was held at Dipton on Saturday last. Most gratifying reports were presented from the whole of the churches, the total membership showing a large increase upon the year's work, with upwards of a 100 on trial. The income was by far the largest ever recorded in the history of the circuit. The minister, Rev J. Martin, received and accepted an unanimous invitation to stay another year.—A public meeting, presided over by Mr William Rutherford, was held in the evening, and was largely attended. Addresses were delivered by Rev J. Martin, Blackhill; Messrs W. Down and J. Robson, Catchgate; and Mr D. Mole, Dipton. The Catchgate choir rendered several anthems in a most praiseworthy manner. The usual votes of thanks closed the meeting.

IVESTON.

The inhabitants of Iveston have presented a lengthy and influential memorial to Lieut.-Colonel White, chief constable of Durham, asking for a police-officer to be stationed in the village. It is understood that the prayer of the petitioners will be favourably entertained.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

DURHAM.—Billcliffe Hall, 12th inst., the wife of W. N. Atkinson, H.M. Inspector of Mines, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

LANCHESTER.—Register Office, 3rd August, 1886, William Henry Hooper, Blackhill, to Martha Morgan, Beech Grove, Consett.

DEATHS

CONSETT.—Sherburn Terrace, 12th inst., aged 74, John Tait, teacher.

BLACKHILL.—2, Turner Street, 15th inst., aged 24, William Joseph Howie.

BENFIELDSIDE.—72, Cutlers' Hall Road, 14th inst., aged 68, Elizabeth, relict of the late Thomas Johnson, of Consett.

CASTLESIDE.—15th inst., aged 68, Hannah Bainbridge, late of Crooked Oak. To be interred on Sunday, at One o'clock. Friends, please accept this intimation. 202x

DIPTON.—15th inst., aged 71, Elizabeth Burdon, late of Whickham and Winlaton.
16th inst., aged 69, Jane, wife of James Adams, formerly of Bishop Auckland.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—15th inst., aged 73, William Gibson, shoemaker, formerly of Newlands. Interment at Collierley Church, on Sunday, at Three o'clock. Friends, please accept this intimation. 192x

TANFIELD LEA.—11th inst., aged 39, Alice, wife of Wm. Gibson.

HIGH URPETH FARM.—11th inst., aged 77, Mrs Isabella Bramley.

WEARDALE.—Westgate, 11th inst., aged 76, George Race.

STANHOPE.—Crawleyside, 7th inst., aged 27, Joseph, eldest son of John Elliott, grocer.

BROWNEY COLLIERY.—14th inst., John Thomas, infant son of James Carling, miner.

BEARPARK.—14th inst., aged 70, Margaret Ann, widow of the late Henry Gustard.

CROOK.—12th inst. (at the house of his daughter), aged 88, John Saville.

WEST PELTON.—12th inst., aged 18, Joseph, son of John Dodd.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—11th inst., Jane, wife of Wm. Neilson, late of Low Fell.

WYLAM.—13th inst., aged 26, William Veitch, railway porter.

WHICKHAM.—4, West Street, 13th inst., aged 50, Frances, wife of John Beveridge.

BLAYDON.—Church Street, 16th inst., aged 85, Elizabeth, relict of the late Charles Robson.

BIRTLEY.—Mount Pleasant, 11th inst., aged 73, Wm. Blackwood, schoolmaster.

MOURNING GOODS.—HUGH MORTON and CO., 55, Grainger Street, Newcastle, directs attention to their Immense Stock for Men, Youths and Boys, ready for immediate wear, in all the Newest Materials and Latest Styles. Men's Black Worsted Suits, from 21s. to 40s. 6d.; Youths' Suits, from 16s. 11d.; Boys' Suits, from 6s. 11d. Single Garments at proportionate prices. Suits made to order in a few hours. 9w

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