ROBERT JACKSON'S
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENTS,
13, FRONT STREET, and 21, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

Agent for Dipton:—MR. THOMAS CLARK
South Medomsley Cottages.

Agent for Stanley:—Mr. M. G. ARMSTRONG
Newsagent, Havanna Post Office.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE

BLANKETS, 3s 11d to 25s.
FANCY BERLIN SHAWLS, 1s 11d to 8s 11d.
DRESS GOODS, 3½d to 3s 6d.
SKIRTS, 1s 6d to 6s 11d.
MUSLINS in great variety.
MEN'S SUITS, 19s 6d to 35s.
OVERCOATS, 17s 6d to 30s.
SHIRTS, 1s to 4s 11d.
WOOL VESTS, 1s 6d to 3s 6d.
PANTS, 1s 11½d to 4s 11d.

DOWSON'S,
BLACKHILL.
337m

No. 1,735. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, December 1st, 1893. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

MONEY!

IMMEDIATE CASH ADVANCES.
THE
SUNDERLAND COMMERCIAL ADVANCE BANK,
29 WEST SUNNISIDE, SUNDERLAND.

Are prepared to ADVANCE daily from £20 to £1000, to Clergymen, Gentlemen, Farmers, Cowkeepers, and Householders generally (male or female) simply ON THEIR OWN PROMISSORY NOTE, at the most reasonable rates of interest.

NO PUBLICATION. NO BILLS OF SALE.
NO SURETIES REQUIRED.
STRICTEST SECRECY GUARANTEED.

No connection with Loan Offices or anonymous advertisers. Prospectus free. Apply at once before going elsewhere, as you will find special advantages in dealing with this Bank.

ALEXANDER WOLFE,
Manager.
64j

THE NORTHERN FURNISHING CO., LTD

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Sums of £1 and upwards are received on Deposit on the following terms:—
£4 per cent. per annum
(Withdrawable on demand.)
£5 per cent. per annum
(Subject to One Month's notice of withdrawal.)
£6 per cent. per annum
(Subject to Three Months' notice of withdrawal.)

Sums of not less than 1s. are also received at 5 per cent. per annum interest, and can be withdrawn at 14 days' notice.

Prospectus, etc., sent free on application to the General Manager, Mr ROBERT IONS, 277 and 279, Westgate Road, Newcastle; or Mr GEO. LEADBITTER, Accountant, Catchgate, Lintz Green.

Lost.

LOST, 25th inst., at South Moor, a WATCH (Silver), Gold Stage in back; number known.—Anyone returning same to WILLIAM COLLINGS, South Moor, will be rewarded. 691m

LOST, near Iveston, a Black-faced EWE and a Mule LAMB.—Information will be kindly received by Mr. R. THOMPSON, Iveston. 698m

Wanted.

WANTED, GENERAL SERVANT, able to milk.—Apply, Stag's Head, Medomsley.

TO GROCERS.—WANTED, an ASSISTANT.—Apply, T. D. DRYDEN & Co., Consett.

WANTED, at once, a YOUNG GIRL for Housework.—Apply to Mrs HALL, 22, Robert Street, West Kyo. 686m

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED for a Workingman's House.—Apply to JOHN GLEGHORN, 16, Puddlers' Row, Consett. 698m

POTATOES! POTATOES!! WANTED. Lowest Price for 20 to 40 Tons for Delivery; also state kinds.—Address: "POTATOES," *Guardian* Office, Consett. 668m

WANTED, for a Country Rectory, a good GENERAL SERVANT, where Housemaid is kept, able to milk, and make butter; good baker, and willing to learn plain cooking.—Address A, *Guardian* Office, Consett.

AGENCY.—For good GENERAL SERVANTS apply at the SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE, 15, Front Street, Consett. 29k

GOOD COLLECTORS WANTED for the North of England; must also be Salesmen. Smart Young Fellows can earn £2 per week. Salary and Commission.—State age and experience, Box C, *Guardian* Office, Consett. 636m

COLLIERY OFFICIALS and MINERS of all ranks and ages. Lessons by Post. The surest road to promotion. Send Penny Stamp for Syllabus.—T. A. SOUTHERN, M.E., late H.M. Inspector of Mines, the Universal Mining School, Derby. 184m

To Let.

TO LET, 50 ACRES of GRASS for SHEEP.—Apply, WM. SCOTT, High West House, Tow Law. 657m

TO LET, FIVE ROOMED HOUSE, near the Railway Station, Lanchester.—Apply to F. LOCKEY, Market Place, Durham. 669m

TO LET, HOUSE, No. 9, Cemetery Road, containing Six Rooms, with large Garden Ground behind, and Out-offices.—Apply to J. ROUTLEDGE, Consett. 704m

FARMS TO LET.—BUTSFIELD FARM and NORTH BUTSFIELD FARM, now occupied by Mr J. J. WILLIS and Mr JAS. ROSS, who is not an offerer. The above Houses to be Let either without Land, or with any such quantity of Land as may be agreed upon (260 Acres). A BLACKSMITH'S SHOP also TO LET.—Offers received by Mr VAN HAANSBERGEN, Woodlands. Entry, May-day.

TO LET, PROSPECT HOUSE, Wheatley Hill, containing Dining Room, Drawing Room, Kitchen, Pantry, and China Closet on the Ground Floor, and Five Bed-rooms on the First Floor; also, Washhouse in yard, and the usual conveniences. A few Acres of Grass Land and Stable accommodation would be Let with the House if required. The Building has south, east, and west aspects, commanding a wide range of beautiful scenery, including Stanhope Fells on the West, Lumley Castle, Lord Durham's Monument, Wear Valley, and the Sea near Sunderland, on the East. Wheatley Hill is situate about Half-a-mile from Burnhope Colliery, about a Mile from South Moor and Craghead Collieries, about 2½ Miles from Lanchester Station, and about 2 Miles from New Station, Stanley. It is a very suitable situation for a Doctor or Veterinary Surgeon, being so central in a populous neighbourhood.—Apply to GEORGE HOBSON, Harperley Mills, Lintz Green, R.S.O. 196m

For Sale.

HORSE CLIPPERS FOR SALE, 4s 6d, 5s 6d, and 7s 6d Per Pair. Also, COAL-BORING MACHINES.—F. WELCH & Co., Annfield Plain.

BRICKS and DRAINAGE PIPES at DEARNESS BRICK and TILE WORKS, WATERHOUSES. 269k

FOR SALE, a FOOTBALL CABIN, size 20ft. x 12ft.—Apply, G. GREENER, Secretary, Tanfield Lea. 683m

FOR SALE, best SWEDE TURNIPS, splendid quality, by cut or load.—Apply, ROBERT WARD, The Middles Farm, South Moor. 671m

FOR SALE, a Bargain, SECOND-HAND AMERICAN ORGAN, in first-class condition, 14 stops, knee swells, &c.—Can be seen on application to W. T. DAGLISH, South Medomsley, Dipton.

FOR SALE, a Brown HORSE. Can be seen any time at Medomsley Co-operative Store.—Offers for same to be sent in to the Committee, Annfield Plain, on or before December 11th, 1893.

TO BUILDERS.—FOR SALE, best SNECKED BLOCKING COURSES, ready for Fixing. Also, BUILDING STONE of all Descriptions.—Apply, Mr DENT, Beal Quarry, Stocksfield Station.

SPRING CART and HARNESS FOR SALE, in good condition, suit Cob, about 14 h.h.—Apply, A. M. WOOD, 54, Front Street, Consett. 624m

PIANO.—Handsome Walnut PIANO, full Trichord, real Ivory Keys, and all the latest Improvements. Before purchasing elsewhere just call and have a look. For Quality and Price we defy competition.—F. WELCH & Co., Annfield Plain.

BASIC SLAG.—THOMAS' PHOSPHATE POWDER, also ALBERTS' BASIC PHOSPHATE POWDER, most reliable Manures. SOLE WHOLESALE AGENTS for Messrs Albert, for Four Northern Counties of England, Berwickshire, Roxburghshire, and Scottish Borders:—
LANGDALE BROTHERS,
46 Cloth Market, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 461m

For Sale.

T. OWEN,

WHOLESALE SADDLER,
AND SADDLERS' IRONMONGER,
73, & 77, SIDE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

HAVING moved into his NEW and more EXTENSIVE PREMISES, near his Old Establishment (which has had to give way to Railway Extensions), begs to thank the many Customers who have patronised him so well during the last 12 Years, and to inform them that he is still SELLING at the Cheapest Rate, and Lower than his usual Prices, a large Stock of Harness and Saddlery of every Description:—

HORSE CLOTHING, RUGS, STABLE SHEETS, WATERPROOF CART & WAGGON COVERS, LOIN COVERS, GIG APRONS, GIG LAMPS, CLIPPING MACHINES,
and all kinds of Stable Requisites.

SURPLUS SALE FOR 30 DAYS.

T. OWEN also wishes to intimate that, owing to the extensive Premises he has acquired, and which are now undergoing important alterations, he will be able to execute any Order, large or small, by which he may be favoured, with great despatch.

Business Announcements.

JAMES PALLISER,

WHOLESALE & RETAIL TEA MERCHANT,
47 and 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.

For GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS, J.P.'s Prices and Quality are not to be surpassed.
J.P.'s TEAS at 1s 4d and 2s per lb., are specialities
PLEASE GIVE ONE TRIAL. 116h

DON'T FORGET!

GEORGE McNEAL,

BILL-POSTER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

HANDBILLS delivered at 2s 6d per 1,000
BILL-POSTING 1d per Sheet, kept good One Month in the district, which comprises Lanchester, Burnhope, Craghead, Pit Hill, West Stanley, Tanfield, Burnopfield, Hobson, Tantobie, Catchgate, Dipton East Castle, &c.

LOOK HERE.—FOR
STATIONERY, FANCY, and other USEFUL ARTICLES in immense variety.
BOOKS TO BIND, PICTURES FRAMED
TRY

J. COCKBURN,

STATIONER, CONFECTIONER, &c.,
13 and 14, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
Spectacles for all Sights.
Agent for the British and Foreign Bible Society. 8qe

"SAUCINE,"

Registered.
THIS IS THE SAUCE.

Stomach Persuading.
Liver Invigorating.
Kidney Stimulating.
Nerve Exhilarating.

THIS IS THE SAUCE.

Ask your grocer for "SAUCINE."
Sole maker—J. J. SNAITH, Sauce and Pickle Manufacturer, Tyne Dock, South Shields. 369m

MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

ELECTRIC BELLHANGER,

RALPH RITSON,

PLUMBER & GAS-FITTER,
CHANDELIERS, GAS BRACKETS, &c.,
always in Stock.

MR. JOHN USHER,

LATE
MR. GEO. RICHARDSON, DENTAL SURGEON, 6, BLACKETT STREET,

£1 TO £10

begs to call special attention to the Prices of his PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH, for first-class workmanship and best material, 2s 6d, 5s, 7s 6d per Tooth, £1 to £10 per Set, being lower than what is usually charged for inferior workmanship and common material. EVERY TOOTH GUARANTEED. PLEASE NOTE THE ONLY ADDRESS. 724h

HEPTON'S NOTED CLOTHING STORE TO SUIT THE TIMES.

1,000 OVERCOATS, COATS, JACKETS, TROUSERS, VESTS, BED QUILTS, BED RUGS, BLANKETS, SHEETS. Men's, Women's, and Children's Clothing at Given Away Prices at
HEPTON'S UNREDEEMED PLEDGE STORE, BLACKHILL.
Money Lent on every Description of Clothing.

MUSIC EMPORIUM.

T. JONES is now prepared to supply direct from the Manufacturers, PIANOS, AMERICAN ORGANS, and HARMONIUMS at the Lowest Possible Prices.

A First-class Selection of VIOLINS, MELODIONS, CONCERTINAS, BANJOS, GUITARS, MANDOLINES, &c.

VIOLIN STRINGS of very best quality.
BOOKS, TUTORS, CLASSICAL AND CHEAP MUSIC KEPT IN STOCK.
MUSIC LESSONS GIVEN.

Pupils prepared for Theoretical and Practical Examinations.

PIANOS, AMERICAN ORGANS, AND HARMONIUMS TUNED AND REPAIRED.

Note the Address:—

T. JONES,

CHURCH STREET (near the Post Office),
CONSETT. 802a

T. MILNER, A.P.S.,

DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST,
CONSETT,
FOR
WINTER REMEDIES.

PATENT MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Trusses, Bandages, and Elastic Stockings.
HORSE, DOG, AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
MALT EXTRACT AND COD LIVER OIL, 1s. Per Bottle
BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE, 1s. Per Bottle.
WILSON'S EMBROCATION FOR SPRAINS, &c., 1s. Per Bottle.
Chest and Lung Protectors.
MEDICATED LOZENGES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
McDougall's, Bell's, Riddle's, Cooper's, Jeye's and Bainbridge's Sheep Dips always in Stock.
AGENT FOR MAWSON'S FILTERS AND LAURENCE'S SPECTACLES.
Oils, Paints, Colours, Varnishes, &c.
Postal Orders promptly attended to.

VIDE ADDRESS:—
7, SHAKESPEARE STREET, and 54, FRONT STREET, CONSETT. 352m

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWART AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 16lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 8lbs. 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,

23, GRAINGER STREET, AND SOUTHWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(OVER 50 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

DINNING AND COOKE,

HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 21, 23, AND 25 PERCY STREET.

LOOK TO YOUR TEETH

FOR HEALTH AND APPEARANCE.
FOR EATING AND SPEAKING.
THE BEST QUALITY AT THE LOWEST PRICE.
FIXED TO THE MOUTH WITHOUT PAIN.
COMFORT AND FIT GUARANTEED.

THE NORTH-EASTERN DENTAL CO.,
CONSETT BRANCH.

ATTENDANCE EVERY SATURDAY FROM 3 TO 6 P.M.,
MR. COCKBURN'S, STATIONER, 13 AND 14, FRONT STREET.
(SIDE DOOR).

SHOTLEY BRIDGE, AUTUMN, 1893.

GEORGE RICHARDSON & SON,

DRAPERS AND SILK MERCERS,

BEG to announce the arrival of NEW GOODS in all departments for the ensuing Season, including Latest Styles in JACKETS, CAPES, and WATERPROOF CLOAKS.
ALL THE NEWEST SHADES IN FASHIONABLE DRESS MATERIALS.
LARGE STOCKS OF FLANNELS, WOOL SHIRTINGS, AND FLANNELETTES, AT SPECIAL PRICES.
SUMMER FINISHED BLANKETS AT REDUCED PRICES.
WELL-ASSORTED STOCKS IN FANCY DEPARTMENTS.
DRESSMAKERS, MILLINERS, AND TAILORS KEPT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT.
INSPECTION CORDIALLY INVITED.

S. A. FAIRLESS,

WISHES to inform the INHABITANTS of WEST DURHAM that she is now in a position to undertake all kinds of TEAS, PIC-NICS, BALLS, PARTIES, &c. All Goods made on her own Premises, and with the very best Materials. Samples sent on application.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—
S. A. FAIRLESS,
WEST DURHAM BAKERY, HIGH SPEN, BY LINTZ GREEN. 4881

JAMES FROSDICK is the only Billposter that has rented Stations within the three Local Board districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfieldside. Bills Posted and Distributed at the lowest rates. 593

W. BORROW,

COOPER, TEMPLETOWN, CONSETT,
MAKES TO ORDER CHURNS, BUTTER TUBS, POSS TUBS, WASHING TUBS, &c., ON REASONABLE TERMS.
REPAIRING DONE TO ORDER. 444i

BOOKS suitable for PRIZES and SUNDAY SCHOLARS can be had at ROBERT JACKSON'S "GUARDIAN" OFFICE, and 9, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

R. WILSON & CO.,

BIRTLEY GRANGE BRICK WORKS,
BIRTLEY.

Prices given for Common Bricks, Flooring Squares, House Tiles, Draining Pipes, &c. Our Siding is connected with Railway direct to Consett and West Districts. Goods packed into Trucks at Kilns. 801z

MESSRS. T. D. DRYDEN & CO.

GROCERS AND WINE MERCHANTS,
OFFER SPECIAL LINES FOR THIS WEEK IN
FLOUR, POTATOES, 2LBS. JAMS, STRAW, RASP. AND BLACK CURRANT, 10½d. per 2lb. Jar.
FRENCH MILLED TOILET SOAP, 2d, OUR ORIENTAL TEA, 1s 7D PER LB. Unrivalled.
HAMS, BACON, BUTTER, LARD, &c.
SPLENDID OLD PORT, 3s. PER BOTTLE.
VERY OLD PORT, 4s. PER BOTTLE.
A LARGE STOCK OF WENSLEYDALE CHEESE, at 8½d. per lb.
12 YEARS' OLD WHISKY, 28s. PER GALLON.
Our Own Blends at usual Prices. For Quality we cannot be Beaten.
PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION.
FRONT STREET, CONSETT (NEXT DOOR TO NORTH-EASTERN BANK.)

JOHN HUME & SON,

MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
CORN MERCHANTS, BREAD BAKERS, AND CONFECTIONERS.

TRY THEIR ORIGINAL
OPTIMUS HORSE MIXTURE,
Which is perfectly cleaned by special machinery. Do not be led away by other and cheaper Mixtures claiming to be the same.

ORDERS TAKEN FOR
BRIDES LOAVES, BIRTHDAY CAKES, SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEAS, &c.
ALL KINDS OF BREAD AND CONFECTIONERY FRESH DAILY.

OUSEBURN MILLS,

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

ESTABLISHED 1817.

GEORGE HOBSON

MILLER, CORN MERCHANT, SEEDSMAN, &c.
HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,

NOTED
FOR THE BEST AND CLEANEST HORSE FEED.
WHOLE OATS, CRUSHED OATS, SPLIT BEANS, PEAS, AND MAIZE, MIXED WITH OATS AS REQUIRED, OR SOLD SEPARATE. ALL THOROUGHLY CLEANED BY NEW & IMPROVED MACHINERY.

G. H. KEEPS A LARGE STOCK OF FLOUR ALL THE LEADING BRANDS OF FINES, SUPERFINES, EXTRA SUPERFINES AND HUNGARIAN.

TRY G. H.'S PURE WHITE WHEAT MEAL, MANUFACTURED BY HIMSELF, AND CANNOT BE SURPASSED

LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, BEST QUALITY, WHOLE AND BROKEN, FINEST LINSEED, &c.
Boxings, Sharps, Bran, and all Kinds of Feeding Stuffs at the Lowest Market Prices.

G. H.'S CALF MEAL IS NOW WELL KNOWN—REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.

Dealer in Agricultural Implements of all Kinds, including the Special Mower and Reaper, Sole Agent of the North for the McCormick Self-Binding Reapers and Steel Mowers, the Bullard Tedder, Tiger Horse Rake, &c. The best and lightest Draught Machines in the Market. Broadcast Hand Seed Sowers, &c.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—GEORGE HOBSON, HARPERLEY MILLS, LINTZ GREEN, R.S.O.

Business Announcements.

W. T. SMITH,

AMERICAN DENTAL SURGEON,
OF 13, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the inhabitants of Consett, Stanley, and surrounding District that he visits as usual at MRS. JONES', 10, Mount Pleasant, Consett, every MONDAY, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and at MRS. SMITH'S, 48, Long Row, Stanley, every FRIDAY from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH

Made with all the Latest Improvements, at the Lowest Possible Price that Good Teeth can be made for with the Best Materials. Old Sets Re-made and Repaired on his own system, guaranteed to be as good and strong as new.

All Teeth Extracted Painlessly by his recent discovery, which is perfectly harmless, thus avoiding the danger of the old system by the use of Cocaine.

W. T. SMITH thoroughly guarantees all his work for 5 years, and a written guarantee will be given when required, and as he has now been practising in Newcastle and District for 15 years, it will be seen that he has a permanent Address at 13, Eldon Square, where he can always be found, as guarantees are of no value from others who have no permanent place, but simply visit the district for a time, and leave no address. Train Fare will be allowed to all Patients desiring to come to Newcastle, where they can, at all times, consult me personally.

REMEMBER THE ADDRESSES—
MRS. JONES'S, 10, Mount Pleasant, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY from 11 to 5.
AND AT
MRS. SMITH'S, 48, Long Row, STANLEY, EVERY FRIDAY, from 11 to 5.

ROBERT ENGLISH,

THE CASH DRAPER,
15, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
IS NOW SHOWING A NEW AND SPLENDID RANGE OF
DRESS GOODS
SUITABLE FOR WINTER WEAR, WHICH FOR STYLE, QUALITY, AND CHEAPNESS CANNOT BE BEATEN.

IF YOU WANT TO BUY YOUR
FLANNELS, SHIRTINGS, AND DRAPERIES,
AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES,
GO TO
ENGLISH'S.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
S. H. HORSEY.

105, SANDYFORD ROAD, NEWCASLE-ON-TYNE,

BEGS to inform the Inhabitants of CONSETT, STANLEY and DISTRICT, that, having left the service of Mr W. T. Smith, he now attends at the house of Mr BROWN, 8, Newmarket Street, Consett, every Saturday, from 11 till 5, also at Mr THOMAS ARMSTRONG'S, Front Street, Stanley, every Monday from 11 till 5, and is prepared to supply the finest English and American Mineral Teeth at the most Reasonable Charges, consistent with perfect workmanship.

A Single Tooth from 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Complete Upper or Lower Set from One to Five Guineas. These Teeth can be adjusted without pain or the removal of stumps or loose teeth. Patients attended at their own residences if desired. Old sets re-modelled or new teeth added. Successful treatment guaranteed and any case not giving entire satisfaction will be immediately corrected, or a new set made.

NOTE THE ADDRESSES:—
ATTENDANCE AT MR. BROWN'S, 8, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT
(Opposite Co-operative Stores), every Saturday, from 11 till 5. Also,
ATTENDANCE AT MR. THOMAS ARMSTRONG'S, FRONT STREET, STANLEY,
Every Monday from 11 till 5. 415g

DOBSON GRADON,

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER, JEWELLER, SILVERSMITH, & OPTICIAN,
BLACKHILL.

HIGHEST QUALITY ENGLISH SILVER LEVER WATCHES, £3 6s. 0d. BEST MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED.
SILVER LEVER WATCHES FROM 30s. ALL WARRANTED
OPTICS A SPECIALITY—EVERY DEFECT OF VISION ACCURATELY TESTED AND CORRECTED.
WATCHMAKER TO THE TRADE. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

PIANOS!!! ORGANS!!!
WADDINGTON & SONS,

15, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

Have received SEVENTEEN GOLD MEDALS and other AWARDS at EXHIBITIONS for the EXCELLENCE and SUPERIORITY of their PIANOS

Being large Manufacturers give the purchaser the BENEFIT of BUYING DIRECT from the producer, THUS SAVING the middleman's PROFIT.

We Hold the Highest TESTIMONIAL in the WORLD, given by the distinguished Pianist SIR CHARLES HALLE, and can give 20,000 references to purchasers of their Instruments.

PIANOS From 10s. per Month
AMERICAN ORGANS From 7s. per Month
Second-hand Pianos from £10.

Write or send for Price Lists and Designs.

WADDINGTON & SONS MANUFACTORY, YORK, & AT PARK ROAD, CONSETT.
Manager - JAS. EMERSON
956g

POPULAR PRICES
AND
SUPREME VALUES
ALWAYS RULE AT

J. W. DAVISON & SONS,

GENERAL HOUSE FURNISHERS AND IRONMONGERS,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
AND
LONDON HOUSE, STANLEY.

Our STOCK is the Largest and Best in the District, and before Purchasing elsewhere, we invite you to compare our Quality and Prices.

ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, WE SHALL MAKE OUR
BIG SHOW OF CHRISTMAS TOYS AND FANCY GOODS,
AT
STANLEY,
WHICH WILL EXCEL OUR GREAT DISPLAY OF LAST YEAR, WHICH WAS THE ONE GREAT ATTRACTION OF STANLEY AND DISTRICT.

PHOTOS.
VENICE DUNN,

PHOTOGRAPHER,
HAS REMOVED TO HIS NEW PREMISES,
7, AND 8, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT.

He will supply enlarged PHOTOS, finished in Oils, Water Colours, or Crayons, Framed complete, prices varying from 15s to 45s. Persons wishing to join our Club can do so by apply for card and particulars. PHOTOS artistically finished in the latest and most improved styles. Cabinets, 10s to 12s Per Dozen; Carte-de-Visites, 5s to 6s Per Dozen. Bands, Choirs, and Wedding Groups, also Architectural and Landscape Work done on reasonable Terms. Photos and Pictures Framed. 881

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.
("THE OLDEST AND LARGEST.")
HAS SINCE 1849 PAID FOR
ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS
£3,200,000.
ESTABLISHED, 1849.
RT. HON. EVELYN ASHLEY, Chairman.
64, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
W. D. MASSY, }
A. VIAN, } Secretaries.
Agents:—Mr. JOHN HARKER, Station Master, Blackhill; MR. G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate; and Mr. J. HOOD, Railway Station, Lintz Green.

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.)

CORRESPONDENTS are requested to enclose their names and addresses on a separate slip of paper.

LETTERS for insertion should reach us not later than Wednesday mornings.

NEW RAILWAY FROM BIRTLEY TO ANNFIELD PLAIN.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Kindly allow me a small space in your valuable columns in reference to the above railway and the general neglect of the North-Eastern Railway Company. I noticed in your last issue a letter signed "A Traveller." He makes mention of the company's great and general excuse for all shortcomings—viz., the Central station alterations. It is a strange thing that these alterations do not interfere with the sending out of excursions. I might say that on Saturday last the 1·17 train from Newcastle to Durham, *via* Team Valley, did not leave the Central until 1·40, whilst an excursion for Middlesbrough, Stockton, &c., was despatched at 1·30. Now I think by the cropping up of all these things that if the North-Eastern Railway Company were to try their level best they could not do better than they are doing to promote and show the extreme need of a new railway company. Oh, how we are longing for the commencement of the new line of rails between Manchester and Glasgow.

In reference to the new and completed railway between Birtley and Annfield Plain, for the last two months or so reports have been set afloat that this line is going to be opened out to passengers, firstly on Oct. 1st, and then on November 1st, but a passenger train has not yet, to the knowledge of the west country public, passed along the rails. No doubt it is a very sensible idea to run mineral traffic first, as has been done for the last month or so, on account of testing the bridges (which are plentiful), and to sadden the batteries with which they have had a great deal of trouble owing to colliery workings; but I understand this difficulty, including the slip of battery beyond Beamish, is now conquered, and I think the last month's mineral traffic will have tested bridges and batteries sufficiently to satisfy both the North-Eastern Railway Company and the general public. I might also mention that all the stations seem to be completed, and are just awaiting the time of "use." In this case I don't see why "The Central Station alterations" need make any difference, as we would be content for a short time with two trains each way in the day to meet morning and evening trains on the Team Valley Railway at Birtley.

I hope the company won't attempt to commence other railroads (for which they have recently received Parliamentary powers) until they have completed work now in hand, and got the whole system into regular and proper working order. The company must needs see the great want of a new high level bridge; some day the present one will go down with a smash, seeing how they keep it laden with traffic. Then how is the system to be worked? I think a good site for this new bridge would be from the Redheugh signal cabin, between Gateshead and Bensham, to about fifty yards west of No. 3 signal cabin at the west end of the Central Station. This would enable the through trains between north and south to run straight in and out again without the present necessity of changing the engine from one end to the other. I hope the day is not far distant when this scheme will be commenced. Hoping to soon see an improvement in the company's movements, and also that someone else will take this matter up—I am, &c.,

COUNTY DURHAM.

CO-OPERATIVE FRAUDS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I read with much interest "Air Pit's" very intelligent letter. With much of it I quite agree, but cannot quite follow his meaning about the mixing of accounts at the end of the quarter, and the cash balance. Perhaps he will kindly deal with this through the medium of your valuable columns. How long does he think an audit should last? And what does the actual money in hand represent?—Yours truly,

EX-COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—With one or two exceptions, I am fully in accord with your correspondent, Mr Simpson, in his comments on the above subject, which appeared in your issue of Nov. 17th, and to which I would like to add a few of my own. They are on the whole wise and timely. The portion of Mr Simpson's letter to which I mostly take exception is his statement that "these frauds which from time to time become known *are necessary to a great extent*, although they are costly, to warn us of danger, and to show us the by-paths and secret doings of those in charge of our hard-earned subscriptions to share capital." It would be difficult to find in any one sentence a proposition fraught with doctrine so pernicious and fallacy so egregious as that contained in the above extract from your correspondent's letter, the italics of which are my own. If the doctrine here taught was generally believed and acted up to, mankind would rapidly degenerate to the state of the savage, for his success in the conflict with the evil powers in nature is the measure of his civilisation. Besides, such "warnings," to be of any use, ought to precede instead of follow the danger. And if it is meant that they are of use prospectively, the frequent re-occurrence of such frauds prove the statement to be false, as one fraud of the kind would be as good as a thousand for all future contingencies. The tenor of the rest of Mr Simpson's letter, too, is a complete condemnation of, and a proper pointing out how such "necessary frauds" may be avoided in the future. I speak thus plainly, as I believe it wisest to avoid sentimentalizing on such plain, matter-of-fact questions as the one under discussion. Your correspondent's suggestion regarding the care in electing committeemen is excellent, and just what ought to be carried out; but my experience as an active member of a Co-operative Store is that nine out of every ten of the members know and care no more about the principles of co-operation than a cow knows and cares about the principles of conic sections. The great bulk of the members cannot by any means (except at such a time as is being experienced by our unfortunate friends at Newbottle) be induced to attend the meetings, or in any way to take an intelligent interest in the management of the affairs of the society. Their whole anxiety seems to be centred in the question—"How many shillings in the pound is it going to pay?" and as soon as it is ascertained that the "divi" in quantity is satisfactory, their whole interest is fully satisfied, not a thought being given as to whether it has been honestly or otherwise earned. This, I am sorry to believe, is the experience of most societies. Now, I would like to ask—how are such members likely to know who *are* or who *are not* the most fit and proper persons to act in the capacity of committeemen? It is wholly impossible, and I regret to say that other issues than integrity, business aptitude, or knowledge of the principles of co-operation very frequently decide who the persons shall be that sit on the Board of Management. When a ballot is taken among such members, the fact of whether a candidate be a member of this or that religious body, or whether he be a petty official at some public works, is of more account and carries more weight than any consideration of his knowledge or interest in the movement. Such blind confidence in the loud professions of such individuals is bidding fair to seriously endanger a movement whose power for good in alleviating the hardships and raising the moral and intellectual status of the working classes is incalculable.

With our own property we may, if we think fit, trust other people without adequate security, but with that of other people such misplaced confidence is criminal. Rightly or wrongly, I hold that no moral person desires such confidence to be placed in him: his concern is not that people should *believe* him to be honest, but that they should be *sure* of it. Your correspondent's sixth suggestion is good in its way; but, if I am not grievously misinformed, the Wholesale Society has been equally culpable with other merchants in allowing its accounts with the store in question to run to an inordinate length, thus opening the way for fraud. If I am wrong in this statement, I shall only be too glad to be corrected. Mr Simpson's ninth suggestion is an excellent idea, and no difficulty ought to be experienced in arranging for its adoption. In conclusion, I heartily echo the feelings of sympathy expressed by Mr Simpson for our Newbottle friends, and would like to further suggest that the hand of practical help should be extended to them by the other stores in the county, and thereby enable them to tide over their present difficulty. I am sure that such an appeal would meet with a hearty response.—I remain, yours, &c.,

CO-OPERATOR.

Nov. 25th, 1893.

MR ATHERLEY-JONES AND THE TEMPERANCE PARTY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Would the writers kindly give through your paper, their views as to whether it would be better for Stanley to have more public houses. I would say either make away the few we have, or give us more. But if we are to have more licensed houses and Mr Indian intends petitioning the workmen, let him petition the district that wants the "public," and if he cannot get plenty of voters in that district, surely it is not right or just to the ratepayers for him to go to the opposite end of the town, and ask ratepayers and voters there to give the other end what they did not want. Mr Indian confesses he had rather sit among sawdust and spittoons, than listen to such men as the Newbottle manager. Then why does Mr Indian not enjoy his sawdust and spittoons, instead of going on public platforms supporting such leaders. Mr I. must consider, one sold his principles for £10,000, while Mr Atherley-Jones sold his for a paltry fee at Lanchester. But I am sorry W. I. did not make the second cap fit himself as he did the first one, and as "Mover" must have meant it, let Mr Indian write, and if he has good reason for supporting licenses, let him give the public the full benefit of his views and not cast dirt and slander at his opponents; for it should be his duty, as a leader of men, if they cannot see eye and eye with him, to teach them to do as he does, and not do as he says, and then the moral will be—to see what we young men will get to.

J. T. S.

South Moor.

MR WILLIAM INDIAN AND THE TEMPERANCE PARTY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Will you allow me once more to reply to Mr Indian—re Mr Murray's application at Lanchester. He said that he was in favour of more drinking facilities, and then he further says that it was a misstatement with regard to pleading for men who are the owners of 60 and 70 public houses. I agree to that, as I have learned since that he pleaded for those who are the owners of 80 or 90 licenses for the sale of strong drink; and again he says he did not care who got the license so long as more was granted. With regard to the public meeting mentioned I will leave the public themselves to answer whether "Mover" or Mr Indian is right in numbers, and as for being at sea I have known no one get further out to sea than Mr Indian himself. When he has had to mention the Newbottle store manager I don't know one man that will not condemn such actions, and referring to preachers, it is not Christians that stoop to such actions, but it is for the want of a Christ-like principle. Again, Mr Indian says that he does not consider this a political question. The reason is that it is not in his programme as he has opposed it all along the line, and mark you he has termed himself a follower of the present Government and a Radical. I do not want to say anything more about his representing the North-West Durham Miner's in Committee, I will leave him with the men of Durham to deal with him when the time comes, and I must tell him and all that oppose the Temperance cause, that is is both a Political and Social question which must be dealt with at once. I might remind Mr Indian of the words used by the Right Hon Asquith, Home Secretary, who said we mean to strike a blow, and I trust and believe it will be an effective blow, at this, which is the greatest of plagues and curses, which effect us as a social community. I mean the course of intemperance, and furthermore, what did Mr Munro say in concluding his address to the delegates at the Trades Union Congress at Belfast, that the outstanding defect of the British and Irish workmen of which the United Kingdom is mainly composed was drunkenness, and Mr Indian knows this but will not own it. I am astonished at him using his energy to help on the very thing that has ruined thousands of our fellow men, he being a man who believes in the brotherhood of man and at the same time goes in for the very stuff that has brought men down to the level of the beast.—Yours &c.,

MOVER.

ROYALTY ON PIG IRON.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—In your issue of the 10th November, I observe a letter headed "Liberal or Tory," and signed "I. L. P." The writer says, "It is pretty well known that in France the royalty on pig iron is 1s 8d, on steel rails 11d, and on plates for shipbuilding 1s 1½d. In England we pay on pig iron 4s 6d, on steel rails 5s 6d, and on plates 5s 9d." He further asserts that on highly finished steel manufactured in Sheffield the royalty must amount to somewhere between 7s 6d and 16s per ton.

I would like, sir, with your kind permission, to ask his authority for such startling assertions. The statements are very definite, and I presume he will have no objection to produce the statistics from which they are drawn. I shall be surprised if the royalty on the iron ore used in producing pig iron amounts to one-third of the sum he names.

"I. L. P." refers to the reduction of agricultural labourers' wages in Essex. He will by this time have read the result of the Governmental enquiry into the agricultural question in that county, which shews that, while landlords and farmers have been ruined by hundreds, the corn lands of Essex, from the cultivation of which the agricultural labourers' wages are derived, are being abandoned, and he will perceive that the remedy would be the same as that which he advocates for the benefit of the iron trades, viz., the exclusion—partial or total—of foreign competition. What does he say to that?

If "I. L. P." will publish the statistics upon which he bases his assertions as to the rates of royalties we could verify them from the records of the Government School of Mines in Jermyn Street.

In conclusion, your correspondent boast of drinking the new wine of labour. New wine is notoriously "heady," and I cannot help thinking that some of the confusion of thought evinced in his letter is due to over-indulgence in this too seductive beverage.—Yours, &c.,

C. W. F. CRAUFURD.

10, Warwick Square, London, S.W.,
Nov. 25th, 1893.

"HOW TO BEHAVE," price sixpence.—To be had o 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, Agent King Edward Street, London E.C.

[illegible].—"Wells' Health Renewer."—Greatest remedy on earth for dyspepsia, nervous weakness, indigestion impotence of mind, limb, or vital functions, mental [illegible] feeling. At Chemists.

"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 sixpense, may be had at Robt. Jackson's bookseller, Front Street and 20 Newmarket Street, Consett

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

MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour. It acts directly upon the roots of the hair, invigorating them, cleanses the scalp, removing dandruff, rendering the hair soft, silky, and glossy, and disposing it to remain in any desired position [illegible] hosts of admirers, male and female young and old. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers.

DRUNKENNESS CURED.—A Wealthy American Lady whose only son for years was a slave to Intemperance, Nervous Depression and Exhausted Vitality, after seeking in vain for a cure, and trying all known remedies, at last found a simple means that cured and saved him from a drunkard's grave. Anyone suffering or desiring to help others in this worthy cause, by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mr James Holland, 25 Hart Street, High Holborn, London, will recieve all information, free of charge. Mention this paper.

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, &c. are made to serve man. By unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fevers Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pill, will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d and 2s. 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggist Manchester

DR BARDSLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS.—For radically eating 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.

THE WEEK.

OUR LIFEBOATS AND THE NAVY.

THERE is a form of courage which is so systematically taken for granted that it misses its due recognition by the public. During the recent storms on our coasts the lifeboatmen have in the main shewn the coolness, daring, and resource which receives so stinted an acknowledgment. So far as we know there is only one instance in which they are reported to have neglected their duty by refusing to launch their boat. In that case another crew rescued the shipwrecked mariners, so that there are no lives of drowned men on the consciences of the faint-hearted. On the other hand we have plenty of illustrations of extraordinary bravery. At Margate a lifeboat crew, finding it impossible to make further headway against wind and sea, let go the anchor, hoping the storm would abate, and allow them to reach the wreck. The seamen on shore, perceiving their difficulty, promptly launched an ordinary boat from another point on the coast, where they were able to take advantage of the wind; and these gallant men, carrying their lives in their hands, actually reached the vessel and rescued everybody on board. In another place on the South coast the lifeboat capsized close to the wreck, and every man save one was lost; but when the boat was washed ashore there were plenty of volunteers to launch her again, and the second adventure was crowned with success. This undaunted resolution in the face of death is so common amongst English seamen that it is regarded as a matter of course; but we should like to see it rewarded by some special mark of public approbation. There is a characteristic chariness amongst us with regard to distinctions and decorations; but if the Queen were to signalise these acts of heroism by conferring some order of merit similar to the Victoria Cross, this would undoubtedly be hailed with general approval. More than that, it might be useful to offer to young men who have distinguished themselves in this fashion some exceptional inducements to enter the Navy. The great defect of our naval armaments just now is that the ships are poorly manned. However the experts may differ about the construction of ironclads, they are all agreed that there is a serious lack of sailors. If we are going to spend more money on the Navy, there ought to be an assurance that every effort will be made to strengthen the *personnel* of the ships. But there is only too much reason to fear that the incentives held out by the Admiralty to British seamen are not such as stimulate a desire to tread the decks of her Majesty's warships.

TO PLEASE THE ARTISTIC EYE.

MR. W. S. CAINE has a little bill for saving rural scenery from the handiwork of the advertiser. It is proposed that all advertisements in the rural districts, except on land where the business advertised happens to be carried on, and on piers, landing-stages, and in railway stations, shall be prohibited. Any violation of the enactment is to be visited with the penalty of a five pounds' fine. A good many advertisers, we imagine, will cheerfully regard this penalty as a tax; and as Mr. Caine does not apparently propose to make the fines cumulative, the multitude of advertisements may remain unaffected by his proposal. But it is not to be expected that a restriction which is nominally at least so drastic will be accepted without demur. Mr. Caine will find arrayed against him not only the ubiquitous advertisers, but also a good many people who profit by letting spaces for advertisements. There are plenty of rural districts where this is regarded as a legitimate business, and where it will be difficult to convince a majority of the inhabitants that it is against the public interest to proclaim the virtues of "little liver pills" in the middle of a beautiful view. Mr. Caine's object is praiseworthy enough, but it may be doubted whether he is going the right way to conciliate popular feeling. You may persuade, but you will find it difficult to coerce the community into regarding outdoor advertisements as eyesores. It is far better to proceed by less violent methods. We have received a prospectus of the "National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty." This is projected by a number of well-known people, including Lord Rosebery, Lord Dufferin, the Duke of Westminster, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Leonard Courtney, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, Sir Frederick Leighton, Mr. G. F. Watts, Professor Huxley, the Master of Balliol, Mrs. Humphry Ward, and Mr. Walter Besant. The primary idea of this Trust is that it shall assume the guardianship of "places of interest and beauty" confided to its care by gift. It is hoped that ultimately there will be funds enough to enable the Trust to purchase historic memorials and spots made interesting by old associations or natural charm. With such an enterprise there will be widespread sympathy on the part of cultivated people, and its operations can excite no active hostility in those who are not in the least able to understand why such a fuss should be made about a monument or a waterfall. But to stimulate the sense of beauty is one thing, and to fine insensibility five pounds is another. Mr. Caine will discover, we are afraid, that the difference is rather important.

THE APOLOGIST OF SUICIDE.

THE vagaries of suicide, which have found a prophet in Mr. William Archer, receive a curious illustration from the death of a young man named Henry Howard. Mr. Howard threw himself from a railway arch at Sheffield. There is no explanation of his motive except that he had recently become a Socialist (this ought to be interesting to the Fabian Society), and that the "sight of so much poverty and suffering which he could not relieve preyed upon his mind." Probably this is one of the cases on which Mr. Archer chiefly relies to sustain his theory that suicide is one of the great resources of civilisation. It is usual, of course, to treat such an exit from the world as Mr. Howard's as an act of lunacy. "Poor fellow!" is the commonplace remark; "his mind must have been unhinged." Mr. Archer does not take this view. He regards suicide as a perfectly sane method of self-deliverance from the worries or necessities of a life into which we come involuntarily, and from which we have a perfect right to depart when and how we please. The ordinary uncertainty of death is repugnant to a man of Mr. Archer's philosophical deliberation. Why should a man always wait until he is carried off unexpectedly by accident, war, or disease? How humiliating to a manly pride to be at the beck and call of a destiny beyond his control! So, as we understand it, the philosophy of suicide glorifies it as a charter of freedom. "I can die when I like" is the new motto of humanity. Apart from any religious consideration, which would have no weight with Mr Archer, it is unfortunate for his theory that it is put into practice by very irrational persons. Why should Mr. Howard throw himself from a railway arch because there happens to be more poverty at Sheffield than he was able to turn into comfort and contentment? The poor are none the less miserable for his voluntary death. The fact that he exercised the will to die rather than the will to live is not the smallest contribution to the sum of human happiness. Perhaps Mr. Archer will say it is, at all events, an infinitesimal subtraction from the sum of human misery; in other words, that it was better Henry Howard should die than go on contemplating the wretchedness around him. But the same argument would be equally good for the suicide of Mr. Archer, who, in his own personal affairs, happens to be sane enough. If there is anything in Socialism, or any other doctrine of the brotherhood of man, surely the primary postulate is that we shall go on doing our utmost for society, instead of giving up the fight and jumping into eternity. Henry Howard preferred the jump, which was due either to cowardice or to a morbid sentimentalism, which deserves no respect.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

TOW LAW.—On Monday, Mr Vickers had forward 75 dairy cows and heifers, 40 fat cattle, 12 store cattle, 16 calves, 400 fat sheep and hoggs. Cows made up to £19 10; fat cattle to £15 10s; store cattle to £8 10s; calves to 60s; fat black-faced ewes to 26s—top, from Tunstall House, Wolsingham; fat mule ewes to 38s—top, Mr J. H. Atkinson, Greenwell; fat hoggs to 26s 6d—top, Mr H. Chaytor, Ushaw Moor.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Mr Murray had forward on Monday in addition to the usual weekly supply of stock, a special consignment of 47 Scotch dairy cows and heifers, mostly spring calvers, for which there was a fairly good trade, only about 14 passing the ring unsold. Numbers forward and prices:—49 cows, to £17 17s 6d; calving heifers, to £12 7s 6d; 25 fat cattle, to £16 10s; 145 fat sheep, to 44s; lambs, to 34s; 5 pork pigs, to £4; 15 small pigs 23s to 32s each; 6 stirks, £3 10s to £6; calves, to 38s. A number of geese poultry, traps, harness, &c. were also disposed of. Mr Murray intimated that during the winter months and until further notice the sale will commence at eleven o'clock, instead of the usual time one o'clock.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr James Turnbull held his fortnightly sale of fat, grazing and other surplus stock and had forward 25 fat cattle, 25 incalving and new-calved cows, 3 veal calves, 140 fat sheep and lambs, 45 young pigs, 5 pork and bacon pigs, 2 sows in pig, spring cart, harness, geese, lamps, &c. There was a fair attendance of buyers present, and trade for both fat cattle and sheep was very animated with an upward tendency. Milk cows were a fair trade, and good cows met a ready market at late rates. Young pigs were a slow trade throughout. Prices as follow:—Fat cattle: bullocks, suckler, to £10 5s—top, the Marquess of Londonderry; heifers, to £16 17s 6d—top, Messrs Thomas Hedley Bros, Holmside Old Hall; cows, to £17 2s 6d—top, E J Weightman, Herrington. Milch cows, to £20 15s for a very fine cow from Mr J Henderson, Aycliffe; a neat polled new-calved cow from Mr Brewis, Waldridge, made £18. Kylo grazing heifers to £5. Fat sheep: shearlings, to 46s 6d—top, Mr Bolam, Pontop Hall, Lintz Green; ewes to 39s—top, Mr J Bradford, Vigo House. Fat lambs, to 25s 6d—top, Mr J Henderson, Lintz Hall. Bacon pigs, to 68s; pork pigs, to 47s 6d; young pigs to 20s; sow in pig, £5 5s. Geese, 9s. Dog, 2s 6d. The Xmas show and sale of fat stock will be held on Wednesday Dec. 7th.

Sporting Items.

THE QUOIT HANDICAP AT BLACKHALL MILL.—Another heat in the quoit handicap now progressing, at the Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill, was decided on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a numerous company, as follows:—T Sharp, Prudhoe, 12, 2000 30030010110012221001322000021—41; J Clynes, The Spen, 6, 011022012200220 0000110000223200—32. Referee, Mr M Scott, Westwood.

BILLIARD MATCH AT CONSETT.—At Mrs Brown's Railway Hotel saloon, Consett, on Monday, a match was played between A. Bennison and Fred Garbutt, both of Consett, for £5, 200 points game, Garbutt playing on what is termed a "seven break." There was a good attendance of interested parties. Scores:—Bennison, 200; Garbutt, 156.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT MEDOMSLEY.—The handicap promoted by Mr R M Rutherford, Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley, was commenced, with the following results:—S Burrell, 1 1 1; Bob, 1 1 0; P Milburn, 1 1 1. The handicap will be concluded on Saturday. Mr William Hunter, Witton Gilbert, officiated as handicapper and referee, and Mr James Hornsby as trapper.

RABBIT COURSING AT TOW LAW.—The rabbit coursing promoted by Mr W. Brown was brought off in the presence of a good company. The first event was a sweepstake for small dogs, for which there were 12 entries at 8s each, the best of three. In the end Richardson's Try, Fletcher's School Boy, and Pratt's Spider divided.—The second event was a sweepstake by greyhounds, for which 13 entries were received. In the final Walton's Podge beat Morgan's Rattler and won.

BLACKHALL MILL GUN CLUB.—The annual pigeon shooting handicap of the Ship Inn (Blackhall Mill) Gun Club took place on Saturday afternoon in a field on the Broad Oak Farm, near Ebchester, kindly granted by Mr Robert Dixon. There was a good muster of spectators, and the weather being favourable, some excellent shooting was the result. The conditions were from 18 to 21 yards rise and 60 fall, seven shot each. Scores:—T Turnbull, 21, 0001100; Wm Weston, 21, 1011101; Robt Bullerwell, 19, 1110001; Robert Leybourne, 21, 0111000; Wm McKenzie, 18, 1111110; Jos Allen, 20, 1010010; Henry Bell, 18, 1111100; W Stonehouse, 17, 0001011; W Wood, 19, 1000100; Jas Nichol, 21, 0111111; Wm Parker, 17, 0001111; George Weston, 19, 1111101; Bungalow, 19, 0000100; Robt Charlton, 21, 1111011; T Simpson, 18, 1100001; Jos Greener, 19, 1011101; Wm Robinson, 18, 1111000; Joe Nelson, 20, 1001011; John Caslin, 18, 0101000. Mr T. Turnbull officiated as referee, and Mr R. Bullerwell as bookkeeper.—Afterwards, the members partook of their yearly dinner, a sumptuous repast being provided at the hostelry by Mr and Mrs Stonehouse. The rest of the evening was spent in toasts and harmony.

RABBIT COURSING AT TANTOBIE.—On Saturday afternoon, in the field near the house of Mr Matthew Snowdon, Commercial Hotel, Tantobie a match was decided between W Chambers's Lady Talbot II. and T Clayton's Wild Mary, who ran the best of 9 courses, for £10 a-side. There was a very large attendance of spectators. Betting:—5 to 4 on Wild Mary. Score:—Lady Talbot, 001111101—5; Wild Mary, 111000010—4. R Inness was stakeholder and referee, and R Burdess pistol firer.—Afterwards there was a rabbit sweep, Mr Ed Gaffney adding £8 for 32 dogs at 13s a lot, the best of three courses. Details:—First round—Mellon's Pit Shoes, 18½, beat Walton's Derwent Lad, 18¾, by 2 to 1; Littlefair's Spy, 18¼, beat Cookson's Shy Lass, 18¾, by 2 to 0; Priestman's Moor Lad, 18¼, beat Halliday's Rattlesnake, 18¼, by 2 to 0; Defty's Honest Bob, 18½, beat Storey's Fellside Lass, 16½, by 2 to 0; Curry's White Wings, 18½, beat Priestman's Little Nell, 16¾, by 2 to 0; Holmes's China Eyes, 16½, beat Riley's Iron Man, 17¼, by 2 to 0; Stephenson's Young Turk, 18¼, beat Melton's Old Bones, 16¾, by 2 to 1; Palmer's Our Aggie, 17, beat Burch's Break the Bank, 18¾, by 2 to 0; Brown's Pigeon, 17¼, beat Coxon's Coastguard, 17¾, by 2 to 0; Mellon's Never at Home, 16, beat Burdon's Happy Go Lucky, 18½, by 2 to 0; Collins's Little Min, 17¼, beat Halliday's Rattlesnake, 18¼, by 2 to 1; Priestman's Little Nell, 16¾, beat Chambers's Gipsy Queen, 19, by 2 to 0. Darkness setting in, it was agreed to leave the sweep open till next Saturday, five more dogs being required to complete the full number. E Gaffney acted as judge, H Scott pistol firer, and J Elliott scorekeeper.

SPARROW SHOOTING AT WEST KYO.—The sparrow shooting promoted by Mr James Walker of West, Kyo, and held near the house of Mr T. Gatiss, Earl Grey Inn, on Saturday resulted as under:—Whisky Hot, 16 yards, 0; Earl Grey Inn, 16, 0; Tommy Foster, 18, 1 1 1; Annfield Plain, 18, 1 0; R. Smith, 19, 0; Contractor, 17, 1 0; Wm. Thompson, 18, 1 1 1; Wm. Smith, 17, 1 0; second lot, 0; T. Hunter, 17, 0; second lot, 1 1 1; Last Try, 19, 1 1 1; Try Again, 19, 1 0; Nipper, 18, 0; Robert Smith, 19, 1 1 1; second lot, 1 1 0; Contractor, 2nd lot, 1 1 1; Earl Gray Inn, second lot, 0; Pincher, 19, 0; Little Jack, 19, 1 1 1; Champion, 18, 1 1 0; Tanfield, 17, 0; J. Stoker, 0; Sancho, 19, 1 1 0; Crook Bank, 17, 0. The birds were trapped by J. W. Anderson and M. Walker, and T. Foster was referee.

RABBIT MATCH AT DIPTON.—On Saturday afternoon, in the enclosure connected with the house of Mr Wm. Young, Red Lion Inn, Dipton, there was a good attendance to witness a match at rabbits, the best of 11 courses, for £10 a-side, between J. Cunningham's Annie Rooney and S. Parker's Puss. Speculation ruled at evens. Score:—Annie Rooney, 0110111001—6; Puss, 1001000110—4. Judge, T. Cain; pistol firer, A. Harrison. [illegible]

CHURCH GIRLS' UNION, HAMSTERLEY.

This society, since its commencement in September, has proved a wonderful means of inviting in our common sisterhood a large number of the weaker sex in the Derwent Valley.

The principles of the Union are briefly as follows:—A weekly meeting is held every Saturday evening, 6.30 p.m.—8.15 p.m., which consists of an address by some lady on household and other matters, during which sewing and knitting occupy the fingers of the listeners while their heads medicate upon the discourse. As intervals the members are entertained with vocal and instrumental music, readings, and recitations. A library is open fortnightly, and a good number of magazines and weekly periodicals have been produced.

The membership of the Union has a twofold division, girls under the age of 18 are designated members; all others, associates. The total number on the books is 132, of whom 83 are members and 49 associates.

Up to the present, addresses have been given by the Hon. Mrs Vereker, Mrs Cockin, Miss Mabel Watson, and Mrs Pumphrey. Visitors who have favoured the Union with their company are:—Lady Crawford, Mrs Brackenbury, Mrs Von-Thiele, and Mrs Hedley.

The management is in the hands of the following:—President, The Hon. Mrs Vereker; vice-presidents, Mrs Cockin and Miss Mabel Watson; treasurer and secretary, Rev W. M. Ellis B.A.; committee, nine associates, viz., Mesdames Allan, Marshall, Chaytor, Patterson, Routledge, Morgan, Cosford, Eddie, and Brown.

On Saturday last a musical evening was held, when the Derwent Vale Brass Band kindly favoured the Union by a programme of music excellently rendered. The contributions of visitors, members and associates, independent of subscriptions, amounted to a guinea for the evening. This, with a sum of £2 7s already in the hands of the treasurer as subscriptions, makes a total of £3 8s, and which will be expended in the purchase of material to be made up. The articles, when finished, will be collected until the end of the session in March, when a sale of work will be held, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to Church purposes. The people in the Valley are to be heartily congratulated on their activity in Church work. During the three months past no less a sum than £34 has been raised in the district for the Lad's Brigade, Girls' Union, Band of Hope, Missionary Society, and Burial Ground. It is to be hoped that the good people of Hamsterley and district will continue to support and encourage so useful an institution as the Church Girls' Union, as they have so loyally and liberally done since its commencement two months ago.

NEW WORKMEN'S INSTITUTE AND CLUB FOR CORNSAY COLLIERY.

On Saturday, there were general rejoicings in the village of Cornsay, on the occasion of the opening of a new Workmen's Institute and Club for the use of the workmen employed at the colliery and works of Messrs Ferens and Love. In fact, it seemed to be a red-letter day, flags, streamers, and other bunting were seen decked round the bank of the colliery, and at almost every conspicuous place throughout the village. The whole cost of the building is something like £1,500, and has been borne by Mr J. H. Love, J.P., of the Hawkhill, Easingwold. The objects of the Institute will be to promote the intellectual, moral, social welfare of its members by means of a library, reading room, and club. The library, reading room, and smoke room will be open to all the workmen connected with the colliery, at a subscription of twopence per fortnight, for the support of the Institute; the money to be deducted through the pay bills. The Club, which includes the billiard room, smoke room, refreshment room, &c., will be for the use of all workmen of the firm, on the payment of a subscription of such amount as may be required by the committee. The Institute will be governed by a committee of 20 members elected annually, ten of whom shall be chosen by the owner of the colliery and ten by the workmen. The manager of the colliery (Mr P. Kirkup) will be *ex-officio* president of the Institute.

The institute and club is built in the centre of the village on a piece of ground known as the Old Quarry. The building, which is surrounded by palisading in front with a side entrance, and with a high wall behind, consists of a billiard room, 30ft by 24ft; a reading room of the same size; refreshment room, 26ft by 16ft; smoke room, 24ft by 16ft; committee room, 25ft by 18; lavatory supplied with hot and cold water, a cellar under the refreshment room, 26ft by 16ft, and a steward's house. The rooms are very spacious and well furnished. The ventilation is effected by Boyle's patent roof ventilation. The refreshment room is heated by slow combustion stoves. The other rooms have open fire places with tiled hearths. The seats in the billiard room and reading room are upholstered in railway carriage cloth similar to that used in the North-Eastern Railway carriages. There is also fitted up in the reading room a large bookcase 16ft by 12ft, with a splendid library of standard works consisting of 1,139 volumes.

The corridor which runs the entire length of the building is seven feet wide, and is done out with glazed bricks manufactured at the works at the Colliery. These are the result of very careful experiments made by the manager during the last seven or eight months, and judging from the glazed bricks that are used in the building have been very successful.

The whole building is lighted up by electricity supplied by a large dynamo at the Colliery. There are 50 25 C.P. incandescent lamps, which give a beautiful steady light.

The profits of the institute and club are for the benefit of the members, and it is proposed at so early a date as possible to spend part of the money in the erection of bath houses, and in the laying out of the present old quarry, consisting about two acres of waste land into a recreation ground with ball alleys, and a band stand which will be for the use of the brass band and string band belonging to the Colliery.

The erection of the building has been carried out under the supervision of Mr P. Kirkup, manager, and Mr J. Hodgson, engineer. The contractor for the erection of the structure was Mr T. Starford, Cornsay Colliery; whilst the woodwork was carried out by Messrs Storey and Johnson. The furnishings were supplied from the firms of Messrs Lauder and Co, Hartlepool, and Messrs Bainbridge and Co, Newcastle. The billiard table was from Messrs Barrough and Watts, London. The opening was characterised throughout by great enthusiasm. Mr and Mrs Love were met in their carriage at the entrance to the village and escorted to the Temperance Hall, where the presentation of an illuminated address to Mr Love took place in the presence of some 500 people. The address, which was executed by Messrs Mawson, Swan, and Morgan, Newcastle, was encased in an oak frame with gilt mountings.

Mr KIRKUP, in making the presentation, expressed the pleasure it afforded him to do so on behalf of the committee and workmen. The last time Mr Love visited Cornsay Colliery it was during the struggle that existed in the Durham county between capital and labour, and they all knew what his generous offer was then. He gratuitously provided free breakfasts for a period of two months—(cheers)—and he now came amongst them again, presenting to them, free of cost, a beautiful structure in the shape of a workmen's institute and club, which he could say, was second to none in England. (Cheers.) By their enthusiasm he was sure they all appreciated Mr Love's generosity—and they were all alive to the fact that it showed Mr Love took a great interest in all that appertained to the welfare of his workmen. He would now read to them the address which was as follows:—

"TO JOSEPH HORATIO LOVE,
The Hawkhill, Easingwold.

We, the committee, on behalf of the workmen, of Cornsay Colliery and Works, have great pleasure in addressing you on the auspicious occasion of your opening the institute and club, which you have so generously built for our social, moral, and intellectual welfare.

We desire to record our high appreciation of your sterling quality.

As an employer of labour you are just, generous, and set a noble example, to your fellow coal-owners in seeking to raise the moral status of your employees, and to encourage in your workmen a taste for self-culture and intellectual advancement.

We are deeply grateful to the high honour which Mr Love and family confer upon us by coming here to-day.

We fervently hope that you may long be spared prosperously, to carry on the important works with which you are connected, and we pray that the blessings of the Almighty may rest upon yourself and your children.

Signed on behalf of the committee and workmen,
PHILLIP KIRKUP,
J. HODGSON,
R. BARRON,
R. DOBBINSON,
G. JACKSON,
J. STOREY.

Nov. 25th, 1893.

In accepting the address Mr LOVE said he hoped and trusted that the club would prove a great boon to the officials and workmen of the colliery both as regarded physical and mental recreation.

From the Temperance Hall the procession re-formed and proceed to the new institute, where a silver key was presented to Mrs Love, by Mr R. Barron, which bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Mrs J. Horatio Love, on the occasion of opening the Workmen's Institute and Club, Cornsay Colliery, 1893."

Mr LOVE, after a few touching remarks, declared the new building open.

After an inspection of the building Mr and Mrs Love were afterwards entertained to luncheon. The cloths having been removed, several toasts were proffered, including "Health of Mr and Mrs Love," and "Success to the coal trade at Cornsay Colliery and and Works," the latter being proposed by Mr Hodgson, and responded to by Mr Wood (South Hetton), and Mr Kirkup.

The institute and club was opened for inspection shortly after 3 o'clock, and some 800 people passed through the building. A public tea was provided in the British Schools, and was well patronised. In the evening, a grand ball was held in the Temperance Hall, and a large bon-fire was set ablaze on the quarry top in honour of the opening of the club. During the whole of the proceedings, the Cornsay brass and string bands were in attendance and rendered choice selections of music.

HANDYSIDE'S CONSUMPTION CURE.

Those who are afflicted with Consumption, Tumours, Cancer, and Influenza, should go to Handyside's Rooms or Carriages and hear from the patients themselves what this medicine has done. If the lungs are eaten away all that it will do will only ease the pain, but if taken in time no one need die of Consumption or Lupus, and Cancer can be considerably reduced.

The Blood Food prepared by G. Handyside is simply a vegetable extract, and thereby God's natural remedy for building up the body, and when the body is strong it defies all disease. It contains no medicine, and therefore cannot ruin the constitution as doctors' medicines do. Everyone should take it for Indigestion, Costiveness, Sleeplessness, Dizziness of the Head, Fits, Asthma, Bronchitis, Change of Life, and is a most marvellous thing for Influenza. Delicate people should take it for ever.

Handyside's Rheumatic Cure does not fail once in a hundred cases, when it is applied according to directions. 20,000 people have been rubbed at Handyside's Rooms, and 99 out of every 100 have been cured, but a good many who rub themselves have failed, because they did not go by the directions. Whenever it fails they should communicate with Mr Handyside. Anyone who has to live by his industry, and unable to walk through Sciatica or Rheumatism, a cab will be sent for him, and cured free, and enabled to walk in three-quarters of an hour, if his age is below 60; if above 60 it is more difficult to cure.

These preparations were not brought out entirely for money, therefore they are given away to all who are unable to pay for them at all Handyside's places of business, and at 12 Bentinck Crescent, Newcastle, every Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m. Everyone should go and hear and see the marvellous change this preparation produces on all diseases.

The Pills prepared by G. Handyside, are composed of rhubarb root and other vegetable extracts, and they are earning a great name. They contain no medicine, therefore cannot ruin the constitution, as it is well known that those who take the most doctors' medicine have the worst health. And it cannot be otherwise, for most of it irritates the stomach, and drives the food out of the system before it has nourished the body, but these Pills prepared by G. Handyside, feed the digestive organs and enable them to digest the food, and after they have been taken for some time the residue of the bowels show natural digestion, while those who take doctors' medicine the food is driven away from an irritated stomach. But this is not all. The stomach contains millions of small tubes, no thicker than a fine hair, to convey the gastric juice to mix with the food. The continual irritation of the stomach through purging medicines, must have a tendency to fill up these small tubes and prevent a proper supply of gastric juice, which is necessary for proper digestion, therefore it is not surprising that everyone who take the most doctors' medicine have the worst health. Purging pills do good for a day or two, and then you are worse than ever. You take more; relief is given to you again for a day or two. You are worse than ever, and you go on till your constitution is ruined. Two doctors are now needed where one was sufficient fifty years ago, when people preserved their health by God's natural remedy, the fruits of the field. Both sexes should continually take the Pills after the age of forty, for the heart after that age ossifies. No delicate person or growing youth should be without them. And they should be taken strictly by the directions. Thousands of testimonials; extracts sent post free.

A thousand pounds has been deposited in the hands of Messrs Watson and Dendy of this city, and challenged all the doctors' medicines three years ago, but has never been accepted. The challenge is still open, and a hundred pounds will be given to the person who brings a doctor forward to accept this challenge.

If you cannot get them from your chemist, write to G. Handyside, Bentinck Crescent, Newcastle. All the preparations are sent out without the money, and they can be tried before the money is sent, and if you are not satisfied that it has done more good than all the medicines have done no money is required. Ask your butcher or baker, or any other tradesmen to sell under these conditions. If they did they would get little money, and if these were not exceptionally grand preparations I dare not do it.

No one should be persuaded from these preparations by tradesmen recommending other preparations for the sake of extra profit.

DR. ORTON'S HAIR RESTORER.

Time is the almighty changer of all things. It makes dull the most brilliant intellect; brings infirmities to the most elastic step of youth; dims the most bewitching smiles, and pales the rosy lips of beauty, but on nothing does it press its unwelcome hand so much as a lady's head of hair. Everyone who wishes to preserve a luxuriant crop of hair, should use DR ORTON'S HAIR RESTORER, and thereby be enabled in old age to retain all the bewitching loveliness of youth. It contains no poison as most hair restorers do, therefore cannot injure the brain. The maker will give £10 to anyone who can discover a poison in this preparation. It is a grand hair wash, and from its cleansing properties it invigorates the skin, and enables the skin to grow the hair. Price 1s. per bottle: equal to some that are sold at 5s. per bottle.

DIGESTIVE SYRUP
PREPARED BY DAB and Co.
Wholesale Chemists, Bentinck, Newcastle.

This has been publicly known for two hundred years, and from the good work it is doing the sales are increasing enormously; more of this medicine is sold for Indigestion, Costiveness, &c., than any other medicine known. Some even prefer it to Handyside's Consumption Cure, which is considered the best Medicine in the world. It may not build up the constitution so well, but it acts quicker in giving relief. A great many intelligent, thoughtful people ingnore the doctor, and the digestive syrup is the only doctors they ever have. Price 1s. per bottle. The usual price is 2s. per bottle. As the makers of this preparation buy their materials largely at first hand for cash, they are enabled to sell this preparation at ONE-HALF the cost of other makers.

LIVER PILLS.
Prepared by DAB & Co.

These Pills are what the greatest physicians order for a defective liver. They were used by the great John Wesley, who retained his boyish ruddiness, and juvenile elasticity up to a ripe old age. Each Pill contains half a grain of balomell. They are a grand Pill for the liver, an overloaded stomach, or after drunken dissipations. They contain strong and effective medicine, and should only be taken when needed.

COUGH MIXTURE prepared by DAB & Co.—Coughs should always be arrested at the beginning or they often lead to Consumption, or other ailments. The mixture prepared by Dab & Co. is a grand thing for arresting it, and preventing an early grave. Price 1s. per bottle, being half the usual price this mixture is sold for.

"ROUGH ON RATS."—Ask Chemists, Grocers, or Oilmen for "Rough on Rats." It clears out rats, mice, beetles, fleas bed-bugs, roaches, ants, insects, ground moles, &c. 1s. and 6½d. boxes.

"BUCHU-PABIA."—Complete cure of all kidney and kindred complaints, stinging, irritation, inflammation. Of Chemists. F. NEWBERY, and Sons, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

SHOCKING FATALITY AT BURNHOPE COLLIERY.

A WIRE ROPE BREAKS.

THE CAGE PRECIPITATED NINETY FATHOMS.

FOUR MEN KILLED.

AN AWFUL FATE.

One of the most serious accidents which has ever happened at any of the pits in West Durham since the explosion at the West Stanley Colliery over ten years ago occurred at a late hour on Thursday se'nnight, at Burnhope Colliery, which belongs to Ald. Utrick A. Ritson, J.P., of Newcastle, and Muggleswick Park, Durham. Burnhope Colliery, which is situate about two miles from Lanchester and six from Consett, has been successfully worked by Mr Ritson for many years, and it has hitherto enjoyed almost complete immunity from any serious disaster. It is one of the most flourishing pits in West Durham, as is evidenced by the improvements effected in the condition—sanitary and otherwise—of the village within recent years. New houses for the workmen on the most modern principle are being erected in whole blocks, and it is intended to carry out a scheme for lighting the village, besides arranging a complete system of sewerage. Both Ald. Ritson and Mr J. T. Forster takes a very great interest in the improvement of the village, and have always been solicitous for the welfare of the work people under them.

HOW THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED.

It seems that about half-past nine on Thursday se'nnight, four men, named George Holt, aged 60 years, the master shifter, Aaron Laycock (41), John Hall (31), and George Shaw (23), all shifters, were descending the cage of the Fell Pit, which is connected with the colliery. Several relays of men had previously gone down with perfect safety. This was the last cage to descend with night-shift men, and soon after they had been set away, only having gone a few yards below the surface, the wire rope broke in two, and the occupants of the cage were precipitated to the bottom of the shaft to meet their doom. The brakesman (John Robson) felt a sort of drag upon the drum, and the rope slackened; but without being aware of what was the matter, he at once stopped the engines. An investigation disclosed the fact that the rope had broken, and the cage had gone down the shaft a distance of 90 fathoms.

RECOVERY OF THE BODIES.

Information of the occurrence was at once sent to Mr J. T. Forster, the colliery manager, who promptly hastened to the pit, accompanied by the under officials and a number of workmen. They entered the workings by means of the Annie Pit, and came upon the bodies of the four unfortunate men just about midnight. It was soon ascertained that the poor fellows had felt the full effects of the accident through the manner in which their features and bodies were disfigured. Life in each case was found to be extinct. One of the men was found hanging in the shaft, a point of a "skid" having penetrated his clothing into the flesh. The deceased persons were brought to bank and conveyed to their respective homes to await the coroner's inquest. The Fell is the pumping shaft connected with the whole of the collieries at that place. The hewers, &c., had ceased the day shift about half-past four in the afternoon, and the pit is not worked nights. Between 20 and 30 other shifters had just before gone down the shaft in the same cage, and been lowered by the same rope, without any mishap, and they were waiting for the orders of the master shifter, who was following in the last cage. No flaw seems to have been noticed in the rope, and the cause of the accident is at present unknown.

MOURNING IN THE VILLAGE.

The shocking affair has plunged the village in profound gloom, and on Friday the pits at Burnhope were laid idle. All the deceased are married men, Laycock leaving a large family. Holt's son and daughters are now grown up. The greatest sympathy is felt in the district for the relatives of the unlucky men, some of whom had only been employed at the colliery a few months.

On Friday and Saturday, Mr Thomas Bell, Chief Government Inspector of Mines for Durham, and Mr W. Walker, assistant inspector, were busy making a thorough investigation into circumstances resulting in the catastrophe. Mr John Johnson (Durham), one of the miners' agents, also visited the colliery to make inquiries. Mr Ritson's son also spent a good part of the two days at the colliery.

OPENING OF THE INQUEST.

On Saturday afternoon, an inquiry was opened by Coroner J. Graham at the house of Mr W. Greener, Colliery Inn, Burnhope, touching the death of the four men, named George Holt, Aaron Laycock, John Hall, and George Shaw, shifters. Mr Thomas Bell and Mr William Walker were present, whilst Ald. Utrick A. Ritson, Mr J. T. Forster (manager), and Mr Gibson (engineer) also watched the proceedings. Mr Gray, Burnhope, was appointed foreman of the jury.

THE BANKSMAN'S EVIDENCE.

Evidence of the identification having been tendered by George Thornton, John Robinson, Richard Laycock, and Michael Laghaney,

John Scott deposed that he resided at 4, Burnhope Cottages, and was employed at Burnhope Colliery as waiter-on at the bank of the Fell Shaft. On this particular night, shortly after nine o'clock, the first cage descended, containing Wm. Soulsby, rapperman, Thomas Prudhoe, and two other men, the latter three being employed as shifters. Several other relays of men went down the shaft in perfect safety. The first cage descended the west side of the shaft. The eighth cage that descended contained the four deceased men, and they departed from bank about twenty minutes past nine o'clock. He knew all the men perfectly well, and he saw them get into the cage on the east side of the shaft. There was not a tub in the cage, and the men placed themselves two on each side, sitting on their "hunkers." The men entered the cage at the north side, opposite the engine-house. George Holt and Laycock took their places on the east side, whilst Shaw and Hall placed themselves on the west. When the men were safely in the cage, and he got the "rap" from the bottom of the shaft, he set the cage in motion. Laycock and Hall were for the Hutton Seam, a distance of 45 fathoms, whilst the other two men, Holt and Shaw, were proceeding to the Busty Seam, a further distance of 46 fathoms—the total depth being 91 fathoms. The men rode against an empty cage, on the west side, which was coming up from the Busty Seam. Witness remained at the shaft, and as near as he could say the cage had not descended the shaft more than 20ft. when he noticed the far-side rope drawing up the empty cage shake terribly. Witness made an attempt to go across to the other side from which he was standing at so as to look down the shaft to see what was wrong. However, he did not succeed before something happened. He saw the broken rope end of the east cage come up, and fly right over the pulleys. The brakesman shouted "What is the matter, Jack?" and he replied, "A rope broken—four men in the cage." He afterwards heard the noise of the cage, as he thought, strike the bottom of the shaft.

In answer to Mr Bell, witness said he did not hear the rumbling noise till after the rope end came up.

Mr Bell said these were two or three points he wished to question witness about at the adjourned inquiry.

The Coroner: Can any man prove the finding of the whole of the bodies at the bottom of the shaft?

Mr Forster: I think the onsetter will be able to do that.

STATEMENT BY THE ONSETTER.

William Soulsby averred that he lived at Church Row, Burnhope, and was employed as an on-setter at Burnhope Colliery. About twenty minutes past nine o'clock on the night in question, witness descended the Fell Shaft with the first cage, along with three shifters. They went down the west side of the shaft, straight for the Busty Seam, where he remained in charge of the "rapper." Twenty-eight men descended the shaft safely before the accident took place. About twenty minutes past nine, witness gave the "rap" from the Busty Seam to bank for the cage on the west side to ascend. At this time the east side cage was at bank. He saw the west cage away, and it had not gone more than fifteen fathoms before he heard a rumbling noise in the shaft. When he heard the noise he ran away from the rapper for his own safety, because he was in danger through some timber falling. Presently some broken timber rushed down the shaft, known as the "buntings and skids." As soon as he could he seized the rapper and pulled the same three times, so as to signal "hold." After doing this, he saw by the light of his lamp a body of a man, whom he identified as Holt, lying with his head in the cage-hole, on the scaffold, with his feet to the north side of the shaft, and he was dead. The next man he (witness) identified was George Hall, lying crossways over the body of Holt. Witness also found Laycock in the cage-hole, on the west side. Shaw was hanging in the shaft, on the east side, the deceased's clothing having caught the point-end of a "skid," about twelve feet from the bottom of the shaft. Hall, Laycock, and Shaw were also dead when he found them. In a cabin near to the bottom of the shaft, the shifters were waiting for the master-shifter, so as to get their orders prior to proceeding to their work. Witness shouted to them men, and assistance was speedily procured. They removed the bodies, and brought them along the waggon way to the Annie Pit Shaft—a distance of a quarter-of-a-mile—by which means the unfortunate men were conveyed to bank. As far as he knew the east side cage was still in the shaft.

The Coroner said he had taken all the evidence that was really necessary for the present. They had heard what Scott had said about seeing the men enter the cage above, and also to Soulsby finding the bodies at the bottom of the shaft. Something terrible had happened in the shaft. What that was they did not know at the present. By the time they met again an explanation of the calamity would be given. The inquest would be accordingly adjourned.

Mr Ritson said no one felt the calamity more than he did, and he would see that all was done so as to facilitate the inquiry, and have the whole mystery cleared up.

The Coroner said they would be require the history of the rope, when and how it was made, and the length of time it had been been in use. The rope manufacturer would have to be present to explain to them the nature of the rope. It may turn out that the cage caught something in the shaft, and the rope had a more severe strain brought to bear upon it than it was ever intended to bear. Mr Bell would have to enlighten them with respect to his examination of the shaft.

Mr Bell said he anticipated giving them some information that day, but the shaft was so wrecked that the idea of descending the same had to be abandoned.

The Coroner said it would not do to cause any panic to take place by saying that the rope was not to be trusted until the whole thing had been thoroughly investigated.

Mr Bell said he would like to ask the last witness a question or two.

Soulsby re-called, in answer to Mr Bell, stated that not much water fell down the shaft unless something was wrong with the pipes connected with the hydraulic pump. On this particular night the water fell in large quantity after the accident.

Mr Bell: That clears a point that I wanted to be at with reference to the pipes.

The Coroner said the whole thing would have to be gone into very closely. Was the pipe broken before or after the accident? The shaft examination would have to be a most careful one. He knew that Mr Ritson would be anxious to have the whole mystery cleared up.

The inquiry was accordingly adjourned till Wednesday week.

The Coroner requested the jury, in the meantime, to have an examination of the two portions of the rope.

LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

FOOTBALL AND THE SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.

The monthly meeting of the above Board was held at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight—Mr W. Logan, J.P., presiding.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

A GLOOMY OUTLOOK.

The Medical Officer (Dr Geo. Renton) reported as under:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board.

Gentlemen,—The month which has elapsed since my last report was sent has been the most eventful in the history of your Hospital, marked, as it has been, by the admission of the greatest number of patients in any one month, since the opening of the institution. The cause of this has been a remarkable and almost simultaneous outbreak of small-pox in Leadgate and immediate environments. Twenty-seven cases have been admitted to the Hospital, and two have arisen in patients who were suffering from other complaints. At the close of last month there were eight persons in the Hospital. Of these, five were discharged cured on November 8th. Of the remainder, one was a case of small-pox, who is still an inmate, and is now assisting in carrying on the necessary work. The others were sent in, the one from Kaitsley and the other from Blackhall Mill. The former had undoubtedly scarlet fever and the latter, although certified to be suffering from small-pox, had, in reality, only a mild attack of German measles. These two persons contracted small-pox from the infection existing in the Hospital. They have both made a good recovery, and are now convalescent and have assisted materially in relieving the over-worked caretakers. The outbreak in Leadgate began on November 2nd, when four patients were admitted; these were followed by five on the 3rd; six on the 4th; three on the 5th; one on the 6th; one on the 7th; one on the 8th; and one on the 9th. From that time no fresh case occurred until the 17th, when one was admitted, to be followed by three on the 20th, and one on the 21st. All these several cases have occurred in the Leadgate Local Board district with the exception of three, viz., two from Happy Land and one from Elm Park. The majority of the cases have not exhibited the severe form of the disease, but there have been some most serious cases amongst them, and I regret to have to report that three deaths have to be recorded. It is with great reluctance that I have to express the opinion (an opinion shared by many other medical men) that we are on the eve of an extensive outbreak of this disease, and that the accommodation at the Hospital will be severely taxed in the near future. As all the wards of the Hospital were infected by the small-pox poison, I was reluctantly compelled to refuse the admission of a case of scarlet fever from Ushaw College. None of the recent cases, so far, exhibit serious symptoms, and the older cases are all convalescent, and many may be discharged in a short time. The sudden influx of such a large number of cases was quite beyond the powers of the ordinary staff to cope with, and I found it necessary to call in the aid of two male and one female attendants. Some of the convalescent patients have also rendered valuable assistance and deserve some adequate remuneration. It has been a most trying time for the caretakers and their assistants, and I have much satisfaction in testifying to the admirable way in which the work has been carried out.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEO. RENTON, M.D.
Medical Officer of Health.

Blackhill, Nov. 22nd, 1893.

The CHAIRMAN said they had accommodation for 24 patients in the Hospital; but in cases of emergency they could take 36.

Mr L. NICHOLSON hoped the press would take notice of that statement, because it was reported the place was over-crowded.

The CHAIRMAN said there was no intention to overcrowd the Hospital.

Mr MUSE said it had occurred to him that a doctor should be specially appointed to look after the small-pox patients in the Hospital. There was a certain amount of danger in the doctors visiting the Hospital, and then carrying the infection amongst the people outside.

Mr LAX thought the disease must be abating.

Father FORTIN said there might be two or three difficulties in the way of appointing a separate doctor to attend to the small-pox patients alone.

The CHAIRMAN said they could not appoint an officer to supersede Dr Renton.

Mr MUSE replied that he had no intention to supersede Dr Renton.

Father FORTIN understood that the infection had been spread by letters being sent out of the Hospital. It was necessary that all letters sent from the Hospital ought to be thoroughly disinfected or fumigated. Nothing was more likely to carry the infection than paper.

The CHAIRMAN thought the Clerk should be instructed to give Dr Renton an assurance to spare neither pains or expense to try and get the disease stamped out.

It was agreed to instruct the caretaker that all letters sent out of the Hospital should be properly fumigated.

Mr KENNLETSIDE considered that the road past the Hospital should be temporarily stopped up.

Father FORTIN strongly urged that while the epidemic was raging at Leadgate, the Park and Exiles Football Clubs should not be permitted to travel about the country spreading the infection round about. He spoke very strongly on this subject during his sermon on Sunday last, and he hoped the county football authorities would prevent these teams journeying from Leadgate for some time, particularly when some of the players themselves had been stricken with with small-pox.

Mr LAX was afraid that Father Fortins edict would apply to everybody living in Leadgate.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year, more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches, that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism 306

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting took place on Thursday week, Mr Wm. Logan, J.P., (chairman) presiding. There were also present:—Miss G. M. Gibson, Revs. F. C. Fortin, and P. Cameron, Councillor T. J. Muse, Messrs. James Oliver, J. Lax, T. Lowdon, L. Nicholson, W. Rutherford, Thomas Taylor-Smith, W. Gray, R. Robson, and T. Wilkinson, also Mr W. H. Ritson (clerk.)

THE FINANCES.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply to Mr Thomas Taylor-Smith, stated that although £900 in hand a fortnight ago the Board had overdrawn on the treasurer to the extent of £400, but that morning he had the sum of £1 14s 11d in hand.

THE COUNTY RATE.

The Clerk stated that the County rate was ½d in the pound for the next half-year, although the Guardians had estimated the county rate to be 1½d in the pound.

THE RELIEVING OFFICERS' SALARIES.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board, stating that having regard to the length of time the relieving officers (Messrs Ralph Walton and John Moon) had held their offices, they approved of the increase of their salaries by £20 per annum.

THE NEW CHAPLAIN.

A letter was read from Rev George Jepson, vicar of Lanchester, thanking the Board for appointing him Chaplain of the Workhouse—an honour he fully appreciated. (Applause.)

THE PARISH COUNCIL'S BILL.

INTERESTING DEBATE.

FATHER FORTIN presented the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Board of Guardians.

GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with your instructions I attended the Poor Law Conference, held in St. Martin's Hall, London, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 8th and 9th of November, 1893.

The principal master for discussion was the Local Government Bill, 1893. It is not easy to state exactly what this Bill is now, and as there are something like 70 pages of amendments, and still they come, it is less easy to state what it will be. Briefly, however, the principal object of the Bill is, to do away with the present system of parochial government, and with the object of inducing greater interest in local matters, it places all power in the hands of the inhabitants of a parish. In place of the present Vestry Meetings the Bill provides a parish meeting of Parochial Electors which must meet at least once a year between six and eight o'clock at night. This meeting will elect a Parish Council, of not less than five nor more than 15 members, and practically everything connected with the parish (except church property) is in the hands of the Council. The parish meeting may adopt the Lighting and Watching Act, 1833; the Baths and Wash-house Acts, 1846-1882, the Burial Acts, 1852-1885; the Public Improvement Act, 1860; the Public Library Act, 1892; and the Parish Council is to be the authority to carry out the Acts.

The new Bill is to come into force on April 15th, and from that date all ex-officio guardians cease, Guardians are to be elected for three years, and one-third of the Board to retire any 15th April. In towns, &c., there will be Urban District Councils, but in Rural Sanitary Districts there will be District Councils elected by the members of the various parishes in the district. The number of district councillors for each parish will be the same as the number of Guardians, and the chairman of the Council will be an ex-officio County J.P. No qualification is required. Females as well as males may be councillors, one third of whom will retire every three years. The District Council will also be the Rural Sanitary Authority and the Highway Boards, and also take over many of the powers of justices out of Session.

The existing Board of Guardians will conduct the first election for Guardians and District Councillors, and existing officers become officers of the Council at no less salaries.

Nov. 8th—Mr Albert Pell, chairman, opened the meeting by describing the Bill as a social catastrophe, the creation of the politician and the statesman.

Three papers were read, the 1st by Mr Lloyd Baker, on Parish District Councils, as it affected Guardians in Rural Districts; it somewhat upheld the ex-officio, contended that residence or occupation in the parish should be regarded as a qualification for the parish council, that compounding for rates should be abolished and direct payment instituted, and objected to the chairman of district council being an ex-officio J.P. Approved of one man, one vote, and three years system. Unification of Sanitary Authority Highway Board, &c., disadvantageous to the workable unification of small parishes, undesirable as danger of smaller being swamped.

Dr Rhodes followed with a paper as the Bill affected Urban District.

Opposed ex-officios and quoted decision of N. E. Conference, and objected to the chairman of district council being an ex-officio J.P.

Advocated election of females, one man one vote, ballot, triennial election of whole council. Agreed with the Bill in general, but considered there should be a separate Bill for the Poor Law.

Then came a Mr Chance with a very long paper which grew tiresome. In general, he opposed the Bill, and thought it would be productive of evil, and greatly increase the rates. He strongly opposed compounding of rates and argued that every voter should pay his own rates.

A discussion followed. Each member who sent up his name was allowed five minutes. The majority were in favour of the Bill with modifications, and as one of the speakers who continued the discussion after half an hour's adjournment, I may say I agreed that with some notable exceptions, the ex-officios deserved their dismissal, through want of attendance, except when a job was to be done. But they were not the only sinners in this respect, and any Guardian who, except through sickness, &c., was absent for more than six months, should be disqualified for six years. Election should be by ballot, and each councillor or guardian should reside in, and have a vote for, the district he wished to represent. One man, one vote, on condition each one paid their own rates directly, and compounding be abolished, for under these circumstances there would be a safeguard against extravagant expenditure of rates.

On Thursday, the 9th, Mr Price, assistant secretary of the Charity Organization Society, gave us the history of outdoor relief from the time of Queen Elizabeth. This proved far too long and official for the Conference to listen to, and he was compelled at last to leave out a considerable number of pages, and read simply the conclusion. The general tendency of the paper was to show that the cry of the unemployed was constantly rising, intensified at times by certain accidental circumstances, that much of the outcry was fictitious, and that out-door relief, and especially indiscriminate or ill-regulated public, or private charity, tended rather to increase than to alleviate the difficulty. Boards of Guardians had not the power to provide work for the unemployed: their duty was simply to alleviate destitution, and this, if possible, by receiving the applicants into the Workhouse.

In the discussion which followed this paper, there was a general tendency to agree with Mr Price, and the methods open to the Guardians, for the employment of the unemployed, were in general condemned as unsatisfactory.

I may state, that before the meeting commenced, a Mr Brown, of Dewsbury, caused considerable commotion, by insisting on a reply to a circular from his board, inquiring by whom the members of the central committee were appointed and when. Though I had not seen the circular, in accordance with what took place at Gilsland, I supported Mr Brown, who was eventually granted a hearing by the central committee at the close of the day's proceedings, and the next day the chairman announced that the members of the central committee were chosen by the various local conferences, not by Boards of Guardians. A rather curious commentary, that at the interview between them, the central committee requested Mr Brown to become a member. The prevalent opinion amongst the representatives, especially after the demand of 10s per hour, was that the Boards of Guardians should themselves appoint the members of the committee.

On arriving in London, I found that a deputation of Poor Law Guardians, headed by the Earl of Onslow, were to interview Mr Gladstone on the Parish Councils Bill. I therefore at once wrote his Lordship stating the object of my coming to London, and asking if I might be allowed, in your behalf, to accompany the deputation. Earl Onslow, the same evening, sent me a letter by messenger, in which he regrets his inability to comply with my request, as he had promised Mr Gladstone that only those sent by the previous Conference, should attend the deputation.

Councillor MUSE quite endorsed the remarks of Father Fortin, but failed to see what good the Bill would do in small parishes. For instance, in Healeyfield township, they would only be allowed to levy a rate of 1d in the pound, which would realise £12 a year. They could not carry out many improvements with that small sum.

The CHAIRMAN said the odds were very much against the portion of the Bill affecting the poor-law business being passed this session, although the rest of the Bill would come into force. The limit of population had been placed low enough—viz., 200, which in the original Bill was placed at 300. The question of compounding rates was a very complicated one. The system could easily be dispensed with in rural districts, but in large towns there would be greater difficulty, because many people were weekly tenants, and were constantly shifting about. The idea should be firmly fixed upon their minds, however, that every man who wanted a vote should have a stake in the country, and pay his own rates. With reference to the Guardians dealing with the unemployed, he thought the representatives on district councils would know more of the requirements of any particular district better than the Guardians.

A vote of thanks was accorded Father Fortin for his lucid and exhaustive paper.

QUALIFICATION FOR PARISH COUNCILS.

The resolutions drawn up by the Gateshead Guardians with regard to the qualification of members of parish or district councils, provoked much discussion, a strong feeling being expressed that there ought to be a certain qualification, or that candidates should be ratepayers directly concerned in the parishes they represented.

Miss GIBSON was in favour of the abolition of the qualification.

The Board did not endorse the resolutions of the Gateshead Guardians, but appointed the Chairman, Father Fortin, and Councillor Muse a special committee to draft resolutions indicative of the feelings of the Guardians on the matter, and report next fortnight.

POSTAL FACILITIES AT CONSETT.

Mr OLIVER explained that six weeks ago he moved a resolution for additional pillar letter-boxes being erected in the outlying portions of Consett township. Their clerk had received a letter from the postmaster at Durham, stating that the matter would receive attention. It seemed that nothing further had been done. If the Durham postmaster was treating that Board with contempt, he moved that application be made to the Postmaster-General.

The CHAIRMAN: You want the clerk to write to the Durham postmaster, asking for a specific answer by this day fortnight, and if he fails, then we will appeal to the Postmaster-General?

Mr OLIVER: Yes, that will do.

A DEFENCE OF THE BOARD.

Mr RUTHERFORD mentioned that at a public meeting held at Annfield Plain the previous night, it was asserted that the Guardians had dealt harshly and unjustly with a widow named O'Neil, who had five children, by reducing her relief. He learnt that on Jan. 30th she was allowed by the Kyo Relief Committee 25s a week for 12 weeks. On April 26th, she was granted 20s for eight weeks; on July 17th the relief was continued at the same rate for four weeks; and on August 14th (when the woman was about to be confined), it was decided to give her 24 weeks' further relief at 20s a week.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Relief Committee made a mistake in giving her too much relief at the commencement. She was only entitled to 20s.

Mr RUTHERFORD said that was the case.

A DAMAGED CHIMNEY.

As the chimney of the boiler was partly blown down by the storm, it was agreed to have the same replaced.

SUDDEN DEATHS NEAR DIPTON.

On Saturday morning, Thomas Wilson, an old man of 84 years, living at South Medomsley Rows, Dipton, expired very suddenly. He went to bed, it seems, on Friday night, at 11 o'clock, being then in his usual state of health, and on the following morning, at ten o'clock, he was found dead in bed. He died from natural causes, consequently no inquest was held.

On Tuesday, 21st November, Mary Ann Rowell, aged 49 years, of Hill Top, Dipton, also expired in a sudden manner. It appears that the woman, who was then residing with her son, had been attended by Dr Iredale, of Dipton, for several weeks, suffering from erysipelas, and was last seen about on Thursday, 16th Nov., by the doctor. On Monday night, she became worse, and about six o'clock the following morning she was found dead in bed. As death was certified to be due to natural causes, no inquest was deemed necessary.

Cricket.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT C.C.

On Wednesday se'nnight, the members and friends of the above club held their annual supper, when over 40 sat down. The cloth having been removed, the chair was taken by Mr Joseph Robinson (president of the club), and Mr John Chayter occupied the vice-chair.

The CHAIRMAN gave "The Queen," and "The army and navy," to which Mr Colquhoun responded.

The SECRETARY (Mr Sanderson) then read his annual report, which was very satisfactory.

The CHAIRMAN proposed "Success to the Stanley and District Cricket Club," and in doing so gave an outline of his connection with the club.

"The trade of the district" was proposed by the chairman, and responded to by Mr J. Lowes.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN then proposed "The health of the president," which was pledged with musical honours.

Mr ROBINSON replied; and other toasts followed.

Prizes were presented to the following:—J. Hunter, a bat, for the highest total of runs; T. Jewitt, a pair of trousers, for the best batting average; W. Rutherford, a silver medal, for the best bowling average. Second team—T. Shield, a bag, for the best batting average; G. Clough, a bag, for the best bowling average.

Songs were sung by Messrs Robinson, Colquhoun, Chaytor, and Donald, and recitations were given by Messrs Colquhoun and Johnson.

Cycling Notes.

RYTON AND DISTRICT C.C.

The first annual social gathering, under the auspices of this club, was held in the Addison Schools, Hedgefield, about 50 couples being present. Songs, &c., were rendered by Messrs Leck, Stephenson, Johnson, Wilson, and others. Refreshments were provided, and the proceedings were of an enjoyable character. Dancing commenced at 10 o'clock, and was continued till six o'clock the next morning. Music was supplied by Messrs Siddoway and Jeavans, of Winlaton, while Mr T. Horan, of Blaydon, officiated as M.C. Great credit is due to the hon. secretary (Mr G. Telford), the treasurer (Mr J. T. Wilson), and the committee for the able manner in which the arrangements were carried out. It is intended to make the gathering an annual affair.

CONSETT "CHARLIE" CYCLING CLUB.

On Monday night, under the auspices of the above club, a most successful "smoking concert" took place at the Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester, the landlord of which hostelry (Mr John Mace) is a vice-president of the club, and one of its warmest supporters. There was a good assemblage of members and friends, the chair being occupied by Mr J. Ross, jun.

After the toast of "Success to the Consett Charlie Cycling Club," proposed by the chairman, had been duly honoured, harmony was the order of the evening, several excellent songs being rendered by Messrs G. Johnson, A. Lowrie, J. Kinney, C. Asquith, the chairman, &c.. Mr J. R. Wood acting as accompanist in his usual efficient manner.

During the course of the proceedings, Mr J. Mace, on behalf of the Lanchester Flower Show committee, handed over to the chairman a handsome bugle, won by the "Charlie" club for having the largest muster at the above Flower Show. In doing so, Mr Mace expressed the great pleasure it gave him to once more see the "Charlies" at Lanchester. He had always found them honest and upright, and he should at any time be pleased to do all in his power to further their interests. (Applause.) They might rely upon him to do his best for them whenever possible. He warmly appreciated the "Charlies," and he knew they entertained similar feelings towards himself. (Loud applause.)

The Chairman returned thanks for the gift on behalf of the club, and remarked that he felt perfectly certain that the members of the "Charlie" Club were extremely grateful for the unvarying courtesy and kindness they had invariably received at the hands of Mr Mace. (Cheers.)

Votes of thanks to the chairman, the singers, and the accompanist, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the company, brought a thoroughly enjoyable evening to a conclusion.

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"ROUGH ON CORNS."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete, permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions. 6d. and 1s. bottles.

A CARD. — AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY is announced in the *Paris Figaro*, of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, kidney diseases, and kindred complaints. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico. The Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Mansions, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., will send the description free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mention this paper.

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

LANCHESTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight, Rev Father Fortin presiding.—The following reports from the Schoolwardens were read:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee.

GENTLEMEN,—In consequence of small-pox being epidemic your byelaws, during the last three weeks, have been practically inoperative at Leadgate. So serious was the outbreak that on the 7th inst., that the managers decided to close the Brooms School. The other three schools at Leadgate remain open, but the average attendance has been lowered by 75—equal to 12 per cent. The attendance at the Consett Schools is also seriously affected by the prevalence of whooping cough and other ailments which are, I believe, due to some extent to the poverty existing in the town.

Yesterday, Mr Dawson, Assistant Inspector of schools held an examination at Annfield Plain Board Schools for labour certificates. There were 37 candidates 8 of whom reside in your district. The result of the examination is not yet to hand.

Annexed herewith is a statement of the attendance for the quarter ended September last:—

Table showing the attendance at the Public Elementary Schools in the Northern Division of the District of the School Attendance Committee of the Lanchester Union, for the Quarter ending September, 1893.

Children under five years of age.			Names of School.	Children over five years of age		
Av'ge No. on Registers.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance.		Av'ge No. on Registers.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance.
46	35·5		Consett British	651	595·2	91·6
75	52·0		,, St Patricks	467	411·0	88·0
31	20·0		,, National	565	507·0	89·7
25	15·2		,, Wesleyan	288	250·1	86·8
			Ebchester National	79	68·6	86·8
			Leadgate National	202	181·0	89·6
63	40·8		,, Infant	161	140·2	87·1
27	19·0		Brooms St Marys	402	353·0	87·8
			Leadgate Wesleyan	233	219·0	93·9
11	7·0		Iveston British	118	100·0	84·8
278	189·5	68·2	Total	3,166	2825·1	89·2

It will be seen that the number of children under five years of age on the registers is 3,166, average attendance 2825·1, or 89·2 per cent. As compared with the corresponding quarter of last year these figures show an increase of 73, 68·6 and ·1 respectively.

During the month I have made 475 absentee visits (not including the visits made in taking a census of a part of your district) 28 visits to schools, served five notices, and reported 66 absentees to the attendance officers of the adjoining districts.

Four cases are entered in my report-book to be laid before you.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
WM. WARD.

Iveston, Nov. 23rd, 1893.

Southern District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee.

Gentlemen,—The following number of absentee visits have been made during the last month, viz:—126 in the parish of Esh, 214 in Lanchester, 37 in Cornsay, and 2 in Langley Park—total 379.

Four bye-law notices were served—one each at Craghead, Cornsay Colliery, New House Cottages, and Langley Park.

On November 2nd, the under-named parents were summoned before the Magistrates by your directions, in pursuance of your bye-laws—William Waugh, of Lanchester, fined 5s; John Watson, South Moor, case adjourned for one month; Joseph Hodgson, Langley Park, fined 5s; and George Hindson, South Moor, dismissed on production of medical certificate.

The report-book in which I have entered nine cases for your consideration and direction, will be submitted to you herewith.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
JOHN GIBSON.

Lanchester, Nov. 23rd, 1893.

LANCHESTER HIGHWAY BOARD.

A special meeting of the waywardens was held at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight, Mr Wm. Logan, J.P. (chairman) presiding. There were also present:—Rev F. C. Fortin, Coun. T. J. Muse, Messrs Jos. Towns, R. Robson, W. Rutherford, W. Charlton, W. Gray, T. Lowden, the clerk (Mr Crofton Maynard), and surveyor (Mr W. Dixon)

NEW ASSISTANT SURVEYOR.

It was resolved on the motion of COUNCILLOR MUSE seconded by Mr GRAY, that Mr H. Dixon, son of Mr Wm. Dixon, the surveyor, be appointed assistant surveyor to the Board in the place of Mr T. Dixon, deceased, at the old salary—£60 a year.

BUSTY BANK, BURNOPFIELD.

A letter was read from Mr T Lambert, clerk to the Whickham Local Board, stating that his Board adhered to their original offer to contribute £15 per year towards the repairs of the Busty Bank, Burnopfield, a dangerous piece of road situate between and connecting two highways under the jurisdiction of the Lanchester Board.

The CHAIRMAN explained that on behalf of the Highway Board, it offered the Whickham Board a grant of £50 on condition that they improved and widened the road. That Highway Board had previously obtained an order at the Quarter Sessions calling upon the Whickham Board to improve the road, but nothing had yet been done. The Highway Board could not contract to maintain roads in other Board's districts.

Mr W. RUTHERFORD said the road which led to Rowland's Gill station was certainly in a deplorable state and something ought to be done to it.

The Clerk was directed to inform Mr T. Lambert that the Highway Board could not accept that proposal, but were willing to subscribe £50 towards the widening and improvement of the road.

THE WATERPROOF CAPES, &C.

The Surveyor reported the receipt of the 42 waterproof capes and boots for the roadmen, and the auditor (Mr C. Jordison) had expressed an unofficial opinion that the outlay would be sanctioned by the Local Government Board.

FOOTPATH OVER EBCHESTER BRIDGE.

Mr CHARLTON called attention to the desirability of the North-Eastern Railway Company making a footpath over the Bridge at Ebchester Station, the road being very rough now that new stones had been laid theron.

The Clerk was authorised to write to Mr Harrison, the Company's engineer touching the matter.

A COLLECTOR'S TROUBLES.

A letter was read from Mr R. J. Chaytor, of Hamsterley, intimating that the overseers of Medomsley declined to furnish him with any information for the purpose of collecting the Highway rates. He had not even received his salary for the time he had been in office.

The Clerk said that there was £271 6s 7d due from Medomsley.

The CHAIRMAN: He had better collect some money before he talks about his salary.

The Clerk said he had written and informed Mr Chaytor that Mr W. H. Ritson would supply him with the necessary information.

ROAD SUBSIDENCE AT HOBSON.

A communication was read from Mr C. Berkley, of Marley Hill, viewer for Messrs Bowes and Partners, stating that the damage to the road at Hobson Colliery was merely due to the bursting of a pipe, and the injury was so trifling that he was astonished the Board should have made any bother about it. However, they would pay for the damage done.

After passing the Surveyor's accounts, the Board adjourned.

CRICKETING is one of the healthiest exercises amongst our British sports, but it can only be excelled in by men possessed of a sound constitution. Even then care must be taken to keep up the strength and elasticity of the frame by a judicious course of training. The best aids in this direction are Holloway's Pills and Ointment. The former invigorate the system and purify the blood, whilst the latter strengthens the muscles, takes the stiffness from the joints, and is a certain cure for sprains, bruises, and contusions. Thousands of testimonials have been received from all parts of the world, giving evidence that these wonderful remedies will cure almost any complaint which afflicts humanity. Full instructions are given to each purchaser.

HEALTH RESTORED Remedy Free—A late sufferer from Nervousness, Weakness, &c., having tried in vain every known remedy, has discovered a simple self-cure which he will send free to his fellow sufferers—Address, W. Fox, 1, York Street South park, London, S.E.

DON'T DIE IN THE HOUSE. "Rough on Rats" clears out rats, mice, [illegible] Sixpenny boxes at Chemists.

BACHELORS' RECEPTION AT CONSETT.

On Monday evening last, the young men of the Consett Wesleyan Church held a novel supper and entertainment, which took the form of a bachelors' reception. Supper was on the tables at seven o'clock; a dozen bachelors, in white aprons, performed the duties of hosts in no unskilful manner. About 400 people sat down to supper, and the way in which the viands disappeared spoke volumes for their quality. While the guests were partaking of the good things provided, an excellent programme of music was being performed by the "Knight of the white apron," under the leadership of Mr E. J. Lamb. Mr Dixon's cornet solos well merited the applause they received; Mr Wallace fairly brought down the house with "A bachelor's thoughts on babies, but, in sytoune," and "Charles Edward at Versailles," but he was heard to great disadvantage by the noise made by some of the guests at supper. Mr D I. Swainston's song, "The cork leg" won an encore, in response to which he recited "The confession." Mr P. Lowden's reading of Mark Twain's "dogs" was well received by those who heard it, but the inserted puns were lost for want of quietness; Mr Broadbent gave in his usual style a stump speech on "Apples"; last but not least the bachelors took possession of the platform, and sung in such a manner as showed they had healthy lungs, "Jingle bells", two of the verses being composed by one of the choruses, which were to the point and delighted the audience, at whose request it was sung again. The programme finished with another Yankee song, Mr S. Grainger and J. W. Swainston taking the solos. Mr J. Cockburn acted as accompanist and acquitted himself in a masterly manner. We regret that much of the concert was lost to those in the back part of the room, through the uncontrollable noise made by those at supper. We hope the next time the bachelors favour us with an entertainment it will be in the new schools, to which the proceeds of the evening were given. We understand that the young ladies of the church intend holding a similar gathering on December 11th.

NOTES FROM STANLEY DISTRICT.

[BY "OBSERVER."]

THE STANLEY LOCAL BOARD

Deserves the praise of the inhabitants of this district. Since its formation, traces of improvement are visible everywhere. Where darkness, mud, and filth reigned supreme, now a pedestrian can walk with comfort on decent roads, which are well lighted by clean lamps. I know they had a rough start, and still there is scope for further progress; but time, patience, and energy will accomplish the work that is before them, and I know the members who constitute the Board are anxious and eager to ensure satisfaction. They are also qualified to judge the nature of the work before them. I congratulate them and wish them success.

EAST STANLEY,

Commonly termed "Cross Lanes," is the property of Messrs Jas. Joicey and Co., and is comparatively new, and a street is now in course of erection. It is a clean, tidy village, and the Board Schools are conveniently situated for the children. I understand the Primitive Methodists are very busy raising funds for a new chapel. The ground is already arranged for. It will stand in a suitable position for the villagers, and it will also be an ornament to the place. At present the services are conducted in the school-room.

SUITABLE APARTMENTS WANTED!

As publicans in Stanley are not in a position to give suitable apartments to commercial travellers who wish to stay overnight, will no respectable resident provide for this want, and thereby bring profit to themselves and confer a boon on others? I hear that great inconvenience is caused to travellers, who have to proceed to Chester-le-Street to procure suitable lodgings. I think this can be remedied. Think it over, and speculate wisely.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY AT STANLEY

Is still on the road to progress, and if they manage to keep clear of discord and strife, there is no doubt whatever but capital results will accrue from their endeavours. They have an efficient conductor, one who is calculated to lead them on to victory. Music has a sublime charm for young and old, and the individual that cannot appreciate it had better ask for his hat, and emigrate off to the moon.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.

On November 22nd, the Grange Villa Primitive Methodist choir rendered a classical programme of interesting music, in their own chapel, to an appreciative audience. This choir has a fame of its own, which has lived for years, while others have dwindled down to a low ebb, and the society of which they form a part have a just right to be proud of them, and to encourage them in every possible way. Friction sometimes works havoc with choirs; but I predict something brighter at Grange Villa.

A CHEAP TRIP TO CHICAGO.

On November 23rd, the West Pelton Wesleyans had a cheap trip to Chicago to the "World's Fair," for the moderate charge of threepence for adults, and children one penny. It consisted of a magic-lantern, with limelight views, which was manipulated by a gentleman named Mr Michael Cook. It was wonderfully interesting, and the audience got safely home again without loss of life or limb.

KNOWLEDGE!

Knowledge is on the increase in this district. As a proof of it, I overheard a conversation between two amateur boxers the other day. One said to the other, "Why, lad, I struck him once, and I missed him; and I struck him agyen and hit him on the same place." I did not stop to hear more, as I was satisfied that some knew more than myself.

Volunteer Intelligence.

5th V.B.D.L.I.

The annual prize shooting of the H (Blaydon) Company 5th V.B.D.L.I., was held at the Bewes Hill Range, near Blaydon, on Saturday afternoon. There were two competitions, one being confined to recruits. The conditions were—Class firing, third class targets, five shots each at 100, 200, and 300 yards, highest possible score 80. Sergeant-Instructor E Urry was in command of the range. The principal prize-takers were: Private D Curry, 34, 18, 15—67; Sergeant T Vallans, 35, 16, 16—66; Private I Clark, 32, 17, 16—65; Private W March, 33, 16, 16—65; Lance-Corporal W Brown, 35, 14, 16—65; Private E Ormston, 33, 17, 14—64; Sergt W Todd, 34, 16, 14—64; Corporal W March, 37, 15, 12—64; Sergt J Marley, 35, 13, 15—63; Lance-Corporal T Lumley, 30, 17, 15—62; Pte E Adams, 31, 17, 14—62; Private R Chilton, 32, 16, 14—62; Colour-Sergeant W March, 30, 15, 16—61; Sergt J March, 30, 15, 16—61; Corporal W Hunter, 32, 16, 13—61; Private W Bord, 33, 15, 13—61; Lance-Sergt J Higgins, 31, 18, 12—61; Bugler J R Chilton, 34, 13, 13—60; Private G Phillipson, 33, 15, 12—60; Pte M Clark, 34, 18, 8—60; Private T Wright, 28, 17, 14—59; Private J T Watson, 34, 12, 12—58; Private A Tomer, 31, 11, 15—57; Private T Ormston, 26, 14, 15—55; Private Ridgway, 31, 13, 11—55; Pte Liddle, 29, 13, 12—54; Lance-Corporal G Barnes, 31, 15, 7—53; Private J R Smith, 30, 8, 13—51; Lance-Sergt W Viner, 26, 11, 13—50; Private B Watson, 25, 11, 13—49; Bugler R Hands, 29, 12, 8—49.

The following were the chief prize winners in the competition confined to recruits:—Pte J Chilton, 33, 15, 15—63; Pte R Davison, 24, 12, 15—51; Private Feeney, 24, 12, 9—49; Pte W Brown, 22, 9, 10—41; Pte Tweddle, 24, 5, 2—31.

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Business Announcements.

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BLACK STAR MINSTREL TROUPE.

THIS Troupe will give PERFORMANCES at the following places—
MEDOMSLEY, DECEMBER 2nd, 1893.
SPEN, " 9th, "
STANLEY, " 16th, "
For particulars see bills.

TO COMIC SINGERS.

A COMIC SINGING CONTEST will be held in Co-operative Hall, Pelton Lane Ends, on Saturday, December 9th, 1893, when THREE PRIZES, to the value of £5, will be given. Entrance Free. All Entries to be made to Mr. DAN BEADSMOOR, Secretary, Front Pit Row, Pelton Fell, via Chester-le-Street. Open till night of Contest.

MRS CLEMINSON'S SCHOOL, BISHOP AUCKLAND. — English by Certificated Mistresses; Drawing and Painting by the Head Master, Science and Art, Darlington; French by a resident Parisian; Mathematics by a Master and Mistress; Violin and Piano by a Master and Mistresses. Forty-seven University, Local, and other Public Examination Certificates gained during the last three years. The House large and airy; Tennis Lawn and Play-ground.

Investing Rural Sanitary Authority with Urban Powers: Determining "Special Expenses."

LANCHESTER UNION.

Conside and Knitsley and Lanchester: Contributory Places.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Lanchester Union, in the County of Durham, being the Sanitary Authority for the Rural Sanitary District of that Union; and to all others whom it may concern.

WHEREAS by an Order dated the 16th day of October, 1875, issued in pursuance of the Public Health Act, 1875, We, the Local Government Board, invested the Guardians of the Poor of the said Lanchester Union, as such Sanitary Authority as aforesaid, with certain of the powers, rights, duties capacities, liabilities, and obligations of an Urban Sanitary Authority as regards certain portions of their District, including the contributory places of Conside and Knitsley and Lanchester;

And whereas We have received and duly considered an application under Section 276 of the said Public Health Act, 1875, from the said Sanitary Authority to put in force in the said contributory places of Conside and Knitsley and Lanchester, within their District, certain provisions of such Act as hereinafter mentioned:

NOW THEREFORE, in pursuance of the powers given to Us by the Statutes in that behalf, We hereby Declare and Order as follows:—

ARTICLE I.—Until We by Order otherwise direct, the provisions of the first paragraph of Section 161 of the said Public Health Act, 1875, shall be in force within the said contributory places of Conside and Knitsley and Lanchester, and the said Sanitary Authority shall be invested with all the powers, rights, duties, capacities, liabilities, and obligations of an Urban Sanitary Authority, under those provisions, within the said contributory places.

ARTICLE II.—The expenses incurred or payable by the said Sanitary Authority in the execution of the powers conferred upon them by Article I. of this Order, except so far as such expenses may relate to the Establishment and Officers of the said Sanitary Authority, shall be deemed to be "Special Expenses" within the meaning of the said Public Health Act, 1875, and shall be charged as such upon the contributory place in respect of which they may have been incurred.

ARTICLE III.—This Order shall come into operation on the Eighteenth day of December, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, and the said Sanitary Authority shall cause it to be published once in some newspaper circulated within their Distric before that day.

Given under the Seal of Office of the Local Government Board, this Twenty-third day of November, in the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

HENRY H. FOWLER, President.
S. B. PROVIS, Assistant Secretary.
23rd November, 1893. 693m

Public Notices.

19, 58, and 78 are the WINNING NUMBERS of the Clock Raffled for at Ebchester.

83 IS the WINNING NUMBER of the Model of the Prince's Palace, raffled at Allendale Cottages. 707m

108 IS the WINNING NUMBER of Clock, left by Morris, Auctioneer, for first accident in the district. 706m

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, CONSETT. — A SECOND LECTURE on the "Impending Judgments of God," will be Delivered in the above Hall, on Tuesday Evening, at 7·30. 681m

NORTH-WEST DURHAM WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, December 13th, 1893.

Miss ROBINSON, of Liverpool, will give a LECTURE on "South African Wars," with MAGIC LANTERN ILLUSTRATIONS.

CONSETT NEW WESLEYAN CHURCH.

ALL SEATS FREE.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD.

Morning, 10·30 } Mr J. F. ELLIOTT.
Evening 6, } Mr W. ROBSON.

IF you have HEADACHE or PAINS in the BACK, forerunner of Influenza, go at once to PATTRICK, Chemist, Front Street, Consett, who has made some marvellous Cures. 450 Bottles of Medicine prescribed since June 1sth, speaks for itself. Adult Medicine, 1s 6d per Bottle; Children, 1s. Advice gratis on all complaints. 702m

THEATRE ROYAL.

CONSETT.

Monday, December 4th, Mr Fred Archbold's VANDERVILLE COMPANY.
New Songs, Eccentric Dances & other specialities.
Tickets at Tyler's Boot Shop, Middle Street, Consett.
December 18th—THE GRIP OF IRON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a seperate Building, named PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, situate at Castleside, in the Parish of Healeyfield, in the County of Durham, in the District of Lanchester, being a Building certified according to Law, as a Place of Religious Worship, was on the 15th day of November, 1893, duly registered for SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGES therein, pursuant to the Act of 6th and 7th, Wm. IV., c. 85.

Witness my hand this 18th day of November, 1893.
GEO. ALDER, Superintendent Registrar.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

GREAT TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION AT COVENT GARDEN THEATRE, SMITHFIELD CATTLE SHOW AT AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

ON MONDAY, the 4th of December an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave NEWCASTLE at 12·5 a.m. (with Bookings from Consett, Hexham, Blaydon, &c.), for LONDON, for Two, Three, Four, or Five Days.

For further particulars see Bills, copies of which may be obtained at the District Passenger Superintendent's Office, Central Station, Newcastle.

GEORGE S. GIBB, General Manager.
York, Nov., 1893. 632m

A PEDIGREE BOAR.

MESSRS FISHER, of Redwell Hall, Blackhill, beg to announce that they have Purchased a large WHITE YORKSHIRE BOAR. Terms:—Pedigree Sows, 7s 6d; all Boars kept, 5s. Sows 5s, to book payable half-yearly; 4s cash at first service; all Boars kept, 3s 6d; keep, 6d per day. N.B.—All Sows must be ringed. Sows left will be properly attended to. 562m

J. L. BRODIE,

2 ST. AIDAN'S STREET,
BLACKHILL,

FOR

FASHIONABLE 52s. 6d. SUITS.

FOOTBALL.

GRAND MATCH AT DIPTON, on SATURDAY, December 2nd,
DIPTON WANDERERS
v.
NEWCASTLE UNITED
(English League Team.)
KICK OFF 2·30 P.M.
Admission, 4d.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, CONSETT.

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

THE COMMITTEE of the above Society have great pleasure in announcing that they have arranged for a COURSE OF

LECTURES

ON

"POLITICAL ECONOMY,"

To be Delivered by the
REV. A. WATTS, F.R.G.S., F.G.S.,
Rector of Witton Gilbert, and late Vice-Principal and Science Lecturer, Bede College, Durham,
and the
REV J. R. SHORTT, M.A.,
Chaplain of University College, and Classical Lecturer in University of Durham.

The Lectures will be Delivered as follows:—

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH.—Subject—"Co-operation and Socialism." Lecturer, REV J. R. SHORTT. Chairman, G. T. Hyden, Esq.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH.—Subject—"Sources of Wealth, Land, Labour, and Capital." Lecturer, REV A. WATTS. Chairman, T. L. Gledstone, Esq.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20TH.—Subject—"The Wages Question." Lecturer, REV J. R. SHORTT.

Doors open at 6·15; Lectures to commence at 6·45 prompt. Questions invited.

ADMISSION FREE. 689m

CONSETT UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

PLEASE TO NOTICE that on SUNDAY NIGHT First, December 3rd, 1893, the FIRST of the WINTER SERIES of MUSICAL GOSPEL TEMPERANCE SERVICES will be held in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, to commence at 8 p.m. Full Musical Programme to be supplied by the Consett Wesleyan Church Choir, Mr C. Stelling Accompanist. The Rev R. B. HANLEY will give an Address. Collection and Pledges taken.

On SATURDAY NIGHT, December 9th, in the same Hall, at 7 p.m., Mr LINDON TRAVERS will again give a LANTERN ENTERTAINMENT of Song, Scene, and Story. For particulars see Bills.

DISTRESS AT BLACKHILL.—The following are authorised to receive SUBSCRIPTIONS on behalf of the WORKMEN at the Consett Tinmill Works:—HENRY LODGE, Treasurer, Roger Street, Blackhill; T. KANE, Secretary, Princess Street, Consett; W. SMITH, 2, Bradley Street, Blackhill; or any Member of the Committee.

The following subscriptions have been received:—

	£	s	d
Money acknowledged	213	13	9
Wm Jenkins, 2nd subscription	5	0	0
W Keenleyside, 2nd subscription	1	0	0
C Parnaby, 2nd subscription	1	0	0
F Priestman, 4th subscription	1	0	0
Mrs Priestman, 4th subscription	1	0	0
Rev Father Magill, 3rd subscription	0	10	0
R Murray, 3rd subscription	0	10	0
W Aynsley, 3rd subscription	0	10	0
A Russell, Jun, 2nd subscription	0	5	0
S Brodie, 2nd subscription	0	5	0
T Siddell, 5th subscription	0	5	0
J Lowes, 2nd subscription	0	5	0
Dr Macintyre, 3rd subscription	0	5	0
Smaller donations	1	10	0
Total income	226	18	9
Total expenditure	217	16	5
Balance in hand	9	2	4

Public Notices.

A LEEK and VEGETABLE SHOW will be held at the Duke of Wellington Inn, Consett on Saturday, December 2nd. £2 10s given to entrance fee. Intending Members are requested to attend on Friday Night. 676m

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

THE MEMBERS of the "Star of Hope," and "John Wesley" Divisions, are requested to attend the FUNERAL of Bro. ROBERT DEE, on Sunday; to meet at the Consett Wesleyan Day Schools, at Two o'clock prompt.

715m A. RICHARDSON, R.S.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE FLOWER SHOW AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

(45TH ANNUAL),

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 1894.

561m W. RAMSAY, Secretary.

MUSICAL TUITION.

MR J. W. PEELE, Solo Violinist, &c., visits Consett and District Weekly, to give LESSONS on the VIOLIN. Pupils thoroughly trained in Solo and Orchestral Playing. Catchgate, &c., on Tuesdays. For terms, &c., apply to J. L. LEADBITTER, Esq., Catchgate, or to Mr J. W. PEELE, James Street, Blaydon-on-Tyne. 497m

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs Green and Dowson.

Lanchester Auction Mart.

MONDAY, December 4th, at 11 o'clock with Cows.—10 to 15 Cows and Heifers, calved and to calve; 3 Calves; 15 Fat Cattle; 7 Heifers, 3 y.o., nearly fat; 19 Store Cattle; 1 S.H. Bull, 18 months old; 180 Fat Sheep, including some prime B.F. Wethers; 10 Young Pigs; Poultry, New Coup Cart; Hurdles and Posts; Set Spring Cart Harness, nearly new. Entries to time of Sale.

Prize List now ready for Christmas Sale, on Dec 13th. Apply

J. GREEN, Satley. 690m

By Mr John S. Murray.

CHANGE OF TIME COMMENCED.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1893, at 11 o'clock.

15 Fat Cattle.
150 Fat Sheep.
12 to 15 Cows, most of which are close to calving.
Veal and Keeping Calves.
Pork and Store Pigs.
A useful Black Cob, 15 h.h.
2 Tons Prime Seed Hay.
Gripes, Shovels, Patent Blocks.
Poultry, Carts, Harness, &c.

Sale to commence with Sheep at 11 o'clock, following on with Fat Cattle, Cows, Calves, Pigs, &c. Horse sold at finish.

700m J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

THE CHRISTMAS PRIZE SHOW and SALE will be held on Monday, December 18th. £30 IN PRIZES. Entries for Show close December 11th. Prize List may be had on application to

701m JOHN S. MURRAY.

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

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Dipton.—Monday, December 11th, 1893.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, favoured with instructions will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house lately occupied by Mr. COATES, Co-operative Houses, Front Street, Dipton, a large quantity of Valuable Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS. See particulars in Bills.

Sale to begin at One o'clock.

By Mr. John Crawford.

John Crawford's Sale Rooms, Victoria Street, Consett.—Saturday first, December 2nd.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD will SELL BY AUCTION, a large Consignment of UNREDEEMED PLEDGED GOODS, Ladies' and Gents' Gold and Silver Watches, Gents'. Ladies', and Children's Wearing Apparel.

Sale to commence at Three o'clock.

Monday First, December 4th.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD will hold his usual FORTNIGHTLY SALE of FURNITURE on Monday, December 4th, 1893. A large Consignment of New and Second-hand Furniture will be Sold at the above Rooms, including Drawers, Press, Hair-seated Suite, all in Mahogany, Splendid Toned Piano, check action, and Iron Frame, Brass-mounted Bedsteads, Carpets, Hearthrugs, and other Lots too numerous to mention.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Consett Auction Mart, Gibson Street, Consett.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD will hold his usual SALE of HORSES, CARTS, HARNESS, &c., at the above Mart, on Wednesday, December 6th, 1893. Present Entries: 12 Horses and Ponies, Spring and Coup Carts, New Stack Ladders, New and Second-hand Harness, Saddles, Bridles, Horse Sheets, Clipping Machines, Hay Choppers, Quantity of Old Land Hay, and other Lots.

Entries taken up to day of Sale

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

High-class Italian Works of Art.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD will SELL BY AUCTION, at his Sale Rooms, a FINE COLLECTION of SCULPTURE and WORKS OF ART, at an early date.

JOHN CRAWFORD, AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION and HOUSE AGENT. Also, appointed Bailiff by his Honour Judge MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

MR THOMAS SWAINSTON, Auctioneer Consett, is instructed by Mr TOM GRIEVES, to SELL the whole of his STOCK of READY-MADE CLOTHING, BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Saturday first, December 2nd, at Two o'clock, and the remainder on Monday, December 4th, at Two o'clock.

Chester-le-Street Auction Mart.—Wednesday, Dec. 6th, 1893.

TWELFTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PRIZE SHOW and SALE of FAT CATTLE, SHEEP, & PIGS.

110 Prime Fat Bullocks, Heifers, Cows, and Bulls, comprising Short Horn, Polled, and Kyloe Cattle.
370 Prime Fat Shearlings, Hoggs, and Ewes.
15 Choice Pork Pigs.
2 Prime Bacon Pigs.

Consigned from the Marquis of Londonderry, The Earl of Durham, Earl of Strathmore, Birtley Iron Company, Charlaw Coal Co., South Moor Coal Co., Joicey and Co., and the other usual and well-known excellent Feeders of Stock, who consign to this Mart.

The quality of the Stock will be equal to, and second to no other Show, in the county. Fourteen days' free keep is given on all competing Stock, and also on a quantity of the ordinary Stock. Purchasers of prime quality are respectfully invited to attend.

All Stock to be penned by 9·30 a.m. Judging at 10 a.m Luncheon at 11 a.m. Sale at 11·30 a.m.

Order of Sale: Sheep, Cattle, and Pigs.

J. TURNBULL, Auctioneer.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Valuer, House, Land, and Emigration Agent, will undertake AUCTION SALES upon most reasonable terms, and conducted in the best style. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all Sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE, &c., bought right out for Cash. Appointed by His Honour Judge MEYNELL under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Office—Front Street, Dipton, by Lintz Green Station

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

T. D. DRYDEN, AUCTIONEER FRONTSTREET, CONSETT. Sales, Commissions, Valuations, and Auctioneering in all its Branches, at Moderate Charges, and Quick Settlements. T. D. D. has been commissioned by Judge MEYNELL to Levy Distress Warrants under the Agricultural Holdings' Act. Authorised Emigration Agent for the Allan, American, Guion, and Other Lines.

OFFICES—67, FRONT STREET, CONSETT (Next Door to North-Eastern Bank.)

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. N. Elsdon.

Consett Popular Sale-Rooms, Front Street.

MR N. ELSDON will OFFER FOR SALE on Monday, December 4th, 1893, a large quantity of New and Second-hand FURNITURE, consisting of a Beautiful Piano, in Walnut Case, Inlaid with Gold; Iron Frame, Brass Pin Plate, Steel Pins, and Best Ivory Keys; Do. in Rosewood; American Organ; Mahogany Duchesse Dressing Table; Washstand; Wardrobe; American Rocking Chair; Tallboy Drawers; Mahogany Bookcase and Drawers; Kitchen Press; Kitchen Table; Bed-room Drawers; Sofa, in Hair; 6 Hair-seated Chairs; Drawing-room Suite, in Plush, 9 Pieces; Safe, by Cotterell, 30 in. by 20 in; 6 Kitchen Chairs; Cheffioneer Bedstead; Iron Bedstead, in Black and Gold; Overmantle, with Bevelled Glass; 2 Small do, 1 in Black and Gold; Writing Desk; Carpet; Oilcloths; Hearthrugs; Door Mats; 4-Poled Bedstead; Kitchen Table; Tea Table; Brass & Steel Fireirons; a quantity Counterpanes; Feather, Flock and Rabbit Down Beds; Pots, Pans, and everything requisite for housekeeping.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Any party having Goods to dispose of can have them sold in the above Sale. All accounts paid at close of Sale.

The Piano and Safe will be Sold at 3 o'clock.

Offices—Front Street, and Delves Lane.

By Mr J Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, Dec. 4th, 1893.—40 to 60 Dairy Cows and Heifers; 20 Fat Cattle; 250 Fat Sheep and Hoggs; 8 Store Cattle; 10 Finger Calves.

Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 10·30 a.m.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

THE NINTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PRIZE SHOW and SALE of Fat Cattle and Sheep, Monday, December 18th, 1893. Prize List now ready.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

WILLIAM RAW, AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, Land, House, and Commission Agent. Auction Sales conducted with experience, ability, and care. Prompt Payments. Appointed by His Honour, Judge Meynell, to levy Distress for Rent under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Also, Architect and Surveyor. Plans for Houses Designed, and Building carried out for Convenience, Ease, and Comfort. Sale Office, Durham Road, Blackhill. 465m

J. BAGNALL, AUCTIONEER, VALUER HOUSE and LAND AGENT, will undertake Auction Sales upon most reasonable Terms, and conducts in the best style. Letters by Post will have prompt attention, and all sorts of Goods, Furniture, &c., bought right out for cash. Sale Offices, Holly Lodge, Shotley Bridge, and Hat and Feather Inn Medomsley, R.S.O. 455m

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY

W. AYNSLEY, Esq.
JAMES OLIVER, Esq.
HEDLEY NICHOLSON, Esq.
} Trustees.

The next MEETING for receiving Subscriptions and Loans will be held in the Small Hall of the NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, between 7 and 8 o'clock on MONDAY, 4th December, and every Fortnight afterwards at the same time and place.

Loans received at 4 Per Cent. Interest, Repayable on 14 Days' Notice.

BLINDS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION MADE TO ORDER.

VENETIAN BLINDS MADE TO ORDER. OLD BLINDS CLEANED, MADE EQUAL TO NEW.

ALL SUNDRIES KEPT IN STOCK.

ESTIMATES GIVEN. PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION

STUDDY AND ALEXANDER, BLIND MANUFACTURERS, PICTON PLACE, OPPOSITE BLYTH AND TYNE STATION, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

MOST MONEY LENT

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

J. & E. WILSON'S,

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

12, PILGRIM STREET (THREE DOORS BELOW BLACKETT ST) PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

CHEAP WATCHES.

GENUINE ENGLISH LEVERS	£1 10s 0d
SILVER GENEVAS	10s 6d

SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.

OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW

NEWCASTLE BUSINESS COLLEGE AND SCHOOL OF SHORTHAND.

SMART & CO., 42, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(Branch, 42, Fawcett Street, Sunderland).

Open Daily from 10 a.m. till 9 p.m. (Saturday, 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)

WRITING.—By Smart & Co's renowned system of Instruction the worst style of writing is transformed into a good Business hand in a single Course of Lessons. Success guaranteed. Fee, One Guinea.

BOOKEEPING by Single and Double Entry. Students are taken through a complete course of study, adapted to their requirements, for a fixed Fee, without limit to lessons.

SHORTHAND.—Pitman's Phonography, Elementary and Advanced. Unlimited facilities are afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge. Tuition and speed practice all day, from 10 a.m. till 9 p.m.

TYPEWRITING, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Composition, and all the Branches of a sound, Commercial Education taught individually by specialists.

Private Rooms for Ladies. 640m

Business Announcements.

GLENDENNING'S BEEF & MALT WINE

Composed of Liebig's Extract of Beef, Kepler's Malt Extract, and old Port Wine. It is therefore a concentrated nutritive digestive food, blood-making, flesh-forming, and strengthening. Of the utmost value to children, invalids, and those who require strength

PRICE: 3s. 9d. PER BOTTLE; 2s. PER HALF-BOTTLE.

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING, Newcastle.

LOCAL AGENTS:—

CONSETT. — RICHARD MURRAY, WINE MERCHANT. T. D. DRYDEN & Co., FRONT STREET. THOMAS MILNER, CHEMIST; W. AYNSLEY, GROCER, &c.
WITTON GILBERT.—J. HODGSON, STATION HOTEL.
MEDOMSLEY.—R. M. RUTHERFORD, ROYAL OAK HOTEL.
DIPTON. — ROBERT ARMSTRONG, WINE MERCHANT.
STANLEY.—WM. CHARLTON, STANLEY HOTEL. W. AYNSLEY, GROCER, &c.
ANNFIELD PLAIN.—WM. TAYLOR, RAILWAY HOTEL.
BURNOPFIELD.—WM. STONES, BURTON HOUSE.
TANFIELD.—JOHN IRWIN, PACK HORSE INN.
BLACKHALL MILL.—T. ARMSTRONG, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT.
SOUTH MOOR.—R. DIXON, THE OAK INN.
TOW LAW.—J. MOSES, POST OFFICE, HIGH STREET.
LEADGATE. — JOHN SNAITH, QUEEN'S HEAD HOTEL. W. AYNSLEY, GROCER, &c. 369h

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 1893.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCOGNO."]

THE CONSETT BACHELORS.

The Consett bachelors have had their innings this week, and they are not out-and-out impervious to the winged darts of the capricious little goddess Cupid it may reasonably be assumed that some of them will by and bye "tak," as Burns puts it, "a thocht an' mend." The vagaries of the male sex are past finding out in love concerns, and hence the unenviable state of single blessedness in which bachelors live and move. Courtship has been likened to a ship that goes at a rate of so many lovers' knots an hour, and the faster it goes the sooner it reaches its destination. Marriage is about the only mundane concern in which one man will not be advised how to act by another, and as a natural sequence it so falls out that even sensible fellows fall into most extraordinary blunders in the way of selection of helpmates. But nature, true to herself, comes to the rescue and makes adequate amends for her hasty promptings, by throwing a shadow of love and adoration around unworthy objects of choice. The bard obviously had this idea in his mind when he penned the lines:—

"Love looks not with the eye, but with the mind.
And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind."

The least experienced of us know that the sentiments expressed in the foregoing lines are exemplified day by day in the work-a-day routine of this wicked world, and it is well that it is so. It is better to cast the mystic mantle of forgetfulness over the failings of men and women than to hold them up to ridicule. Far be it from me to give expression to a single utterance calculated to deter for a moment of time even one of the Consett bachelors from making arrangements for the tying of the Gordian knot. It is written that it is not good for man to be alone, and when to the injunction of Holy Writ is added the wisdom of the poets in such lines as the following:—

"As butterflies in favoured bowers—
Such are married men,"

the Consett bachelors must have hearts of steel, and consequently quite unworthy of a woman's love, if they still hold back after the parade and palaver witnessed during the present week. The following lines may possibly spur some faint heart into activity and action to such an extent that the name of somebody's daughter may be changed before the waning of the moon:—

As darkening clouds on autumn eves,
As a tree without its leaves,
As a shirt without its sleeves—
Such are bachelors.
As creatures of another sphere,
As things that have no business here,
As inconsistencies 'tis clear—
Such are bachelors.

"You would be far better of a wife tae look after ye and mak' y'r porridge," said an elderly lady to her lodger, a calculating Scotsman. "Maybe," was the ready reply, "but then, ye see, she wid be lookin' for the half o' them."

TO THE TEST.

It is evident from the last issue of the *Guardian* that the ratepayers in the Annfield Plain district are determined not to accept off-hand the ruling of the Lanchester Sanitary Authority in reference to the lighting of the district roads, and improved sanitary arrangements of the township, not to speak of the salaries of the district officers. It is recorded that the action of the said authority was adversely criticised at the meeting referred to, and it is possible enough that there may have been just grounds for complaint. New creations such as Boards representing this interest and that are naturally prone to expect an undue share of recognition at the outset, while on the other hand the the old established organisations are apt to regard with disfavour the interference and expectations of the new light. Such is the position at Annfield Plain. Nay more, it was resolved to forward a copy of the *Guardian* containing the report of the observations of the members of the said Authority at the meeting in question to the Local Government Board. Mr Rutherford was the sole defender, not of the faith, but of the forlorn hope, but inasmuch as those who protested against the action of the authority named were so sure of their quarry that they had the temerity to send on the *Guardian* to headquarters, it is pretty evident that the movers in this matter are in much the same position as the cavalier of whom it is said that:—

"He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
Who dare not put it to the touch,
And win or lose it all."

AS IT SHOULD BE.

My attention has been directed to the advertising columns, in which it is set forth that on and after the 15th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1893, the solemnising of the marriage ceremony can be carried into effect within the precincts of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Castleside. This, I need hardly say, is just as it should be. There is no royal road to knowledge, nor is there any flowery path to heaven; nor, on the same line of reasoning, should there be any stereotyped pathway to marriage. There has been a good deal too much of this sort of thing in the past, and it is now high time that the day of such so-called privileges should be numbered among the relicts of a bygone age. In the day of tribulation men and women feel comfort in the presence of their chosen advisers in spiritual concerns, nor is there any good reason why the nuptial knot should not be tied by the ministers of the respective denominations represented by the contracting parties. Certain it is that no barriers should be put in the way of carrying out engagements of the order named. Marriage is one of the holiest of ordinances, and it follows, as indicated above, that people like their own ministers and teachers to officiate on such occasions, although it by no means follows that they are prepared to go to the same length as the gentleman who counselled his friends to place the following epitaph on his tomb:—

"He loved established modes of serving God,
Preached from a pulpit rather than a tub,
And gave no guinea to a Bible Club."

BLACKHALL MILL.

Another effort is being made to raise the wind to the end that the Derwent should be bridged at Blackhall Mill. I was startled when I read last week in the *Guardian* that a final effort was being made on the lines indicated. There is no disguising the fact that the proposed change is most desirable, but to declare that the final effort has been made is to go a trifle too far. The adage that Rome was not built in a day applies to the proposed bridge to the letter. Such changes come only by almost imperceptible degrees brought about by the quiet effect of time. Personally, I should like to see the river bridged at the spot named, although the days are past and gone when in the dawn of a winter morning I had frequently to pass the ford when the tide rolled over the back of the spirited nag controlled by my watchful eye and steady hand —a dangerous and risky task when the winter floods had strewn the passage with boulders as large as poss-tubs.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

During an affray in William Street, Consett, shortly after 11 o'clock on Saturday night, a young married woman named Nimony, was alleged to have been seriously wounded by her husband.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Mr Fred. H. Graham and his talented burlesque company are here this week with the burlesque *Dick Whittington* which was such a huge success on the occasion of his last visit. Mr Fred. Graham and Miss Nellie Dentare the life and soul of the piece and they both work hard to make it a success. Next week *The Gipsy's Oath* is announced.

COMING JUDGMENTS OF GOD.—On Tuesday evening, Mr H. Curwen, Newcastle, an Evangelist of the Catholic Apostolic Church, delivered the first of a series of lectures on "A solemn testimony concerning the Coming Judgments of God and his Promises of Grace and Mercy," in the Co-operative Hall, Consett. There was a good company present. The lecturer dwelt at length on the fact, that there was a general feeling in the minds of men, that a great crisis in the world's history was at hand. The ties which had hitherto bound men together were being dissolved, all things were being shaken to the very centre. Men's hearts were failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which were coming on the earth. He also pointed out that it behoved all Christians to prepare to meet the Lord, and to strive to escape the terrible Judgments in Holy Scripture declared would precede and accompany His second Advent, and would therefore call upon all men to be ready "For the coming of the Lord, draweth nigh." The lecture closed in the usual way.

A WORKING MAN INVENTOR'S WILL.—The will of the late James Noble, of Middlesbrough, formerly a steelworker at Consett, and latterly a foreman at Messrs Dorman, Long, and Co's Steelworks, Middlesbrough, has been proved, and a summary which has been published shows him to have been one of the most successful and wealthy workmen in the trade. Whilst at Consett a few years ago, he invented a method for improving the quality of steel, and this led to his being appointed a works foreman with Messrs Dorman, Long, and Co., and receiving a royalty. Investing judiciously, he acquired property and shares in the town to the value of several thousand pounds. He leaves by his will an annuity of 15s per week on part of his real property pecuniary legacies to the extent of £1,900, and about 30 freehold dwelling-houses in various parts of Middlesbrough and shares in Messrs Dorman, Long, and Co., to his son and daughter and nephew and nieces.

BURNHOPE COTIERY.

A CORRECTION.—In our report of the refusing to quit and assult case heard at the Lanchester Petty Sessions, and tried at the court a fortnight ago, the name of Wm. Atkinson was we regret to say inadvertently published as the defendant instead of John Stephenson, of Burnhope. Wm Atkinson, it appears was a witness for the prosecution. The name of the landlord is Geo. Anderson Greener, and not Wm. Greener, as printed.

LEADGATE.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SUNDAY-SCHOOL.—On Saturday night, two magic-lantern entertainments were given in the school-room, under the auspices of the Primitive Methodist Band of hope. At five o'clock, an exhibition was given to the children, who met together in a good number. At seven o'clock, the entertainment was given for the adults, and there was a good company present to view the scenes, which comprised—The prodigal son; seven stages of drunkeness; the waifs of the London streets; numerous comical pictures, etc. On Monday night, another magic-lantern entertainment was held in the same place, and was as well patronised as the former occasions. Mr R. Robson showed the slides, and Mr Matthew Marley gave a brief description of the same. The proceeds were for the Band of Hope funds.

STANHOPE.

A Co-operative Conference was held at Stanhope on Saturday afternoon last.

THE WEARDALE RAILWAY.—Notices have been given and lodged in Parliament for the transfer of the projected railway from the local committee and company to the North-Eastern Railway Company.

STANHOPE BOARD SCHOOL AND THE MIDLAND MINERS.—The sum of £1 19s has been collected by the scholars of this school, in aid of the miners and their families in the Midlands, and has been forwarded by Mr Collingwood, the master, to Rev J. Grice, Wesleyan Minister, Blackwell, Alfreton, which sum has been acknowledged in the Methodist Recorder.

MEDOMSLEY.

PLOUGHING DAY.—On Monday night, a meeting was held at the hostelry of Mr R. M. Rutherford, Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley, when a large number of Farmers and others were present. It was unanimously decided to form a ploughing society, to be called the "Derwent Valley Ploughing Society" and hold a ploughing day on an early date to be fixed at a meeting which will be held at the above Hostelry on Tuesday night next December 5th, when all are invited to attend. Full particulars of the meeting will appear in those columns.

EAST PONTOP.

The workmen and friends have made a subscription on behalf of Mr Robert Snort, one of the workmen who has been unable to follow his employment for over three years. The sum of £4 8s 4d has been subscribed, for which the recipient feels most grateful.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

The usual fortnightly temperance and band of hope entertainment was held in the school-room, in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Shotley Bridge. On the evening of Monday last, Mr A. Seed gave the evening address to children, young men and women namely. Mr Moore ably presided over the meeting.

WINLATON.

CO-OPERATIVE TEA AND CONCERT.—On Saturday afternoon, in the Drill Hall, Winlaton, a tea and concert were held in connection with the Education Department of the Winlaton branch of the Blaydon Co-operative Society. About 250 people were present at tea, and there was a large attendance at the concert, the chair being occupied by Mr Michael Westgarth, Barmoor, Ryton. Mr Elijah Copland, Newcastle, delivered an interesting address, and an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was admirably rendered by Misses Tebb, Charlton, and Whitfield, Messrs Bright, Whitfield, Tebb, and Scott. Mr B. Tebb presided at the piano.

OXHILL.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SOCIETY, OXHILL.—This society, which is in the Stanley Circuit, are now building a new School-room on the spare ground at the end of their chapel, the foundation stone of which was laid on Saturday se'nnight by Mr R. Kay, (colliery manager). The exceedingly stormy weather doubtless prevented many persons getting from other parts of the circuit. The attendance however considering the exceptionally bad weather, was very fair. At 3·30, a short service was held in the chapel, at which the Rev T. Archer, circuit minister, gave an address on Sunday-school work and the great need of suitable rooms in which to teach the children, after which, the friends sat down to an excellent tea given by the members and friends of the society. In the evening a public meeting was held in the chapel, when appropriate addresses were given by the Rev J. Crawshaw, Wesleyan minister, and I. Middlesmart. Mr Kay being unable to be present, the chair was taken by Rev T. Archer. The income for the day was—Donations.—Mr R. Kay, £2 2s; Messrs Davison and Bendle, (architects), £1 1s; Mr J. Green £1 0s; Rev T. Archer, £1 1s; Mr Ainsley, £1 0s; Mr Gladders, (builder) £1 5s 6d; Messrs Gowland, and Moorhead, 10s 6d; Mr Osborn, 10s; A Friend, 10s; collection, £1 15s 8½d; collection, 14s; profit of tea £14; total, £25 9s 8½d.

NOTES FROM THE SPEN DISTRICT.

[BY "PAUL PRY."]

A DANGEROUS FOOTPATH.

I desire to draw the attention of the Ryton Local Authorities to a dangerous footpath within their jurisdiction—that footpath leading from Rickley's Bank to Barlow Burn. There is a very deep gutter running alongside the footpath, with nothing to protect people from falling into the ditch. Something ought to be done at once to remedy this danger.

TEMPERANCE AT THE SPEN.

The temperance party held a concert on Saturday night, and a very interesting programme was gone through, consisting of songs, recitations, readings, and dialogues.

TEMPERANCE SUNDAY.

Mr Charles Hanks, of Newcastle, preached two powerful sermons in the Primitive Methodist Chapel. In the morning his subject was, "The conscience: What is it, and what it does;" and evening, "Does the Bible teach total abstinence? —Yes."

THE POWDER MAGAZINE.

The miners of the Spen Colliery have decided to have the powder magazine under their own control. A ballot was taken last week, and it was carried by a large majority, only 12 voting in favour of the old system.

"DREAMS: THEIR PHILOSOPHY AND USE."

The Rev W. Taylor lectured on this subject in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Victoria Garesfield, on Saturday night. Mr F. Priestman, J.P., presided over the meeting, and said he was glad to meet with them that evening, on the occasion of their Chapel anniversary. He was glad that the good influences of Christianity maintained their hold upon the people of that place. He was sorry he could not remain with them long, as he had other friends waiting for his return home, and he hoped they would excuse him on that account. He was always pleased to meet with gentlemen like Mr Taylor, who was the chief attraction of that meeting. From what he knew of Mr Taylor, as a lecturer, he could assure them of this, they would hear something very instructive, elevating, and enjoyable, then calling upon their respected minister to deliver his lecture. Mr Taylor, who was received with applause, delivered an interesting lecture to the delight of the audience. Mr Taylor, on Sunday, preached two powerful sermons to attentive congregations. On Monday night, a concert was held, when a very interesting programme was gone through.

BIRTLEY.

CONCERT.—On Tuesday night an interesting concert was given by the Kibblesworth Wesleyan choir, at the Birtley Wesleyan Chapel. The audience were well satisfied with the style in which the various items on the programme were rendered. Mr Riddle gave a solo on the violin, for which he was encored, and he gave "Home, Sweet Home" in a most effective manner. Councillor Allison, of Birtley, occupied the chair, and in his characteristic manner interested the audience during the interval. After the concert a coffee supper was held, kindly supplied by the ladies of the society. The proceeds were in aid of the new organ fund.

STOCKSFIELD-ON-TYNE

A VILLAGE WITHOUT A PUBLIC-HOUSE.—A meeting was held on Friday night in the Bywell schoolroom—addressed by Mrs McKinnon, B.W.T.A., of Dumfries—at which the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"This public meeting, convened by the Stockfield Temperance Society, declares its opinion that after a trial of some years, the prohibition of the liquor traffic at Stocksfield proves to be satisfactory to the people. Should this state of things, which we regard as the constitutional and unwritten law of England, be followed by the adjoining places of Riding Mill, New Birtley, and Mickley, this meeting believes they also will have reason to rejoice in a similar experience." The chair was occupied by Mr J. K. Lyal, and there was a large attendance.

BLAYDON.

DEATH OF MR HENDERSON.—On Wednesday, Mr Henderson died at Blaydon at the age of 68 years. He had been for over 40 years gardener under Col. Cowen, and had been ailing for some weeks. The deceased is a brother of Mrs Benzies, of Consett, and was well known and respected.

PELTON FELL.

On Saturday evening, a grand magic-lantern entertainment was provided in the Wesleyan School room at this place, by Mr Jno Fawcett, Newcastle. The subject given was "City Life of Waifs and Strays, as viewed from an ever open door," which was followed by "Life in Dr Barnardo's Homes," given by Mr W. Watson, of Newcastle. A good company was present, and enjoyed the interesting and instructive subjects.—On Sunday, Mr John Fawcett preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, to good congregations. The whole of the proceeds were divided between Dr Barnardo's and Dr Stephenson's Homes for Waifs and Strays.

Sunday, being set apart as temperance Sunday, Messrs J. Henderson and Wm. Miller gave appropriate addresses in the Primitive Methodist Sunday-school, and Mr G. Rust, Chester Moor, preached twice in the Chapel.

On Saturday evening, the members of the Pelton Fell Primitive Methodist Mutual Improvement Class met in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, when the Rev James Young, Chester-le-Street, delivered his opening address. Mr T. Minors, the president of the class, occupied the chair. The P. M. String Band, under the leadership of Mr M. Proud, played several selections during the night, while songs were given by Miss Dixon and Mr T. Jones; Mr Maltly gave consultations on phrenology to all comers. The proceedings closed by a coffee supper, when a good company sat down. The supper was under the care of Mesdames W. and T. Maltly, while Misses Harding and Tindle presided at the tables.

ESH.

PRIMITIVE ANNIVERSARY.—On Saturday last, Mr Southron, of Tow Law, delivered his lecture entitled, "Elijah the Tishbite" to a fair audience. Mr T. Clough occupied the chair. On Sunday, Mr Southron preached in the morning and evening, to attentive congregations. Collections were taken in aid of chapel funds.

VESTRY MEETINGS.—On Thursday se'nnight, a vestry meeting was held in the village school-room, Esh village, for the purpose of nominating an assistant-overseer in the vacancy caused by the death of Mr James Smith. Rev J. White, vicar of the parish, occupied the chair. The president, having stated the nature of the business, a vote of condolence was moved by Mr Stephenson, and seconded by Mr J. Towns, Esh.—"That this meeting express their sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr James Smith," which on being put, was carried unanimously.—Mr Lowdon, in refering to the duties of the assistant-overseer departed, said that he and his colleague were quite satisfied he had done his work faithfully and well. The books had been gone through by himself and his colleague carefully, and everything had been accounted for to a farthing, and duly audited to last September. (Applause). The Chairman, proceeding with the business, said he thought the question of salary ought to be decided. He was prepared to receive any resolutions the audience was prepared to submit. The present salary of £50 was paid for ordinary, and an additional per centage for special rates. Mr Morrine moved and Mr Towns seconded—"That the assistant-overseer's salary be £50 per year for all duties off board. Mr D. Cheek proposed as an amendment—"That the salary be raised to £60, including the ordinary, and all special rates."—This motion was carried.—Mr James Harrison and Mr W. Collier acted as scrutineers. The following were then nominated for the office:—Mr R. Towns, Cornsay; Miss Alice Smith, Esh; Mr W. Ernest Foster, Witton Gilbert; Mr John Lemon Wigham, Langley Park; Mr T. Wright, Esh Winning; Mr John George Minto, Esh; John James Renwicks, Esh; a number having withdrawn, This was put to show of hands, and a poll was eventually demanded, which will take place Dec. 4th and 5th.—Monday, from 9 to 12, a.m., and 3 to 9, p.m; Tuesday, from 4 to 9, p.m.—A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

PASSING EVENTS.

(*From a London Correspondent.*)

THE DUKE OF COBURG—OUT O' WORK LAWYERS—THE VACCINATION COMMISSION—KOSSUTH—THE "BETTERMENT" PRINCIPLE—THE OPIUM INQUIRY—A NEW CONCERT HALL—KITCHEN REVELATIONS.

The probabilities are that Clarence House will, after all, be left in the hands of the Duke of Coburg, and be kept with blinds drawn and in holland covers, to be available for him whenever he likes to exchange the dulness of Gotha, or of Rheinhardtsbrunn, for a peep at St. James's. One reason for this is that there is no particular claimant desirous of ousting him from Clarence House. The Duke of Connaught finds it cheaper and more convenient to put up at Buckingham Palace when he comes to London, and the Duke of York does not care to disturb the newly-furnished, nest to which he took his bride. There are rumours of a compromise by which the Duke of Coburg will give up a large part of the £25,000 which, as Duke of Edinburgh, he receives annually from the British taxpayer.

People who have seen the Duke of Fife at recent functions are talking about his careworn appearance, due perhaps to his increasing baldness. Some connect it with anxiety about his investments, especially in the South Africa Company.

The Parliamentary bar is in despair at the prospect of having to join the crowded ranks of the unemployed. The railways are shewing a wholesome avoidance of extensions, limiting themselves in their Parliamentary notices to asking only for absolutely necessary powers as to capital, or for additional time in which to complete works already in hand.

It is expected that by Christmas we shall have the fourth stupendous Bluebook of the long-drawn-out Vaccination Commission. With curious whimsicality this follows the fifth, issued a year ago, and the seventh will follow it at Easter, leaving the sixth, consisting of evidence, to follow whenever the secretary can get it out. After sitting for five years, and costing the country £5,000 a year, the outcome is practically *nil*. The Commissioners have, it is true, pronounced against enforcing cumulative penalties, but beyond that they leave the question pretty much where they found it. The Commission is expected to wind up its abortive but costly efforts about Easter.

The first sentiment of many people on reading that the venerable patriot Kossuth is lying ill at Turin, where he has quietly resided for some twenty years, will probably be one of surprise to learn that he is still alive. Men who are going down the other side of the hill of life can remember the enthusiasm with which the Hungarian patriot was received when he visited England in 1851, exceeded as that was by the stir made in the previous year by the assault upon General Haynau by Barclay and Perkins's draymen when presenting himself to inspect the famous brewery. The brooms and mud with which they belaboured "the Austrian butcher" became the subject of an angry diplomatic controversy. Our Foreign Office was greatly shocked, but did nothing, for public opinion was on the side of the draymen, and quietly chuckled over their application of lynch-law. And the manner in which the English people went mad over Kossuth on his arrival, with a triumphal procession through London to an official reception at the Guildhall, by no means assuaged the lacerated susceptibilities of Austria. And to do Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston justice, they did not, with the English people at their back, make any attempt to allay them. For no Ministry that tried that could have remained in office for a day.

Mr. Henry West, the late Recorder of Manchester, was first elected for Ipswich in 1874, and retained his seat at the 1880 election. In 1885 he was again victorious, with Mr. Jesse Collings as his colleague, but a petition was lodged against both members, and they were unseated. It was at the hearing of this petition that Mr. Asquith made a great leap forward in his position as an advocate. Mr. West was brother of Mr. Gladstone's friend and former private secretary, Sir Algernon West, and married the sister of the second Countess Granville.

The Manchester Corporation has introduced the "betterment" principle into a local bill it is promoting, and the London County Council once more tries to get that provision applied to its renewed scheme for dealing with the approaches to the Tower Bridge. It is not included in its application for powers to rebuild Vauxhall Bridge and to widen Wood Lane, Hammersmith. The University of Cambridge proposes to divest itself of those Elizabethan powers under which recent "Spinning house" scandals have been possible.

Side by side with the investigations of the Royal Commission on Opium, an amateur inquiry is being conducted by the *British Medical Journal*. The editor of this newspaper some time ago issued a series of questions to all the leading medical officers and sanitary authorities in India, asking for their individual experience of the effects of the use of the drug on the natives. So far as the replies hitherto received go (and they number about two hundred), the general testimony is in favour of the beneficial rather than the injurious effects of a moderate employment of opium. The authorities minimise the extent to which its indulgence is carried to excess; they regard it as far less injurious to the natives than is alcohol to Europeans; and they foresee in its prohibition very serious political and social evils.

The Queen's Hall, in Langham Place, was opened on Saturday. There was an excellent entertainment of vocal and instrumental music; the band of the Coldstream Guards was there, and the company had opportunities of judging the qualities of the grand organ built by Messrs. Hill. The usual horseshoe form of halls of this kind has been departed from, the shape of this being more accurately described as a parallelogram with a curved end. The example of musical instruments has been adopted for form. Thus the orchestra follows the convex shape of the horn; and the hall is designed on the principle of the body of a violin. The decorations are appropriate, and, what is perhaps of more practical importance, the facilities of egress are exceptionally large. There are, indeed, no fewer than seventeen exits, and the vestibules, corridors and lobbies are large enough to receive the entire audience.

On Friday the Lowestoft police arrested a young man named Francis Miles Brown on the charge of forging a cheque for £8 12s. in Preston. Prisoner, it is said, is wanted in numerous other towns, notably Scarborough, Hull, Reading, Exeter, and Newport (Mon.), where under aliases of Francis Montague Brown, Lieutenant Brown Montague, de Beauvoir, Ralph Hampshire, &c., he is alleged to have forged the names of prominent residents to cheques which he got tradesmen to cash.

SHROUDED IN MYSTERY;

OR,

WHICH GIRL DID HE MARRY?

A LEGEND OF TWO CONSETT GIRLS.

BY SKIPP BORLASE,

Author of "Darker than Death," "Riches to Rein," "An Ocean Secret," "Recalled to Life," "Who Killed John Cameron?" "The Police Minister," "For True Love's Sake," &c., &c.

CHAPTER I.

Introduces Two Mysteries, and also some Important Characters in the Story.

At the time in which our story opens—the year 1715—the district of Conside was vastly different to what it is to-day. Instead of the busy hives of industry which even in their roughness lend, to our northern eyes, a touch of no slight importance to the lovely Derwent. The river was then as now, margined with a mixed bordering of pasture land, and natural forest of trees, luxuriant in their verdure and cooling under their shade. There were then no regularly-formed streets and terraces such as we now boast of, and no beautifully erected houses. Streets were not made in those days, and the houses such as were to be found scattered about, if not neatly, were at all events substantially built, and, taken altogether, the few gentlemen, farmers, and country people of the time were as comfortable and as kindly a lot of folk as it would be possible to find anywhere. The place was possessed of a little roadside inn called the "White Horse," where the "citizens" met after the sun had gone down, and talked over the various things of interest which had occurred during the day.

Almost in the very north-east corner of the place—if the straggling houses about could be so designated—surrounded by trees, stood an old mansion, which looked as though it had been transplanted from the most lonely conceivable patch of country, and was pining and drooping with a kind of home sickness for its old surroundings; indeed it was just such a house as the one John Ruskin, the celebrated art critic had in his mind when he said:—"there, uninhabited for many and many a year, it had been left in unregarded havoc of ruin; the garden gate still swung loose to its latch; the garden, blighted into a field of ashes, not even a weed taken root therein; the roof torn into shapeless rents; the shutters hanging about the window in rags of rotten wood; before its gate the crystal stream which had once gladdened it, murmuring slowly by, black in its dusky dell as ebony, and sparkling with leaping trout; the banks above it wild in their ferny verdure.

We cannot improve on this description, though of the house itself Tennyson's would have done even better:—

"With blackest moss the flower pots
Were thickly crusted one and all;
The rusted nails fell from the knots
That held the pear to the garden wall;
The broken sheds looked sad and strange,
Unlifted was the clinking latch.
Weeded and worn the ancient thatch."

Our story opens in this old mansion—which was known as Conside Hall—when it presented a very different appearance to the eye—when its walls were covered with roses and jessamin, its porch wreathed with honeysuckle, its garden, sloping down to the river's bank, a gay parterre of flowers, and that river so clear that, except in times of flood, its sandy bed could be always distinguished, with fish cleaving its pellucid waters in all directions.

In the rear of the house there was an orchard well-stocked with fruit-bearing trees, and beyond it a little dell of blackberries and hawthorns, while away to the east arose the old walls of the church founded by St. Ebba, many years ago, known as a seat of learning, but at the time of which we write things had changed from that early period.

But enough of mere description, so we will merely add that early in the reign of George the First, a family of the name of Radcliffe resided at the Hall, which consisted of a middle-aged lady and gentleman, with two very lovely daughters, who were twin sisters, and so alike that their father frequently, and their mother occasionally mistook the one for the other, whilst their most intimate friends were constantly and continuously doing so.

Such mistakes, on the part of a mother especially, may seem almost incredible, but the author was acquainted with an exactly similar case, save that the children happened to be little boys, no further back than 1869, and it will doubtless be remembered by many that as recently as 1886 "twelve good men and true" were unable to agree as to whether a wife was not mistaken as to the identity of her own husband.

Rose and Ruth Radcliffe had scarcely reached the age of "sweet seventeen" when their great loveliness won for them the common designation of "Conside roses;" but at that period of their lives one had been taken and the other left—taken, not by death, but suddenly disappeared in a most strange and unaccountable manner from the town and neighbourhood.

Her old haunts knew her no more; her father declared, when questioned, that he had but one child, and she was called Rose; her mother looked as though she mourned in secret and dared not tell the reason of her grief; and the sister who remained behind changed from a blush rose into a white one, and gradually came to be called "the Rose of Conside."

Stout, burly John Radcliffe had been a jovial and a hearty man until the disappearance of his daughter Ruth, great in the singing of comic songs within the snug bar parlour of The White Horse, ever ready to fight a main of cocks on what is now known as the Blue Mountains, or to back his bull bitch "Dewdrop" against any or all others at the baiting of a bull at the Slakes.

But after the girl's disappearance he drank more and he spoke less; took no pleasure in sport, abandoned singing and laughter, and was prone to take offence at even the smallest trifles.

As he had been, although of hasty temper, the cheering light of his picturesque home, so he now became its sinister and baleful shadow, and, from one of the most indulgent and good-tempered of mortals (as long as he was permitted to have his own way in everything) he changed into a harsh husband and a stern parent, so that his remaining child began e're long to fear as much as she had once loved him, whilst Mrs. Radcliffe grew to entertain such an amount of awe, or else terror of him, that if Rose ventured to ask her the simplest question about her most mysteriously vanished sister, the timid little woman would first burst into tears, then glance all round in a scared sort of manner, and finally, with a finger raised to her lips, would, in nine cases out of ten, glide from the apartment, leaving poor Rose's query unanswered.

Even his most intimate friends soon shrank from exhibiting any concern about the subject in the father's presence, for folks were by no means so inquisitive in the days when all gentlemen wore swords, and were ready to use them at the very slightest temptation or provocation, as they are at the present time.

To be sure, just a few enquired after Ruth at first going off, but Mr. Ratcliffe's stern answer, "I cannot inform you. I am not in the least degree interested or concerned in anyone of that name," accompanied by a glance as awful as it was incomprehensible, soon stopped all such queries.

Even that most jovial and eccentric of clergymen, the Rev. Richard Bellos, vicar of St. Paul's, a divine who cracked his jokes at marriages and funerals alike, rode as straight to hounds as any North-country squire, and was specially fond of a hunting chorus as supplementary to the burial service, was known upon one occasion, when the name of Ruth occurred in the first lesson at morning service, to change it precipitately for a different chapter as soon as he caught Mr. Radcliffe's eyes fixed on him.

But the greatest mystery and the deepest grief generally lose their influence, or, at all events, their strength, in progress of time, and so, when three years had elapsed, bringing about the date of the commencement of our story, Rose Radcliffe was able to laugh and sing almost as merrily as she had ever done; aye, and even to think seriously of marrying as well; whilst her pale-faced mother was also able to smile approval of her choice, and her father to wax amiable enough to call her "a good, obedient, and sensible girl, and a credit to her parents," which was a wonderfully gracious action on his part in these his morose, taciturn, and sorrowful latter days.

The husband of Rose Radcliffe's choice (for so everyone believed him to be, though in point of fact he was that of her parents), was Sir Harry Howarth, of Derwent Hall, an old mansion which stood away some distance from Radcliffe's mansion on the road between Newcastle and Conside.

He was a middle-aged widower, possessed of one daughter, named Lucy, only three years younger than his contemplated bride, and who all who knew her pronounced to be shy, whilst some went so far as to declare that she was foolish.

As for the baronet himself he was handsome, to all outward seeming good and amiable, and would have looked ten years younger than he was but for the whiteness of his hair.

For the rest, since the death of his wife he had renewed his former military career, and had fought his country's battles, under Marlborough's famous Duke, at Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, and Malplaquet, whilst having also travelled and seen much of the world, he was naturally an agreeable and entertaining companion.

As we have already said, his one peculiarity was that though his eyes were bright and his smoothly shaven face without a wrinkle, his hair, which he wore in a queue behind, according to the fashion which had just succeeded to the huge, curling wig, was white as flax, and it was a common report that it had turned so in a single night at the sight of the equally famous and infamous Derwent Hall's hobgoblin or ghost, whom he had rashly defied to any longer tenant the home of his ancestors in company with himself.

As Sir Harry always got into a tremendous passion when denying the truth of the story, although he would never give any other reason for the change in the colour of his hair, many people declared to many other people, of course in strict confidence, that there must be as strange a mystery connected with Sir Harry Howarth as there was with the Radcliffe family, and that in such respect he and his wife would be well matched.

Rose either heard nothing, or else thought nothing of all this, but went on quietly preparing for the wedding.

CHAPTER II.

The Gabriel Hounds Herald the Return Home of Ruth Radcliffe.

The night before her wedding morning found Rose Radcliffe with still plenty to do, and she did it in a manner which seemed to throw doubts upon the universal belief, which she had herself always encouraged, that she was about to wed the man of her choice.

Her mother had said good-night to her in bed, and left her, as she both hoped and believed, to a night of sweet and healthful repose; but, no sooner was the house quite still—and people went early to rest in those days—than Rose got up, passed into the boudoir or parlour with which her sleeping chamber directly communicated, and which was considered exclusively her own, and after reviving the almost expired fire with a few sticks, she lighted a candle, and, opening an antique kind of Davenport, she, the next minute, had her little table covered with a pile of letters.

Sitting down thereat, she commenced to glance over them, and then tear them up.

She sighed often and sadly whilst engaged in this evidently uncongenial task, and once or twice she seemed as though obliged to strengthen her resolve by expressions such as "Tis better so," "Yes, it must be done," and once she even murmured, "Heaven knows they are innocent enough, but a jealous husband might not give them that interpretation."

The epistles which she spoke, or rather thought of thus, were long and closely written, in a man's hand—a hand to which age had given no character as yet.

The fair girl dropped many a tear over these, and when she at last came to a glossy lock of brown hair, as crisply curling as the coat of a drenched water spaniel, she seemed to make an effort to cast that away also, but to fail therein for she presently thrust it into her bosom, murmuring in a low wail the while:—

"For a few hours longer, at all events, I am wholly his. The time of sacrifice has not yet come. Oh, father, mother, little do you dream of what I am abandoning for your sakes. I hardly realise it myself."

The torn letters which she had cast into the grate had all but smothered the feeble fire, so that it was now only slowly scorching them, and there still remained several upon the table to be similarly disposed of; but Rose Radcliffe had a victory to win over herself before she could resume her occupation. In her long, loose dressing gown and slippers, and with the unbound masses of her glossy hair streaming like a Niagara of ink adown her back to her very heels, she strode up and down the little chamber as firmly, yet as noiselessly, as a tiger prowls around his cage; indeed, there now seemed to be something of a tigress in her nature, its intense longing after freedom, if nothing more.

Ah, but there was a something more, though that something was hard to define.

Once or twice she paused to peer out of the long French window upon the lawn, and upon flower beds in which pansies, primroses, polyanthuses, and early tulips were already in full bloom.

The light from within the room showed her thus much, but the stars that thickly bedecked the dark blue dome of heaven dimly revealed the farther off trees and shubberies, and, on the other side of the just budding sweetbriar hedge, the flooded Derwent, swollen by recent heavy and prolonged rains, and rushing past, crested with tawny foam, in a very different manner to its shallow and spreading course as it wriggled its way between the tiny islets of its rocky bed to the Tyne, from which river, ere the modern dredger had transformed it to what it now is, carried it on to the German Ocean.

On the other side of the river all was dark and drear, save for the little cluster of lights that twinkled in the window of the dozen or so of rush-roofed cottages that clustered round the square-towered old church, and from here and there some homestead bordering the North Road, or standing far out in the open fields.

Suddenly her cheeks paled as a sound exactly resembling that of a pack of hounds in full cry reached her ears, and, recoiling from the window, she muttered to herself:—

"Tis the yelping of Gabriel's hounds as they sweep across the sky, and it predicts death or other dire misfortune to all who hear them."

This was a very common superstition, even with the educated, throughout Durham County, at the period of which we are writing, and Wordsworth makes direct allusion to it in the verse:—

He the seven birds hath seen that never part,
Seen the seven whistlers on their mighty rounds,
And counted them! And oftentimes will start.
For overhead are sweeping Gabriel's hounds,
Doomed with their impious lord, the flying hart
To chase for ever, o'er aeriel grounds."

Alas for romance, these reputed hell hounds of the Spectre Huntsman, who, amongst other things, were believed to hunt a milk-white doe around Lanchester Valley on All Hallow's Eve, eventually crossing the large fields beyond, and finally disappearing in the river, and causing the water to bubble and boil as they sank into it, were only wild geese sailing south from Scandinavia and Scotland in the autumn, and returning northward in the spring.

"Death or dire misfortune" was, however, the only construction that Rose Radcliffe could put upon the shrill and eerie sounds, and she shrank back from the window panes and trembling, nor dared glance towards it again until a soft tapping against the glass compelled her as it were to do so, when she beheld a face pressed up against it, which she might easily have mistaken for the reflection of her own, had she not retained sufficient wits about her to be aware that the French window was not a mirror.

Another moment and she clearly realised the fact that it was her twin sister Ruth who had returned home at this uncanny hour, in this strange manner, and heralded by the very dogs of hell.

Natural affection, however, quickly rose superior to her fears, and darting towards the window she eagerly withdrew the bolt, undid the catch, and almost dragged her equally beautiful sister into the room, where she first embraced her with passionate fervour, next pushed her gently backwards into her own arm-chair, and lastly, kneeling in front of her and clasping her around the waist with both arms, she exclaimed timorously:—

"Oh, Ruth, I am so glad you are at home again, and we will pray all the night through that papa will forgive you."

"I am not at all sure that I am so anxious for his forgiveness as all that. Does he still hate me, then?"

"Hate is a hard and terrible word. But he has nevertheless far from forgiven you. Neither I nor mamma dare as yet speak your name in his hearing."

"I daresay you have often wondered what it could all have been about, by dear Rose."

"Indeed I have, and at the cost of many a tearful and sleepless night. Oh, Ruth, what was it? what was it?"

"Well, I married the man I loved, that was all. No, not quite all either; for, knowing that my father would not give me my marriage portion in such a case, I took it—from his desk—just before I ran away."

"You stole money out of papa's desk? Oh, Ruth!" and Rose shrank away from her sister, so great was her sudden horror.

"I did not account it stealing. Papa said to parson Bellos one day in my hearing that each of his daughters was good for a thousand pounds on her marriage, and so I did not give him a chance of breaking his word, as I knew he would have done had I not been so prompt of action. It's a very wrong thing to break one's word, you know; and so I prevented father from breaking his. Halcamus advised me to act so, and I took securities of exactly the orthodox value, and no more. Oh, I was most scrupulously honest, I do assure you, Rose."

She spoke in a sarcastic, bantering tone, as though she was quite conscious of the sophistry of her argument, even whilst she was using it.

As for poor Rose, she could only exclaim, "Oh, I don't wonder now at papa's being so angry. But Halcamus? Oh, Ruth! for heaven's sake don't tell me that your husband is Halcamus Greenwood!"

"I wish I could tell you that he was any other man. I would do so with a great deal of pleasure now, Rose."

"Then he is Halcamus Greenwood, and you already regret your foolish—your mad infatuation?"

"I began to regret it six days after marriage; but as I made my bed, so I must lie in it, I presume."

"Why did you keep it all so secret from me, your sister—your twin sister, who always has and always will love you so dearly? It was foolish—it was cruel. But even now the past may be redeemed, and if I can help you you may count on me. I am very much afraid of papa, but I will brave even his anger in your cause, Ruth, and—and—now that I'm about to sacrifice so much for his sake I'm sure he ought to listen to me."

"I know what you mean by that. You are on the eve of marrying Sir Harry Howarth, of Derwent Hall, and you do not like him. I don't wonder at it, for the wretch has a blue beard. You need not smile, Rose; I tell you he has."

"He is a very nice man, in his way; and as for a beard—why, he is perfectly clean shaven."

"Yes, but his cheeks and chin are quite a light blue where shaved, and so of course the hair would be blue if it were allowed to grow. He powders himself to hide it. I danced with him on the night when we both came out at the grand ball at the City Hall, and noticed it very clearly. Ah, I was in the world then.

"Oh, Ruth, don't say another word about it. Derwent's Hall with its ghost or hobgoblin, or what not, are quite sufficient to frighten a poor girl out of her wits who knows that she will have to go to live there on the morrow, so don't be giving its owner and her destined husband a blue beard in addition. Where did you learn that I was going to marry Sir Harry?"

"At Iveston, where I slept last night, but I believe it to be the talk of the whole country round."

"Then you have only just come on to Conside?"

"Yes, purposely to see you, dear, and for no other reason."

"But you also wish to see papa and mamma, I suppose?"

"Had I had any such desire I should not have waited, half perished with the cold and damp, in the shrubbery, until I saw the candle put out in their bedroom. I had a means of getting at you, dear, without causing any alarm by knocking. See, this is a glazier's diamond, and with it I should have cut out one of those little window panes, and then have thrust my hand through the aperture and drawn back the bolt, and so let myself in, that is to say, supposing that you also had retired for the night. Oh, no, I could not stand face to face with papa for worlds, and mamma is too nervous and timid to be of the least use or protection, as you well know."

"Then you are staying at Iveston, and is your hus——is Halcamus Greenwood with you there?"

"My husband—Halcamus Greenwood—I can never, that's to say, I never, never shall speak to again—as long as the breath of life is in me—I hate and abhor him as much, aye, every whit as much, as I once loved him. No, I am going to the north—to Scotland—to take a situation as a companion or a governess."

CHAPTER III.

It Sounded Like a Splash in the River, Followed By a Scream of Mortal Agony.

A brief silence followed upon this last declaration of Ruth's, for an expression had come into her face that seemed to betoken she would not endure any further questioning, and the gentler Rose was well acquainted with that expression in the past, and was fearful of it, that is to say, apprehensive of the results to which it sometimes led; for, though so wonderfully alike in face and form, the dispositions of the girls were wholly different—Rose possessing all the amiability and timidity of her mother, whilst Ruth inherited the fiery and ungovernable temper, as well as the obstinacy of her father.

Most women are strong in curiosity, however, and Rose Radcliffe was no exception to the rule.

So, after having got up and noiselessly locked the passage door of the room, in order to guard against a possible, but, at the same time, very very improbable, interruption, though she forgot to treat in like manner the outer door of the communicating bedroom, she returned to her sister, and once more embracing her, said in a deprecating tone:

"I think, dear, that when once married one ought to cleave to a husband through everything, unless, of course, he is very bad indeed."

"Then I had ample excuse for parting with mine, for I do believe he is the most despicable wretch under the sun. What think you? He wanted the whole of papa's money, for the securities that I appropriated were soon turned into money, and if I'd only let him have his own mean way I should by now not have even a rag to my back. But you know that I have a very determined nature, Rose, and I vowed to him that I'd sooner go to prison with him for the theft than I'd give him more than half the amount. Then he wanted to open a gambling saloon in Boldon, and proposed to me that my beauty should be utilised to lure poor dupes thither, and to bewilder and intoxicate them whilst they played, so that they should have no chance of winning against my husband, who, of course, would have had his entire wits and faculties concentrated on the cards. Because I would not consent to be his decoy in this, and in other matters, he, before long, began to bully, threaten, ill-treat, aye, and even beat me."

"Oh, Ruth, how could you ever have been attracted by such a man? I saw through him from the very first."

It was your continually warning me against him that made me love him more and more. Your conduct aroused the natural obstinacy of my disposition, for I am papa's own child in that respect you know, and then he was at all events a gentleman."

"So he told me, and got me at last to almost believe it; but he was only papa's groom for all that, remember."

"And in such capacity took me for frequent rides on gray Dobbin, perched up behind him on a pillion, more especially at such times as papa had the gout and was confined to his bed or his elbow chair. 'Twas on those occasions that, after first making sure which of us I was, he told me of his antecedents, and how he had beggared himself to pay his dead father's debts rather than that his memory should be dishonoured; even selling his commission in the army for that purpose; and then he would add, with a sigh, that he had been brought up to understand nothing thoroughly save dogs and horses, so what position but that of a groom was open to him? Oh, Rose, you can't imagine how plausible he could be on such occasions."

"Oh, yes, I can, dear, for he talked to me in exactly the same manner; but I repeat that I saw through him from the first, and never suspected but that you did the same. I feared your violent temper far too much to broach the subject to you after you had once positively dared me to do it again, but it was through me that he was dismissed from papa's employ. I told mamma a few things about him. I even frightened her in the belief that he might have been one of the gang of ruffians who, half a dozen years or so ago, helped William Palmer and his brother-in-law Symonds to murder the former's mother and her poor little maidservant at Medomsley. You must remember that only the two principals were captured, condemned, and hung in chains."

"But Halcamus is too young to have had any hand in that awful crime," retorted Ruth, with an involuntary shudder.

"He looks so, dear, and very probably, indeed—most probably he is, though a youth is strong enough to murder, or, at all events, to help to murder, at seventeen, which must have been about his age at the time of that most atrocious crime. I remember me well what an aversion he always had to riding with me through that village, and once, when I would pay a visit to Saint Arm's Pretty church there, the ruins of which have entirely disappeared, he turned pale as death, and trembled like an aspen leaf as we passed by the poor widow's house, which, as you are doubtless aware, has never had a tenant since the double crime that was perpetrated there."

"Rose, for sweet charity's sake, don't lead me to think worse of Halcamus than what I already do," pleaded Ruth, piteously.

"Well, my dear, I don't mean to affirm to you that he had any hand in that dismal night's work. I don't know that I thought it more than a bare possibility when I tried to convince mamma that it was highly probable, in order that she might not rest until he was got rid of. You know it sometimes requires a great deal to stir mamma up to decisive action. However, I at last succeeded, with the result that Halcamus had notice to leave."

"Ah, 'twas then, I expect, that he came to the point, and urged me to do what I did do, alack and alas to my own utter undoing."

"I cannot think, dear, how you did not suspect a man, of the basest duplicity at the very least, who counselled you to act by your father in so different a manner to what he boasted he had done in order to save from dishonour even the memory of his own," said Rose, mildly.

"Such conduct would doubtless have opened my eyes at the first, but please to remember that, ere he tempted me, I had learnt to love him, and that love is blind."

"Poor Ruth, and so Love has now taken to his wings in addition, and you hate where you once adored?"

"The word hate that you have used shows how thoroughly you still comprehend my inner nature. Yes, I have indeed hated where I once adored."

"And will you never forgive him?"

"When you know our father to forgive an injury then I will study how to forgive also."

"But we will put papa's power of forgiveness to the test as early as to-morrow morning, dear Ruth, and as applied to yourself."

"I know him too well to stay here and incur the certain penalty and insult of being turned out of doors by him."

"But I cannot endure even the thought of being separated from you a second time, especially now that you are so unhappy."

"Unhappy? On the contrary, I am as happy as a wild bird which has just escaped from out a cramped and filthy cage."

"But you are friendless, almost, indeed, a fugitive; and, then, how can you travel, and also manage to exist, without money?"

"I have still four hundred pounds left out of the thousand that formed my self-appropriated marriage portion, so that I shall not want until I reach Edinburgh, where English governesses and lady companions have been in great demand, I hear, ever since the Union."

"But that money is still papa's money, and you have no more right to it now than when you took it nearly three years ago. Reflect, dear, that its restoration may materially conduce towards a reconciliation, for papa has had great losses lately, and is now, I fear, very poor, in fact, actually embarrassed. It is for his and mamma's sakes, though I have never let them think it, and, to do them bare justice, they have never tried to force me in the matter, that I to-morrow morning marry Sir Harry Howarth, with his rent-roll of ten thousand pounds a year, for he has faithfully promised me, as the price of my hand that they shall never want a home, happen what may. But, to return to the four hundred pounds, darling Ruth. I am very sure——"

You may be very sure that I'll keep them, for there's no one in all the world who'll promise that I shall never want a home. If your father is as badly off as you represent, the money would only go to the creditors, and would not do him the least bit of good. But, however that may be, I'm in a position wherein I must think of myself alone."

"But Ruth——"

"Now, not another word on that subject."

"My dear sister, only allow me just to say——"

"Allow me just to say that it is about high time for me to be going. Indeed, I'm in a hurry to cross the river. I don't think that I ever saw the Derwent so highly flooded."

"Three days heavy rain has melted the deep snow of last week, and both have gone to swell its volume. All this morning, too, a terrific north-easterly gale was blowing. Those are the reasons why our usually shallow and rippling river has become so swollen and so turbulent, dear Ruth."

"Well, whatever the cause, the sooner that I am safe at the Red Lion Inn the better. I have gaged a bed there, but with earliest dawn push on to Newcastle, and from thence towards Scotland. Now, Rose, not a word of this stolen interview to either papa or mamma. Swear it!"

"But, indeed, they ought to know. If papa was but told where you were staying he might even come to you."

"Yes with a horsewhip under his arm. That's how he'd come, if he came at all, and I've had quite enough of that kind of attention from Halcamus Greenwood. Now, Rose, I've gone through very much in order to embrace you once again, so, I prithee, do not return evil for good, or else I vow that I'll never seek thee out again."

"Ruth, Ruth, do let me act in this matter as I think best. It breaks my heart to part from you in this way."

"A broken heart, and yet to be wedded tomorrow to ten thousand a year? Nonsense, Rose, don't be so ridiculous."

She spoke harshly and bitterly, for during the past half hour she had grown to envy her sister every whit as much as she had ever loved her. Indeed, curiosity—and something else—had been as powerful factors as sisterly affection in causing her to diverge from her direct northerly course Scotland-wards, in order to visit Conside and the lone house under its sombre trees that night.

Poor Rose was inexpressibly pained by her words and the manner of their utterance, and said, sobbingly:

"Little do I care for the ten thousand a year, or for their possessor either, and I wish from my heart, dear Ruth, that both were about to fall to your lot, instead of to mine. Yes, indeed and indeed I do."

Ruth Greenwood's warm, brunette complexion flushed, and her large, velvet black, and lustrous eyes flashed almost luminously at this speech.

"It is no good talking about impossibilities," she presently said, with a gasping kind of utterance. "You are by far the best girl of the two, Rose, and it's always the best girls who take the prizes, you know. Well, I really must be going, for I vow that the clock is striking midnight, and now hark to the dear, sweet familiar chimes. How they recall to me the happy and innocent days of my childhood. Rose, if you can forgive the angry and ungracious words I have just spoken, you will not bid me good-bye here, where everything seems changed and altered, even to the arrangement of the furniture, but at the garden seat under the laburnum tree down by the river—a spot hallowed, as you must feel it to be, by a thousand pleasant memories—for 'twas there we loved best to play as little children, and 'twas there, as grown up girls, that we used to sit to build our castles in the air and plan out our futures."

"Then come, dear, for I can refuse you nothing," responded Rose, as cheerfully as she was able, for, in truth, her heart was very sad within her at Ruth's obstinacy in rejecting every opportunity of being reconciled with their father and mother.

Noiselessly opening the French window, she glided out of it on to the lawn first, immediately thereafter glancing upwards at her parents' bedroom window in order to see if a light still burned within it.

On perceiving that such was not the case, she beckoned to Ruth to follow her, which she immediately did.

Then, keeping well within the shadow of the crescencular sweep of thick shrubbery which extended for some distance around the bottom of that side of the Hall, and also for some little distance further on the two girls, clasping each other's waists as they proceeded, presently reached the old laburnum tree and the circular seat that surrounded its trunk, past one side of which the swollen river rushed so near as actually to drench it with its wind-blown spray ere absorbing, a yard or two further away, the scany and shallow waters of the hall moat, which each year seemed to pay its tribute more scantily and grudgingly.

* * * * *

We must drop a veil over the conversation that ensued, and also over its consequences, for the exigencies of our tale compel us to do so.

Suffice it then to say that, after the lapse of a least twenty minutes, Rose, in her long, trailing and elaborately trimmed dark-blue flannel dressing gown, and with her unbound hair fluttering behind her, returned to the house in the same manner as the twain had quitted it, that is to say, keeping well within the shelter of the shrubbery all the way.

But, on stepping in through the open French window, she exclaimed wildly, as she beheld her mother standing just within the room, holding a lighted candle in her hand:

"Good God! mother, what are you doing there at this time of the night? Did you hear it? Tell me, directly, did you hear it?

"Did I hear what, Rose? Why, my dear child, where have you been, and what could I have heard? Speak, for you positively terrify me."

"I cannot terrify you more than I myself was terrified five minutes, aye, even less than five minutes ago. I heard what sounded like a splash in the river, quickly followed by a scream as of mortal agony. I have been down to try to discover what it was, but could neither see nor hear anything more. Tell me what alarmed you, and brought you downstairs like—like this?" and here Rose caught at a chair, as though for support.

CHAPTER IV.

"John, This is My Wedding Day; Oh, what will My Old Love Say?"

"My dear child," said Mrs. Radcliffe, soothingly, though the highly nervous little woman was all in a flutter the while, "I only came downstairs because I woke up and thought I smelt fire. It was those letters whose ashes I see in the grate most likely, and you've been sitting up to read and then destroy them, I suppose, instead of seeking the rest which you so much need. Why, you will look quite worn out to-morrow, instead of fresh as a daisy, as every young bride should."

"Oh, mamma, I shall be all right; but I've had such a shock that I wish you'd give me a glass of brandy."

"Brandy—you—who so hate even the very smell of spirits? You must have had a shock, indeed, my poor child, to wish for brandy."

"I meant sherry, of course. Did I say brandy? But, there, there, can't you see that I am so terrified that I don't know what I say?"

Yes, dear, I can see you are frightened, and drenched also, especially about the skirts. You must have gone very near to the river."

"Of course I went very near to the river when I believed somebody to be drowning therein, perhaps within a helping hand's reach of our very garden path. Oh, how swiftly and how wildly the Derwent is rushing past it, whilst its spray is being blown over the sweet-briar hedge in a shower Anyone who had fallen in would be drowned almost instantly, I should think—strangled out of life by the fierce eddies, and the body be carried far down the stream before daybreak, even past Ebchester, perhaps, and mangled beyond all recognition. Don't you think so, mother?"

"I don't want to think about anything so gruesome and so terrible, and I do wish that you wouldn't call me mother, for that was poor Ruth's word. Why, I do not remember your ever calling me mother before, and, dear me, how like you are to Ruth, when unduly excited."

"I want to feel more like myself, mamma, and perhaps I shall do so after you've given me that glass of sherry. Oh, I'll try to think that it was all imagination on my part, and I've little or no doubt now but that it was, none in the world, in fact."

"I believe so, too, dear, for the river itself makes the most strange moaning and groaning noises when in its present swollen state, as I've noticed scores and scores of times; and, then, many things might have fallen into it with a splash besides a fellow creature, such as a big mass of earth or stone, for I shouldn't wonder if it had underminded the bank, and carried away even a tree, which would be sure to make a great noise as it fell. It's very strange that you should have heard so much and I nothing at all; but I'll go and get the wine, as you appear to be in need of it."

"I don't seem to want it at all now, mamma. I feel a great better, and, therefore, won't have it. Getting into bed as quickly as I can will do me a deal of good, especially as I am so wet about the skirts. Therefore, good night."

"Dear me, how wayward and changeable you are. You are really getting as much like your sister Ruth in manner and disposition as you always were in the face. I wonder what makes me keep thinking of poor Ruth so continually? However, good night, dear, if you will have it so, and do try to get to sleep as quickly as you can, for I should be greatly distressed to see you look dowdy and dismal to-morrow, since Jarrow gossips would then one and all declare that you were marrying Sir Harry Howarth for his money and his title, whilst your heart remained another's, and they'd as likely as not add that your father and I had forced you to take the step against your will."

With this the garrulous little woman kissed her daughter, and once more retired to the upper regions of the old mansion.

But Rose did not thereupon go to bed, as she had declared and promised she would do.

On the contrary, as soon as ever she heard her mother close her bedroom door, she shut her own, locked it, and returned to the chair which stood beside the little table, and immediately in front of the fireplace.

There she sat and read carefully through every letter that was not as yet torn up, aye, read them as though she desired to firmly imprint their contents upon her memory.

Not content with this, she rose and took down her desk from an adjoining shelf, turned the key therein, opened it, and then examined and went through its contents with the most deliberate and business-like care, even to reading slowly through, from the first day in January to the last one in December, her little pocket diaries of the last three years.

It took her more than an hour to get through these alone, for she skipped nothing, and when, at last, she really did go to bed, she put the little pocket books under her pillow, as though they were worthy of yet another perusal in the morning.

It was a strange trait in a young girl, just on the point of being married, to allow her mind thus to dwell upon the past, apparently to the complete exclusion of the future; but we shall discover many stranger anachronisms even than this one in Rose Radcliffe's conduct before we have much more to do with her.

For the present we will leave her to sleep or to ponder, which she will, and when next we look upon her, it will be in the garb of a bride, and as the chief character of a most remarkable wedding day.

* * * * *

The long night passed away and morn broke at last.

The pole-cats, whose habitations were in the wooded slope of the Hall, crept up out of the River Derwent, and retired to their bosky lairs, there to lie close and snug until the return of darkness and a renewed appetite for a fish or a frog supper tempted them once more into the river.

In their place trout leapt in the water, and the linnets made the air musical with their notes, seeming to take up the burthen of the song which the tired nightingales of Allansford wood had just left off.

But quickly other sounds of promise and of joy broke upon the balmy air of the bright spring morning, for St. Paul's new and silvery toned bells began to ring out musical volleys of "single threes," and then invariable method of heralding a wedding morn, and in the homes standing within hearing of their torrent of sweet sound, children and young people took up the joyful theme, and sang, or, at all events, tried to sing, the old, old ditty which commences with:

"John, this is our wedding day,
Oh, what will my old love say?"

Rose Radcliffe was disturbed whilst again reading her diaries by her mother, who brought her a cup of coffee and two or three thin slices of bread and butter, for Rose had noiselessly unlocked her bedroom door again, the last thing before slipping into bed.

She once more concealed the little diaries under her pillow as her fond parent approached her bedside, who was, nevertheless, much struck, and equally concerned, by the extreme pallor of her daughter's face, a pallor which had extended itself to her very lips.

"Oh my dear, what is it?" she exclaimed. "You look as though you were about to bury a husband instead of to marry one."

"Perhaps it might be better for me if I were, for the Gabriel hounds give scant promise of a happy married life when they yelp across the sky on one's wedding eve, rejoined Rose, fretfully.

(To be continued.)

SAD FATALITY NEAR CRAGHEAD.

A LITTLE GIRL KILLED.

On Monday afternoon, at the house of Mrs Oxley, Punch Bowl Inn, Craghead, Mr J. Graham, coroner, held an inquest respecting the death of Mary Hannah Ashe, a girl about four years old.—It appears that at four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, the girl, along with her brother Jonathan and another boy, were proceeding from Wagtail Cottages to their home at Craghead. A set of waggons were being lowered from the standing engine near Burnhope Colliery to Craghead. When near Craghead bridge the coupling chain broke, and the set of waggons run amain into the switch siding at Wagtail Cottages. The children being near the railway crossing at the time, the little girl was run over and kiled, the two lads having a narrow escape.—After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

DURHAM WINTER ASSIZES.

FRIDAY.—Before BARON POLLOCK.

A DRUNKEN SPREE AT WEST STANLEY.

William Densham, 22, miner, John Smith, 23, miner, and James Dixon, 33, miner, were indicted for robbing Robert William Southgate, and stealing from his person two silver watches and a silver albert, and also with using personal violence to Southgate, at Stanley, on November 6th last.—Mr Meynell, for the prosecution, said on the day named the three prisoners and the prosecutor agreed to go to Newcastle, where the hirings were to be held. Southgate had a watch, but said he would get a second one, and pledge both, so that they could have a spree. He got the second watch, and the four of them started for Newcastle, but Southgate changed his mind, and finally said he would not go. He turned back and the prisoners followed him, upon which Southgate became alarmed and ran off. He was caught by Densham, who took the watches from him; Smith struck him with his fist, and Dixon, who came up later, also assulted him. Smith and Densham went to Newcastle, but Dixon did not. When Smith and Densham were arrested they each handed over a watch. Before the magistrates Densham and Smith said Southgate gave them the watches when he refused to go to Newcastle, and Dixon said he did not see what took place, but the other prisoners told him the watches were given them.—The jury acquitted the prisoners, the foreman adding that they considered there had been a drunken spree.

A FAMILY QUARREL AT ESH.

David High, 60, miner was charged with maliciously wounding Robert High at Esh on October 28th inst.—Mr John Strachan, for the prosecution, said the prisoner was charged with wounding his son, and the defence would be that the family were trying to murder him, and what he did was in self-defence.

Robert High, a young man, said he lived at Hamsteels with his parents. On the day named he saw his father killing the poultry, and heard him say that that was what all the family should get. Witness and his brother went out to stop him, and his father immediately rushed at him and stabbed him in the side and in the kidneys with the knife he had in his hand. He lost consciousness. His father had been drinking then, and was very excited. In reply to his father, witness denied that his brother Anthony struck him before the stabbing took place.—Anthony High corroborated his brother, and said a man named Craddock, who was on the scene, called out to him to knock his father down, or he would kill them both. His father was holding Robert at the time after he had stabbed him, and witness had to strike him five times with the prop before he could get him off his brother.—The prisoner, in addressing the jury, said he was first attacked by his sons, and had to act in self-defence.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sent to gaol for eight months.

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 catalogue with testimonials & Prices to J. WHITE AND CO. (Limited), Piccadilly, London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell you Imatations of our Moc-main. J White and Co. have no any agents.

Football.

_ Secretaries of football clubs would greatly oblige us by despatching their reports so that they may reach our office not later than *Tuesday* morning.

ASSOCIATION.

Cornsay Rising Rovers defeated Bearpark Church Church, on the ground of the latter, by one goal to nothing.

Hamsterley United 2nd and Victoria Garesfield Rovers met at Hamsterley, the Rovers winning by one goal to none.

Quebec St. Michael's v Lanchester Rising Stars.—Played at Quebec, and after a very even game the Stars were victorious by one goal to nil.

Consett Lilywhites v Consett Ramblers.—Played on the former's ground, and ended in a victory for the Lilywhites by five goals to one.

Consett Shamrocks v Leadgate United.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a good game resulted in a victory for the Shamrocks by two goals to nil.

Lintz Rovers v Oakey's Lilywhites.—This match was played at the Lintz, and after a pleasant game resulted in a victory for the home team by four goals to one.

West Stanley Athletic v South Moor Albions.—Played on the latter's ground. After ten minutes' play the ball bursted, and the game ended, nothing having been scored.

Allendale True Blues v Westwood True Blues.—Played on the latter's ground, and after an exciting game resulted in a win for the visitors by two goals to nil.

Busty Bank Rising Stars v Lintz Nomads.—Played on the former's ground, and after a good game resulted in a victory for the Nomads by one goal to none.

Ouston Mission Athletic v Chester-le-Street.—Played on the former's ground, and after an even game resulted in a win for the home team by two goals to one. T. Turnbull and S. Hadley played well for the winners.

Consett Fell Rangers v Blackhill St. Bede's.—Played on the former's ground, and after a one sided game, in which the Rangers pressed throughout, resulted in a very easy win for the home team by eight goals to nil.

Burnopfield Temperance v Spen Albion 2nd.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a very exciting game the home team won by four goals to three.

Lizzie Celtics v Lanchester Harriers.—Played on the former's ground, and after a very pleasant game resulted in a win for the Celts by seven goals to one. The winners' team was as follows:—Goal, T. Thompson; backs, J. Burton and J. Anderson; half-backs, T. Cairns, P. Bell, and J. Argyle; forwards, R. Bell and R. Forster, right wing; J. Graham, centre; T. Robson (capt.) and Stevens, left wing.

Iveston Villa v Crookhall Wanderers.—Played on the Iveston ground before a good number of spectators. The home captain won the toss, and elected to play with the wind in his favour. The Wanderers kicked off, and Smith getting possession took the ball down to the visitors' goal, only to see it returned by the Crookhall backs, who played a capital defensive game. Still the homesters pressed, and Campbell got hold and took the leather well down, passing over to Smith, who scored the first goal for the Villa. This woke up the Wanderers, who got in a good run, and McNally equalised. Shortly afterwards half-time was called with the score—

Villa	One goal
Wanderers	One goal

After a short rest, Tweedy re-started by passing to Smith, who went straight to the visitors' goal, causing the custodian to fist out. Midfield play ensued for a time, and then McNally made another good run, but found Gray and the two Hansons in good form, especially the custodian, who saved some splendid shots. No more goals were scored, and the final result was as under—

Villa	One goal
Wanderers	One goal

The home team was:—Goal, G. Hanson; backs, W. Hanson and S. Gray; half-backs, Miller, Harper, and Milling; forwards, J. Campbell and Gladders, right wing; J. Tweedy, centre; A. Smith (capt.) and Jos. Clark, left wing. Linesman, G. Henderson. Referee, Mr Dixon.

Langley Park Albion v Usworth Swifts 2nd.—Played at Langley Park before a good company of spectators. The visitors won the toss, and choose to play with the slope and wind in their favour. Lamb kicked off for the Albions, and the Swifts soon made tracks for the home goal, but were pulled up by Reed, who played a grand game at back. The home team then had a look in, and had hard lines in not scoring. The Albions pressed for a long time, but could not break through the visitors' defence. The Swifts then played up vigorously, and took the globe down to the home goal, gaining several corners, which came to nothing. After a little midfield play, Usworth scored their first and only goal. The home team pressed up to half-time, when the score stood—

Usworth	One goal
Albions	Nil

On resuming, the home team soon had the measure of their opponents, and from a corner, three minutes after re-starting, Hinton scored a grand goal. A few minutes later the same player added No. 2. Langley Park still continued to press, and F. Vickers, who was playing a champion game, scored No. 3. A few minutes later Wardle scored No. 4, and then No. 5 came from the toe of Egglestone, but was ruled off-side. The visitors now had a look in, and gave the Langley backs and custodian plenty of work, they having extremely hard lines, striking the cross-bar and upright. Final result—

Albions	Four goals
Usworth	One goal

The following represented the Albions:—Goal, J. Vickers; backs, J. Reed and E. Dodgson; half-backs, J. Eggleston, F. Walker, and J. Wardle; forwards, J. Smith and J. Hinton, left wing; T. Lamb, centre; W. Pattinson and F. Vickers, right wing. Linesman, T. Eccleston.

Hamsterley United v Allendale Park.—Played at Hamsterley before a large gathering of spectators. The game was played on the new ground of the United club, and they turned out in new shirts presented by Mr A. T. Watson. Mr W. Allen kicked off the ball, and play at once became fast, but the homesters held the upper hand for about ten minutes, when Kirtley, one of the home forwards, was kicked on the eye, and had to leave the field for the remainder of the game. The visitors got away and soon scored, and not long afterwards the United equalised, following it up with another soon after amid loud cheers. The home team pressed and came near scoring on several occasions, but Bailey saved splendidly. Half-time found the score—

United	Two goals
Park	One goal

On resuming, the visitors pressed and were dangerous at times, but the defence of Musgrove was grand, his tackling and kicking being greatly admired. He was well supported by his partner (Fenwick), and they were generally too much for the Allendale forwards. After some good play by the United, the visitors came away, and Thompson equalised with a splendid shot. The home team played up determinedly, and forced a corner, which proved fruitless. The final result was as under—

United	Two goals
Park	Two goals

Blackhill Park v Shotley Bridge Rovers.—Played on the former's ground before a good number of spectators. The Rovers won the toss, and elected to play with the wind in their favour. Hobday commenced, and Chatt took down, but was dispossessed by Angus. Murray secured and passed out to Joice, but the leather was returned by Dempsey, and Lindsay ran over the line with the ball. Taylor returned the kick out, but Robson put in a huge kick, and Barras dribbling up to within about 10 yards of the home goal, put in a screw kick which scored No. 1 for the Rovers, being quite out of the reach of Kempster. The Park now pressed hard, but shot miserably, and Joice came away again and shot, Kempster clearing. The home forwards attacked once more, and forced a corner. Lindsay placed nicely, Errington having to fist out, and then the custodian cleared a shot from Butler. Score at half-time—

Rovers	One goal
Park	Nil

After a short interval, Murray re-started. The home team at once settled down to their work, the leather being worked nicely up into the visitors' territory, but Chatt just put over the bar. Walton now came away, but was stopped by Tindle, who kicked well up, and Askew receiving sent in a swift shot which quite beat Errington, and thus equalised amid loud cheering. Barras and Joice soon after got away, dribbling past the backs, and the first-named was on the point of shooting when Chatt came to the rescue and dispossessed him of the ball. Hobday changed the venue, and transferred play to the visitors' quarters. Shot after shot was poured in, but Errington cleared in marvellous fashion. Urged on by their supporters, each team struggled for supremacy. At last Sheldon put the ball on to Butler, who dribbled up to the line and centred, Hobday banging it through amid ringing cheers a minute before time. The visitors appealed to the referee for the globe passing over the goal-line, but he awarded a goal, much to the dissatisfaction of the Rovers. Result—

Park	Two goals
Rovers	One goal

The Park team was as follows:—Goal, F. Kempster; backs, H. Tindle and J. Dempsey; half-backs, R. Taylor, R. Evans, T. Sheldon; forwards, A. Lindsay and J. Chatt, right wing; H. Hobday, centre; J. Butler and W. Askew, left wing. Referee, Mr Wm. McKie.

CONSETT TOWN v. ESH TRUE BLUES.

Played at Consett. Owing to the very late arrival of the visitors, only two "15's" could be played. The result was—

Consett	One goal
Esh	One goal

DURHAM SENIOR CUP.

THIRD ROUND.

LEADGATE PARK v. CORNSAY ROVERS.

The Park journeyed to Cornsay to play off their postponed cup tie, about 400 spectators being present. The Park started against the breeze, and were not long in making their presence felt, Moralee and Simpson defending well. At length Burnhope beat Moralee with a swift shot. The home forwards then made tracks for the opposing goal, but met with a stubborn defence, and were easily repulsed. The visitors got away with a splendid run right up to the home goal, and Joe Wilson missed a good chance. John Wilson headed cleverly into the Cornsay goal, and Burnhope scored No. 2 with a good shot. The Rovers, led by Peacock, got well up, and Kidd missed a very easy chance of scoring. Midfield play followed, the score at half time being—

Park	Two goals
Cornsay	Nil

Aided by the wind, the visitors were soon round the Cornsay goal, and Moralee had a very warm time of it. Joe Wilson scored a third goal, and shortly after put on a fourth. Simpson, who was playing back, dribbled over the half-way line, Mansell failing to stop him. He passed Crowther, who was standing a long way out of his goal, and scored the first and only point for the Rovers. The visitors now attacked strongly, sending in countless shots, and the Cornsay citadel had some marvellous escapes. Eventually, R. Wilson scored the best goal of the day with a grand shot from the extreme left. The Park had now the measure of their opponents, and fairly hemmed them in. Final result—

Park	Five goals
Cornsay	One goal

The Park team was as follows:—Goal, J. Crowther; backs, F. Foreman and Wm. Mansell; half-backs, W. Bell, J. Wilson (capt.), and T. Snowdon; forwards, R. Graham and C. T. Foreman, right wing; Jos. Wilson, centre; A. Burnhope and Robt. Wilson, left wing. Linesman, Wm. Johns. Cornsay team—Goal, J. Moralee; backs, Geo. Simpson (capt.) and E. Clark; half-backs, G. Sargent, M. Boddiner, and A. Hendy; forwards, R. Walker and J. W. Sargent, right wing; J. Aston, centre; T. Kidd and Peacock, left wing. Linesman, H. McGowan. Referee, Mr W. G. Thompson, Medomsley.

ENGLISH CUP.—QUALIFYING COMPETITION.

THIRD ROUND.

MIDDLESBROUGH v. TOW LAW.

These teams met on the Middlesbrough ground to play off their tie. Owing to the wretched weather which prevailed, only a small number of people were present. The home team set the globe in motion, and after a period of even play, mostly in midfield, they got into the vicinity of the Tow Law goal, and Frost scored. Good form was displayed by both teams, and the leather travelled pretty rapidly from one goal to the other. After Middlesbrough had been awarded a corner, and Temperley had averted disaster, Kitson had to save at the other end. The homesters quickly took up the running again, and pressed, but they were unable to score. T. Bach made a splendid long shot, which went clean into the visitors' goal, but it was returned in equally good style. Even play ruled until half-time, when the score was—

Middlesbrough	One goal
Tow Law	Nil

On crossing over, Middlesbrough immediately took possession, and pressed vigorously. This, however, did not last, and the visitors had their turn in pressing. Neither side, however, succeeded in scoring. The homesters again got possession, and bombarded the goal of their opponents, ultimately succeeding in obtaining a corner, which was taken by Frost, who gave to Mullen, and that player added the second goal for Middlesbrough. The leather had hardly been set going again before it was in the same quarter, and a slight scrummage in goal ended in Drury putting one more through the uprights. Several more attempts were made by the home team, but no further score was made. Result—

Middlesbrough	Three goals
Tow Law	Nil

Tow Law team—Goal, J. H. Allison; backs, J. W. Temperley and W. Thompson; half-backs, T. Waites, W. Waites, and W. Simpson; forwards, J. Coulson, R. Wilson (capt.), T. Hobson, T. H. Potts, and J. McIntosh.

RUGBY.

Blackhill Junior Rovers v Blackhill Scratch.—Played on the former's ground, and after a pleasant game the Rovers were victorious by one try (3 points) to nil.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v. HAMSTEELS.

Played at Hamsteels. The visitors won the toss, and elected to play uphill against the wind. Rutter kicked off for the home team, Stobbs putting to touch in the visitors' "25." Play remained there for some time, until the Rovers' backs got possession, and by splendid passing took play to the other end, where they tried hard to score, but the defence was too good, and Johnson cleared to half-way, where some tough packs were fought out; the Rovers heeling out, Smailes gave to Brown—Stobbs, Dickinson, Aitken, and Robson handling in turn, the last-named just being stopped a yard off the line, and the home back soon cleared to the Rovers' "25," where Hamsteels put forth every effort to score. The visitors being penalised, Johnson tried a shot at goal, the ball going wide, and from the drop-out the visitors, by splendid passing, were soon attacking, Robson having hard lines in not scoring more than once. The home team cleared, and half-time found the score—

Rovers	Nil
Hamsteels	Nil

Hewitson re-started for the Rovers, Dodds returning well to half-way, where scrummaging was the order until Brown got nicely away and gave to Aitken, who transferred to Dickinson, the latter being pulled up on the line. The Rovers maintained the pressure, and Brown getting away scored, Robson failing at goal. Even play ensued for some time, and then the visiting backs got possession and made a strong attempt to score, but the defence was not to be broken again. Soon after Brown received and passed well to Robson, who dropped a grand goal. The Rovers continued to hold the upper hand, and a good game resulted as under—

Rovers	One goal (dropped), one try (seven points)
Hamsteels	Nil

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

[By "Off-side."]

TOW LAW BIDS ADIEU TO THE ENGLISH CUP.

After having, for the second year in succession, shown extremely creditable form in the qualifying stage of the English Cup, Tow Law were, on Saturday, given their *quietus* at the hands of Middlesbrough. Considering that they were away from home, the Junior Cup-holders came out of the ordeal with every credit, and it is stated that two to nothing would have better represented the run of the play than three to nil. The field was in a wretched condition, but notwithstanding the Tow Law halves played a grand game, and were fully equal to the home trio. Tommy Waites was particularly prominent for some splendid work. The forwards, too, were very good, but could not pierce the Middlesbrough defence. The left wing were generally too much for Toby Wynn, and Coulson was often conspicuous on the right. Had Tow Law been fortunate enough to secure choice of ground, there would have been very little to choose between the teams.

THE ALBIONS COMMENCE WELL.

The newly-formed Langley Park Albions played their first game last Saturday, being opposed by Usworth Swifts 2nd. Although several of the Albions were short of practice—never having turned out before this season—they were successful in pulling through by a margin of three clear goals. This is a most encouraging start for the new beginners, and when they get properly settled down, and have had more practice, they should develope into a very fair team. They have some good material, which only needs bringing out.

—o—

The best man on the Usworth side was probably P. Murray, who played a grand game at back, and time after time saved his side from disaster by his powerful kicks. The goalkeeper stopped some dangerous attempts at scoring, but neither the halves or forwards did anything out of the common, albeit English was prominent at times. John Vickers showed up well in the home goal, while Reed was the best back on the field. His partner, Dodgson, was also in splendid form. Wardle was the pick of a good set of halves, while F. Vickers, Lamb, and Hinton were the shining lights of the front rank.

—o—

KEEN RIVALS AT BLACKHILL.

Shotley Bridge Rovers and Blackhill Park are near neighbours, and, as generally happens when such is the case, keen rivals to boot. Both have had a very successful season so far this season, and consequently their meeting on the Park ground last Saturday was invested with more than ordinary interest, as both have a strong following. The Park were, unfortunately, short of four good men—viz., Whitelaw, Smith, Robinson, and Atkinson, while the Rovers lacked the services of Watson. The game was a hard one all through, and although the home team notched the winning point just before the whistle went for time, the losers were by no means satisfied with their defeat, as may be easily gathered from the appended note on the game which have been forwarded to me by one of the Rovers' supporters:—

"Being a great admirer of the game (and also of fair-play), I visited the Blackhill Park enclosure on Saturday afternoon to witness a game between the above-mentioned teams. Up to a certain point I enjoyed the game immensely. They were very well matched indeed, and given a fair referee a score of one goal each would have been quite correct. But the "home referee" question came once more to the front in the shape of a most unfair decision. In fact, the Park supporters who were in a position to see agreed with the linesman that the referee was palpably wrong. The point in dispute was the fact that in racing up the field, and on nearing the goal-line, a Park forward was tackled by a Rover's back, and the ball rolled over the line, the linesman signalling to the referee to this effect; the forward centred the ball, which was shot through against no opposition. Of course, the Park players were not to blame in the slightest, as the whistle had not gone, and when the point was given for the Park the Rovers and supporters were awfully disappointed. It seems a great pity that this haggling at football matches should take place, as when it is properly played, with the assistance of a capable referee, it is a grand pastime, but when the decisions are all on one side it becomes a mere farce. The Rovers, however, hold the result of this match as a draw of one goal each, and they have good reasons for so doing."

—o—

AN EXCITING GAME AT BURNOPFIELD.

One of the most exciting encounters ever brought off on the ground of the Temperance club at Burnopfield, took place last Saturday, on the occasion of the meeting of the home team and Spen Albion 2nd. Previous to Saturday, the Albion had an unbeaten record for the season, while the Temperance men have only had their colours lowered on one occasion, Shotley Bridge Rovers being their conquerors. The home club gave a trial to a new back, Thos. Young, of Byer Moor, who is a neat and very sure kick, and also tackles well. He gives promise of turning out a very valuable man for Burnopfield. The Temperance have lost one of their backs—R. Hogg—who has thrown in his lot with Lintz Rovers; but they appear to have got as good a man to fill his place.

—o—

IVESTON OPEN WITH A DRAW.

A new club—under the title of Iveston Villa—has been formed at the above village, and is, I am given to understand, being liberally supported by several friends. They played their first game at home on Saturday, having as opponents Crookhall Wanderers, and the call of time found "honours easy." The Villa men—who include a number of the old Iveston players—showed very promising form, and with constant practice will improve wonderfully. I am informed that it is the intention of the club to join the Durham Association. Play up, Iveston.

—o—

LINTZFORD JUNIORS V. SPEN JUNIORS.

Mr Wm. Smith, hon. sec. Lintzford A.F.C., writes as follows:—In perusing your welcome issue of the 24th inst., I find base allegations made by a Spen supporter against our juniors. "Supporter" blames our team entirely for not providing tea for his team. I wish to say to "Supporter" that a private gentleman intended to provide tea, but owing to the bitter elements, he never dreamt that they would come on such a day as the 18th was, and consequently did not prepare for them. It was quite true, as "Supporter" puts it, that Lintzford advertises tea for visitors. It is also true that our Juniors went to the Spen to play on September 2nd, and were not asked to tea. Our motto is, "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you," and we carry it out to the letter. Now, sir, I think this explanation will convince "Supporter" and the public also that we did not treat them unfairly.

[Whether other clubs entertain Mr Smith's club to tea or not, the fact that he advertises to supply visiting teams with tea surely binds him to do so.]

—o—

DEATH OF A FOOTBALL ENTHUSIAST.

There passed peacefully away on Friday night last, Mr John Reed, sen., a vice-president of the Lintzford Football Club. The deceased gentleman has been one of the club's most ardent supporters ever since its formation six years ago, and the members greatly regret the demise of such a kind and genial officer. On account of the sad occurrence, the committee decided to cancel all matches which were fixed to be played to-morrow. Mr Reed was in his 56th year, and leaves a wife and grown-up family to mourn his loss.

—o—

THE PARK EASILY DISPOSE OF CORNSAY.

Leadgate Park had little difficulty in administering the "order of the knock" to Cornsay Rovers, although the latter had the advantage of playing on their own ground. Had it not been for the fine defence of Moralee and Simpson, the home team would probably have had double figures run up against them. Clark was rather off-colour. Hendy was much the best of the halves, who, however, kick too powerfully for half-backs, and neglect to feed their forwards. Peacock and Kidd formed the best wing, the other couple being of little use. Aston stuck too long to the ball for a centre forward. The Rovers were apparently somewhat surprised at their severe defeat, but they may be accounted fortunate to get off so easily as they did.

—o—

For the Park, Crowther was not much troubled in goal, and was a long way down the field when Simpson scored for Cornsay. Both backs played well, Mansell in particular. The opposing forwards were not fast enough for Foreman, who never appeared to unduly exert himself. John Wilson was the best man on the field, and got through some splendid work. Bell and Snowdon backed up their captain most effectively. Burnhope and R. Wilson were the pick of the forwards, and gave Simpson more work than he cared about. Joe Wilson shot remarkably well, but would do well not to "chock" the ball so often in the goal-mouth. Graham and C. Foreman got in some neat centres, and worked very hard. If the Park can only maintain the form they showed on Saturday, they will beat more clubs than beats them. [A special article, under the heading of "Football and Smallpox," deals with the un-English manner in which the Park were treated at Cornsay.]

—o—

A GOOD VICTORY FOR THE ROVERS.

Blackhill Rovers accomplished on Saturday what they have never been able to do before—viz., defeat Hamsteels on their own ground. Considering that they were short of McGhee, Anderson, Grant, and Askew, this was a performance of great merit. The passing of the Rovers was far ahead of that of their opponents, although Hamsteels gave a very good display at times, and had hard luck in not scoring. In the initial half the home pack had the best of the scrummages, the visitors being rather slow in packing, thus allowing their opponents to get the better in the tight, but when the "scrums" did break up, the Rovers quickly asserted their superiority.

—o—

The Blackhill halves were much the better pair, especially Brown, who played a really grand game. The three-quarters were in good form, and got in some neat runs, but the centres should keep nearer to the pack, so as to be in a favourable position for the passes. Elliott hardly played up to his form at full back. The home back saved well, as did also A. Dodds at three-quarter, while Johnson put in some neat kicks. Collinson was the pick of the halves, and was much superior to his partner, who was well looked after by his *vis-a-vis*. The forwards played a good, dashing game, and don't forget to pack, but were slow in the loose. To-morrow (Saturday), the Rovers meet Gosforth at Blackfine, the latter being one of the best senior teams in Northumberland. Given fine weather, a grand exhibition of the handling code should be witnessed.

—o—

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

Gateshead N.E.R. are now at the head of the Northern Alliance, by virtue of their victory on Saturday over Southwick, the wooden spoonists of the competition. The table up to date now reads, as follows:—

	Plyd	Won	Lst	Drn	Goals— For	Agst	Pts
Gateshead N.E.R.	8	5	2	1	22	17	11
Sunderland A	7	5	2	0	20	12	10
Shankhouse	6	3	0	3	20	8	9
Hebburn Argyle	5	4	1	0	11	4	8
Newcastle United A	9	3	4	2	23	19	8
Rendel	7	3	3	1	18	16	7
Dipton Wanderers	8	2	4	2	15	20	6
Willington Athletic	5	1	1	3	7	6	5
Blyth	7	2	5	0	12	17	4
Southwick	6	0	6	0	1	30	0

—o—

MEMS.

I am requested to state that for the future Hamsterley Rovers will be known as Hamsterley United 2nd.

All clubs having dates with South Moor Young Rovers are requested to cancel them, as they cannot raise a team.

The Esh True Blues turned up at Consett on Saturday at the absurd hour of four o'clock.

As a consequence, only two fifteens could be played, and they partook much of the nature of a farce.

I understand that the Langley Park Rovers A.F.C. has been broken up. Several of them will, in all probability, be found doing duty for Esh True Blues for the remainder of the season.

Clubs having dates with Tanfield Lea are requested to cancel them, as they cannot raise a team.

—o—

MATCHES WANTED.

Consett Juniors would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 13 to 16. Apply, J. Purvis, 40, Albert Road, Consett.

Consett Sextons would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 12 to 14. Address, Edward McArdle, 45, King Street, Consett.

Consett Shamrocks have still a few vacant dates, and would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 15 to 17. Apply, M. Page, 20, Dixon Street, Blackfine.

Consett Fell Rangers have a few vacant dates, and would like to have them filled up. Ages, 14 to 17. Apply, John T. Keenan, 8, Edith Street, Consett.

Blackhill Park 2nd team would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Address: E. Tindle, 5, Roger Street, Blackhill.

Leadgate United have several vacant dates, and would like them filled up with junior teams. Ages, 14 to 17. Apply, J. H. Calvert, Front Street, Leadgate.

Derwent Cottages Rangers would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 13 to 15. Apply, John Boddy, No. 4, Derwent Cottages, Medomsley, R.S.O.

Burnhope Rovers 2nd have a few vacant dates, and would like them filled up with junior teams. Ages, 14 to 16. Apply, R. Wallace, Burnhope Colliery, *via* Lanchester.

Lintz Rovers 2nd would like to arrange matches with good 2nd teams. Apply, J. Sinclair, 117, Red Brick Row, Lintz Colliery, Lintz Green.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

RIDING MILL BRANCH.

A very interesting and instructive lecture was given at Riding Mill, on Friday, by Rev G. Ince, secretary of the above society, the subject being "The Gethenburg System." The lecture was illustrated by a series of beautiful views, and was listened to by a large and appreciative audience. A collection was made at the close of the lecture, amounting to 12s 6d.

NOTES FROM TOW LAW.

[By "Onlooker."]

The inhabitants of Tow Law seemed to have fared as well as any during the recent storm. The only results being, as far as I know, a few slates blown off the house tops, and a few panes broken.

The Weardale Iron and Coal Company have been building a new chimney at their West Thornley Colliery, 100ft. high, and as it had only been completed a day or two previous to the storm, the builders were rather concerned about it. However, to all appearance, it is not one whit the worse, which speaks very well for the two persons who built it.

West Thornley, it appears, is expected to last a few years longer yet, for the owners are now busy laying three new flued boilers, to be heated by the coke-ovens—hence the building of the new chimney. I can remember 20 years ago it was said that West Thornley was going to be laid in.

Last Sunday was, according to the Primitive Methodist and Wesleyan plans, Temperance Sunday. At the Wesleyan Church, the Rev G. E. Startup occupied the pulpit, and in the evening preached a very able temperance sermon. At the Primitive Church, the Rev J. Bainbridge was planned, but, owing to sickness, was not able to attend, Mr Nerman, a Wesleyan local preaher, taking his place. In the evening, the pulpit was occupied by one of their own locals from Sunniside, but I suppose neither of these gentlemen made any reference at all the temperance question.

In connection with the temperance movement, I see that one of our townsmen, although as yet a young man, has attained a very honourable position in the I.O.G.T. A portrait and short sketch of his life appears in this week's *Watchword*.

We are having quite a run of magic-lantern lectures now. The Primitives had one on Saturday night; pictures were shewn illustrating "The life of Joseph." On the whole, it was very fairly gone through, although the pictures were not so distinct as I would have liked to see them. Whether this was owing to defective slides or common oil in the lamp I can't say. They would do well to rectify this fault if possible. Mr Vickers makes a fair reader, but a little more regard to punctuation would vast improve the effect. Mr Trelford was lantern artiste, and with the exception of one or two slips did creditably.

I have often wondered why it was our Primitive brethren put such an amount of force and feeling into that hymn they sing, "On Greenland's icy mountains." I think I see daylight now; I'm sure, on Saturday, the temperature was quite equal to that of Greenland or any other icy land.

The Presbyterian Church was much more comfortable on Monday night. They had the Rev Mr Scott, of Willington, giving a magic-lantern lecture, entitled "Round the world in 90 minutes." Mr Scott is a young Scotchman of undoubted ability. The church was crowded to hear him, and during the whole of the 90 minutes he was speaking he had the complete attention of the large audience. His lecture was brimful of anecdotes and incidents that had occurred during his travels. He was unable to bring his lantern assistant with him, but the gap was very ably filled up by our worthy townsman Mr Brewer.

On Wednesday se'nnight, in the Primitive Methodist Church, the Rev J. Dalton, of Leeds, preached a sermon in the afternoon, and lectured at night on "England's needs, and how to meet them." I did not hear his sermon, but got to hear his lecture, which seemed to suit the majority of his audience. For my own part, I think he spent rather too much time in his introductory remarks, consequently he did not deal with his subject as fully as he might have done. Mr J. W. Laverick made an excellent chairman. The proceeds of the lecture will go to buy books for the Sunday School library.

Business Announcements.

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FOR THIRTY YEARS has maintained its world-wide reputation as the [illegible] and ONLY SAFE, RELIABLE PHOSPHORIC CURE for Brain Wreckage, Sleeplessness, Harassing Dreams, and all Functional and Diseased Conditions of the System caused by the Deficiency of the Vital Force.

Supplies the Blood with its Brain, Nerve, and Bone-forming element—Phosphorus, and by its tonic action on the Nervous System, stimulates Heart, Lungs, Liver, Kidneys and Stomach to the healthy performance of their several functions.

The effects of Dr. Lalor's Phosphodyne in Nervous Debility and its Kindred Evils is immediate and permanent, all the Miserable Feelings and Distressing Symptoms disappearing with a rapidity that is REALLY MARVELLOUS.

Is unsurpassed as a Tonic after Influenza and all Debilitating Diseases.

Thousands of unimpeachable Testimonials from all parts of the world, and from the Highest Medical Authorities.

Sold in Bottles, 4s. 6d. and 11s. each, by all Chemists.

Address—Dr. LALOR'S PHOSPHODYNE LABORATORY HAMPSTEAD, LONDON, N.W.

Trade Notes.

THE CONSETT STEELWORKS.

The new angle mills at the Consett Steelworks, which have been standing some time past by reason of the scarcity of water, were—as stated in last week's *Guardian*—re-started on Tuesday morning, so that now the whole of the Consett Iron Co's works—with exception of the Tin Mill, which has been laid idle for over three months through the same cause—are now in full operation.

THE NORTHERN IRON TRADE.

The accountants' certificate to the Arbitration Board for the Northern Manufactured Iron and Steel Trades was issued at Middlesbrough on Saturday afternoon. It shows the average net selling price per ton for the two months ending October to have been £4 16s 9d, or 2d less than for the previous two months. Under the sliding scale arrangement there will be no alteration of wages for December and January.

MEETING OF IRONWORKERS AT CONSETT.

On Wednesday morning, shortly after eight o'clock, a meeting of rollermen and testers employed at the Consett Iron and Steel Works was held in the Co-operative Buildings, Consett. There was a fair attendance, presided over by Mr J. R. Pearson, Consett.

Mr John Wildsmith, operatives' representative, explained the object of the gathering. At the last meeting of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Manufactured Iron and Steel Trade of the North of England, the sliding scale question and the rate of wages were thoroughly discussed. The employers refused to adopt the following resolution submitted by the operatives:—"That this meeting of delegates, representing the members of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, and the workmen at Works not subscribing thereto, but governed by the decisions of the Board, unanimously resolve to instruct the operatives' representatives to agree to a renewal of the sliding scale, on the condition, that the whole of the claims for the revision of rates paid in the manufacturing Iron Departments be withdrawn; and the question affecting the revision of the steel rates to be submitted to the Board, and if necessary, to an independent arbitration; and, failing this, to ask that the sliding scale basis of two shillings above shillings for pounds, be increased, so as to maintain the recognised proportionate rate as compared with the Midlands."

After the men's position had been thoroughly discussed at considerable length, a furnaceman proposed the following resolution:—"That they could not accept any scale, leaving out any question for consideration."—This was seconded by another furnacemen, and carried unanimously.—A second resolution was proposed and seconded to the effect—"That the men do not accept arbitration on the question at issue."—After other formal business, the proceedings terminated, with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL & STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES, quickly correct all irregularities, remove all obstructions, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes, 1s 1½d. and 2s 9d of all chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 stamps by the Maker, E. T. Towle, Chemist, Nottingham. Beware of Imitations.

Human Life.—Fifty years' record of Facts, Principles, and Discoveries relating to the Origin and True Treatment of Disease, and the preservation of Human Life on Earth. By Dr Samuel Birley M. Ph.D.; author of "Patriarchal Longevity Reasonable," "Earth-Life," &c., &c. A series of most valuable articles in 52-paged books, containing Diet Rules—what to eat and what to avoid in various complaints, together with other useful and valuable information. Invaluable to every Sufferer. Sound and Practical. Write to-day for presentation copy from the publishers, Messrs Gordon, Murray, and Co., 18, Theobald's Road Holborn, London, W. C.

UNION LINE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD FIELDS. [illegible]

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BLOOD PURIFIER AND RESTORER

For Cleansing and Clearing the Blood from all Impurities it cannot be too highly recommended.

For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds, it is a never-failing and permanent cure.

Cures Old Sores.
Cures Sores on the Neck.
Cures Sore Legs.
Cures Blackheads or Pimples on the Face.
Cures Scurvy.
Cures Eczema.
Cures Ulcers.
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases.
Cures Glandular Swellings.
Clears the Blood from all impure matter.
From whatever cause arising.

It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains. It removes the cause from the blood and bones.

As this mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, from infancy to old age, the Proprietors solicit sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

THOUSANDS OF TESTIMONIALS.

"CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE is entirely free from any poison or metallic impregnation, does not contain any injurious ingredient, and is a good, safe, and useful medicine."—Alfred Swaine Taylor, M.D., F.R.S., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology.

"207, St. George's-road, Hull, Jan. 12, 1892.

"I thought it was my duty to let you know what Clarke's Blood Mixture has done for me. After suffering for three years with abscesses on my arm and leg, and the doctors not being able to do me any good I am thankful to say, after taking a few bottles of your Clarke's Blood Mixture I am restored to perfect health again, and would have the whole world know of your wonderful medicine.—Yours truly,
"Miss Houseton."

"7, Canonbury-park North, London, N.,
Jan. 13, 1892.

"I had a very bad arm for eight or nine months, and had medical advice, which did not benefit me much. I met a gentleman at the Crystal Palace, and he told me a friend of his had a carbuncle on his leg, and that your Blood Mixture cured him right out. He advised me to try it, which I did, and after taking four 2s 9d bottles, I am glad to tell you the place healed quite up, and I have not felt anything of it since.

"I have no objection to you publishing this cure.

"Yours faithfully,
"A. Bowers.

IMPORTANT ADVICE TO ALL.—Cleanse the vitiated blood whenever you find its impurities bursting through the skin in pimples, eruptions, and sores; cleanse it when you find it obstructed and sluggish in the veins; cleanse it when it is foul—your feelings will tell you when. Keep your blood pure, and the health of the system will follow.

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9 " " "	2s 6d "
10 " " "	3s 0d "

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Galvanized Ridging, Gutters, and Down Spouting Nails, Screws, Washers, &c., and all Materials for fixing.

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DESIGNS AND ESTIMATES FREE.

75, NORFOLK STREET, LIVERPOOL.

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

WEEK DAYS.

Stations.		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE	Dep.	6 10	8 5	9 42	11 0	12 15	2 35	4 5	5 20	7 30
Elswick	"	6 14	8 9	9 46	11 4	12 19	2 39	4 9	5 24	7 34
Scotswood	"	6 18	8 13	[illegible]	11 8	12 23	2 48	4 13	5 28	7 38
Swalwell	"	6 24	8 18	9 55	11 14	12 29	2 49	4 19	5 33	7 44
Rowlands Gill	"	6 33	8 27	10 4	11 23	12 37	2 57	4 28	5 42	7 52
Lintz Green	"	6 40	8 34	10 10	11 30	[illegible]	3 3	4 36	5 47	8 0
Ebchester	"	6 53	[illegible]	10 21	11 40	12 54	3 14	4 49	5 58	8 13
Shotley Bridge	"	6 59	8 49	10 26	11 44	12 59	3 18	4 55	6 3	8 19
CONSETT	Arr.	7 5	8 55	10 28	11 50	1 5	3 23	5 2	6 10	8 25
CONSETT	Dep.	7 10	8 58	10 31	...	1 12	3 26	...	6 11	
Knitsley	"	7 21	9 9	10 46		1 23	3 36		6 22	8 26
Lanchester	"	7 30	[illegible]	10 55		1 32	3 45		6 31	8 47
Witton Gilbert	"	7 38	9 25	11 3		1 40	3 58		6 40	[illegible]
Aldin Grange	"	7 45	9 33	11 11		1 47	4 6		6 49	9 2
DURHAM	Arr.	7 50	9 38	11 17		1 52	4 5		6 53	9 7

		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
DURHAM	Dep.	7 25	9 40	11 50	2 35	5 20	8 15
Aldin Grange	"	7 32	9 47	11 57	2 41	5 27	8 23
Witton Gilbert	"	7 40	9 54	12 4	2 48	5 35	8 32
Lanchester	"	7 50	10 2	12 12	2 58	5 45	8 44
Knitsley	"	8 0	10 13	12 23	3 8	5 55	8 54
CONSETT	Arr.	8 11	10 25	12 33	3 18	6 5	9 0

		AM	AM	AM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	P
CONSETT	Dep.	8 13	9 5	10 3[illegible]	12 40	3 25	5 25	6 10	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shotley Bridge	"	[illegible] 18	9 10	10 39	12 44	[illegible]	5 29	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 10
Ebchester	"	8 22	9 14	10 43	12 48	3 24	5 33	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 14
Lintz Green	"	8 30	9 24	[illegible]	[illegible]	3 44	5 43	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rowlands Gill	"	8 35	9 29	[illegible]	1 1	[illegible]	[illegible]	6 34	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swalwell	"	8 42	[illegible]	11 6	1 7	[illegible]	5 54	6 42	[illegible]	9 35
Scotswood	"	8 48	9 42	[illegible]	1 13	[illegible]	5 58	6 48	[illegible]	[illegible]
Elswick	"	8 55	9 50	11 1	[illegible]	[illegible]	6 6	6 55	[illegible]	9 48
NEWCASTLE	Arr.	9 0	9 55	11 24	[illegible]	[illegible]	6 11	7 0	[illegible]	[illegible]

SUNDAYS.

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE	7 30	7 15	CONSETT ...dep.	8 40	8 30
Elswick	7 34	7 19	Shotley Bridge	8 44	8 35
Scotswood	7 38	7 23	Ebchester	8 48	8 29
Swalwe	7 44	7 28	Lintz Green	8 57	8 39
Rowlands Gill	7 53	7 36	Rowlands Gill	9 1	8 44
Lintz Green	8 0	7 45	Swalwell	9 9	8 52
Ebchester	8 13	7 55	Scotswood	9 14	8 58
Shotley Bridge	8 19	7 59	Elswick	9 21	9 5
CONSETT ...arr.	8 25	8 5	NEWCASTLE ar.	9 26	9 10

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

	P.M.
NEWCASTLE Dep.	10 50
Elswick	10 54
Scotswood	10 58
Swalwell	11 4
Rowlands Gill	11 13
Lintz Green	11 19
Ebchester	11 30
Shotley Bridge	11 34
CONSETT Arr.	11 40

FOOTBALL AND SMALL-POX.

BOYCOTTING LOCAL CLUBS.

EXTRAORDINARY CONDUCT AT CORNSAY COLLIERY.

In consequence of the remarks of the Rev P. C. Fortin, Roman Catholic priest, in a sermon, and also at the meeting of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board, to the effect that some steps should be taken to prohibit the Leadgate football clubs from travelling about the county when small-pox was so prevalent in the district, the West Durham clubs are passing through an experience at the present time which is perhaps unparalleled in the history of football. On Saturday afternoon, the Leadgate Park A.F.C. drove in a brake to Cornsay to play off their tie in the third round of the Durham Cup with Cornsay Rovers. They reached as far as the field, which is about half-a-mile on the Lanchester side from the village proper, where further progress was impeded by the residents. Men, women, and children formed a cordon across the highway, and refused to permit the players to approach any nearer the village, because (as they shouted) they had come from a place where the small-pox was very bad. The crowd furthermore threatened to pelt them with stones, mud, &c., if they advanced any further. The Park players had accordingly to strip in the brake, on the roadside, and in the field. The driver of the brake, which belonged to Messrs T. C. Rawes and Co., of Consett, being prohibited from entering the village, tried to get his horses put up at a farmhouse near the football field, situate a little along the Butsfield Road. The farmer, however, declined to allow the animals to be placed in the stable, but stated that they might stand in the stackyard. Here they were obliged to remain till the close of the game. About 400 people were present at the match, which resulted in an easy win for the visitors. The game was of such an unsatisfactory description that the referee (Mr W. G. F. Thompson, of Medomsley) had to be escorted off the field by the Cornsay committeemen. McDermott, the home goalkeeper, refused to play against the Park men, for fear of taking the infection, and his place between the sticks was filled by Moralee. It is stated that a leading resident of Cornsay offered the club on Friday afternoon a sovereign to scratch to Leadgate Park, so that the players would not visit the locality. After the game, the Leadgate players carried their clothes to the brake, and, finding that it was futile to attempt to enter Cornsay, drove to the neighbouring village of Quebec. On arriving at the first public-house, however, the window shutters were fastened and the doors barred against them. The innkeeper would not allow them to go either into his stable or yard to put on their clothing, consequently this operation had to be done on the roadside as well as they could. They appealed to Sergt. Smallwood, but that officer declined to interfere, adding that he could not help it if the landlord refused to admit them, and counselled them to make the best of matters they possibly could. Some of the players called at private houses, only to find the doors fastened against them. The Park players say that they have passed through some queer football experiences, but last Saturday's proceedings would certainly remain indeliably impressed upon their minds as long as they lived.

The Park Reserve had a fixture with Trafalgar 2nd at Leadgate, on Saturday, but a post-card was received from Mr A. Birbeck, secretary, intimating that they were unable to raise a team, and adding. "Our players are frightened of the small-pox, which is so bad in Leadgate." The Newcastle team, however, offered to arrange a holiday fixture with them.

The Leadgate Exiles fixed a match with a Brandon club away from home on Friday morning, but on Friday night a telegram was received cancelling the fixture, the small-pox epidemic being assigned as the cause.

Mickley had to play Dipton Wanderers, at Dipton, but the visiting club, on arriving at Newcastle, wired to say that owing to their inability to raise a team, it was no use their coming further.

We may add that the utterances of Father Fortin are strongly condemned by some influential people as "injudicious" and "uncalled for," and it is possible that the rev gentleman may be instrumental not only in striking a deadly blow at the football pastime, but doing harm to the people of Leadgate in general.

NOTES FROM THE STEEPLE.

[By the "Old Crow."]

CO-OPERATION *A LA* NEWBOTTLE.

The revelations made within the past few days as a result of the investigation into the affairs of the Newbottle Co-operative Society have caused quite a sensation, as well they might. These investigations are not yet completed and more may remain behind. At the present, however, there is sufficient to make the members feel very uneasy and apprehensive. Let us see for a moment, what has already been discovered. Amounts owing for goods supplied by merchants and others have been omitted from the printed statement of accounts to the amount of some thousands of pounds. It has been customary for the treasurer to pass the keys of the safe to the manager, the last-named taking out what moneys he liked and accounting for the same by verbal statements only. Dividends have been paid which a fair trading of the society did not warrant. Books of accounts between shopmen and treasurer have not been balanced for months. The last balance sheet issued, that for the quarter ending October 16th, declared the society to be in a sound financial condition, and that the sale of goods for the period named, amounted to £16868. The net profit on the quarters' trading was stated to be £2,636, a dividend of 3s 2d in the £ being shown. The liabilities were entered as £24,961, and the assets as £24,932. According to the accountants' report, the assets on November 14th 1893, only a month after the making up of this balance sheet, amounted to £30,740, whilst the liabilities on the same date reached £30,655, showing a deficit of £9 915. Further investigations show the business of the society to have been conducted in a very loose and unbusiness like manner, and that the manager has been allowed to carry on the affairs of the society uncontrolled. Accounts have been entered in the books as paid without any particulars of the payments being given; signatures to amounts vouched for as paid have been repudiated by persons whose signatures appear on the receipts, and, in fact, it is denied in several cases that the moneys have ever been received. Cheques have been paid away for one amount and entered in the cash book as far larger amounts. But why go further? Is it wonderful to learn that such a statement as that made by the accountant responsible for the investigations; a statement, only a brief summary of which is given above, should have caused a profound sensation on the listening members? That the heartiest sympathy is felt for one and all of them in their cruel loss goes without saying. They have the commiseration of the community. Happily, it appears, there is still a gleam of light to brighten the dark cloud and the members are advised to remain loyal to their store. By continuing their purchases at the store as of old they are told they can before long redeem their lost position and eventually they will be able to pay twenty shillings in the £. It is pleasant to notice that the members, practically unanimously, have fallen in with the views of the accountant, Mr Bailey, whom they have appointed a liquidator in conjunction with another professional gentleman, Mr Robert Allen, under whose supervision the business will be carried on, and it is confidently anticipated that in fifteen months or so, the society will be in a prosperous condition. That the members are wise in acting upon these lines is a fact too obvious to need explanation. Any extreme course would only have brought disaster.

For a time the facts of the Newbottle Society will undoubtedly tend to produce want of confidence and some anxiety amongst members of other stores. This, however, will pass away again in time. But the lesson should not and will not, I venture to think be lost upon members of kindred society. A week or so ago there appeared a letter in the *Guardian* from a correspondent signing himself William Simpson which was full of good suggestions. One of the first importance was that calling for the services of chartered accountants each quarter for the checking of the books, and the making up of the balance sheet. The expense entailed would be found in the end fully compensated for. Auditors appointed by the members are well enough in their way, but the fact that they are themselves members and naturally interested in the success of the store and the declaration of dividends, and, it must be added, not always competent to fulfil the duties they are called upon to perform, their usefulness is not too obvious. A disinterested man, qualified thoroughly for the work and paid to do it would prove the cheapest in the end. Another important point is the distinction between the manager and secretary. These duties should not be combined under any circumstances. But it is, perhaps no longer needful to the consideration of members of Co-operative stores to this question. It is safe to surmise that where such a conjunction of duties has been in operation up to the present time, the members concerned will see to it without delay and make other arrangements. There are many other useful suggestions made by Mr Simpson that deserve very careful consideration and I commend them to those of my readers who are members of Co-operative Societies. Time and space will not allow me to further dwell on them this week; but I hope to revert to a consideration of them on a future occasion.

Good houses are being drawn to the Theatre Royal, Consett, by Fred. H. Graham's attractive burlesque, *Dick Whittington*. It is not very long since his rollicking pantomimic perversion was presented before a local audience and happy recollections are brought to bear. It is a most sidesplitting and diverting burlesque full of good jokes catchy songs, and graceful dances. The are lots of pretty faces too and none of them go unadmired. Miss Marie Roseland as "Dick" is altogether delightful and proves a great favourite seconding clever work of Mr F. Graham who, as Sergeant Sceakem is gloriously funny. The *Caste* is a long one—too long for individual notice here; but every member does his or her work with a zest and appreciation delightful to witness. The dresses are most pretty, and the scenery very beautiful.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

[By "Stanhope."]

The Weardale Highway Board after long deliberation have at last decided to hire a steam roller for road making purposes. It is quite time they did, as they are just about a century behind at road making. Their roads are made flat, and the water stands on them very much, causing the wheels to crush them up and make a great amount of dirt on the roads for foot passengers to wade through.

Dr Livingstone advocated the purchase of a steam roller, and he put his case well. The cost of the roller he said would not be more than £300, and the Board would save it the first year besides having a different class of road high in the middle months, and no mud and water standing on them as at present. In 1889 he said our roads cost us £1200 keeping right. The steam roller would make about one mile of good road per week, which would require little looking after for years except the channelling.

There is a preponderance of farmers on the Highway Board, who are slow to move in the direction of any expenditure, but would move on in the old rut. The doctor and a few of the leading spirits seek economy as well as the farmers, but are averse to the penny wise and pound foolish system of paying some £1200 a year for keeping the roads in repair. Most of the other Highway Boards around us are ahead of us and have steam rollers and better roads at a less cost.

There was a good faction fight at the Guardians' meeting on Friday, between the Radicals and the Tories on the Board, over the Gateshead circular which took exception to certain classes of the Parish Councils Bill now before Parliament. Chancellor Espin ably defended the resolutions on the circular and Dr Livingstone as ably rebutted the statements of the rev gentleman regarding them.

It fell to the lot of that stalwart radical, Mr Stephenson, of Westgate, to defeat the Chancellor by moving that the circular lay on the table and that the Board proceed to the next business Mr Watson instantly came to the help of the Westgate Radical by seconding the resolution and the thing was shelved at once. These Weardale Radicals are always suspicious of a clergyman at at any of their Board meetings, and generally go for them. They have the impression that they are opposed to progress and the wishes of the democracy.

The ex-officio members are anything but popular at Board meetings with most of the Radical class of members, who think them unelective and unrepresentative, and they are hoping that in the Parish Councils Bill they will be left out as being unrepresentative members of their Board.

Miss Hill, of Daddryshields, a scholar of Mr Freeman's, at Westgate Board School, has won a Queen's Scholarship. The fact speaks well for Board School education, for the precocity of intellect of Weardale bairns, and also for Mr Freeman as an excellent teacher.

Wolsingham has done well at the recent examinations in connection with the Technical Education classes. In machine construction and drawing, out of 46 students who sat, 21 passed the examination. The average percentage of passes for the United Kingdom was 25 per cent., while Wolsingham was equal to 45 per cent. There is talent in the old town yet.

The Stanhope Primitive young men's sewing tea realised £9 last week-end. The young ladies have theirs this week-end, and I sincerely hope they will beat the young men, as women invariably do beat the men. They are trying their level best.

A concert is to be held for poor old Matthew Carr, the Stanhope veterinary, who is lame, infirm, and in feeble health, out of work, and in need of help. It is to be held on Saturday evening week, when it is hoped that it will be a "bumper." Few men deserve help more than Matthew. He has devoted a large amount of time in the interests of farmers and their stock, and it is hoped this class will now remember him.

WEST STANLEY.

Gospel Temperance Meeting.—The usual gospel temperance meeting was held on Sunday last, when an excellent programme was rendered by a party of friends from Hobson Colliery. The meeting was opened by singing "What a friend we have in Jesus." Bro. Jonathan Charlton, L.D., of the "Pride of South Moor Lodge" took the chair. After which Mrs Bird, Misses Gibson, Hall, and Messrs Marshall and Bird sang. Mr William Kelly then addressed the meeting on the temperance question with great zeal. Mr R. Lowes gave a recitation. The meeting was then closed in the ordinary way.

SWALWELL.

Band of Hope.—The ordinary meeting was held on Monday evening, in the Board School, when an excellent programme was supplied by the N w Connextion choir. Swalwell, under the leadership of Mr R. Whitfield, who also presided at the piano. Mr Jno Johnson gave the address, which was of the most practical kind, Mr T. D. Anderson, then recited with powerful elocutionary ability "The little stowaway." The choir rendered the anthem "Thou wilt keep me." Several pledges were taken, and a most successful meeting was brought to a close by the chairman (Mr Spears) pronouncing the benediction.

GREENCROFT.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—On Saturday night, a grand concert was given in the Greencroft Primitive Methodist Chapel, by Mr John Humble and family, and the following ladies and gentlemen:—Miss M. Treleven, Miss E. Prinn, Miss M Prinn, Miss E. Ward, and Messrs J. Robson and J. Iceton. The singing was exceptionally well rendered. The chair was ably occupied by Mr J. Allsop, and the audience was much larger than usual.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[By "Annfieldite."]

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

Miss M. E. Johnstone preached again on Sunday last, in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Annfield Plain, when there were large congregations. She will leave with the good wishes and prayers of all for her future success.

TEMPERANCE SUNDAY.

On Sunday morning last, the Primitive Methodist Sunday-school at Annfield Plain celebrated the Connexional observance of the Temperance Sunday, when a temperance address was given by Mr P. Reay.

AN ACCIDENT.

On Tuesday last, while Robert Bates, living at Kyo, was following his employment in the South Colliery, a fall of stone and coal came down, and caught him, breaking his thigh bone, and inflicting several cuts about the body. He was taken to his home, and his wounds attended to. Mr Bates is a leading member of the Free Methodist body, Catchgate.

CONCERT AT HIGH SPEN.

The Temperance Society gave a special concert in the school-room at High Spen, to a large and intelligent audience, the room being crowded to excess. Mr T. Armstrong, who occupied the chair, gave a short address on temperance, followed by a song, "The anchor's weighed," by Mr T. Wilson, which was ably rendered; Misses S. Midgley and M. A. Fewster gave a duet, "The convent bells," in good style; Miss M. A. Stewart sang "Shells of the ocean" remarkably well; Mr John Wishart, an old veteran, gave an amusing sketch, "Nursing the baby," which fairly brought down the house; Mr Shotton sang "True till death" in a very able manner, after which the Temperance Reed Band gave a selection of music in a praiseworthy manner. Then followed a dramatic sketch, entitled "The Area Belle," the characters being sustained by the following:—

Pitcher, in the police............Mr T. Wilson.
Tosser, in the Grenadiers ...Mr J. R. Stewart.
Walker Chalks, the milkman
Mr J. W. Midgley.
Mrs Croaker, the missus...Miss C. Armstrong.
Penelope, the area belle ......Miss S. Midgley.

Each performer fully maintained the character represented, and caused great enthusiasm. The scenery was tastefully designed, made, and directed by Mr J. W. Midgley. Miss A. Armstrong ably presided at the harmonium. In moving a vote of thanks to the company, a special request was made that the entertainment should be given again at an early date. The concert was brought to a close, after a hearty and enjoyable evening had been spent, by the singing of "God save the Queen." The proceeds were in aid of the band fund.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

To-morrow's Fixtures (Saturday, Dec. 2nd)

Leadgate Exiles v Berwick Rangers, at Berwick.
Blackhill Rovers v Gosforth, at Blackfine.
Langley Park Albions v Usworth Swifts 2nd, at Usworth.
Esh True Blues v Cornsay Rovers, at Esh.
Oakey's Lilywhites v Waterhouses Wanderers, at Waterhouses.
Marley Hill St. Cuthbert's v Ryer Moor, at Marley Hill.
Hedley Hill Terrace Rangers v Kyo Gems, at Kyo.
Waldridge White Star v Felling Church Institute, at the Felling.
Dipton Wanderers Reserve v Elswick Wesley, at Dipton.
Lizzie Celtics v South Moor Violets, at South Moor.
Blackhill Rovers 2nd v Hamsteels 2nd, at Hamsteels.
Consett Juniors v Blackhill St. Bede's, at Consett.
Consett Shamrocks v Shotley Bridge Rovers 2nd, at Shotley Bridge.
Consett Albions v Allendale Rising Stars, at Allendale.

ENGLISH AMATEUR CUP.

THIRD ROUND.

LEADGATE EXILES v. BERWICK RANGERS.

The Exiles will travel to Berwick to play their tie in the above competition, and will do their utmost to uphold their reputation. The Exiles will be represented as follows:—Goal, J. O'Neil; backs, J. Haggan and Wm. McGee; half-backs, B. Rogers, T. McGrachan, and J. Monaghan (capt.); forwards, W. McKie and J. McGee, right wing; J. Hill, centre; T. Conroy and H. Callaghan, left wing. Linesman, Thos. Kennedy. Referee, Mr A. Donaldson, Newcastle.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v. GOSFORTH.

This match will be played at Blackfine, when a good game should result. The following will represent the Rovers:—Full back, T. Elliott; three-quarter backs, R. Stobbs, J. Aitken, A. Dickinson, and J. Askew; half-backs, Geo. Smailes (capt.) and J. Brown; forwards, Geo. Sayers, W. Brown, J. Anderson, A. Taylor, G. Hewitson, A. McGhee, Geo. Aitken, and J. Grant. Kick-off at 3-20 prompt. Referee, Mr Jos. Askew.

Blackhill Rovers 2nd v Hamsteels 2nd.—These teams will meet at Hamsteels. The following will do duty for the Rovers:—Full back, H. Murray; three-quarter backs, J. Stokoe, J. Carr, Wm. Smith, and W. Leybourne; half-backs, W. Byers and C. Bellingham; forwards, J. Morgan, D. Aitken, E. Gibson, T. Lumley (capt.), Bradley, G. Bell, Finnighan, and Kays.

WEARDALE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

HIGHWAY BOARD.

The monthly meeting was held on Friday—Mr R. J. Backhouse, J.P., presiding.

FOOTPATHS.

Sub-committees were appointed to carry out the work of making footpaths throughout the dale. Frosterley village somehow has been left out, and it was decided to ask the County Council to complete the footpaths through the village.

The footpath from Stanhope to Crawleyside is also to come before the Council, as the Local Board's road does not go to the furnace gate, but only to the Dene entrance.

A STEAM ROLLER.

Ald. Livingstone advocated the use of a steam-roller for road making purposes, instead of the present costly and defective style. He showed that the Board spent some £1,200 per year in keeping their roads good, and the cost of a steam-roller would be saved the first year. Besides, they would have superior roads, with no loose patches of stones laming cattle which were driven over them, and the exceeding cruelty to the poor horses dragging heavy loads over them.

It was decided to hire a steam-roller for a month, and report upon its success to another meeting.

Epps's Cocoa.—Grateful and Comforting.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately favoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.*—Made with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets by grocers, labelled—"James Epps & Co., Limited, Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Cocoaine or Nib Extract Tea-like 486m

STANLEY LOCAL BOARD.

On Wednesday afternoon, the ordinary meeting of this body was held in the Board-room, Front Street, West Stanley, Mr Geo. Forster (chairman) presiding. The other members present were Messrs J. Green, T. W. W. Ritson, J. Watson, R. Kay, J. Smith, J. Robinson, M. G. Armstrong, the Clerk (Mr J. T. Ridley), the Surveyor (Mr Jos. Routledge), and the Medical Officer (Dr Thomas Benson).

NEW LAMPS WANTED.

The Lighting Committee recommended that Messrs Moffatt and Co.'s tender for providing new lamps and pillars be accepted.

The Surveyor reported that they would require a further supply of 65 lamps and pillars for to light the district of South Moor, Shield Row, and Oxhill.

Mr Smith moved that the necessary lamps and pillar be ordered, and to be delivered as required.

This was seconded by Mr Robinson.

Carried.

The recommendation of the Lighting Committee was agreed to.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Medical Officer (Dr Benson) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Stanley Local Board.

Gentlemen,—The list of infectious diseases notified to me since my last report consists of one case of enteric fever, two cases of scarlatina, and six of whooping cough. The origin of the first mentioned was not traceable, but the rest originated from others that had recently occurred in the same locality. As all the cases have either recovered or are now convalescent, the district may be considered practically free from disease of an infectious character. The mortality for the five weeks is over the usual average; 19 deaths were registered, being equal to an annual death-rate of 23 per 1,000. None of the deaths, however, resulted from preventable diseases. I may call your Board's attention to the condition of the old cottages at Kip Hill. They were reported as being in an insanitary state some months ago, and nothing has been done towards making them decently habitable.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
T. Benson, Medical Officer.
The Urban Sanitary Authority, Stanley.
November 28th, 1893.

The report was adopted.

KIP HILL OLD COTTAGES.

The Surveyor intimated that Mr Asquith had promised to repair the Old Cottages at Kip Hill.

Mr Armstrong said the parties concerned should have their attention again drawn to the condition of these houses, and he would move a motion to that effect.

Mr Ritton: I will second the same.

Agreed to.

BALANCE IN HAND.

The Clerk reported that the balance in hand was £278.

MORE DRAINAGE WANTED.

A letter was read from Messrs Scott and Lee, contractors, pointing out that the property of Mr Robinson, at Cross Lane Ends, was fast approaching completion, and that there was no public drain in the back street, and desired to know where the property had to be drained into.

On the motion of Mr Armstrong, seconded by Mr Ritson, permission was given to put in a temporary drain until the drainage scheme was completed.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr Joe. Routledge) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of Stanley Local Board.

Gentlemen,—The yard belonging to Mr Cooper's property, Front Street, Stanley, is in a very insanitary condition. There is one sink and one privy fit for use for three or four tenants.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
Jos. Routledge.

The members came to the conclusion that if a man owned property he ought to see that he provided his tenants with proper conveniences.

The Surveyor was requested to take what action he thought necessary.

A COMPLAINT.

The following letter was read:—

33, Sherburn Terrace,
Consett,
Nov. 27th, 1893.

To the Chairman and Members of the West Stanley Local Board of Health.

Gentlemen,—

House at South Moor for Mr Wm. Wright.

Shortly after the formation of your Board, I submitted plans, &c., for a new house for Mr William Wright, and after several alterations in drainage and internal arrangements were ultimately passed by you. These plans showed a short drain from our cellar running into an open drain there, which already drained some of the houses in Greenland Villas. Since then your representatives have laid in a drain in the said open trench at a level of 2ft. or so above our cellar floor, filled in the trench, and raised the road several feet.

On behalf of my client, I respectfully ask your Board to lower the existing drain so as to allow him proper facilities to drain his cellar on his new premises, as shown on the block plan passed by you, and a copy of which you retain in your possession. Awaiting your favourable reply,

I remain, gentlemen, yours very truly,
John Doherty, Architect.

Mr Kay proposed that the letter be referred to the Building Committee for consideration.

This was seconded by Mr Robinson.

Carried.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Jos Routledge) submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Stanley Local Board.

Gentlemen,—During the month, your workmen have chiefly been engaged dressing up the outfall works at South Moor, and finishing the footpath on Oxhill Road. They have also opened out the drain from Messrs Joicey's houses, Oxhill, and extended the outlet sewer from Old South Moor, and connected it with the sewer that goes into the filtering beds.

I will require 30 yards of 6in. pipes for this drain, and 30 yards of 6in. pipes for water courses at Greenland Bridge and other places.

Mr Wright's house and shop at South Moor is nearly finished. He has put his drain into an inspection shaft at the back of his house, but there is no outlet for it. There ought to be some provision made before the habitation certificate is granted.

I have had an application from Messrs Scott and Lee, contractors, asking where they have to drain Mr Robinson's house and shop into at East Stanley on the Towneley Estate.

Mr Geo. Sterling has commenced with his alterations. I have given him notice not to bring forward the shop front beyond the front main wall of the house.

I will require about 50 tons of screened chips for footpaths.

The storm and wind last week did a considerable amount of damage to the lamps. Several of them have been completely destroyed. Some 20 glasses have been broken.

As requested, I have prepared plans for additional straining tank at South Moor outfall works. Also plans of sewer for Towneley, South Moor building estate. Also plan of roadway from the Catholic Schools to new Church Institute.

The following houses are ready for habitation certificates:—

One house in Thorneyholme Terrace for Rev Father Thompson.

One house in Thorneyholme Terrace for Mr Jos. Robinson.

Two houses in Mary Street for Mr Statt.

One house in Clifford Road for Mr George Forster.

Five houses in Mary Street for West Stanley Co operative Society.

Two houses and shops in Front Street for Mr Wm. Aynsley.

Two houses and shops at South Moor for Mr W. Gray.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
Jos. Routledge.

MR STERLING'S PROPERTY.

With reference to Mr Geo. Sterling projecting his shop beyond the front main wall of his property, the Surveyor said he served him with the notice on Monday last.

Mr Ritson: If we take any action let us do so at once.

The Clerk stated that for every day Mr Sterling disobeyed the notice the penalty was 40s.

Mr Armstrong said it was most unfortunate that they should have to go against one of their own townsmen; but nevertheless they must carry out the law of the land.

Mr Ritson moved that the Clerk and Surveyor take the necessary action for recovering the penalty for the breach of the offence.

Mr Robinson said he did not like to go to such extreme measures. They had better point out to Mr Sterling his error.

Mr Green: Mr Sterling is still going on with the work.

Mr Armstrong said it would have been a wise thing for Mr Sterling to have attended the Board meeting, and pointed out what he intended to do.

The Surveyor: I expect Mr Sterling is coming.

It was decided to wait and see if Mr Sterling put in an appearance before any definite action was taken.

[Mr Sterling had not waited upon the Board when our representative left.]

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The following cheques were presented for payment:—

	£	s	d
Medical Officer's salary	6	5	0
R. G. Barclay	1	5	0
Collector's salary	5	0	0
Surveyor and Inspector's salary	30	0	0
J. G. Ridley	7	10	0
Messrs Hodgson, Barnett, and Co.—office rent	4	11	0
West Stanley Colliery Co.—gas	21	11	3
Wm. Johnson	16	0	0
Thos. Mordue	40	0	0
Wm. Johnson	40	0	0
Jos. Routledge—monthly pay-bill	75	0	0

The cheques were ordered to be signed.

THE FOOTPATHS.

Several of the members complained of the disagreeable condition of the footpaths in the district.

The Surveyor promised to give the footpaths his attention.

THE DAMAGED LAMPS.

On the motion of Mr Green, seconded by Mr Robinson, the Surveyor was instructed to see that the damaged lamps were repaired.

NEW RATE.

A new rate of 1s in the £, for the ensuing six months, was ordered to be sealed.

SOUTH MOOR SEWAGE WORKS.

The Surveyor presented plans for proposed alterations to these works; but it was decided to let the same stand over until the Local Government Inspector's report came to hand.

THE POLLUTION OF STANLEY BURN.

The following letters were read:—

Exchequer Buildings, Durham,
2nd November, 1893.

Sir,—I am directed by the Health Committee of the County Council to draw the attention of the Stanley Urban Sanitary Authority to the polluted state of the Stanley Burn mentioned in paragraph 64 of the County Medical Officer's report for the quarter ending 30th September, of which a print is sent herewith, and to request the Authority to take the necessary steps for preventing the pollution in future. And I shall be obliged if you will inform me at an early date what course the Authority proposes to pursue.—Yours faithfully,

Ralph Simey.

The Clerk to the
Stanley Urban Sanitary Authority.

The extract from Dr T. E. Hill's report to the County Council was as follows:—

Stanley Urban District.

64. The sewage beds at South Moor belonging to the Sanitary Authority have for many months been in a most neglected condition, and as a means of purifying the sewage which is turned on to them are absolutely useless. The settling tanks are in a most filthy condition, and the raw sewage was at the time of my visits passing on to the land without previous subsidence. The greater part of the land of the sewage farm is sewage logged, and covered with decomposing sludge to the depth of several inches, and the effluent discharging into the Stanley Burn was very unsatisfactory. The Stanley Burn is also polluted by the sewage of a large number of houses at South Moor passing more or less directly into it, and as the water of the Burn is at present used for drinking purposes below the point of these pollutions, it is most important that these should be prevented, and that the sewage farm should be kept in proper working order.

Market Place, Durham,
Oct. 31st, 1893.

Dear Sir,—

Stanley Burn Pollution.

On behalf of Messrs G. J. and H. T. Fenwick, through whose estate Stanley Burn flows, and also on behalf of the Chester-le-Street Water Co., whose supply is obtained from this burn, I have to draw your attention to the serious pollution of the burn from sewage within your district—both from the beds at South Moor, and also from houses which send their sewage into the burn without any attempt at filtration.

The Medical Officer of Health for the Chester-le-Street Union stated at the Police Court, Chester-le-Street, on 11th October, in the hearing of case against the Water Company, that the filter beds were quite inefficient, and also that sewage was sent into the burn without any attempt at filtration. In fact, he ascribed an outbreak of typhoid fever which occurred at Chester-le-Street last November to the sewage from South Moor.

Messrs Fenwick are entitled to the flow of the water in the burn through their estate free from any pollution in the upper reaches, and I must request your Board to take immediate steps to prevent any such pollution.—Yours truly,

John Turnbull.

The Clerk,
Stanley Local Board,
Stanley, Co. Durham.

Chester-le-Street,
November 14th, 1893.

Pollution of Stanley Burn.

Dear Sir,—As it appeared from the evidence given in court in the recent proceedings by the above Authority against the Chester-le-Street Water Company, that Stanley Burn is polluted by sewage from South Moor, in your Local Board district, from imperfect filtration, I am directed by the Authority to draw the attention of your Board to the matter, and to express a hope that measures will be taken by them as soon as possible to prevent such pollution.—Yours truly,

Robt. Dickinson,
Clerk.

J. G. Ridley, Esq.,
Clerk to Stanley Local Board,
Stanley, R.S.O.

After the matter had been thoroughly discussed, the members came to the conclusion that they were doing all they could with the pollution at present, and it was resolved that the Clerk should write the Local Government Board pointing out the nature of the complaints that had been received, and requesting that the Government Inspector's report anent the sewage works at South Moor should be forwarded without delay.

This was all the business of importance.

LINTZ COLLIERY.

An entertainment at Lintz Colliery was given by the members of the West Stanley Juvenile Templars on Saturday evening, after which a coffee supper was provided.

THE BLACK STAR MINSTRELS AT MEDOMSLEY.

No small excitement is caused amongst the sober inhabitants of Medomsley by the announcement on posters and handbills that these minstrels will make their appearance in the Temperance Hall, Medomsley, on Saturday first, 2nd December. On that occasion the "stars" will first shine, and Medomsley should feel specially honoured seeing that not only is the troupe almost entirely composed of Consett and Blackhill talent, but a company of no mean order. Indeed, from the very short time it has been in existence, it proficiency is astonishing. Very likely, however, this will be largely accounted for by the fact that, although all amateurs, most of its members have had good experience in the nigger line before. This was clearly shown from the apparent ease and smoothness with which they fulfilled their parts in a private rehearsal held a night or two ago. It goes without saying much of the life and success of a negro performance lies with the corner men, and in this particular the Stars are very strong. The solo singing is another specially pleasing feature, the rendering of the different songs being done, not only in a masterly style, but with excellent quality of voice, while the neat and tripping way in which the bright and sparkling choruses are given is very commendable. Far from feeling any weakness, the Stars court criticism, and we have no doubt that, if the rehearsal be a fair criterion, their performance on Saturday will be crowned with success.

A word or two as to the object of the troupe. The band contest held some time ago is still fresh in the public mind, and its success indicated a felt public want. To supply this want it has been arranged to hold a second contest, in which it is expected that the finest bands in the Kingdom will take part. To insure the presence of these bands larger and more valuable prizes will be offered, and the consequent and additional outlay it will be the endeavour of the troupe to meet. To accomplish this it is not proposed to lay under contribution any particular township, but the district as a whole. Thus, from the advertisement in another column, it will be found that following Medomsley the Spen and Stanley, respectively, will be visited. Stanhope, Shotley Bridge, Consett, Leadgate, &c., will, of course, be included in the tour, but for dates and places, &c., timely notice will be given by periodical announcements in our subsequent issues, as well as by posters and handbills. To those who would seek a charming and instructive entertainment, combined with all sorts of catching comicality, the Black Stars will be found entirely to their mind.

T. C. RAWES & CO.
CAB PROPRIETORS AND
FUNERAL FURNISHERS.
Supply the Best and Cheapest HEARSES and MOURNING COACHES.
Special terms for Brakes for Trips during the Summer Months.
Coffins and every necessary supplied on the Shortest Notice. The strictest regard to Economy being specially observed.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Consett—34, Queen Street, 29th ult., the wife of Thomas Sinclair, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Blackhill—At the United Methodist Free Church, 28th ult., by Rev Mr Pitchford, John Curry to Isabella Liddle, both of Low Westwood.

Frosterley—25th ult., Robert Cant, of Slaley, to Mary Hannah Coates, of Frosterley.

DEATHS.

Consett—19, Edith Street, 30th ult., aged 38, Robert, dearly-beloved husband of Mary Hannah Daniels. Interment to take place on Saturday. *Cortege* to leave at 2.30. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.

11, Consett Terrace, 29th ult., Robert Dee. Interment on Sunday at 2 30 p.m. Friends please accept this intimation 695m

Iveston—26th ult., aged 79, Dorothy, widow of the late Thomas Reed.

Oxhill—24th ult., aged 54, George, husband of Jane Luke.

Catchgate—29th ult., aged 4 years and 7 months, Fred, the beloved son of William and Isabella Eltringham. Interred at Collierley (Hare Law) on Saturday, the 2nd inst., at 3.30 p.m. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.

Pelton Fell—Aged 84, Robert Nicholson.

Burnhope Colliery—23rd ult., aged 60, George Holt, husband of Margaret Holt.

West Pelton—Joicey's Buildings, aged 74, Wm. Henderson.

Esh Winning—39, South Street, 23rd ult., aged 45, James Sharpe.

Rowland's Gill—23rd ult., aged 70, Barbara Johnson, wife of Thomas Johnson.

Blanchland—23rd ult., aged 83, Thomas Colpitts.

Lintzford—24th ult., aged 58, John Reed.

Cornsay—South Farm, 25th ult., aged 7 years and 8 months, Dorothy Jane, daughter of John and Dorothy Storey.

Birtley—Church Row, 24th ult., aged 74, George, husband of Dorothy Turnbull.

Bensham—5, Cruddas Terrace, 26th ult., aged 56, John Waugh, late of Consett.

Stanhope—27th ult., Frances Brown, widow of the late Robert Brown.

In loving memory of Dorothy Ann, the dearly-beloved daughter of Thomas and Mary Harbottle, of Allendale Cottages Post Office, who departed this life November 29th, 1886.

"She was welcomed at the pearly portals,
To be evermore a welcome guest;
Welcomed to the life immortal,
In the mansions of the blest." 985m

In loving remembrance of my dear father, Jacob Rowell, Clough Dene, who departed this life December 7th, 1892.

"His voice is now silent, his heart is now cold,
Where his smiles and his welcome did meet us of old;
We miss him and mourn him in silence unseen,
And dwell on the memory of days that have been."
Jane.

In loving memory of Thomas George, the beloved son of Joseph and Jane Brown, who died at Tantobie, December 1st, 1892.

"In the morning of life, in the opening of day,
This lovely young flower was taken away,
To the regions of bliss, with bright angels so fair,
We hope we will meet him his glory to share."

In loving remembrance of Joseph Butcher, eldest and dearly-beloved son of Joseph and Frances Mackey, St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside who died December 2nd, 1892.

"Life looks before a blank and dreary space,
The place that knew him is a vacant place;
But he who thoughts and ways are not as ours
Transplants our lilies, comes and culls our flowers;
He more than answers our heart-whispered prayer,
And takes our blossoms into His own care."

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MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS IN MARBLE, STONE, AND GRANITE,
CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL, AND BURNOPFIELD
Inscriptions neatly executed in Town or Country
Special Designs and Estimates on application.

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