ROBERT JACKSON'S
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENTS,
66, 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. 333m

No. 1,738. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, December 22nd, 1893. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

MONEY!

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

Are prepared to ADVANCE daily from £10 to £1000, to Tradesmen, 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.
94j

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 6 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 per annum interest, and can be withdrawn at 14 days' notice.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.

Wanted.

WANTED, a GIRL, able to milk.—Apply to Mrs HETHERINGTON, 28, Durham Road, Blackhill. 897m

WANTED, at once, a respectable GIRL, about 20, as General Servant.—Apply, Slades House, Ebchester. 167m

WANTED, a STRONG LAD to go with horse and cart.—Apply, WM. HEUGHAN, Knitsley Grange. 887m

WANTED, a Strong BOY, as an Apprentice to the Grocery Business; also a GIRL as Apprentice to the Drapery.—Apply personally to JOHN HALL and Co., Annfield Plain. 855m

CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE STORE.—WANTED, MILK DELIVERERS. Applicants must be over 15 years of age. To meet the Committee, on Tuesday night, December 26th, at Seven p.m.
796m E. HUNTLEY, Secretary.

WANTED, for Central of the ANNFIELD PLAIN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, an Assistant ORDER COLLECTOR, not under 18 years of age. Wage 28s. per week. Preference given to members' families. Also, an APPRENTICE for the MEDOMSLEY BUTCHERING DEPARTMENT, not to be under 15 nor above 17 years of age, confined to members' families trading at Medomsley. Applications for both situations to be made to the Committee, Annfield Plain, on Monday night first at 7 o'clock. 859m

AGENCY.—For good GENERAL SERVANTS apply at the SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE, 13, Front Street, Consett. 29k

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, a HOUSE in Sherburn Terrace, Consett.—Apply, 15, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

TO LET, a FOUR-ROOMED HOUSE, with Outbuildings and Seven Acres of Pasture Land, at Iveston.—Apply, Box C, *Guardian* Office. 905m

TO LET, HOUSE and SHOP, 66, Durham Road, Blackfine, containing Seven Rooms, also Front and Back Shop.—Apply, P. STOKOE, 71, Durham Road, Blackfine. 870m

FOR SALE.—Bargains, Walnut PIANO, 3 American ORGANS, 4 HARMONIUMS, 6 Sets HARNESS, RIDING SADDLE and BRIDLE.—Apply A. PHILLIPSON, Dipton. 653m

TO LET, at New South Moor, a HOUSE of FIVE ROOMS, and a BUTCHER'S SHOP, and HOUSE of SEVEN ROOMS, together with all other necessary conveniences.—For particulars apply to Mr JOHN SMITH, Post Office, South Moor. 763m

TO BE LET, by Tender, the GRAZING FARM, of Harthope, in the Parish of Wolsingham, containing 250 acres more or less. J. Anderson, gamekeeper, Fowlees, near Wolsingham, will show the Farm, and offers in writing will be received by R. S. BAINBRIDGE, Keverstone, Staindrop, up to the 6th January, 1894, from whom farther particulars may be obtained.

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 (250 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. 496m

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a COW, third calf.—Apply, JOHN W SIMPSON, Saddler, Ebchester. 890m

FOR SALE, strong useful PONY, 13 h.h., splendid goer, quiet in every respect.—Apply, F. WELCH, Annfield Plain. 893m

FOR SALE, a Strong, Light, Hawkers WAGGON Wood top, Waterproof sides.—Apply JAS. BROWN, Boot Dealer, Stanley. 856m

FOR SALE, a Good, New, Strong SPRING CART.—Apply, I. ENGLAND, Derwentcote Farm, Lintz Green. 855m

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

FOR SALE, PIANO, in Walnut, Iron Frame, Check Action, &c.; moderate price.—Apply to JOHN SURTEES, Teacher of Music, Cemetery Road, Blackhill. 790m

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.

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,
45, Cloth Market, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 461m

For Sale.

CLOCKS, CLOCKS, Clocks FOR SALE, at Wholesale Prices, for Cash, at F WELCH & Co, Annfield Plain. 891m

PIANO FOR SALE, quite new, Walnut case, iron frame, full trichord, and all the latest improvements; splendidly finished interior, 10 years' guarantee; deferred payments; liberal discount for cash; Inspection invited.—Apply, F WELCH, Annfield Plain. 839m

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

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.

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.

COCKBURN'S

FOR STATIONERY, CONFECTIONERY, FANCY AND USEFUL ARTICLES,
DIARIES, POCKET BOOKS, DAY BOOKS, LEDGERS, SCHOOL REWARDS.
BOOKS BOUND, PICTURES FRAMED,
Spectacles for all Sights.
13, FRONT STREET CONSETT.
Agent for the British and Foreign Bible Society.

MR. JOHN USHER,

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

£1 TO £10

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. 962a

ALL COUNTRY VISITORS TO CONSETT DURING THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS, ARE REQUESTED TO CALL AT

T. MILNER'S,

CHEMIST, CONSETT,

FOR PURE DRUGS, CHEMICALS, COUGH AND INFLUENZA REMEDIES.
Chest and Lung Protectors.
INVALID'S WINES, ÆRATED WATERS.
Toilet Soap Perfumes.
HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES.
Hovell and Co's Celebrated Crackers.

Every Purchaser of 10s Value during the next Four Weeks, including Monday, January 8th, will receive a Life-like PICTURE of MISS ELLEN TERRY, as "Queen Catherine," in Shakespeare's Henry the VIII. 723m

WORTH KNOWING.

K. VOSS,

65, 67, BLACKETT STREET, NEWCASTLE, Has the Greatest VARIETY of LEFT-OFF CLOTHING in the Provinces for LADIES, GENTLEMEN, and CHILDREN'S Wear.
HUNDREDS of SUITS.
HUNDREDS of OVERCOATS.
HUNDREDS of WATERPROOFS.
THOUSANDS of TROUSERS.

K.V. advertises largely, and buys direct from some of the best families in England, which enables him to Sell the Best and Latest Style of Clothing at prices to suit the Working Classes.
Come and look for Yourselves.
VOSS, 65, 65½, 67, 69, and 71, BLACKETT STREET.
A GREAT QUANTITY OF DRESS CLOTHING Always in Stock.
LADIES GOODS in every Variety.

A Large Stock of Guns, Field and Opera Glasses and other Goods too numerous to mention. 751

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, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA the Finest Tea in the World. Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.

WILLIAM STEWART & SON,

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

MARBLE AND CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES (OVER 60 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

DINNING AND COOKE,

HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95 PERCY STREET.

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, DECEMBER, 1893.

GEORGE RICHARDSON & SON,

HAVE pleasure in announcing the arrival of NEW GOODS in all Departments for Christmas Trade FANCY ARTICLES in great variety, including special Purchase of Manufacturers' Stock of SPANISH FANS to be Offered much under ordinary Prices.
WELL-ASSORTED STOCK OF WOOL WRAPS, SILK NECKERCHIEFS, & MUFFLERS.
Hemstitch and Embroidered Hankerchiefs for Xmas Presents.
LATEST STYLES IN LADIES' JACKETS, CLOAKS, AND HATS
WITNEY AND CLOTH BLANKETS (SUMMER FINISHED), AT LOWEST PRICES.
EXTENSIVE RANGES OF FLANNELS, FLANNELETTES, WOOL AND GRANDRILL SHIRTINGS.
TAILORS, DRESSMAKERS, AND MILLINERS, ON PREMISES.
INSPECTION INVITE

GEO. RICHARDSON & SON,

SILK MERCERS, LINEN AND WOOLEN DRAPERS, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

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. 4481

JAMES FROSDICK is the only Billposter that has rented Stations within the three Local Board districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfield side. Bills Posted and Distributed at the lowest rates. 598

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

W. BORROW,

COOPER, TEMPLETOWN, CONSETT, MAKES TO ORDER CHURNS, BUTTER TUBS, POSS TUBS, WASHING TUBS, &c., ON REASONABLE TERMS.
REPAIRING DONE TO ORDER. 4441

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 District. Goods packed into Trucks at Kilns. 801s

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.

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, Bean, 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 19, 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 19, 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 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

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.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS NOTICE.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,

MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
BLACKHILL, LEADGATE, AND WEST STANLEY,
THE WELL-KNOWN FAMILY GROCER, PROVISION DEALER, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,

Respectfully desires to acknowledge the long-continued and Increasing Support by his Customers and the Public generally.

VERY LARGE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND SUPERIOR STOCKS ARE HELD IN MY PRINCIPAL AND DIFFERENT BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE COMING FESTIVE SEASON.
WISHING YOU ALL THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

All Orders by Post or Telephone carefully attended to. Please send Orders early.

SPECIAL FEATURES.

Good Currants, 1½d., 2d., 3d., and 4d. per lb.
Finest Currants, 5d. per lb.
Lemon Peel, 4½d. per lb.
Thick Lemon Peel, 6d. per lb.
Orange Peel, 8d. per lb.
Selected Citron, 10d. per lb.
Figs, 4½d., 6d., and 1s. per box.
Finest Figs, 6d. per lb.
Valencia Almonds, 1s. 2d. per lb.
Jordon Almonds, 2s. per lb.
Ground Mace, 3d. per oz.
Ground Nutmeg, 3d. per oz.
Ground Cinnamon, 2d. per oz.
Stick Cinnamon, 3d. per oz.
Whole Nutmegs, 3d. per oz.
Pure Cassia, 1s. per lb.
Valencia Raisins, 1½d., 4d., and 5d. per lb.
Sultanas, 4d. and 5d. per lb.
Fine Muscatels, 1s. and 1s. 4d. per lb.
Flavouring Essences.
Lemon, Vanilla, Bitter Almonds, Ratifia Cochineal.
Dessicated Cocoanut.
Crystallized Ginger, 1s. per lb.
Cake Flours, "Feculina"
Cocoanut, Sultana, Madeira, Ginger, Victoria, Rice, Snow Flour, 4½d. per lb.
Icing Sugar, 4½d. per lb.
Banquet Sugar, 4d. per lb. (Superior to Castor).
Lump Sugar, 2½d. per lb.
Demerara Sugar, 2½d. per lb.
Fine Granulated, 2d. per lb.
Prunes, 6d. per lb.
Hartley's Jams:
Black Currants, 1 lb jar, 6d.
" 2 lb jar, 1s.
Strawberry, 1 lb jar, 6d.
" 2 lb jar, 1s.
Raspberry, 1lb jar, 6d.
" 2lb jar, 1s.
Apricot, 1lb jar, 6d.
Mincemeat, 1lb jar, 1s.
Hartley's Marmalade, 2lb jar, 8d.
" " Home-made, 2lb jar, 1s.
" " " " 1lb jar, 6d.
Apple Jelly, 1lb jar, 6d.
Black Currant Jelly, 6d. (Crosse and Blackwell).
Red Currant, Jelly, 6d. (Crosse and Blackwell).

Ground Rice, 6d per quarter stone.
Corn Flour, 5d. per lb.
Carolina Rice, 4d. per lb., or 1s. per qr. stone.
Jelly Powders,
Lemon, Orange, Vanilla, Pineapple, Raspberry, Strawberry, 4d. per packet.
Clear Sheet Gelatine, 2d. per oz.
Blanc Mange Powders.
Lemon, Orange, 4d. per packet.
Bottled Fruits, assorted.
Tinned Fruits.
Pears, Apricots, Pineapple, Peaches.
Tinned Meats.
Fray Bentos Tongues, 2s. 8d.
Libby and McNeil's, 1s. 2d. per tin.
Chicken, Ham, and Tongue, 1s. and 2s. 6d.
Phillips and Canaud's Sardines in Tomatoes, 1s. 4d. per tin.
Small Sardines, 4½d. and 6d per tin.
Whole Rabbit, 1s. per tin.
Brand Rabbit, 10½d. per tin.
Crown Brand Salmon, 8½d. per tin.
Black Eagle " 6d. per tin.
Crosse and Blackwell's Soups, 10d. per tin
" " " Pickles, 10½d. per bottle.
" " " Chutney.
" " " Vinegar.
Lea and Perrins Sauce, 10½d. per bottle.
Lemon Curd for Cheese cakes, 6d. and 10d. per jar.
Maccaroni, Vermicelli, 6d. per lb.
Semolina, 3½d. per packet.
Carr's Scotch Oaten, 9d. per packet.
Cocoa—Van Houten's, 10½d. per tin.
" Fry's Concentrated, 8½d. per tin.
Cocoatina, 1s per tin
Rock Cocoa, 1s 2d per lb
Sole Agent for Scatree's Cumberland Brown Bread Meal, 11d per bag
Huntley and Palmer's Cakes—Almond, Iced, Rutland, Chatsworth, Snow, School, Rice, Genoa, Bristol
Biscuits of every description
Chocolates, Almondines, Almonds, Nougat, Montilmart, Cocoanut, Walnuts, Devonshire Cream, Chinese Cubes, Pistachio, 2d per oz., or 7d per quarter Also in Boxes of various sizes
Cosaques, from 6d to 2s 6d per box
Rose's Lime Juice, 1s 2d per bottle

PROVISIONS.

Extra Choice Butter, finest, 1s. 3d. per lb.
Choice Danish Butter, 1s. per lb.
Finest Butterines, 6d., 8d., and 10d. per lb.
Bladder Lard, finest, 8d. per lb.
Pail Lard, 6d. per lb.
Cambridge Sausage—Fresh every Thursday, 8d. per lb.
German Sausage and Saveloy, 6d. per lb.

Finest Hams, 6d. and 7d. per lb.
Cumberland Hams and Bacon
Irish Rolls, 9d. per lb.
Splendid American Rolls, 6d. and 7d. per lb.
American Shoulders 6d. per lb
American Sides, 7d. per lb.
Smoked Bacon

A SPLENDID STOCK OF CHEESE, INCLUDING GORGONZOLA, STILTON, CHESHIRE, GLO'STER, DERBY, AMERICAN, EDAM, AND WENSLEYDALE.

FLOUR.
Finest Hungarian Flour, 2s.
Extra Whites
Superfine Fines

FLOUR.
Crushed Oats and Beans
Indian Meal
Rough Barley

Wheat Meal, Whole Meal, Boxings, Bran.

WM. AYNSLEY'S OLD-FASHIONED BLEND OF TEA

The unparalleled success which this Tea has attained is now well-known, and the thorough appreciation in which it is held by all who have given it a trial, cannot fail to convince the greatest connoisseur of its worth and genuineness. Sold at 2s, 2s 6d, 3s per lb.

BREAD DEPARTMENT at Middle Street, Consett.
White Bread made from Hungarian Flour, 2d., 3d., and 6d. per loaf. Tea Cakes, Muffins, Milk Cakes, Scones, Girdle Cakes, Tarts, &c.
Agent for Montgomery's Patent Extract of Malt Digestive Bread, 4d. per loaf, as used in the Queen's Household.
Chelsea Fruit Cake, 6d. per lb. Chelsea Genoa Cake, 8d. per lb. Chelsea Seed Cake, 7d. per lb.

ALES AND STOUT.

For Invalids and others it is essential that Bottled Ales and Stout should be PURE, RIPE, and in Good Condition, I therefore guarantee the quality of all my Bottlings.

Bass's Pale Ale—Gills 2s 0d per dozen
" Pints 3s 0d
Guinness's Stout—Gills 2s 0d "
" Pints 3s 0d "

Nimmo's Ale—Gills 2s 0d per dozen.
" Pints 3s 0d
" Stout—Gills 2s 0d "
" Pints 3s 0d "

All Bottles charged.
Salzbach Pints and Quarts, 1s 9d and 2s 6d per Dozen.
Soda, Potass, and Lemonade, 1s. 9d. per Dozen, best quality.
MILD and BITTER ALE, 6 Gallons Cask, 7s 6d; 9 Gallons Cask, 10s 6d.
BASS'S PALE ALE, 9 Gallons Cask, 12s 0d.; 18 Gallons Casks, 24s.
BRITISH WINES—GINGER, PORT, RASPBERRY, ORANGE, GRAPE, RAISIN.
These are the Pure British Wines, 1s. per Bottle.
AGENT FOR KOPS ALE AND STOUT, 2s AND 3s 6d PER DOZEN.

SPECIAL WINES FOR INVALIDS.

Castle J Port (40 years old) 4s 6d per Bottle
Castle J Sherry (11 years old) 3s 0d "
AUSTRALIAN WINES.
Emu Brand Burgundy 2s 0d per bottle
" " Flask 6d per flask

Invalid Champagne,
Pale Creaming, half bottles
Canary Port Wine, in Flasks 1s 11d
Andalusia Sherry, 1s 0d
Old Glenlivet Whiskey 1s 0d per bottle
3s 6d per bottle

GLENDENNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE, 2s AND 3s 9d PER BOTTLE.
This Glenlivet Whiskey possesses a mellow, soft flavour, now so generally appreciated by consumers of Scotch Whiskey: it is thoroughly matured.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—

WILLIAM AYNSLEY

GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
CONSETT, BLACKHILL, LEADGATE, AND WEST STANLEY.

Correspondence.

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

ROYALTIES ON PIG IRON AND OTHERS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—It is evident I had good reason to be surprised when I gathered from the sense of "I.L.P.'s" first letter that the royalties on ironstone amounted to 4s 6d per ton of pig iron. Friends of mine were more surprised than I was, for, somehow, I suspected that things were "not exactly as they looked." And I am not astonished to find that "I.L.P.," I presume on the theory of "letting it all go in" had, without a word of explanation added in the royalties on the coals that smelt the ironstone. I think he will, ere this, have perceived that this is scarcely fairplay. At any rate I maintain, that in every controversy the facts should be stated, fully, clearly, and impartially—"Fairplay is a jewel."

"I.L.P." says the royalties are sometimes more per ton than miners' wages; well, and if in some cases they are, what then? A good thick seam of coal, level free, is worth more royalty per ton than a thin seam a thousand feet down; and the miner, and colliery owner, will make better wages, and better profits out of the former than the latter. Royalties are payments for so many tons of valuable stuff, which, once taken of a man's land, can never be put back.

I will take an early opportunity, when I go back to London, of examining Sir Lowthian Bell's statistics about royalties payable to the state in *Foreign Countries*. Meanwhile let me remind "I.L.P." that there is one in this country which is in the hands of the Government; the royalty upon gold. And that the result is, that the terms exacted by the Treasury have strangled the promising industry of gold mining in Wales. Reefs have been discovered in Merionethshire which bid fair to prove highly remunerative, if not to rival the auriferous formations of California, or Australia, but though a determined effort was made and much money and labour expended on the Dolgelly mines the Government royalties swamped the rising industry; and one hears no more of Welsh gold. If "I.L.P." doubts the accuracy of my description, I pray let him write to Mr Pritchard Morgan, M.P., (a labour member) and ask for the facts direct. I hardly think this will encourage the great mining industries to put themselves under the heel of the permanent officials of the Treasury; who understand as little about mining as they do about astrology; perhaps less.

Although I do not impugn "I.L.P." *bona fides* I cannot recognise the statements he puts forward respecting the royalty incomes of certain Peers, as possessing the least value unless he can show that the statements are drawn from independent and impartial sources. Some six or seven years ago, the well-known Financial Reform Almanac published a series of statistics with the object of showing that the aristocracy drew unduly large emoluments from public sources. So grossly were the figures exaggerated, that in one instance they overstated the life receipts of a father and son, taken together, by the vast sum of one million sterling. I shall be happy (with say a seven or eight per cent margin for possible errors) to prove this to the satisfaction of an accountant. "I.L.P." will, I am sure, agree with me that statistics must be tested as well as stated, I trust he will forgive me, if I remind him that he has been so misled, by relying upon some untrustworthy authority, as to say—vide his first letters—"He (Lord George Hamilton) comes of a rich family, his brother, the Duke of Hamilton, receiving over £300 per day." As a matter of fact, Lord George Hamilton is no relation whatever to the Duke of Hamilton, and "I.L.P." has been betrayed into a palpable error.

"I.L.P." does not tackle my proposition that, if protection is good for the metallurgical goose, it is also good for the gander. He, however, tells the story, alas, too common in these days of a ruined farmer who overwhelmed by disasters and sued for the crushing local rates, laid the blame of his misfortunes at the door of a harsh landlord. Will any man in his senses accept this (probably onesided) statement of an isolated experience as sufficient evidence to prove an indictment against a class? I appeal to any fair minded man acquainted with the facts, whether the landlords of England have not, as a class, met their tenants justly and honourably—nay, even generously. Foreign competition, aided by unfair taxation—everything thrown upon the land—have reduced agriculture to its present miserable condition, and one result is seen in the scores of thousands of agricultural labourers who are flooding our urban and mining industries. Recent returns shewed that coalminers had increased in numbers by over 150,000 (I quote from memory) in six years. It is self-evident that most of this influx, which is the cause of much of the trouble in certain of our coal districts, must be derived from the depopulation of rural authorities.

Space reminds me that I must compress this letter within reasonable limits. Let me deal as briefly as possible with "I.L.P's." remedies: He proposes to do away with "our present unarhic system. By the way, what is an unarhic system? It looks a very fearful wild fowl." Johnson's dictionary does not solve the enigma, and I cannot for the life of me guess what it means. He would then nationalise (I presume naturalise is a slip of the pen) mines, railways, docks, in fact all the instruments of production and distribution. Now, as some one, I think Mr Chamberlain, recently pointed out, either you pay the full market value of a compulsorily acquired property, in which case you will gain nothing, or you take it without compensation, in which case you confiscate it. I like good outspoken Saxon; and the Saxon-English of confiscate, in this connection, is steal or rob.

I am irresistibly reminded of the schoolboy story, "Jack," says Gipsy Bill to his chum, "I can't see how you sells them brooms so cheap. I steals the twigs, I steals the sticks, and I steals the twine, and I can't do it at the price." "Bill," says Jack, "I steal the brooms." Surely "I.L.P." would not approve of "nationalising" the brooms ready made?

I fear me that "new wine of labour, "I.L.P." is so partial to, is like the "fix bayonets" rum they sell in Calcutta. It tends to blunt its unhappy victim's sense of right and wrong, and launches him headlong on a career of violence!—Yours, &c.,

C. W. F. CRAUFURD.

Hayling Island, Hants,
December 13th, 1893.

"CHURCH AND STATE," AND THE REV. A. BROMLEY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—In your issue of the 15th inst., is a report of a public meeting held at Hamsterley Colliery. At this meeting, Mr Byron Reed lectured on "Church and State," in reply to a lecture delivered by me in the same district, some six months ago.

With Mr Byron Reed's reply, I have, for the present, nothing to do. I had my say; he has had his. The place for dealing with him is not through the columns of the press, he having elected to reply to me from the public platform. On the platform, then, the battle should be fought. From this trial by ordeal, I shall not be the one to shrink when called upon.

The above challenge is the second time of asking. In my lecture six months ago, in reply to the persistent interruptions of a curate in my audience (whom, by the way, I had to remind of the offence of brawling in church), I challenged him personally, or any other representative of his church, to meet me in public debate on the question of "Disestablishment and Disendowment." From that day to this I have received no acknowledgment of my challenge, beyond receiving from some anonymous person a packet of Church Defence literature, including a few handbills announcing a lecture at Hamsterley, by Mr Byron Reed. These handbills gave not the slightest indication that this lecture was intended as a reply to me; nor was there any intimation that my presence was desired.

With reference to the statement made by the Rev. W. T. Saward that he had sent me a letter of invitation, I have simply to say I have never received it. I am in communication with the gentleman named, and shall forward you the correspondence on receipt of his reply.—I have the honour to remain yours very truly,

ALFRED BROMLEY.

27, Nelson Street, Sunderland,
Dec. 18th, 1893.

CHEAP JOHNS!

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir, My attention was called to some statements by "Observer" in your last week's edition, which no doubt refers to me. As some are false, I hope you will give me the liberty to show their falseness. In the first place, let me say that England being a free country; free for a fair exchange of commodities; free for one man to live as well as another, I am only carrying out the principle of bringing goods into Durham, which is the same as Durham men sending coals into Yorkshire. They are dependent on outside customers for their daily bread so am I; then where am I different to them? In the second place, I have not come for the pay-days only, but have been in your midst for nearly five weeks, thus giving the people the privilege of testing the goods, and I hope to return again. He says we pay no rents nor taxes. I may say that I pay almost twice as much rent as any draper in the place, and we pay the rates with the rent, same as most householders do; and, besides, we pay licenses, which amounts to more than the rates and taxes of the shopkeepers. This license money goes to relieve the rates of the district in which they are issued. But suppose we pay no rates we make it easier for others to pay theirs. True, we are obliged to sell at "enormous" sacrifices, when we have goods to sell from tradesmen who are obliged to realize in this way, but when selling our own we try to make a profit, which we do, or else we should soon drop it. We have not the profits which many shopkeepers have. This is where the boot pinches. The man who pays us ready money has not to pay for the man that never pays at all, this accounts for the apparent "enormous" sacrifices. The lowering of prices by some simply shows what profits they have been making. We have not come to hurt anyone, but simply claim the same privilege that they alone think they have the sole right to have, namely, the chance to live. Why a man should think that God gave them a special right to Stanley, or anywhere else, I cannot tell. Working men, think for yourselves.

JOHN PEDLEY.

FOOTBALL *VERSUS* SMALL-POX.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—In fairness to your esteemed reporter, and also to the Leadgate Park A.F.C., I beg leave to contradict the statements of "Spectator" of the 8th inst. The Park men were stopped by a cordon of people who were posted across the road when our team arrived at the field. As soon as our team saw it they were amazed, and the linesman (I must say the most gentlemanly fellow of the Cornsay supporters) came up and told us the bitter feelings of the inhabitants against our team going into the place, the inhabitants little dreaming that infectious cases had been brought from that district to the Fever Hospital, situated about half-a-mile from the club's headquarters. We had a good right to say we expected it after what had been said at the Lanchester Board of Guardians—i.e., the Park and Exiles' teams should be stopped from leaving the place during the supposed serious epidemic. The same edict would apply to every person in the place, and also stop people from leaving the place. The Fever Hospital receives patients from Leadgate, Consett, Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, Stanley, and the Lanchester Highway Board, and it is unfair to say that these cases come from Leadgate. I still hold that our driver was refused admission to any place but a stackyard. Does "Spectator" know that we were refused admission to a stable at a place not far from the scene of the first encounter? If the driver does come no distance from Leadgate, he is quite capable of telling the truth. Even the gatemen ran from the gate to join a motley crew around the referee. The threats which were showered upon him were not fit for any human being to listen to. I heard one of Cornsay's main supporters, and an old player of late, say once after a decision of the referee, "that he would not care but go and do so-and-so to the referee, as he was the most unfair man he had seen on the field." Perhaps the Cornsay spectators don't know the 20th rule of the Durham Challenge Cup, which competition was being played off on the day in question:—"That the home team will be held responsible for the safety of the visiting team, the linesman, and also the referee." This rule the home team did not enforce, but left the referee surrounded by a mob, and the Park team to look after themselves among a crowd of 400 unruly school children.

How did any reader know the first letter was wrong I defy you from saying it was wrong. Your fabulous letter of the 8th inst., opened out a correspondence again when comment was unnecessary. When I went to look for some of our committee men, I found them along with Mr McGowan with the referee coming off the field. The lads all shouting "Keep off them or you'll get the small-pox." Do Cornsay think they will win their games by the referee? If so, football is done. You say you know four of our players who were in Cornsay. I deny this statement; as there was only eleven players and we were altogether seeking shelter in the Desert of Quebec. The linesman, gatekeeper, and the spectator were in Cornsay. The linesman was seeing about expenses, the gatekeeper and the spectator were among some of Esh True Blues. These two proposed a walk into the new institute, but were told they dare not take them there or they may have to leave their work. Is slavery still existing in England? I saw the Rovers were beaten easily, and disgraced by their unmanly conduct towards strangers in a strange place. No doubt Cornsay are a weaker team than the Park, but that has nothing to do with ill-treatment or boycotting as we should term it. It speaks very badly for a team like Cornsay, who profess to be friends, and when the time comes for testing they are 99 per cent bad and fall. Does he or any who proposed that the Cornsay team scratch, as if Leadgate was dead in smallpox, think that our committee would allow any player who had any out of their house in the hospital to come from Leadgate or travel with the team, but we very soon found as we landed at the field:—

"That your friendship all a cheat,
Smiles hypocrisy, words deceit."

Thanking you in anticipation,

JOHN THOS WILLEY,
Hon. Sec. Leadgate Park A.F.C.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES FRAUDS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir.—I have read with great interest the whole correspondence on this subject and by a careful consideration of Mr Simpson's intelligent letters have got an education on many points that I was ignorant of. I firmly believe very few co-operators understand the internal financial workings of their societies and it is impossible to effect reforms before you know the evil. Will Mr Simpson condescend to shed a few more rays of light on the following.—Can the account of a society be worked in such a manner that even chartered auditors can be deceived? If so, what is the most effective system to render this impossible? Should our committees not thoroughly understand the nature of a balance sheet, and know it is genuine; before it is issued to the members? Seeing that so few committee men are educated to suit their sphere and office, what should be done to qualify them for the responsible duties of the same? Does a general manager cause a society to be safer? Is their any danger ahead by having a cashier, and also a local treasurer? I will ask "Nicholas Nickleby" a few questions.—1st—What will it profit you or anyone else, by you writing letters which cannot be understood, and which mark out no visible improvements? 2nd—Why do you throw mud and filth on those who do bring useful hints on vital subjects? 3rd—Why do you contradict your own statement? 4th—Why do you tell lies about other writer's statements? You state that Mr Simpson said he had made phrenology his favourite study; where do you find that in his letters? 5th—Because you have studied phrenological science for 22 years and cannot grasp it, does that prove phrenology to be childish? Is Fowler, Coombe, Wells, Morgan, and others babyfied? 6th—Is your organs of benevolence, conscientioness, and veneration deficient, and destructiveness, secretiveness, combativeness, large. 7th—Does your conscience effect you in the least? If you were to thieve, could you gloat and revel with monies of others without condemnation?—Yours respectfully,

FAIRPLAY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guarpian.

Sir—You correspondent "Nicholas Nickleby", is a downright specimen of presumptious bigoted prejudice, of which I have never seen a worst sample. His conduct savours of the petulence characteristic of childhood. Both his letters are indicative of malice and venom; sneers are his lap dogs, and without sense or reason he rushed madly in his course, venting his spleen on those who dare to give reasonable views on important subject. I defy anyone to fully comprehend his statements, they are destitute of anything which has a tendency to elevate mankind, and are flat contradictions. If others dont see as he sees, judge as he judges, then he throws his balls of dirt in reckless fury, as he possesses an elastic conscience which stretches any distance to suit his immoral actions, and thinks others must be the same because he sees no remedy for frauds. There cannot be any, because his fertile brain fails to grasp the science of phrenology, all others should give it up as childish. Such blind egotism needs reproof. This is a progressive age, and in the face of stubborn, callous persons, like "Nicholas Nickelby", who try to hinder useful agents from shedding rays of knowledge on vital questions, the march of progress is still visible and the time will come, when such specimens of humanity will be utterly despised and forsaken. I tender this advice to "Nicholas" "Throw away your stupidity, restrain your overbalanced organ of self-esteem, cultivate a spirit of benevolence, allow veneration its claim, and then we shall behold in your letters, and in your life some traits of simplicity and conscienciousness" —Yours etc.,

ANDREW FAIRFAX.

BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

On Wednesday evening, the ordinary meeting of this body was held in the Bank Buildings, Shotley Bridge, Coun. James Annandale, J.P. (chairman), presiding. The other members present were: Coun. Rd. Murray, Messrs J. Eltringham, J. Lax, W. Wheatley, G. J. Robinson, J. Dowson, A. E. Turner, R. G. Barclay, J.P., W. Robinson, the Clerk (Mr John Booth), and the Surveyor (Mr John Dixon).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Dr H. Maclean Wilson, a Local Government Inspector, presented his report with reference to his recent inspection of the district in connection with the general cholera survey.

The report was of a most satisfactory character.

CHEQUES.

Cheques to the amount of £205 were signed.

QUEEN STREET.

It was decided to take legal proceedings against the North-Eastern Railway Company to recover their portion of the cost involved in the making of this street.

PROPOSED SEWERAGE WORKS.

A deputation of ratepayers waited on the Board, protesting against the proposed erection of sewerage works at Baxton Burn.

After hearing various objections, the Board promised to give the same their attention, and requested the Surveyor to take a survey of Baxton Burn Quarry, as a site for the sewerage works.

POSTAL FACILITIES FOR THE DISTRICT.

The Postal Committee reported as follows:—

The petition signed by Mr Wm. Reid and others calling attention to the unequal postal delivery in the township was considered. The Committee recommend the Board to request the Post Office Authorities to arrange for a third delivery of letters and parcels in the Highgate, Benfieldside, and Cutlers' Hall district.

The committee had under their consideration the question of the transfer of the Central Post Office for the district from Blackhill to Consett, proposed by the Consett Local Board. The committee do not think any change of this sort likely to be made, as owing to its nearness to the railway station, Blackhill is undoubtedly the better place; but they think the Board would be wise in calling the attention of the Postmaster-General and Mr Atherley-Jones to the relative positions of the two places with regard to the railway station, and adding that whatever is done the inhabitants of Blackhill and Shotley Bridge would object to any of their letters being taken up to Consett to be sorted, which would entail a delay of at least an hour in the delivery of the same. If a Central Post Office should ever be built in this district by the Government, the committee are of opinion that Blackhill is certainly the most central position, and urge that no change be made in existing arrangements before a local inquiry.

Eventually, it was decided that the suggestions of the committee should be adopted, and that the clerk should communicate with the Postmaster-General and Mr L. A. Atherley-Jones, M.P., on the matter.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor reported that 650 tons of limestone had been laid on the various roads and streets during the month. As instructed, he got tenders for the making of Mr Geo. Newmarch's portion of Back Derwent Street. The work had been completed, and Mr Newmarch now complained that he could not get into his yard since the work was done.

The report was adopted, and a committee was adpointed to visit Back Derwent Street.

Sporting Items.

Sparrow Shooting at Broomhill, Near Ebchester.—A sparrow shooting sweepstake took place on Saturday afternoon in a field adjoining the house of Mrs Temperley, Raven Inn, Broomhill, near Ebchester Station. Scores:—George West, 0; Kill the Devil, 1 0; Elm Park, 0; Jumping Dick, 0; H Elsom, 0; 2nd lot, 0; Jester, 1 0, Broomhill, 1 0; Box, 0; Tinkler, 0; Shy Boy, 0; Hat and Feather, 0; Hornsby, 1 0; Anderson, 1 0; Leadgate, 0. Stake divided.—Another sweep followed, with the result as below:—Hornsby, 1 0; Jester, 1 0; Kill the Devil, 1 0; Wandering Lad, 0; Allendale Lad, Hornsby, 2nd lot, 1 0; Kill the Devil, 2nd lot, 0; Jester, 2nd lot, 1 0. Stake divided. G West, Westwood, acted as referee, T Mason, Allendale Cottages, scorekeeper, and G Edgar, Derwent Cottages, trapper.

Quoit Match at Blackhall Mill.—On Saturday afternoon, in the quoit ground connected with the house of Mr W. H. Stonehouse, the Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill, a match was played between J Sharp, of Prudhoe, and J. Dent, of Allendale Cottages, for £15 a-side, 11 yards on the sward. There was a large attendance of spectators. After an exciting contest, Dent won by one point, the scores being.—Dent, 41; Sharp, 40. M. Scott, of Westwood, was referee.

Tanfield Gun Club.—The members of the Tanfield Gun Club held their second shoot this season, in a field belonging to Mr T. H. Smith farmer, near the house of Mr J. Irwin, Pack Horse Inn, Tanfield, on Saturdap afternoon. Scores:—T Green, 20, 0 1 1 0 0; R Smith, 23, 0 0 0; W Thompson, 22, 0 0 1 1 0; R Layton, 21, 1 0 0 1 1; J T Layton, 21, 1 0 0 0; T Heslop, 23, 1 0 P 0 1; J Coxon, 18, 1 0 0 1 0; A Coxon, 18, 1 0 0 0; Geo Wardman, 18, 0 0 1 0; W Smith, 18, 1 0 0 1 1; Geo Charlton, 21, 0 0 1 0; T H Smith, 18, 1 0 0 0; J Irwin, 21, 1 0 0 0; T Moor, 20, 1 0 0 1 1; R Johnson, 18, 0 1 0 1 1. Referee, T Green; trapper, J Thompson; scorekeeper, Emerson Bowes. Three new members were enrolled.

Pigeon Flying at Quebec.—On Saturday, the pigeon match, promoted from Appleby's Houses to their respective dove-cots, Quebec, for £5, with 5s entrance of each bird added to the sweep, was successfully brought off. Distance, two miles. There were 12 entries. Result:—Jack Bell's "True Boy," 1 min. 11 secs, 1; Thos. Jones's "Highland Lad," 1 min. 15 secs, 2; Bell's "Fairy," 1 min. 17 secs, 3. The two latter divided second and third monies. Thos. Slater was appointed timekeeper, stakeholder, and referee.

Rabbit Coursing at Tantobie.—On Saturday afternoon, a rabbit coursing sweep, promoted by Mr Ed Gaffney, who added £2 to an entrance of 7s per lot for 24 dogs, the best of three courses, was brought off in a field near the house of Mr M. Snowdon, of the Commercial Inn, Tantobie. Details:—Watson's Bad Terraner, 16¾, beat Rocket's Be Canny, 19½, by 2 to 1; Hughes's Sister Mary, 17, beat Rocket's Cabin Lass, 16¾, by 2 to 0; Carr's Raggy Lass, 17½, beat Holme's China Eyes, 16½, by 2 to 1; Hardy's Coquet Lad, 18¾, beat Wagot's Gold Gilt, 18½, by 2 to 0; Daley's Dinah, 17¾, beat Wagot's £ s d, 18½, by 2 to 0; Ashburn's Shy Lass, 18½, beat Raggy Lass, (2nd lot) by 2 to 0; Littlefair's Bloom, 18½, beat Simpson's Little Jim, 18½, by 2 to 0; Barker's Daisy Bell, 17½, beat Best's Fred Archer, 16½, by 2 to 0; Best's Happy Go Lucky, 16¾, beat Hughes's Wicked Lad, 19½, by 2 to 0; Littlefair's Spy, 18½, beat York's Fred Archer, 19½, by 2 to 1; Clayton's Wild Mary, 20½, beat Robinson's Lilywhite, 17, by 2 to 1; Hughes's Pitman, 20½, beat Watson's Roundabout, 18½, by 2 to 1. Second round—Sister Mary beat Bad Temper by 2 to 1; Coquet Lad beat Raggy Lass by 2 to 0; Dinah beat Shy Lass by 2 to 1; Bloom beat Daisy Bell by 2 to 1; Wild Mary beat Pitman by 2 to 1. Third round—Coquet Lad beat Sister Mary by 2 to 0; Bloom beat Dinah by 2 to 0; Happy Go Lucky and Little Mary ran one course each, when darkness put a stop to further proceedings, and the stake was divided. E Gaffney was referee, Henry Scott pistol-firer, and Isaac Bell book-keeper. A big sweep is being arranged for Saturday next.

STANHOPE PETTY SESSIONS.

Friday, Dec. 15th.—Before V. A. Rippon, Esq., (chairman), and Ald. Livingstone.

Thomas Thompson, of Tow Law, was summoned by Mr J. G. Bainbridge, Relieving Officer to the Weardale Union, for the non-maintainance of his mother, now chargeable to the Weardale Union. The Bench made an order of 1s 6d per week.

Thomas Southern, fitter, Middlesbrough, was also summoned by the same officer for a similar offence, but as he had been summoned before, and was over £12 in arrears, and according to his wage sheet before the Bench, he was in receipt of good wages, the magistrates considered it a very bad case, and committed him to prison for 14 days. Neither of the defendants appeared in court, or were represented.

Trade Notes.

Prospect of Trade.—It is stated that a number of houses will be shortly commenced with, at Ushaw Moor Colliery, for the accommodation of the workmen, by Messrs Pease and Partners. Building in the neighbourhood of Esh Village is likely to continue, should the weather improve. A number of houses for private individuals are already erected.

FROSTERLEY.

Men's Bible Class.—On Thursday night week, a very successful meeting was held in connection with this class, when papers on "Essays" and "John Bunyan" were read by Miss J. Emerson and Mr G. H. Emerson, of Willow Green. The first paper was a contribution by Mrs Waldy, of Catterick (late of Rogerley Hall). Mr Fred Batate, of Stanhope, presided.

TOW LAW.

Rev. H. F. Berry, of Walker, County Councillor, opened a bazaar promoted by the congregation of St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Tow Law, in the Mechanics' Hall, on Thursday se'nnight. The bazaar remained open till Saturday night.

Local Board.—At the monthly meeting on Wednesday—Mr W. Atkinson (Chairman), presiding—the Clerk received instructions to issue a handbill in accordance with that portion of the Board's bye-laws which deals, with the removal of ashes, &c.—It was agreed to serve a notice upon Mr Joseph Ridley to remove a nuisance on his High-street property.—Mr John Graham wrote the Board anent the action of the Board in respect to rating of cowbyres, &c, and the Clerk was instructed to inform him that the matter had not been ordered by the Board.—Mr T. M'Ginn submitted a plan which had to stand over for alteration.—A general district rate of 9d in the £ was passed, and sealed by the Chairman.—A committee was appointed to inspect the site for proposed new Board office and to report thereon. An extended report will appear in next issue.

WEST STANLEY.

North Durham District Council of Juvenile Templars.—The usual quarterly session was held on Saturday in the Station Coffee Tavern, Sunderland. Miss M. B. Hall, district superintendent, presided. The report showed a slight decrease for the quarter, there being 781 members in 16 temples. Two temples had been opened during the quarter. The reports from the various temples indicated general activity many of them being in good condition and working zealously. Bro James Brown, of Team Colliery, gave a very interesting paper on "Drink and its evils." A vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Brown for his able paper. The financial report showed a good balance in hand. Bro. John Carr, of West Stanley, was recommended as the district superintendent for the coming year. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Hall for her past services in the juvenile cause. Bro. Halliday, of Tyne Dock, was asked to favour the council with an essay at the next meeting. Miss Hall was chosen to represent the council at the great coming Veto meeting in Sunderland. A vote of thanks was tendered to those friends at Sunderland who had provided the refreshments.

CORNSAY COLLIERY.

Tradesmen's Yearly Benefit Society.—The members of this society held their annual supper at the Royal Oak Hotel, Cornsay, on Wednesday se'nnight, when upwards of 50 persons sat down to an excellent spread. After supper, Col. Leadbitter-Smith (Flass Hall), took the chair, and Mr James Humble, occupied the vice-chair. After the chairman had proposed the usual loyal toasts, Mr Atchison proposed, "Success to the club," and spoke at length on the benefits derived from such institutions. The vice-chairman proposed, "The Army and Navy," coupled with "The Reserve forces." The remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, the following gentlemen contributing:—Messrs J. Anderson, G. Jackson, Jos. Coates, R. Young, J. Gordan, N. Coates, A. Dodds, J. R. Coates, Brewis, and J. Pescod. A vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman, concluded a most enjoyable evening.

BURNHOPE.

The workmen of Burnhope Colliery have contributed £48 10s 2d to the Hospital Fund this year—£23 2s 0d for the Whitby Convalescent Home; and £25 8s 2d for the Newcastle Infirmary. The workmen of South Pontop Colliery have contributed £10 13s 0d to the Hospital Fund; £6 6s 0d for the Convalescent Home; and £4 7s 0d for the Newcastle Infirmary.

STANHOPE.

Mildness of the Season.—Thrushes were heard singing at Stanhope on Saturday, which was a spring-like day in Weardale.

A large quantity of whins (Gorse), are now in full bloom in the Howl John Bottoms, between Stanhope and Eastgate, by the river side a most unusual occurrence at Christmas time.

Sewing Tea.—Mrs Livingstone, wife of Ald. Livingstone, J.P., Stanhope, gave the Primitives a sewing meeting tea on Saturday last, which raised over £6. Over £70 has been raised by the Stanhope Primitives, in this way this autumn towards the liquidation of their chapel and school debt of £630. They are working for a bazaar at Easter.

Hunting.—The Wear Valley Harriers had a successful day at Stanhope, on Saturday, and killed two hares on the Stanhope Hall estate.

Bold Reynard at Stanhope.—A fox, one evening last week, paid a visit to the hen roost of Mr Smurthwaite, at Newlandside, and killed eight hens. The next night a trap was set for him in the hen roost. Two or three workmen went next morning to see if Renny was caught. They heard the chain rattling, and stole inside in the early morn, before it was light, each were armed for despatching Reynard, but when they struck a light to their surprise a great tom cat was fast in the trap.

Two foxes have been destroyed at Frosterley this last week. They seem very numerous in Weardale just now. A Newlandside farmer has lost a fine goose, some 15lbs weight, by them. It was killed during the night and left half eaten.

Funeral of a Sunday School Scholar.—The funeral of Nancy Collingwood, the dearly-beloved daughter of George and Isabella Collingwood, of Stanhope, took place at the Cemetery, on Monday afternoon, and was largely attended. She was a scholar in the Wesleyan Sunday-School, and all the scholars attended the funeral. The service was conducted by the minister, (Rev Geo. Cooper), during which the choir sang that beautiful hymn, "My God, my Father, while I stray." The scholars formed in procession, and went before the corpse. Beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin, which were sent by Mrs G. Waller, Mrs Brooks, Mrs T. Collingwood, and Miss Craven, loving tokens of the esteem and regard in which she was held. Her disposition was one of the sweetest, and her sweet face and kindly ways had won for her many friends, who now lament her loss. At the graveside, the choir sang "Around the throne of God in heaven, thousands of children stand." She was a heavy sufferer, but her end was peace.

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 806)

DEATH OF MR HENRY SILVERTOP, OF MINSTERACRES.

On Sunday morning, intelligence reached Lartington Hall, near Barnard Castle, of the death of Mr Henry Silvertop, of Minsteracres, Northumberland. The deceased gentleman was the heir-at-law to the settled estates of Lartington, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, which estates are at present held by the Right Rev Monsignor Witham. A fortnight ago, Mr Witham celebrated his 86th birthday. The telegram announcing the sudden death of Mr Silvertop was conveyed by courier to the seat of the Right Rev Monsignor Witham. Mr Silvertop was married, and leaves a widow and family. The deceased gentleman was expected at Lartington Hall, on a visit, this week. Mr Silvertop was about 38 years of age. Lartington Hall has, within the last few years, undergone considerable alteration, and a new range of buildings has been added. The whole has been executed with taste and discrimination, and the edifice may worthily rank among the principal mansions in the North of England. The late Mr Silvertop, last year, was elected one of the lords in trust for Bowes Moor, Mgr. Witham, owing to his advancing years, declining longer to hold the position.

Mr Henry Thomas Silvertop, who was the eldest of the late Mr Henry Charles Silvertop, by the Hon. Eliza, daughter of the late (3rd) Baron Camoys, was born in 1853, and married, 1882, Rachel M. J., eldest daughter of the late Mr Alexander McDonnell. He was J.P. for the counties of Antrim and Northumberland. He was a member of an old Catholic family, but lived a retired life, taking no part in public affairs. His name was most familiarly associated with his beautiful park of Minsteracres—one of the proud homes of Northumberland. Mr Silvertop's fore-elders took a delight in beautifying their pleasure grounds, which, from an arboriculturalists point of view, are remarkable for their extent of wealth of diversified foliage, including, probably, more variety of coniferæ than are to be found in any other part of the country. The late Mr Henry Silvertop built a beautiful Catholic Church at Minsteracres, dedicated to St. Elizabeth, and opened August 24th, 1854, the foundation stone having been laid, September 13th, 1852, by the Hon. Mrs Silvertop. The building is in the Gothic style, and is lighted by windows of excellent stained glass, representing the patron saints of the various members of the Silvertop family. The late Mr Silvertop leaves, with other issue, Francis Somerled Silvertop, born 1887.

The late Mr Henry Charles Sivertop, father of the gentleman just deceased, was the eldest son of the late Mr H. Englefield, by Catherine, daughter of the late Mr Henry Witham, of Lartington Hall. He succeeded his great uncle, and took the name of Silvertop in 1849. His great uncle, Mr George Silvertop, like most Roman Catholic gentlemen of the last century, was educated at Douay (having been born in 1774), but returned to this county at the outbreak of the French Revolution. Soon after succeeding to his paternal estates, he became captain of the Bywell Volunteers, by whom, in 1814, he was presented with a sword, value 100 guineas. In the same year he visited Napoleon, then at Elba, and printed an account of his interview with the Emperor, which was received with great approbation. He was subsequently selected by Lord Liverpool's Cabinet as the medium of private communication between Great Britain and the Holy See, in which capacity he acquitted himself with much address. Mr Silvertop was appointed High Sheriff of Northumberland in 1830, and was the first Roman Catholic Sheriff of the county since the reign of James II. He was the first to notice and foster the genius of the north country sculptor, Lough, who was born near Minsteracres; and his purse was ever open to merit struggling with difficulty.

INQUEST AND VERDICT.

On Tuesday an inquest was held by Mr H. T. Rutherford, deputy coroner for Northumberland, in the housekeeper's room, Minsteracres Hall, on the death of Mr Silvertop, who died, as above described, at an early hour on Sunday morning. The jury was composed of servants and workmen on the estate, and the Rev. Edward Barnett, Roman Catholic priest, attached to the Hall, was appointed their foreman.

Emma Byrne, nurse at Minsteracres Hall, identified the body of the deceased, who was 40 years of age last October. He had a slight cold some three weeks ago, but this seemed to pass off, and he had no serious illness. On Saturday night, so far as she knew, he was in perfect health. Between 2 and 2·30 in the morning, however, she was called by Mrs Silvertop, into the deceased's bedroom, and found Mr Silvertop lying upon the floor on his back. He was undressed and breathing very heavily, like snoring. He had been vomiting, and from what witness saw he had evidently been troubled with diarrhœa. Witness sent for the footman, and after putting the deceased to bed she administered a little brandy. Then the doctor was sent for, but he did not arrive till a few minutes before 5 o'clock. Deceased must have expired soon after being lifted into bed. He became practically unconscious. Witness had been employed under the family a year and eight months. She was not aware that anything serious was the matter with Mr Silvertop. He never complained of anything except an influenza cold, which passed away. She had no cause to suspect that he was suffering from heart disease or any other affection.

The Foreman asked witness to define the time Mr Silvertop died a little closer, but witness was unable to do so, and the Coroner said it was hardly necessary for the purposes of that enquiry.

Joseph Hewitson Hornsby, a footman at Minsteracres Hall, deposed that he was called to his master's bedroom on Sunday morning between 2 and 2·30 o'clock. Mrs Byrnes, head nurse, and Miss Waller, governess, were present. Deceased was lying on his back on the floor, a pillow having been placed under his head. He was alive, and breathing heavily; but witness could not say that he was unconscious. He had been vomiting, and the utensil had been overturned. Witness, the nurse, and the governess lifted him into bed. Witness went for Father Barnett, and the coachman sought the doctor. Witness had been valet to deceased for 18 months. He never complained of anything, and appeared to be always in perfect health.

Dr. Wm. Allan, of Shotley Bridge, testified that he was sent for to attend the late Mr Silvertop on Sunday morning, arriving a quarter to five o'clock. He found him quite dead. Witness had been regularly attending the family for the past 16 months, but had not been personally attending the deceased gentleman for any serious illness. He had, however, consulted witness on one or two occasions for trivial ailments. So far as witness knew, Mr Silvertop was a healthy man.

The Coroner: You have heard the symptoms as described by the nurse. What would induce diarrhœa?

The doctor: Any irritant would do so.

The Coroner: Suppose he had been attacked by indigestion, would that be a sufficient irritant?—Witness: Yes. Ordinary food, when taken late in the evening, would do so under any circumstances.

Suppose he got indigestion, would that produce diarrhœa?—Yes.

What effect would the diarrhœa have upon him?—It would cause cessation of the heart's action, and induce syncope.

Just say whether he had previously suffered from a weak heart or not?—His heart was all right. Even if the body was healthy, the symptoms I indicate might induce syncope.

Then you are of opinion that acute vomiting and diarrhœa in turn induced syncope?—Yes.

Then are you of opinion that the deceased died from syncope induced by indigestion?—Yes.

Mr Wm. Johnson, the butler, was called, and questioned by the Coroner, stated that the last meal partaken of by deceased was the dinner the night before. He took no heavy meal afterwards, immediately before he retired to rest, except a little stimulant.

Dr Allan said he took a glance at the surroundings of the room, but could not see anything to lead him to believe that death was caused by any other irritant than food. He inspected the bedroom, and also the room occupied by the deceased on the previous night, but failed to see any evidence of anything of a poisonous nature, which might have been taken in mistake.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony—that death was due to syncope (failure of the heart's action), induced by acute indigestion.

The funeral of Mr Silvertop took place yesterday (Thursday) at the handsome Roman Catholic chapel attached to the hall. The deceased gentleman leaves a widow, three sons, and two daughters, and his death is sincerely regretted in the district, especially amongst his tenantry.

MAGISTERIAL REFERENCES.

At the opening of the Petty Sessions at Hexham on Tuesday, the Chairman (Mr R. Wallis) said:—Gentlemen of the Bar, a very sad affair has happened since this Court last met here. It is the loss of one of our most valuable colleagues, Mr Henry Thomas Silvertop, who, I daresay you are all aware, has died very suddenly at his seat at Minsteracres. Mr Silvertop was a gentleman of very high acquirements. He came to this Bench not as a novice. He had for many years been upon the Bench in the sister kingdom of Ireland. His general character, I may say, was without blemish—kindly and affectionate—and in his magisterial duties he ever took a wide and liberal view of the cases before him, and always leaned to the side of mercy. To the Bench we consider his death a great loss, and I would suggest that our clerk draw up a letter of sympathy to be addressed to the sorrowing widow from the Bench, and perhaps you, gentlemen of the profession, might also wish to do the same. It is with great regret that I have to mention so melancholy a circumstance.

Mr T. W. Welford, as the senior member of the legal profession present, said he could only say that the Bar would appreciate His Worship's remarks. He had no doubt that the Bar would join with him in concurring with the heartfelt sympathy that had been expressed, and in the letter of condolence that had to be sent by the clerk.

NOTES FROM STANLEY DISTRICT.

("By Observer.")

Christmas Day will soon be here with all its sweet recollections, I hope in the midst of our joys, which this holiday brings to us, but we will not forget the great event which took place in Bethlehem. And I do hope that our choirs will not shirk their duty in the old custom of singing carols on the Christmas morning. I know many prefer going round in the daytime thinking they will get more money. But this ought not to be the motive which prompts to action, it is to remind us of the shepherds who were sung to by the angels at night-time.

I hear already the children in the district enquiring about "Santa Claus" and what he will be putting in their stockings. I heard the other day that "Santa" once got a disappointment. He went with a great bundle to a house, and experienced great difficulty in getting down the chimney with his load, and after all his trouble, found the house was untenanted.

The mistletoe is still to the front in some families, it's an article that is easily made, and creates rare fun among the young men and maidens. Of course, where jolly and mirthful dispositions, exist in a family you will surely find a mistletoe, many are ready in this district, awaiting the merry time.

The women people are very busy among the geese, hares, rabbits, pheasants, turkeys, rounds of beef, legs of mutton, and others are mixing the ingredients for the "plum pudding." So there is signs of us having a good time. I trust we will all enjoy ourselves, and I make one request, let us be careful in the use of intoxicating liquors, or it will bring misery instead of joy and peace.

The Wesleyan Society at West Pelton held their annual missionary meeting on Dec. 11th, when humourous addresses were delivered by Messrs Sharpley, Quicke, and Dennison. The chair was filled by Mr Richardson, of Birtley.

The Grange Villa Primitive Methodists, have begun special mission services which are conducted by Miss Hillson, of Chester-le-Street, she is very earnest in her exhortations, and has had a large experience in this class of work. We wish her success.

The West Stanley Co-operative Society's employees held their annual social supper, in their own premises, on the 13th, when the jolly company indulged in songs and games until the early hours of the morning.

The Tanfield Lea Prize Band held a concert on the 25th, in the West Stanley Co-operative Hall. Several talented artistes gave proof of their musical abilities in a way that called forth the admiration of the audience.

The scholars of the West Stanley Board Schools gave a concert in the Co-operative Hall on the 18th, which was presided over by Mr T. Colquhoun, of Stanley House. It was both amusing and attractive and it bespeaks great credit to Mr Little, the head schoolmaster, for its success.

The Victoria Theatre at West Stanley has special attractions for Christmastide. A description of which may be seen on their large bills. Dick Whittington is a special feature. Large audiences are expected.

Serious conversation is going on in private circles anent the singular accident which occurred in the West Stanley Board Schools, and resulted in the death of the boy William Peel. No one, from an external examination, could discern the insecure flimsy method used to keep the fire-place in its position. This case will, no doubt, raise profitable inquiry which will save us from a repetition of similar accidents. We heartily sympathise with the bereaved family, who have been called to suffer irreparable loss. Life at best is a mixture of dark clouds and sunshine, and none of us know what a day may bring forth.

I close this week's notes by wishing the readers of this journal, and the people of the district, the Compliments of the Season, and hope that one and all will enjoy a "merry," "merry" Christmas.

"Criticism Will Foster Talent," is an adage too well known to need dilating upon, especially as it is necessary to speak of something which, for many years, has defied adverse criticism. Holloway's Pills and Ointment, as sterling remedies for all complaints, are more familiar than "household words," being in constant daily use by thousands of people, who look upon their possession as a positive necessity. Leading medical authorities advise their use as reliable medicines in times of need. As a certain cure for all skin diseases they are unequalled, whilst for bile, sick headache, flatulency, indigestion, and all liver and stomach disorders, it has been truly said they are worth their weight in gold.

DON'T DIE IN THE HOUSE.—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed-bugs, flies, ants, moles, Skipmunks, gophers [illegible] boxes at Chemists.

"ROUGH ON CORNS."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions 6½d. and 1s. bottles.

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

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

A Card. — An Important Discovery is nounced 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.

"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.

Man's Noblest Work.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all 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. These 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 Pills will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d and 2s. 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester.

The Christmas Display

A CHAT ABOUT SHOPS.

If there be modes of celebrating the great festival of Christendom which were more honoured in the breach than the observance still Christmas is a time in which the best side of human nature is uppermost. Even the churlish one is moved to something like kindliness, and the generous and affectionate display their higher qualities in yet more luxuriance than ordinary under the

GENIAL INFLUENCE OF THE SEASON.

It is a time of cheerful greetings and kindly acts, and not only so, but it is a season of pleasant re-unions of social enjoyment, and of innocent mirth and merry-making. It may be that Christmas is a solemn festival is losing its hold upon the people of this and other countries; certain is it that the old observances are not repeated to the extent, or with the thoroughness which used to characterise them, when all Christendom gave itself up to festivity for weeks together. Scientific progress, and the march of civilisation have

ROBBED POOR FATHER CHRISTMAS

of half his glories. Electricity has put the yule log in the shade, the juveniles cannot be imposed upon to the extent as formally, by the fable of Santa Claus, But the old customs die hard, we still wreath our

CHURCHES AND HOUSES

with evergreens, and continue to imitate, though in mild and decorous fashion, the revellings with which our forefathers were wont to drive dull care away, and exclaim:—

Lead the tables with good cheer,
Christmas comes but once a year,
Let the holly-berry red,
Round the festive board be spread.

To a vast proportion of the world the occasion is still Christ's Mass," the celebration of the birth of Him who laid aside His deity, came down to earth, and laboured, suffered, and died out of love for mankind. It has been said to keep the day primarily as the Birthday of the Lord, rejoicing ever more because He is close at hand, is the only way to keep the rejoicing through life, and hinder the external festivities from becoming hollow and weary." What an infinite amount of truth there is in all this? We ought certainly to cultivate, especially

"AS WE GROW OLDER,"

the higher aspirations in our nature, and endeavour as life gradually declines to inculcate more thoroughly the lessons which come to us with peculiar force and emphasis at this season of the year. It is a time-honoured custom at this season of the year for the members of a family to gather, so far as circumstances permit,

UNDER THE ONE ROOF TREE.

It would be difficult to say which joy is the keenest—that of the young people who just now are thronging from school, shops or warehouse to the old homestead; or that of the elders who behold the family groups once more complete under their family shelter. It is a joy which even Christmas bills cannot extinguish. Paterfamilias may utter a groan at their number and length, but when the rosy-cheeked lads and lasses run up the steps for their first embrace he finds his heart filled with a fulness which the drain on his neighbour, the pocket fails to effect. We must not let the opportunity pass without once more wishing our numerous readers

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR,

and also trust that the coming year will hold in store for all our readers that which shall leave them happier, nobler, and more advanced in the development of perfect manhood and womanhood. It is said that Christmas benevolence takes many forms, and while the rich realise that "It is more blessed to give than to receive," the poor whom we have always with us, feel amid the biting cold the truth of the proverb, "That he who giveth quickly giveth twice." There are many who derive no small share of their enjoyment at this season of the year from the knowledge that they have helped some fellow creature to get

A CHRISTMAS DINNER.

The exercise of the kindly qualities of human nature is in truth the secret of half the pleasure of Christmastide. Christmas Day, too, is essentially a day which invites retrospects. It is a day in which the memory is more than unusually exercised. We are carried back instinctively to

CHRISTMAS DAY A YEAR BACK,

and mentally run over the period that separates us from it. Various interesting events have transpired in our immediate district during the past twelve months. Now that the festive season is close upon us, and in accordance with

LONG ESTABLISHED CUSTOMS,

we present our readers to-day with a view of the shops of some of the leading tradesmen in Consett and district. On every hand extensive provisions are being made to meet the demands of the season, and by the display of the various tradesmen; there is almost an endless variety of ways in which money can be expended. The windows of all classes of tradesmen are ablaze with light and brightness. Every effort has been expended to make them as attractive as possible, and to gaze upon the various displays cannot but inspire admiration. Nothing has been lost in point of brightness or effectiveness, and one result of a walk about Consett shops will be a conviction that Consettonians may go further afield and fare considerably worse. As a rule a tradesman's window may be taken as an

INDICATION OF THE CHARACTER OF HIS SHOP.

If there are evidences of carelessness, depend upon it the outside character will not be belied by a more intimate acquaintance; but, on the other hand, if the window is a picture of artistic arrangement—the result of much patience and experience, it may be taken that a walk inside will yield satisfaction. The customer will at least receive obliging attention at the hands of the assistants. The window dressers art at this time of the year reaches its climax. There is a spirit of rivalry among the tradesmen to score the greatest success, with the result that many of the window displays are instinct with artistic taste and originality. In point of attractiveness,

THE DRAPERS

undoubtedly carry off the honours of the competition. The windows of these tradesmen are a never-failing joy. They cast quite a magnetic spell over the gentler and fairer half of our population, who dearly love to admire and envy the charming examples of the costumiers' art on exhibition. Ballroom attire, light, graceful, airy, and prettily shaded costumes for evenwear generally, bedeck the windows of leading drapers, So far as "low prices" are concerned, we have refrained from

SPECIALISING THEM,

it being clearly understood that, in sheer self-interest, each tradesman tries to give better value than any other, and naturally believes that he does so, and we, for our part, cordially assume that he is right. First of all come our

DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENTS.

MR ROBT. ENGLISH,

of Middle Street, Consett, has returned from the markets with extensive purchases of seasonable articles, which are now on view at his place of business. The dress department is replete with the choicest materials for evening wear; also art curtains, lovely new printed designs, feather fans in gauze, satin, and other fashionable styles and new tinsel trimmings. Mr English has not forgotten to have an excellent display of Christmas and New Year's presents.

MR GEORGE RICHARDSON,

Wholesale draper and silk mercer, Front Street, Shotley Bridge, is the shop if dress and other ties are wanted, because they can be obtained *ad infinitum*. Mr Richardson is a sound business man, in whom the old instinct of cheapness is at work, and who yet at the same time does not sacrifice quality or palm off shoddy for the sake of a few paltry pence, if so be that he can undersell his neighbours. He acts thoroughly upon the principle of "live and let live," and for proof we go to his seasonable store of pretty bonnets and hats, stylish mantles and cloaks, jackets, tunics, ornaments, feathers, flowers, gloves, scarves, hosiery, lace, sashes, ribbons, Swiss work, collars, cuffs, garments, corsets, wools, comforts, shawls, umbrellas, bazaar materials, small ware and odd ware, floorcloths and table baizes, carpets and carpet squares, hearthrugs, and door mats; bleached damask cloths, neat napery, spotless serviettes, toilets, table covers, D'oylets, antimacassars, art muslins in immense variety, chenille and tapestry curtains, smart stand and table cloths, an elegant window decoration, and household linen, in all and several of which items he claims that no one can give better value.

MR THOMAS LATHAM,

Cash draper, next door to the Post Office, Annfield Plain, is now showing a splendid assortment of goods suitable for Christmas presents. The stock of dress and lined kid, cape, and buckskin gloves is ample enough to supply the needs of all those who may require them. Gentlemen may also be suited with a choice stock of collars, cuffs, and fronts, which are complete in style, shape, and size for the most fastidious taste. In his efforts to be on good terms with the little folk Mr Latham has "struck ile" by the importation direct from the Continent of a choice selection of toys, dolls, knick-knacks, and fancy articles appropriate for Christmas presents. Heavy as lead must be the young heart that does not leap at the sight of these ingenious and artistic toys, unaccustomed to such juvenile joys the tiny dimpled hand that is outstretched to seize them.

MR T. C. FRATER,

Havannah House, West Stanley, well maintains his established reputation. His stock is replete with excellent samples of all kinds of drapery goods, and he is in a position to supply suitable presents at moderate prices. Mr Frater also holds a large stock of the most fashionable kinds as well as the more useful sorts and every day materials. He is making a speciality by offering some very nice articles in the shape of ladies' bags, fans, purses, fancy caskets, &c., at reduced figures, suitable for Christmas.

MR THOS. HODGSON,

Draper, &c., Derwent Street, Blackhill, has just secured a splendid stock in his line of business, especially for Christmas, and he is desirous that the same should be cleared out. Those in search of presents, in the shape of ties, silk handkerchiefs, &c., should give him a call. There is also an excellent display of cotton and woollen goods, and Mr Hodgson need not shirk comparison with his competitors. One cannot but admire the industry and taste here displayed in the selection and collocation of such a varied array of fabrics.

MR J. A. CASTLE,

draper, &c., Front Street, Bipton, and Front Street, West Stanley, is just now making a splendid display in Christmas presents, &c. A nice lot of silver mounted umbrellas are ready also for inspection. The stock of hygienic and other wollen underclothing for all ages and sizes is proof that the staple department is kept well to the front. On the ladies' side of the shop will be found infants' and children's stylish muslin and other pinafores; while the ladies' aprons in silk, satin, and fancy materials are well worth inspection.

TAILORING, CLOTHIERS, HATTERS, &c.

J. R. BRODIE,

tailor, men's mercer, and hatter, Church Street, Consett, has a choice assortment of goods in hosiery and outfitting, &c., suitable for presents. The hosiery, &c., is of the best make. Moleskin trousers and vests, pit-clothing, cotton, swansdown, and flannel drawers, made, not from shoddy, but from well-known materials, will also be found at this establishment, where the British workman can be certain that he will obtain full measure and running over in value for his hard-earned money.

MESSRS KING AND O'CONNOR,

outfitters and men's mercer, Front Street, Consett, have on hand a large assortment of worsteds, Tweeds, and other suitings adopted for the season. This firm is noted for their winter suitings.

MR WM. FORSTER,

tailor and draper, Victoria Street, Consett, still maintains the reputation he has earned by the clothes he keeps in stock. His reputation for high class tailoring increases year by year. The very choice selection of patterns shown in the windows is the envy of every man desirous of being considered well-dressed, while his cutting stands at the head of the profession.

THE "2 W'S."

"Who's your hatter?" is a question which is very often asked. It may be very satisfactorily answered by The "2 W's," of Newmarket Street, Consett. To instance a few of the specialities, however, of this establishment, there is the arioso hat, which will come up smiling after you have sat upon it; the sanitary hat, about the best preservative we know of a sound mind in a sound body. Men's mercery and hosiery, smoking caps that make it a real luxury to puff the fragrant weed, fetching fancy ties, and ornate silk handkerchiefs in pretty boxes, suspenders that will not give way when you go down on your marrow bones to pop the question to the fair one, umbrellas that are like watersheds and not like sieves in a downpour of rain, silk mufflers, oceanic expanses of white shirts, collars, and cuffs, men's, youth's, and boys' garments to fit all sizes and suit all purses.

MESSRS PHILLIPSON, BROS,

in Durham Road, Blackhill, have a nice assortment of Christmas and New Year presents of the most useful sort. As gentlemen outfitters they are taking a foremost place. In hats, caps, fronts, ties, hosiery, linen and woollen shirts, and underwear they have a large selection at low prices. In general draperies, dress goods, and the thousand and one articles for ladies use, the buyers of Blackhill and district will do wisely to see their stock.

MR J. L. BRODIE,

of 12, St. Aidan's Street, Blackhill, is noted for cheap fittings. He continues to give a complete fit and guarantee to all his customers, and would be glad to made the acquaintance of as many more, who are desirous of getting measured for suits, &c., for Christmastide. Being mortal, Mr Brodie cannot command success, but he deserves it; and, what is more, he wins it.

MESSRS E. S. BELL AND CO.,

tailors and drapers, Front Street, Consett, is the right firm to leave your orders with. Suits for men and boys alike may be obtained ready made or to measure. The cloths are all wool from the chief makers in the West of England and Scotland, and for comfort and durability will be bad to beat anywhere. Underclothing of all kinds is offered for sale, as well as ties, scarves, and umbreallas, so that a man who goes through Mr Bell's hands is bound to come out luxuriously apparelled and in his right mind. We wish the firm every success.

MISSES PARKER,

2, Front Street, Consett, have a well-assorted stock of millinery, fancy baby-linen, ladies' and children's underclothing. This establishment is noted for crapons, pongees, surahs, and velvets, ruches and gloves. Gloves did we say? It must have been a pair such as these to which the impassioned Romeo alluded when addressing Juliet he exclaimed, "O, that I were the glove upon that hand, that I might touch that cheek!" For table decoration the firm have begonias, roses, and brilliant Pampas grasses, and of ribbons and laces they have a most complete assortment in all widths, all colours, and all qualities.

MRS SHIPLEE,

47, Front Street, Consett, and

MRS HAND,

Newmarket Street, Consett, are the right shops for ladies' and children's presents of a really useful and lasting nature. The two establishments are stocked with a splendid selection of ladies' aprons, dress caps, and wraps, together with a large collection of children's pinafortes. These have the double recommendation of being home-made and of the best quality. A reference to the advertisements will remind maids of all degrees that an investment can only result in complete satisfaction.

MISSES BELL AND BINNING.

Amid the chorus of complaints by local shopkeepers that there is "absolutely nothing doing," and that business generally, like the British Navy, is "going to the dogs," it is with a sense of relief that we find one firm, at least, Misses Bell and Binning, of the New Town Hall Buildings, Middle Street, Consett, who look upon the bright side of things, and inform us with an unconstrained smile that they have no fault to find with the state of trade. Like other mortals, this firm cannot command success, but they can at any rate deserve it by taste, energy, and enterprise, and that they have done so their present display demonstrates beyond all manner of doubt.

CONFECTIONERY.

MR W. ROWE,

confectioner, Front Street, Leadgate. Yes, it is true that people at this time of the year are generally on the look out for the shop where they can get the article that is wholesome and good! Now this shop, which has been in existence for very many years, can be safely recommended for Christmas cakes, fruit loaves, &c. All orders receive prompt attention.

MRS HETHERINGTON,

A recognised shop in the town for Christmas cakes and confectionery is that of Mrs Hetherington's, Newmarket Street, Consett. With the advent of Christmas Mrs Hetherington has laid in a larger stock of cakes than ever. the tasteful decoration of which renders them ornaments to the table, while their superior quality makes them real delicacies. Although the stock of Christmas cakes is so large the demand is in proportion, and therefore ladies, to avoid disappointment, should call and secure their bargains without a moment's loss of time.

MISS WILSON,

of Shakespeare Street Consett, has secured a large stock of the best kinds of confectionery, cakes, etc., which she supplies at a moderate cost. Inspect the windows and see the grand display. Plenty of sweets for Santa Claus to carry to his many little friends.

CHEMISTS.

MR THOS. MILNER, A.P.S.,

dispensing and family chemist, Shakespeare and Front Streets, Consett, is noted for all kinds of patent medicines. A blaze of effulgence at night is this establishment. Mr Milner does nothing by halves; he imports produce from the uttermost ends of the earth, and a bare catalogue without comment of his choice and varied stock would suffice far more space than we can command. Suffice for us to state that Mr Milner is not unmindful of the fact that a day of reckoning follows over-indulgence in the good things of life so bounteously displayed, and he supplies the antidote in the shape of all kinds of patent medicines and drugs to correct the excess of the season. He has issued an exceedingly pretty almanac, depicting Miss Ellen Terry as "Queen Elizabeth."

MR PATRICK.

Our readers scarcely need to be reminded that the "Premier" Drug Stores are to be found at Mr Patrick's, Front Street, Consett. Influenza and bad colds speedily cured by Mr Patrick's prescriptions. For the fair there are perfumes and toilets requisites such at tooth, bath, and hair brushes.

SADDLERY.

MR W. NICHOL,

saddler and harness maker, Front Street, Consett, once more thanks his customers for their patronage in the past. This establishment has gained its reputation for quick repairs. He had a good assortment of harness, &c., always in stock.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

MR VENICE DUNN,

There be those who deny that photography is art in the same sense as the finished productions of the camel-hair brushes of our Royal Academicians. In the experienced hands of Mr Venice Dunn, however, portraiture has been invested with the highest artistic merit, and it is no exaggeration to say that the quality of his work excites general admiration. The proof of the pudding being in the eating, perhaps the best thing to do is to visit his Rembrandt studio at Medomsley Road, Consett, and inspect his Christmas triumphs and New Year novelties.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

MR WM. AYNSLEY

comes first, and is prepared, at all his branches, to supply his customers with all the best ales, stout, wines, and spirits, from the leading firms, at most reasonable prices. Mr Aynsley has his head-quarters in Middle Street, Consett, and branches at Blackhill, Leadgate, and West Stanley. Mr Aynsley is sole agent for Messrs Gilbey, the well-known distillers.

MESSRS T. D. DRYDEN & CO.,

Front Street, Consett, are not behind the age in this respect. They have secured a large consignment of excellent spirits, wines, British wines, etc., specially for the Christmas season, and the new price lists are now ready, which distinctly indicate that gin, rum, brandies, wines, etc., can be secured at special prices.

MR W. GLENDINNING'S

(Newcastle) beef and malt wine, which is reckoned to be a concentrative nutritive digestive food, can be procured of several agents in the district, for which see advertisement.

MR F. A. COLTMAN,

proprietor of the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Middle Street, Consett, has some fine blends of old Scotch and Irish whiskeys of the highest quality. Also, wines and champagnes, cigars, etc., which he can thoroughly recommend for the festive season.

FURNISHING.

MESSRS JAS. DALY AND CO.,

of Park Road, Consett, are noted for their cheap furnishings. They have been appointed agent for some of the best furniture makers, and invite intending purchasers to give them a call.

FISHMONGERS.

MR T. CRICK,

of Havelock Street, Consett, is the happy possessor of one of the largest fishmongers businesses in North-West Durham. For the festive season his establishment is going to be stocked with fresh fish of every description, to be cleared out at low prices.

HAIRDRESSERS.

MR T. BARRY'S

establishment, situate in Victoria Street, Consett, is the right shop for all those who are desirous of having clean shaves and neat hair-cutting. Mr Barry, being in the profession for a number of years, has gained considerable experience, and is most obliging to all customers. A first-class assistant is kept upon the premises.

REFRESHMENTS.

At

MR DAGLEISH'S,

Luton House cocoa rooms, Middle Street, Consett, all patrons will, we feel sure, be quite satisfied with the bill of fare. This shop is likewise noted for fruit-cakes, etc. It is a place where one can obtain a substantial and comfortable meal at a low figure, and is well worthy of support.

MR HENRY HANSOM,

of Shakespeare Street, Consett, whose old established dining rooms are so well known by townsmen and visitors, is in a position to supply those who may favour him with a visit with all the delicacies of the season at a reasonable figure. Prize meat pies look well and taste better, and those supplied by this establishment are like "linked sweetness long drawn out," in eating which you snatch a fearful and all to evanescent joy. At the same convenient shop there is a choice selection and tasteful arrangement of confectionery.

MRS WALTON

still retains the Temperance and Commercial Hotel, 24, Sherburn Terrace, Consett, where travellers, etc., can be accomodated with the best refreshments and commercial rooms, at a very moderate charges.

THE WEST STANLEY COCOA ROOMS.

The West Stanley Cocoa Rooms of the Victoria Theatre are noted for their dinners, teas, pot pies, and melton pies, puddings, cakes, pastry, &c., at cheap and reasonable prices. Balls and parties this Christmas will be catered for. The proprietor is Mr L. W. Rowe, late of Consett Cocoa Rooms.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

MR WM. AYNSLEY,

with his large staff, of assistants, is now displaying in his magnificent establishments in Middle Street, Consett, Blackhill, and West Stanley, a large and very superior stock of groceries and provisions, of his noted qualities, which he is offering at very low prices. A mere enumeration of the good things of which Mr Aynsley's shops are a sort of Land of Goschen would outrun the pace at our command. Look at the variety of choice in cheeses—to take only one department—rich, ripe, and rare Stilton from Leicester and Melton Mowbray; mild and mild Cheshire from Chester and Nantwich; crisp, creamy, Cheddar from Somersetshire; sweet and savoury Wensleydale from the rolling vales of Yorkshire; American and Canadian, Gruyere, Gorgonzola, Roquefort, Brie, Comembert, and Port de Salut—a luxurious list for the eyes of the eyes of the epicure to rove over. Dried and crystallised fruits rub a close acquaintance with each other; currants, valencias, sultanas, French plums and prunes, almonds, jellies, flavouring essences and spices, chocolates for dessert, breakfast and luncheon, delicacies such as tinned meats and Cambridge sausage; Cumberland, Irish roll, and Wiltshire smoked bacon, all attest the many sided natur of Mr Aynsley's high-class family business; while how better can the walnuts be discussed than across the wines for which Mr Aynsley is Messrs W. and A. Gilbey's agents in Consett? Believing that "handsome is that handsome does," Mr Aynsley intends to give each of his customers good value for their money.

MESSRS T. D. DRYDEN AND CO.,

Front Street, Consett, claim special attention for the excellent quality of their vast assortment of groceries and provisions they have arranged for show. That the firm is an enterprising one will be understood when visitors notice the splendid display especially for the Christmas. The gentle breezes that blow soft o'er Ceylon's Isle waft tons of the choicest leaf of the China and India to Messrs Dryden and Co., whose "special" is one of the most popular and at the same time innocent beverages in Consett. Greece yields the fine crop of currants which Messrs Dryden have in stock, Spain the exquisite Valencia raisins, Turkey the lordly sultanas, the Spice Islands send their cinnamon, nutmegs, and mace, and Denmark the fresh butter which has given a new zest to the morning meal. The cheeses comprises Stilton, Wensleydale, Gorgonzola, Cheshire, Canadian, Roquefort, Gloucester, Derbyshire, etc., all of the richest qualities; there are prime bacons, shoulders, butters, lards, margarines, tinned meats, and flours; the hams include Harris's Wiltshire smoked. Irish rolls, and large smoked hams. Another speciality is the large stock of cakes, made by machinery, and untouched by hand. Fruit wines of the finest quality, including ginger, orange, raspberry, strawberry, port, sherry, lemon, and black currant, all made from the juice of fresh fruit, are to be obtained at his extensive business house at Consett.

MR JOSEPH MURRAY,

grocer, flour and provision merchant, Middle Street, Consett, and High Spen, is now exhibiting a large and varied assortment of goods of all sorts for the Christmas season, and for quality and prices his commodities will compare favourably with any establishment in the district. Mr Murray's can be reckoned as one of the oldest grocery business in the town. It has has had a steady growth, the extensive trade carried on necessitating removal to fresh premises. It is a bright establishment inside and out, with all the signs of a brisk trade being transacted, and the management demonstrate that Mr Murray is alive to his responsibilities towards his customers at Christmastide, and wide awake to the responsibilities of commerce by a choice and sufficient stock of material comforts. Lovers of cheese may pick from the finest Stilton, Cheshire, Derby, American, Gorgonzola, Edam, and Gouda. All the plum pudding requisites are to be found in profusion. Tinned fruits, i.e., peaches, apricots, and pineapples, are a speciality, and take the place of home grown products now out of season as dessert delicacies. In general provisions the firm will be found to be well abreast of the times. A distinct saving in time, money, and labour to the busy housewife will be brought about by purchasing the snow flour, prepared for immediate use, whilst the finest custards, blancmanges, and jellies can be made within half-an hour by the use of their powders.

THE LONDON AND NEWCASTLE TEA COMPANY.

do a large business at their establishment in Newmarket Street, Consett. "The cup that cheers but not inebriates" might serve as an appropriate motto for the London and Newcastle Tea Company, who have almost as many branches as the royal oak tree, and seem destined to weather the chances and changes of commerce as long as that monarch of the forest weathers wind and rain. The annual turnover of tea by the company amounts to some 600 tons, a number easily expressed in figures, but conceived mentally with much more difficulty. It would puzzle a Cocker to count how many cups of tea went to a ton of China or Indian leaf, and then he would have to multiply in order to gain some idea of the monstrous growth of the Company's speciality.

MRS M. ALMOND.

Front Street, Consett, has likewise prepared herself for the extra demands of the season with an extensive stock of groceries and provisions of excellent quality, at moderate prices. For the past 45 years this establishment has enjoyed the reputation of supplying the best value in teas that can be produced. All classes can be suited with a fine array of currants, raisins, lemon peel, spices, &c., of the most delectable quality. Some fine old cheeses—Cheshire, Amerian, Gorgonzola, Derby, Gouda, &c.—are also in stock, and will repay a trial.

MR JOSEPH POSTLE,

Family grocer and provision merchant, Newmarket Street, Consett, is the right shop for a cheap parcel of groceries during the coming season. "Progress" continues to be Mr Postle's motto. It has been his steady aim to give good quality at the lowest possible prices, and no one can dispute for a moment that he has succeeded in giving satisfaction. He has made every preparation for the heavy calls of his customers during the next week or two, and is confident of giving them every satisfaction. He has a large and varied stock of almost everything in the grocery line. Good flour and wheat meal can be had from the premises, and fine, good, clean tea. American, Derby, and other cheese-producing places are strongly represented in that comestible department, and all the leading biscuit manufacturers have been "tapped" to add to the stock. Tinned meats are in great variety. All orders will, we are sure, receive prompt attention, and goods are despatched to any part of the country.

MR JAMES DALY,

Grocer and provision merchant, of Shakespeare Street, Consett, certainly does not stand in the background with his varied, well-selected stock of groceries and provisions. A splendid lot of pale and smoked hams and bacons for the festive season is worthy of inspection, also a quantity of tin goods in every variety. Rich and poor alike will find a choice selection of Indian, China, and Ceylon teas to choose from at prices suitable to their pockets. Mr D. has also laid in a large stock of flour. A quantity of jams in large and small jars is in stock, and cannot, we think, but command a ready sale, owing to their quality. A special consignment of cheese, cakes, &c., is on hand at this establishment, together with buiscuits from the principal makers in the kingdom.

MR W. WHITFIELD,

of the Provision Stores, Leadgate, is prepared to supply the best groceries, &c., at a cheap rate. An excellent stock of provisions has come to hand, and knowing that Mr Whitfield is a practical grocer, a mere detailing of qualities will only give a faint idea of the business done at his establishment. Tea, once a luxury of the rich has become a necessary of the humblest, and there was evidence on the occasion of our visit, both in the shop and the warehouse, that the public are not slow to avail themselves of the advantageous terms upon which tea may here be bought.

MR E. KINLESIDE,

Post Office Stores, Leadgate, cannot be beat for cheap and wholesome groceries. He has laid in an extra supply for the festive season, and all customers may depend on receiving good value for their money. Mr Kinleside has specialties in Christmas fruits, including bold, rich, luscious, full-bloom currants, Valencias, and sultanas, varying quality according to price. These are perfectly clean, and no finer varieties have reached England. Christmas teas of superlative quality, specially improved for the season, and which are advertised as "sumptuous and sublime."

MESSRS. W. STEWART AND SON,

The famous tea dealers, of Grainger Street, Newcastle, are noted for the excellence of their teas, coffees, and cocoa. Messrs Stewart keep none but the very best.

MR M. FAWELL,

Grocer, Front Street, Consett, claims our attention for his brilliant display of groceries and provisions. It has been the steady aim of Mr Fawell to give quality, and in doing so he has not failed to gain a high reputation. His choice coffees and teas, as well as jams, marmalades, hams, and bacon, cannot be excelled. Mr Fawell has laid himself out specially to attend to the Christmas and New Year's wants of his innumerable customers, and we are confident that a call will not be regretted by anyone.

MR J. PALLISER,

Wholesale and retail tea dealer, grocer and provision merchant, Park Road, Blackhill, has likewise prepared himself for the extra demands of the season with a much larger stock than ordinarily. We would recommend our readers to see the windows this week-end and note the prices. His dessert fruits, fruit loaves, almond cakes, and also his magnificent sultana cakes demand special attention.

WALTER WILLSON.

Mr Walter Willson is to the North of England the universal provider that Mr Whitley is to London. The extent of his business will be measured by the statement that he has 30 flourishing branches in the six northern counties. We remind our readers not to forget his branch shop in Middle Street, Consett, where the 28th great annual Christmas sale or cost price distribution is now in full swing. The sale extends throughout December, during which bargains to the value of £50,000 are being offered.

MESSRS JOHN HALL AND CO,

Tea dealers, provision merchants. horse and cattle provendors, and Front Street, Annfield Plain, are noted for the excellent quality of their provisions, as Messrs Hall have bought heavily in the leading cheese, ham, and tea markets, with the result that the stock is greatly increased in view of Christmastide and the New Year. Special supplies of Gorgonzola, Wensleydale, Cheshire, American, Derby, and Gouda cheeses are to be had, as well as Christmas hams of all qualities and prices. In the tinned fruit department apples, pears, and pineapples are predominant, and the large quantities of Valencia and sultana raisins, and the best currants go with the prunes and almonds to make up the dried fruit specialities.

MESSRS FORSTER, RUSSELL, AND CO.,

Grocers, drapers, &c., Front Street, Annfield Plain, keep well abreast of the times with their carefully selected stock. The have at present some of the most fragrant leaf in stock, imported from the gardens of China, India, and Ceylon. Dried fruits form a splendid feature at this establishment. They import from the "Isles of Greece," of which Byron sang, from the sunny land of Spain, and from Turkey, the home of "sultanas." The firm have received a special consignment of currants, and are also exclusively supplied weekly with butter from Danish dairies which do not send their produce to the ordinary market. Messrs Forster and Russell have always on hand a grand stock of draperies, at very reasonable figures.

MR GEO. CAREY,

Front Street, Consett, has just procured a large stock for the festive season. The provisions are of the best quality including the best brands of ham and bacon, smoked Wiltshire and Irish rolls, together with jams and unfermented fruit wines, form a tempting array; and cheese is a leading line, Mr Carey being apparently determined that no table shall be without a wedge at Christmas. All orders are executed and delivered free by their own conveyance.

BAKERS AND MILLERS.

MESSRS JOHN HUME AND SON.

Bakers, and millers, tea and tobacco merchants, Middle Street, Consett, keep none but the very best qualities of flour, of fine texture and most exquisite quality. Messrs Hume are also known for their confectionery. Orders are taken for brides loaves, birthday cakes, Sunday-school teas, &c. The success of this establishment is through the fact that all kinds of bread and confectionery is fresh daily.

MR GEORGE HOBSON,

Miller, of Harperley and Catchgate Mills, is noted for the best leading brands of fines, superfines, &c., and all who are in want of good flour this Christmas to bake the Christmas loaf, should pay him a visit. We recommend Mr Hobson's pure white wheat meal, manufactured by himself, which cannot be surpassed.

STATIONERY, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

MR ROBERT JACKSON'S.

shops in Newmarket Street, and at the *Guardian* Office, Front Street, Consett, contain a dainty display of Christmas cards showing the season is at hand when these pretty missives may be most appropriately exchanged between families and friends.

While our too-familiar friend the valentine is slowly expiring from sheer public neglect, the demand for Christmas cards shows not the slightest diminution. It would seem as if, judging from the multitude of designs poured out year after year, no more fresh ideas could be forthcoming, and as if novelties were out of the question. Let those who think so pay a visit to these two establishments, and they will be quickly and pleasantly undeceived. New departures abound, and perhaps the most popular of these is the private Christmas card, of which Mr Jackson has about 100 different patterns in his sample books. Another innovation is the blank autograph card, which the happy owner, of course, may fill in at will. They are in more demand almost than anything else. Real works of art are the hand-painted cards, embossed in gold and other colours, and next we rank to them the photographic cards with sun pictures of local views glass-mounted and framed, and handsome enough to adorn the walls of any drawing-room. The penny cards for children are a marvel of cheapness and taste, and equal to those which used, not so long since, to be sold for sixpence. Mr Jackson does a good deal of high-class work on his own premises, which is noted for menu cards and ball programmes, which are in great demand. Their stock of literature is larger than ever, and as choice as a thorough knowledge of the wants of the reading public can make it.

MR J. COCKBURN,

stationer, Front Street, Consett, appears year after year to lead the way with a most bewildering variety of novelties in Christmas and New Year's cards. It would seem as if the vein of ingenuity displayed for years past in the production of these seasonable offerings had no end, for we never remember a time when more originality of design was shown than at present. Even in the cheaper kinds of cards there is much to admire and amuse, but when we come to the more costly hand-painted specimens we feel that the merely mechanical has been replaced by the really artistic, and that these cards are as much works of art as the water colours or oil-paintings which adorn our walls. Of games for the winter nights there is the widest possible selection, including Sigma, Triplem, Fairy Snap, Great Pyramid, Chopsticks, Aunt Sally, Parlour Bowls, Alma, Fishponds, and Ringolette. He is at present noted for toys, &c., suitable for children.

MR HARRY CORNFORTH,

Town Hall Buildings, and Victoria Street, Consett, has once more secured an excellent stock of Christmas and New Year's cards, as well as an elegant assortment of fancy goods, toys, dolls, &c. For children there is an especially large collection of cards, such as dogs, cats, donkeys, babies, policemen, flowers, &c. Mr Cornforth has made a special feature, as in recent years, of private Christmas cards, and of these he shows a great variety of beautiful patterns which have already proved so attractive that the demand for them has already exceeded that of any previous year. "Easy writing is cursed hard reading," says the poet, but caligraphy may be assured on one of Mr Cornforth's writing desks. Fancy timepieces, card cases in antelope leather, and photo frames in plush, silver, brass, oak, and enamelled wood, ladies' bags in morocco, crocodile, and Russia, screen albums, pickel-plated frames, books for newspaper cuttings, and seasonable literature of all kinds for the young bear out the statement of Mr Cornforth that never before has he prepared such a bountiful and tempting display.

MR NATHAN FAWELL, JUN.

Front Street, Consett, continues to lead the way for variety and cheapness. There is a large and handsome assortment of goods for Christmas-tree decoration and presents, and a host of other articles in endless profusion are on hand. Purchasers get more than enough for their money in dolls that talk and move their eyes, dressed and undressed dolls, nigger dolls, pale-faced and rosy-cheeked dolls, with auburn hair, toys such as Noah's Ark, lotos, bricks, and games of every description, hair, coat, and sweeping brushes, pocket-knives, spectacles, leather, kid, and morocco purses, dominoes draught boards, and tools to practice the young and rising generation in some useful handicraft.

MR J. LUMLEY,

newsagent, stationer, tobacconist, dealer in fancy goods, &c., desires to tender his sincere thanks to those who have given him their support since commencing business at 1, Fenwick Terrace, Stanley. He has procured a large stock of toys for the season, suitable for presents. Look at the battalions of dolls, breakable and unbreakable, washable and unwashable, jointed and unjointed, dark and fair, dressed in the latest French fashions and in a state of nature, but one and all of them delightfully playthings for children.

MR J. G. COOKE,

Stationer, &c., Blackhill, has just secured another stock of toys, fancy goods, etc., especially for the Christmas. He has also a splendid display of Christmas and New Year's cards. To wile away the time of the long winter evenings in a pleasant, social, entertaining manner games have long had a paramount place in home circles. He has the latest novelty in games.

PLUMBING.

MR M. BROWN,

of Annfield Plain and West Stanley, thanks the public generally for their patronage in the past, and wishes to have it stated that his stock has just been replenished. He is known for quick repairs at moderate charges.

MUSIC.

MR THOMAS JONES,

of The Music Emporium, Church Street, Consett can be safely recommended for musical instruments of all kinds. At the present time he has on hand some special instruments—pianos, American organs, and harmoniums—direct from the manufacturers, at the lowest possible prices. He has also a first-class selection of violins, melodeons, banjos, guitars, concertinas, etc. Also a splendid stock of Christmas and New Year's cards. Mr Jones is agent for the Bell American organ.

MR E. SLOANE,

of the Post Office, Blackhill, has just received a number of excellent pianos, harmoniums, and violins, which are well worth inspection, because they are pronounced to be unrivalled in tone, quality, and model, and are from the best manufacturers of the day. Mr Sloane has always an immense stock of music on hand, embracing all the popular pieces.

MESSRS WADDINGTON AND SONS,

piano warehouse, Mount Pleasant, Consett, and Front Street, Leadgate, are the actual possessors of 17 gold medals and other awards secured at exhibitions, which speak for the excellence and superiority of their pianos. It is said that "music hath charms," and there is no doubt if intending purchasers this Christmas will give Mr Emerson a call, he will be able to suit them with an instrument that will enliven their household with a little harmony, and so enable them to enjoy the festive season.

MESSRS ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN AND CO.,

New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, still keep to the front with their musical instruments of any description, which have maintained their superiority for a considerable number of years. The Schiedmeyer pianos are beautiful in tone, brilliant and yet sustaining, and are highly spoken of as being a sound, reliable instrument. Everybody should see the Doherty and other organs, which are always kept in stock. Inspection is cordially invited, and the genial manager at the Consett branch (Mr Williams) will be glad to quote prices to all intending purchasers of musical instruments.

MR J. SURTEES,

of 2, Cemetery Road, Blackhill, will be glad at any time to give quotations of prices for musical instruments to any intending purchasers of the same.

JEWELLERY, &c.

MR D. GRADON,

Derwent Street, Blackhill. It is a moot point whether fancy is bred "in the heart or in the head"; but, at any rate, it finds an outlet at Mr D. Gradon's, in the shape of Christmas presents. His shop windows are always a real model of tasteful arrangement, and last year we referred to this shop as a "Temple of Taste." Mr Gradon's emporium has not only maintained but steadily increased its reputation in this essential respect. Glancing around the place, in the spirit of an impressionist, one is restrained only by a chilling consciousness of limited means from giving orders to an unlimited extent.

MR W. F. TAIT,

watchmaker and jeweller, Front Street, Annfield Plain, has a business which has some appearance of solidity about it. Mr Tait is offering some beautiful Christmas and New Year's presents in the shape of jewellery, &c. For all classes there are solid silver goods for the table, pocket, and toilet, and scarcely inferior are the electro-plated tea and coffee services, cruet frames, trays, urns, dishes, biscuit-boxes, cake-baskets, butters, and jellies, and other goods in silk and velvet-lined cases, fit receptacles for articles which are not for every-day use, but to be brought out and produced on special domestic occasions, to the pride of the family circle and the envy of their visitors.

MESSRS F. A. AND E. WELCH.

The sun may stand still again as it did at the bidding of Joshua, Father Time himself may throw away his hour-glass and take forty winks, but we shall never be far wrong when we have at least the watches at Messrs Welch's establishments at Annfield Plain and West Stanley. There is a splendid Christmas show of useful and ornamental articles for presents—one of the best and largest displays in the neighbourhood.

MESSRS MARSHALL AND SONS,

watchmakers and jewellers, New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, and Blackhill, have a most excellent display of jewellery, watches, &c., which is really magnificent. We just thought, as we looked over the thousand and one things, that is would not require a person to have a great deal of money in his pocket to obtain a nice Christmas present from this stock. It does one good to look into the windows, whether you want to buy or not. We noticed that all the goods are remarkable for design and quality.

MR J. T. CASTLE,

Front Street, Stanley, has gained a reputation second to none as a watch and clock maker. His stock of watches, gem rings, of the finest quality and lustre, finger rings and scarf slides, stars which shine with a lustre worthy that of their celestial namesakes, curb bracelets and brooches set with choice pearls, necklets destined perchance to grace and be graced by some fair neck, Brazilian diamonds and select sapphires, are most impressive.

MESSRS JOSEPH MARSHALL AND SON.

The leading house for jewellery, watches, electro-plate, and clocks is the Consett Jewellery Emporium, Park Road, Consett. For novelties in clocks, gold and silver watches, electro-plated goods, bronzes, &c., this is the firm. The result of the inspection which is confidently invited on the part of the public may be awaited with equanimity, for the popular verdict cannot be other than eminently favourable to Messrs Marshall.

TOBACCONISTS.

The Christmas and New Year's holidays enable smokers to enjoy the soothing weed to their heart's content, and to such we can confidently recommend the establishment recently opened by

MR JOHN R. WOOD,

at 30, Newmarket Street, Consett, which is replete with everything that the most fastidious smoker can desire. Here may be found pipes in great variety and at all prices; all the popular kinds of tobacco at reasonable rates; fancy and other tobacco pouches; cigar and cigarette cases of elegant design and make at prices to suit all pockets; cigars and cigarettes in endless variety and of the best quality. Try the "Meadow Sweet" cigar at 2d, which cannot be beat at the figure. Customers at Mr Wood's shop may rely on receiving satisfaction.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

MR JOHN EDGAR,

Durham Road, Blackhill, guarantees a continuance of comfort and durability to all who purchase his boots and shoes during the winter season. It is as important to keep the feet warm as to keep the head cool, and we know no better method than to have real good strong boots and shoes that will withstand the rough weather, and these can be secured at the above establishment.

MESSRS GILHESPY AND SON,

Boot manufacturers, 18 and 19, Middle Street, Consett, keep well abreast of the times. Their stock of "foot wear" is large and varied. To every purchaser this Christmas of 5s worth of goods the firm present a handsome teapot. This is a noted establishment, and indeed everything that is new and fresh in the boot line can be purchased, while repairing in all its branches is done.

MR E. TAYLOR,

Shakespeare Street, Consett; and

MR N. BELL,

Middle Street, Consett, are again to the front with a splendid selection of winter boots and shoes, which may be relied on to withstand all weathers. These two gentlemen have been in business in the town for a good many years past, and a strong proof of their fair dealing with the public is found in the fact that their business has yearly increased, until at the present moment they stand in the front rank of the boot and shoe making trade in the town.

EARTHENWARE, &c.

MESSRS J. W. DAVISON AND SONS,

of Front Street, Consett, and of Front Street, West Stanley, still seem to make progress. From the basement to the top storey of both establishments, there is nothing but one great emporium of rich and beautifully-upholstered household furniture. Naturally the commodious show-rooms on the ground floor claims first attention. Nothing sets off a drawing-room more than a judicious arrangement of light kind of furniture with the more heavy articles of the oak and walnut order. At present there is an excellent display of Cairo tables, music and corner cabinets, plant stands, fancy and occasional tables, what-nots, and easels. Then there are overdoors, bookshelves, and patent stools, together with a large variety of comfortable easy chairs, rose inlaid tables, and rose inlaid writing cabinets. Drawing-room furniture in the Louis XV. style also commands notice, and deservedly so, for it is very finely manufactured in every detail. There is an interesting variety of antique oak hall furniture and bookcases, which make the English home so bright, cosy, and comfortable. The variety of dining-room furniture and carpets is, of course, interminable, the former being manufactured in many kinds of wood, and the carpets of Axminster, Wilton, and Brussels weaving. Study tables, bedsteads, secretaires with leather tops, and babies' cots in great numbers; eider-downs, Louis XV. ornamentals, wicker-work chairs, and fancy artistic oval and corner glasses go to make up one of the finest and most extensive marts in this particular line of business in Consett and West Stanley. See the Christmas and fancy bazaar at the West Stanley establishment.

BUTCHERS.

MR ROBERT HAND,

of Newmarket Street, Consett, is now showing some prime English beef, mutton, and pork, especially for this Christmas. This gentleman can be safely recommended to intending purchasers in this direction, because he has made every preparation by purchasing some of the best fat stock, bred and fed by Mr J. A. Majoribanks, Liberal member for Berwickshire.

MR WM. MILBURN'S,

Havelock Street, Consett, is the right shop for pies, &c., which look well and taste better. At the same convenient shop some prime pork can be purchased, whilst a fresh rabbit can be supplied twice a week to any number of customers. Mr Milburn will always be found prompt in fulfilling any orders entrusted to him.

MESSRS MILBURN,

Medomsley, have, as in former years, obtained some of the best available stock this Christmas for their numerous customers. Messrs Milburn are noted for the excellent quality of the beef, mutton, and pork they supply, and intending patrons may depend upon being served in a manner likely to give them every satisfaction.

MR GEO. WADE,

Front Street, Consett, is not one whit behind other competitors, for he has secured a supply of splendid beef and mutton, pork, veal, and geese of the best quality for our Christmas tables, and intends to dispose of the same at very low prices.

MRS AYNSLEY,

Middle Street, Consett, is now offering some really prime cuts in beef, mutton, &c., at prices within the reach of all, especially for the festive season. She desires everybody to give her a call before going elsewhere. Do not fail to inspect the window and see the display.

THE CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE STORE

Have once more made ample provision to satisfy the wants of their numerous customers, and in the butchering department can be seen one of the finest assortments of real old prime English beef and mutton that can be met with anywhere. The manager, Mr Harrison, has secured some of the prize beasts at the Benfieldside and other auction marts.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Have a splendid sample of beef and mutton to choose from, and their patrons may on receiving satisfaction. Some of the prize cattle and sheep at the Benfieldside and other marts have been obtained by Mr Dickinson, manager of the butchering department.

MR W. E. FOGGON'S,

Blackhill, is the right shop where beef, mutton, &c., may be seen to suit all buyers, some of the prize animals at the Christmas Fat Stock Sales in the neighbourhood forming the leading features of this year's exhibits.

MR ED. LOCKEY,

Butcher, Middle Street, Consett, is well-known for the excellence of his beef, &c., and is in a position to supply his numerous customers with beef, mutton, and pork of the very finest quality. Mr Lockey was the purchaser of several of the prize cattle at the Benfieldside mart on Monday last.

MR JOHN LOVAT,

Derwent Street, Blackhill, has purchased several of the prize stock of the district and wishes to be understood that he is fully prepared to execute all orders for the best cuts of beef, mutton, etc., on the shortest notice, especially for this Christmastide.

MR JOHN TOWNS,

Shakespeare Street, Consett, is now displaying some choice prime beef, mutton, and pork for the festive season. See the window for cuts and quality which are to be cleared out at most reasonable prices. Mr Towns is one of the oldest butchers in the town, and has always given satisfaction to his customers.

RUPTURES"—WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS 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 imitations of our Moc-main. J White and Co. have not any agents.

Business Announcements.

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

MR. H. MARKHAM,

SURGEON DENTIST,

OF 50, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

ATTENDS CONSETT EVERY MONDAY, from 1 p.m., to 5 p.m., at Mrs LOWSON'S, 32, MOUNT PLEASANT. ARTIFICIAL TEETH, to suit Youth or Age, inserted with all the Latest and Best English and American Improvements, at Moderate Charges. "A Perfect Fit Guaranteed.

ADJOINING CONSERVATIVE CLUB MOUNT PLEASANT. ESTABLISHED 1850.

E. J. SLOANE L. MUS., L.C.M.,

PROFESSOR OF MUSIC. NATIONAL GOLD MEDALLIST, TRINITY COLLEGE.

Gives LESSONS in the following: ORGAN, PIANOFORTE HARMONY, COUNTERPOINT, COMPOSITION, FUGUE, HISTORY, &c.

ADDRESS:—THE MUSIC-SCHOOL, BLACKHILL.

E. SLOANE, Esq., has a very large and well-assorted Stock in Stock a good Selection of PIANOS, VIOLINS, &c., unrivalled in Tone, Quality, and Model, from the best Manufacturers, at the Lowest Possible Prices.

ORGANS, PIANOS, &c., Tuned and Repaired. 817b

HIGH-CLASS DENTISTRY.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH

With all the Greatest Improvements of Modern Dental Science.

MR. T. C. CAMPBELL

SURGEON DENTIST,

No. 8, GRAINGER STREET,

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

THE Teeth supplied by Mr. Campbell are made of only the best and purest materials, and are not affected by the fluids of the mouth, but retain their natural appearance and colour, and enable those who wear them to masticate their food with ease and comfort. They are adapted to the mouth on a system of self-adhesion, without extraction of Stumps, or other painful operation, and the prices are so reasonable that they are within the means of all classes.

Every Set guaranteed to fit perfectly, and warranted.

COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET, from 30s. to £6 10s.

PARTIAL SETS, from 2s. to 10s. per Tooth

Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas), and all Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed.

☞ ALL CHARGES STRICTLY MODERATE.

CONSULTATION FREE.

Attendance from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. 772b

Appointments may be made with Mr. DOBBINSON, Cooke's Buildings, Annfield Plain.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

F. WELCH AND CO.

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

ANNFIELD PLAIN & STANLEY,

Are noted for their Wedding Rings, and continue to PRESENT Half-a-Dozen Nickel Silver Teaspoons with each Ring.

☞ CUTLERY Re-SILVERED IN PRIVATE. 964i

MUSICAL TUITION.

FLORENCE I. STELLING, having passed the Intermediate and Senior Examinations of the London College of Music, is PREPARED TO GIVE LESSONS on the Pianoforte and Organ, and also in Theory. PUPILS Trained for Practical and Theoretical Examinations. Terms moderate.

ADDRESS: 30, ROGER STREET, BLACKHILL.

REMEMBER WALTER WILLSON'S GREAT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COST PRICE SALE.

FOR PRICES, &c., SEE POSTERS AND CIRCULARS.

SEE PRICE LIST FOR CHOICE CEYLON TEA AT 1s. 4p. PER LB.

AND OTHER GOODS AT EXTRAORDINARY LOW PRICES.

THE FLOUR

WHICH WILL YIELD THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF BREAD IS

HALL'S NUMBER 1,

ONLY 1s. 4d. PER STONE, OR 12s. 6d. PER 10 STONE BAG.

GOOD FLOURS, 1s. 3d. AND 1s. 2d. PER STONE, OR 10s. 6d. AND 11s. 6d. PER BAG.

The FINEST TEA (in the District) is HALL'S GOLDEN PEKOE & CEYLON, at 2s. 4d. Per lb.

FINEST DANISH BUTTER ONLY 1s. 3d. PER LB.

THE LARGEST PATENT MEDICINE VENDOR IN THE DISTRICT IS HALL'S.

SEND FOR PRICE LIST OF OVER 30 PAGES.

JOHN HALL & CO.,

FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN,

TEA DEALERS, PROVISION MERCHANTS, HORSE AND CATTLE PROVENDORS, &c.

SOLE AGENTS FOR OLIVER'S MALT BROWN BREAD.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

S. H. HORSEY,

105, SANDYFORD ROAD, NEWCASTLE-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, 3, 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, 3, 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. 415b

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 950b

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF CHRISTMAS CARDS

AND A LARGE VARIETY OF GOODS SUITABLE FOR

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

AT THE

GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET, AND 21, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

XMAS & NEW YEAR CARDS,

(NEWEST DESIGNS.)

TOYS, DOLLS (Grand Stock), GAMES, FANCY GOODS, SKATES, AND FOOTBALLS.

ALBUMS IN GREAT VARIETY.

A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF TOBACCONISTS' GOODS. CIGARS, BEST BRANDS.

SANTA CLAUS, SANTA CLAUS.

TO FILL A LARGE STOCKING, WITH LITTLE MONEY, VISIT

HARRY CORNFORTH'S,

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, AND 18, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT. 801m

TOM GRIEVES,

CHAMPION CLOTHIER,

WILL OPEN

THE TEMPERANCE HALL, CORNSAY COLLIERY,

TO-DAY (FRIDAY), December 22nd, and continuing until SATURDAY, Dec. 23rd, with a Large STOCK OF READY-MADE CLOTHING AT VERY LOW PRICES.

SEE HANDBILLS.

CHRISTMAS BARGAINS.

M. ALMOND'S,

GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,

FROST STREET, CONSETT.

(Established 1847).

INVITES the attention of her Customers and Residents of the surrounding District to her NEW and CHOICE ASSORTMENT OF GOODS of every description suitable for the Christmas Season.

TEAS.

For the past Forty-four Years this Establishment has enjoyed the reputation of supplying the Best Value in Teas that can be produced. Our well-known Blends at 1s. 4d., 1s. 6d., 2s. 0d., 2s. 6d., and 3s. 0d. per lb.

Just arrived a Splendid STOCK OF NEW FRUIT, which for quality and price cannot be beaten. Good Currants, 5½d. per lb., very Finest Currants, 4d. per lb, Muscatels, Sultanas, 4d. per lb. Lemon Peel, from 5d. per lb.

METZ FRUITS, FIGS, ALMONDS, TINNED FRUITS, APRICOTS, PEARS, PINEAPPLE, &c.

—Also, TINNED MEATS of every description—Roast Beef, Lunch Tongue, Ox Tongue, Salmon, Lobster, &c.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF PEAK, FREAN, & CO'S CAKES—RUIT, FRICE, ALMOND; AND COCOA NUT, &c.

AGENT FOR GILLON & CO'S WINES—PORT, SHERRY, GINGER, ORANGE.

Sole Agent for the District for the CELEBRATED LIQUOR TEA, the Best Bone Tea in the World. Presents given to all Purchasers.

GOODS DELIVERED TO ANY PART OF THE DISTRICT.

OBSERVE THE ADDRESS—

M. ALMOND, 56, FROST STREET, CONSETT.

THOMAS LATHAM,

GREAT

CHRISTMAS SALE

ON FRIDAY, FIRST, AND FOLLOWING DAYS,

WHEN WILL BE OFFERED A MOST CHOICE SELECTION OF GOODS SUITABLE FOR XMAS PRESENTS AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS,

Consisting of Toys, Games, Albums, Fancy Brackets, Scents, Pictures, Purses, Bags, Fans, Ornaments, Work Boxes, Christmas and New Year's Cards, &c., &c.,

DOLLS! DOLLS! DOLLS! ! HUNDREDS OF DOLLS FROM 1d TO 3s 6d EACH.

SEE THE WINDOWS

Also will be OFFERED a large STOCK of the following GOODS, all of the most reliable makes, at astonishing low Prices—

MEN'S, YOUTHS, AND BOYS READY-MADE CLOTHING,
NEW DRESS GOODS,
MILLINERY, CORSETS, FANCY APRONS, PINAFORES, TUN CS,
Ladies' Knitted Wool Shawls, Ladies' and Children's Underclothing, Flannelettes, Sheets, Blankets, Bed Rugs, Hearthrugs, Towels, Lace Shades, Fringes, Antimacassars, Carpets, Oilcloths, Cretonnes, and Furniture Prints, Stiffings, Calicoes, &c.

SPECIAL SHOW ON FRIDAY FIRST AND FOLLOWING DAYS, AT

THOMAS LATHAM,

FASHIONABLE CASH DRAPER,

(Next Door to the POST OFFICE,)

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

CHRISTMAS, 1893.

JOSEPH MURRAY,

GROCER, FLOUR, PROVISION, AND WINE MERCHANT, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, AND HIGH SPEN.

IN thanking the Public for their Patronage throughout the year, wishes to call their attention to t h large and varied Stock of Goods of every description for the Christmas Season, which for Quality and Price, will compare favourably with any Establishment in the District.

HUNTLEY and PALMER'S CAKES.
Snow, Holiday, Rich-Oil-cakes, &c.
Huntley and Palmer's Fancy Biscuits, in their newest styles of fancy tins.

PEEK, FREAN, AND CO'S CAKES, FRESH EVERY WEEK.

1 lb. Sultana, Madeira, Currant, Cocoa Nut, and Seed Cakes, 5½d each
Quadrant Fruit Cake, 4½ per lb.
Chelsea Fruit Cake, 6d per lb.

FELL'S RENOWNED CAKE FLOURS IN SNOW, SULTANA, COCOA NUT, FRUIT, AND RICE.

Fine Whole Leaf Tea, 1s 2d per lb.
Splendid Assam Tea, 1s 6d per lb.
Blend of Indian and China, "Cannot be beat," 1s 10d per lb.
Assam and Ceylon Tea, in lead packets, 2s per lb.
The Noted "Tiger" Brand of Pure Ceylon Tea, 2s 6d per lb.
Finest Tea in the Market, 3s per lb.
Pure Coffee, Finest quality, 1s 8d per lb.

ROBERT SINCLAIR'S GOLDEN TWIST, BLACK TWIST, NAILROD, AND ROUGH-CUT SHAG.

Good White Sugar, 1½d per lb.
Crystal Sugar, 2d per lb.
Best Loaf Sugar, 2½d per lb.
Caster and Icing, 2½ per lb.
Crystal Demerara, 2½ per lb.
Splendid Rice, 2d per lb.

HEALTH SALTS, containing Medical Properties, in 1lb. and 2lb. Tins.

Notwithstanding the large Crop of Currants this Season, good CURRANTS command reasonable Prices. Inferior and last season's crop can be bought at any price; but they cannot give satisfaction.

I GUARANTEE ALL MY STOCK TO BE NEW SEASON'S FRUIT.

Good Clean Currants, 2d and 3d per lb.
Very Finest Currants, 4d per lb.
Finest Valencia Raisins, 4d per lb.
Finest Sultana Raisins, 6d per lb.

WINE ESSENCES.—Ginger, Port, Sherry, Raspberry, Black Currant, Cherry, Pine Apple, and Orange.

FRUIT WINES IN BOTTLES AND DECANTERS.—Ginger, Raspberry, Port, Sherry, &c.

FINEST SMOKED WILTSHIRE BACON! IRISH ROLLS! ! CUMBERLAND BACON ! ! !

QUALITY OF ALL PROVISIONS GUARANTEED.

Owing to the Provision market being so unsettled at present, Prices can hardly be quoted with any certainty, but customers may rely on getting the best possible value.

A splendid line in mild-cured Hams, about 12 lb weight, 7d per lb.
The very Finest Long Cut Hams, 7½d per lb.
Very mild Shoulders and Rolls.

FINEST DANISH BUTTER RICH AND CREAMY, 1s. 2s. Pan Ls.
BEST DANISH MIXTURE, 1s. per lb.

BLADDER AND PAIL LARD, Guaranteed absolutely Pure.
GOOD FLOUR, 1s. 2d. per stone.
Very good FLOUR, 1s. 2d. per Stone, or 12s per 10 Stone Bag.
ROLLER FLOUR, 1s. 4d. per Stone, or 13s. per 10 Stone Bag.
EXTRA SUPERS, 1s. 6d. per Stone, or 15s. 6d per 10 Stone Bag.
EXTRA WHITES, 1s. 6d. per Stone, or 14s. per 10 Stone Bag.

BRAN, BOXINGS, INDIAN MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, MAIZE, WHOLE OATS, HORSE CORN (Very good), ENGLISH AND SCOTCH OATMEALS, all very Cheap.

Having added the BRITISH AND FOREIGN WINES to my Stock, I am offering a fine Selection in,

Foreign Port and Sherry at 1s 4d, 1s 8d, 2s 0d, and 3s per Bottle.
St. Julien Claret at 1s 6d and 2s 6d per Bottle.
Burgundy Wine—The famous "Oomoo" Brand, in Flagons, 2s 6d.

In British Wines, I offer the famous "Lico" Brand (Whitwell, Mackintosh Co., Kendal), which has stood the test as THE BEST for about 30 years, in the following kinds:—

GINGER, ORANGE, RASPBERRY, RICH RAISIN, PORT, SHERRY, TENT, COWSLIP, all at 1s per bottle.

GLENDENNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT.

ORDERS CAREFULLY ATTENDED TO, AND GOODS DELIVERED OVER THE DISTRICT.

NOTE THE ADDRESS,

JOSEPH MURRAY,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCER, PROVISION AND FLOUR MERCHANT,

CONSETT AND HIGH SPEN.

Business Announcements.

J. & J. PARKER,

2, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

Have now in Stock for the Present FESTIVE SEASON, a Large Supply of FANCY APRONS, FANCY DRESS CAPS,

And a Large Assortment of

DOLLS, TOYS, AND USEFUL PRESENTS,

At all Prices. 804m

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS.

MARSHALL AND SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS.

A PRESENT GIVEN OF A HANDSOME GOLD-PLATED ALBERT TO ALL PURCHASERS OF A LADY'S OR GENTLEMAN'S SILVER WATCH.

JEWELLERY—EXCELLENT ASSORTMENT.

BEST WATCHES WARRANTED FIVE YEARS.

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, AND BLACKHILL.

XMAS & NEW YEAR PRESENTS.

F. WELCH & CO.,

WATCHMAKERS, JEWELLERS, AND HARDWAREMEN,

ANNFIELD PLAIN,

Have just received a very NICE ASSORTMENT OF GOODS SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS TIME.

Clocks, Watches, Bronzes, Electro-Plated Goods, Cutlery, Spoons, Forks, Bags, Purses, and a general lot of Fancy Goods.

SPECIAL SHOW IN TOYS, DOLLS, GAMES, &c. FOOTBALLS AND SKATES.

"The Leading House for JEWELLERY, ELECTRO-PLATE, WATCHES, and CLOCKS is the CONSETT JEWELLERY EMPORIUM."—*Public Opinion.*

JOSEPH MARSHALL & SON, JEWELLERS,

THE PEOPLE'S WATCHMAKERS.

Are Daily receiving from the Manufacturers PARCELS of the Latest Novelties in RINGS, CRUETS, BANGLES, BROOCHES, &c., as

"THE EMPORIUM," PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

We are giving usual Presents. Call and see us. Only one Address. 845m

XMAS SHOW.

ROBERT ENGLISH,

THE CASH DRAPER,

IS NOW SHOWING ALL THE LATEST NOVELTIES

SUITABLE FOR XMAS PRESENTS,

IN

LADIES' GLOVES, SILK HANDKERCHIEFS, FRILLINGS, CORSETS, UMBRELLAS, APRONS, &c., &c.,

AND A SPLENDID VARIETY OF

GENTLEMEN'S SILK TIES, HANDKERCHIEFS, MUFFLERS, BRACES, COLLARS CUFFS, FRONTS HATS AND CAPS in all the Newest and Most Fashionable Shapes and Designs.

R. ENGLISH,

THE CASH DRAPER,

15, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

JOSEPH POSTLE,

FAMILY GROCER, TEA DEALER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,

25, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

IN thanking his numerous Friends and the Public generally for their favours during the past year, respectfully intimates that he has now on hand a Splendid STOCK of GENERAL GROCERIES and PROVISIONS. A Trial Order Solicited.

A Large Assortment of PEAK, FREAN, & CO'S BISCUITS AND CAKES of every description.

Buy ROWAT'S CHRISTMAS FRUIT WINES, Ginger, Port, Sherry, Black Currant, Rasp, Raisin, Elderberry, in Large Decanters, 10d each.

MASON'S WINE ESSENCE, 6d. bottle—for 4½d.

CHEESE—Splendid DERBY, GLOSTER, CHESHIRE, and the Finest AMERICAN obtainable.

EDAMS and GOUDAS.

MILD-CURED HAMS AND BACON, Splendid Flavour.

EXTRA CHOICE BUTTER. FINEST MARGARINE, from 6d. per lb.

CURRANTS, 2½d and 4d per lb., the Finest Grown, 5d. RAISINS—All kinds.

LEMON and CITRON PEEL. FIGS, ALMONDS.

SPECIAL BLENDS OF CEYLON AND INDIAN TEAS, 1s 4d, 1s 8d, 2s, 2s 4d, 2s 10d, and 3s per lb.

FLOUR—FINEST HUNGARIAN, EXTRA WHITES, EXTRA SUPERFINES.

WHEAT MEAL, INDIAN MEAL, BOXINGS, ROUGH BARLEY, INDIAN CORN, BRAN.

JOSEPH POSTLE,

25, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. 864m

W. F. TAIT

WATCH AND CLOCK MAKER, JEWELLER, FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Has in Stock the latest Novelties in JEWELLERY, 848 TWO PLATE, &c. Choice Selection of GOLD and SILVER WATCHES, and LADIES' and GENTS' GOLD and SILVER ALBERTS. HALF-DOZEN best NICKLE SILVER TEASPOONS presented to each Purchaser of a Wedding Ring. Spectacles to suit all sights. 615b

MERRY FOLKS!

JOSEPH WALTON, VENTRILOQUIST and MIMIC. Life-sized Mechanical Figures. Concerts, Bazaars, Parties, and Schools. Terms on application—222, Leadgate. 328m

JEFFREYS'S Celebrated EYE-CURE, Patented all over the World. Per Bottle, Cures Weak or Inflamed Eyes, and for Impaired Vision it is unequalled, and perfectly harmless. — Address: JEFFREY, Castleside, or Post Office.

MOST IMPORTANT NOTICE.

"CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE-A-YEAR,

AND WHEN IT COMES IT BRINGS GOOD CHEER."

So say Hundreds of People who crowd our Establishment,

65, FRONT STREET, CONSETT (NEXT DOOR TO NORTH-EASTERN BANK),

Every Christmas and New Year.

The ever-increasing and ever-increasing demand for our Christmas Bottles, is "proof positive," that the Wines and Spirits we offer are undoubtedly the best money's worth in the County or elsewhere.

We purchase all our Wines and Spirits in the countries of their production, and Bottle them in our Duty Paid Stores, thereby saving the numerous profits charged by middlemen, and enabling us to give our Customers superior Goods at lowest possible prices.

SCOTCH WHISKY.

	Per Bot.
Finest Scotch Whisky	1s 9d and 2s
Glenlivet Whisky	3s
Our own Famous Blends, Glenfyne,	2s 6d, 2s
F O H, and S V O H	3s and 3s 6d
Spier-side Whisky	3s per qt.

IRISH WHISKY.

	Per Bot.
Old Irish Whisky	1s 9d, 2s, 2s 6d
Mitchell's Very Old Irish	2s 9d, 3s, 3s 6d
Splendid Quality	3s per qt.

PORT WINES.

	Per Bot.
Fine Port	1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 2s
Superior Port	2s 6d, 3s
Very Old Port	3s 6d to 4s 6d
Our Invalid Port specially recommended by the medical faculty	3s

BRITISH WINES.

Rasp, Raisin, Orange, &c., 1s and 1s 3d per bottle.

JAMAICA RUM.

	Per Bot.
Vatted Jamaica Rum	2s and 2s 6d
Special Lime do., 6 years old	2s
Do. 10 years old	2s 4d
Wonderful quality	3s per qt.

SHERRIES.

	Per Bot.
Beautiful Sherry	1s 3d, 1s 6d, 2s
Old Sherry	2s 6d and 3s
Fine Old Dupasto do.	3s and 3s 6d

FINEST SPRUCE OR BLACK BEER, 1s 4s per Bottle.

GIN.

	Per Bot.
Splendid Gin	1s 9d and 2s
Finest London	2s 6d and 2s 6d
Old Tom	2s 6d and 3s
Jolland (best Brand)	2s 6d and 3s
Marvellous quality	3s per qt.

CHAMPAGNE & CLARETS.

All the Best Brands at lowest Market Prices.

ALL GOODS DELIVERED FREE BY OUR OWN CARTS.

P.S.—On account of the great crush at our establishment on Christmas and New Year's Eves, we respectfully ask our patrons to kindly favour us with their Orders as early as possible, so that they may be attended to with care and promptitude.

Everything we sell is guaranteed to be as it labelled.

REMEMBER THE ADDRESS—

T. D. DRYDEN & CO.

GROCERS, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

65, FRONT STREET, CONSETT (NEXT DOOR TO NORTH-EASTERN BANK). 896m

Business Announcements.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, AND H.R.H. PRINCESS LOUISE.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. An Immense Stock of AMERICAN ORGANS and HARMONIUMS by the Best Makers. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. A Walnut American Organ, 7 Stops, Octave couplers; 8s 10d per month. Three Years' System, or £13 cash. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Is one of the LARGEST WHOLESALE DEALERS in the KINGDOM, and is able to offer exceptional advantages for cash or Three Years' System. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Only RELIABLE INSTRUMENTS are offered by ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. All Instruments are sent Carriage Paid and Tuned Twice Free. All Instruments are Guaranteed and *EXCHANGED IF NOT FULLY APPROVED OF WITHIN ONE YEAR, FREE OF COST.* Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Ramsden's Model Piano, in Beautiful Walnut Case, panel front, gilt incised, check action £19 10s cash, or 12s 9d per month. Guaranteed 10 years. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. People's Model Pianoforte, with iron frame, full trichord, check action, handsome walnut case, bracket legs, at £23 cash, or 15s per month. A piano greatly admired by all customers guaranteed for ten years.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Full toned Harmonium, in good walnut case, 7 stops, broad reeds, for 6s 6d per month.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Drawing room Model Piano, elegant case, iron frame, check action, trichord, panel front, richly incised; 18s 6d per month; a marvellous instrument; guaranteed 10 years. Send for Catalogue.

SOLE IMPORTERS OF KNAUSS' & SOHNE'S PIANOS.

SEE AND HEAR THEM.

FOR many years the KNAUSS PIANOFORTES have been known in this country, and have stood the trial of time. Year by Year they have attracted the attention of most esteemed musicians, and have advanced in public favour accordingly. The reputation of the house—long since attained in Germany—ratified as it is by the appointment of HERR KNAUSS as Maker to the Emperor of Germany, is a guarantee that the instruments are of a genuine trustworthy character.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S THREE YEARS' SYSTEM.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, hearing that some dealers exercise the power they possess in the hire system in an arbitrary manner, wishes it to be distinctly understood that in CASES OF EMERGENCY he is always desirous of dealing JUSTLY and FAIRLY with his Customers. He does not want both the Money and the Instrument. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LIMITED TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, CONSETT, NEWGATE STREET, BISHOP AUCKLAND, 47, NORTHGATE, DARLINGTON, 12, PARK ROW, LEEDS, AND 103, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S CHEER.

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

A COUGH, SIR? A COLD, SIR? YES! "SPICED HONEY." (Honey with Medicinal Properties). From all Chemists, Wine Merchants, and Stores. LOCAL AGENTS.—Consett—Milner, chemist; Annfield Plain—Watson, Druggist; Hall & Co., merchants Stanley—Robinson, chemist. Chester-le-Street—Robinson & Co., chemists. Leadgate—Parker. Victoria Garesfield—Bagnall. Dipton—Murray. 3d and 6d bottles Get one to day. 784m

MUSICAL TUITION.

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

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

TERMS ON APPLICATION. ADDRESS:—No. 28, PARK ROAD, CONSETT

J. L. BRODIE, 2 ST. AIDAN'S STREET, BLACKHILL, FOR FASHIONABLE 52s. 6d. SUITS.

MUSIC LESSONS ON PIANOFORTE AND VIOLIN.

MISS HARKER, A.L.C.M., GIVES LESSONS ON PIANOFORTE AND IN MUSICAL THEORY—HARMONY, COUNTER-POINT, &c.

VIOLIN. MISS A. C. HARKER, GIVES LESSONS ON VIOLIN AND IN THEORY OF MUSIC. Pupils carefully Trained for Examinations. TERMS ON APPLICATION. ADDRESS - BLACKHILL, Co. DURHAM.

AMERICAN LINE. — SOUTHAMPTON — NEW YORK SERVICE. UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS. SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW YORK DIRECT. Every Saturday. Highest Class of accommodation for Saloon, Second Cabin, and Steerage Passengers.

LIVERPOOL — PHILADELPHIA SERVICE Every WEDNESDAY.

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA, Calling at Queenstown every Thursday. Passengers and Goods are landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which has the Shortest and most Direct Route to all places in the Western States. Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE and Co., Southampton or Liverpool; or J. CRAWFORD, Victoria Street Consett; T. D. DRYDEN and Co., Front Street, Consett; ALFRED PHILLIPSON, Emigration Agent, Dipton; WILLIAM GRAY 5, North Road, Durham; GEORGE LEADBITTER, Accountant, Catchgate; ARTHUR F. FENTON, Front Street, Chester-le-Street; W. J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; WILLIAM ANDERSON, Bridge Street, Tow Law; R. SLOANE, Post Office, Blackhill; JOHN GALE, Royal George Hotel, Tow Law. 896m

Business Announcements

MUSIC LESSONS.

LESSONS in PIANO, ORGAN, and SINGING, given by J. SURTEES, Organist of Consett Church, at his own or Pupils' Homes. Graduated scale of Fees. ADDRESS:— 2, CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL. 123b

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

"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

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.

MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

ELECTRIC BELLHANGER, RALPH RITSON, PLUMBER & GAS-FITTER, CHANDELIERS, GAS BRACKETS, &c., always in Stock.

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. 869i

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.

WEST STANLEY COCOA ROOMS, VICTORIA THEATRE, NOTED FOR DINNERS, TEAS, &c., POT PIES, MELTON PIES, PUDDINGS, CAKES, PASTRY, &c. SPORTS, BALLS, PARTIES CATERED FOR. Proprietor, L. W. ROWE, 8721 Late of Consett Cocoa Rooms.

Public Notices.

WILLIAM KAYS, BEGS to announce he has OPENED the NEW DOLPHIN INN, CLOSE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, with a first-class Stock of Ales, Wines, Spirits, Cigars, and Tobacco, of the finest quality, and will be glad to see his old Friends from Consett. Seven minutes' walk from Central Station. 811m

ANNFIELD PLAIN WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

ON SUNDAY, December 24th, 1893, THREE SERVICES will be given by Mr H. ASHBY, Student, Didsbury College. On CHRISTMAS DAY, the Rev J. CRAWSHAW will PREACH at 10.30, and Preside at Service of Song in the Evening, "Tom O Jack's Lad," to be given by the Choir and Sunday Scholars. A Bachelors' Supper at close.

FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR, AND BIRTHDAY CARDS, TOYS, GAMES, AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS OF GREAT VARIETY, CALL AT J. LUMLEY'S, FRONT STREET, WEST STANLEY. Newsagent, Stationer, Tobacconist, Dealer in Glass, Pictures, Mouldings, Mounts, &c. Agent for Bradburn, Dyers. 729m

NEW VICTORIA THEATRE, WEST STANLEY. Proprietor - - - - T. C. RAWES. Manager - - - - MARK H. LINDON.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 23RD, GRAND CHRISTMAS PANTOMINE of "DICK WHITTINGTON, Esq." New Scenery and New Dresses. A large and most expensive Company. Well-trained Local and Professional Children.

A GRAND DISPLAY OF CHRISTMAS GOODS AT FORSTER, RUSSELL, & CO'S, GROCERS, AND DRAPERS, FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN. A LARGE VARIETY OF GOODS, SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS. SEE THE WINDOWS. 810m

E. S. BELL AND CO., PRACTICAL TAILORS and MEN'S MERCERS, FRONT STREET, CONSETT. IN returning thanks for past favours, wish to announce that they have just received a Splendid Assortment of Cloths and Tweeds, Hats, Caps, Ties, &c., suitable for the Season. A Splendid Assortment of Caped Waterproofed Overcoats. P.S.—All Goods made to order. Executed on the Premises by First-class Workmen. Good fit guaranteed. 783m

GO TO CAREY'S FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GOODS: THE SHOP FOR VALUE. G.C., in calling the attention of the Public to his specially selected STOCK OF CHRISTMAS GOODS, has every confidence in soliciting a trial, as to satisfaction, being ensured. The shop for TEAS and COFFEES. FRUITS in good show: Currants, 2d per lb. Sultanas and Valencias. Cakes for the Season. Choice arrival of CHEESE: Derby, Wensleydale, American, and Goudas. PROVISIONS: Sides, Hams, Shoulders, Very fine. FLOUR and MEAL DEPARTMENT: Special attention given. Flower to suit all round. NOTE WELL THE SHOP. DON'T MISTAKE THE ADDRESS: G. CAREY, 3, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

Public Notices.

WINNING NUMBERS for Drawing at Hown's Gill—119, 80, 22, 83, 79, 55, 197, and 12.

SPARROW SHOOTING. — To be Shot for on CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25th, a splendid Ham, 30lbs weight, 1s 6d per lot. Meet at R. M. RUTHERFORD'S, Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley, 12.30 pr. mpt. 908m

BLACK STAR MINSTREL TROUPE.

THIS Troupe will give PERFORMANCES the following places— SHOTLEY BRIDGE, DECEMBER 29th, 1893. LEADGATE, 30th, CASTLESIDE, JANUARY 6th, 1894. CONSETT, JANUARY 8th, 1894. 900m

CONSETT NEW WESLEYAN CHURCH.

ALL SEATS FREE.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH. Morning, 10.30. Evening 6. } REV J. V. SUTTON, Shotley Bridge.

XMAS AND NEW YEAR. IF YOU WANT SPLENDID VALUE IN BOOTS AND SHOES GO TO JOHN EDGAR, CENTRAL BOOT AND SHOE STORE, 44, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL. A Splendid Selection of Boots and Shoes.

DON'T FORGET COCKBURN'S FOR XMAS CARDS, Largest and best Selection. PRESENTS! PRESENTS!! SEE WINDOWS. FANCY REPOSITORY 13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

MRS. A. SHIPLEY, 47, FRONT STREET, CONSETT (Next door to Mr Nichol, Sadler,) Begs to thank her friends for their patronage, and begs to state that she has bought from the makers, a large assortment of LADIES' MOB AND DRESS CAPS, SERVANTS' CAPS, APRONS, PINAFORES, BERLIN AND OTHER WOOL IN GREAT VARIETY. Fancy Goods suitable for Presents. 812m

THEATRE ROYAL, CONSETT.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, Dec. 22nd and 22rd, last Two Nights of "GRIP OF IRON," which has been played to very large audiences. Early doors on Saturday at 6 30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26th.—Special Engagement of Mr David McFarlane's Company in "UNDER TWO FLAGS"

CHRISTMAS FARE, 1893.

H. NICHOLSON, Butcher, 23, Middle Street, Consett, in thanking his numerous Customers for their patronage in the past, will OFFER FOR SALE the BEEF of a Prime Highland Kyloe, 67 Stones, fed by Thomas Stephenson, Esq., Newbiggen House, Blanchland. Also, Shorthorn Beef and Prime Mutton and Dairy-fed Pork at reasonable Prices. Early calls invited for best Cuts.

THE following are the WINNING NUMBERS of the Prize Drawing, at Victoria Garesfield Colliery, for the benefit of the Widow and Orphan Fund:—

1— 38	21—2828	41—2588	61—1734
2—1910	22— 718	42— 983	62—3375
3—1132	23—2000	43—2082	63— 489
4— 314	24— 597	44—2972	64—2247
5— 326	25— 890	45—1950	65—2608
6—3335	26—2417	46— 692	66—1764
7—2241	27— 815	47—3251	67— 673
8— 65	28— 143	48—3182	68— 608
9—2438	29— 546	49— 507	69—1965
10—3137	30—1121	50—2725	70— 684
11—1961	31—1240	51—2384	71— 932
12—2012	32—1811	52—2467	72— 291
13— 894	33—2660	53—2586	73—1116
14—1431	34—2216	54—1943	74—3402
15—2295	35— 545	55—3135	75—1660
16— 309	36— 323	56—2395	76— 417
17— 697	37— 67	57— 676	77—1785
18—1492	31—1281	58—3116	78— 249
19—1768	39—1921	59—1713	79—1101
20—2188	40—2495	60—2369	

HERE WE ARE AGAIN!

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL, AND MAY YOU HAVE A JOLLY GOOD OLD TIME.

NATHAN FAWELL, JUN., 42, FRONT STREET, CONSETT. STATIONER, FANCY GOODS DEALER, &c CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS. A GOOD SELECTION OF DOLLS AND TOYS. TOBACCO, CIGARS, AND PIPES. 798m MEN'S AND BOY'S SKATES AT ALL PRICES

OUR XMAS PRESENT.

W. GILHESPY & SON Will give a Handsome TEAPOT To every purchaser of 5s worth of goods during Christmas and New Year's week.

W. GILHESPY AND SON, BOOT MANUFACTURERS, 18 and 19, Middle Street, CONSETT. 816m

DEPRESSION IN TRADE.

RICHARDSON, BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL, Offers his Entire STOCK OF DRAPERIES AT ENORMOUS REDUCTIONS For 28 DAYS. NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED To Ensure a Clearance. All Accounts owing must be PAID before the 1st Feb., or arranged for. REMEMBER THE SALE FOR 28 DAYS. CASH. FRIDAY, DEC. 22ND. BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL.

XMAS PRESENTS. THE 2 W'S CONSETT, Are now displaying their Large and Choice Selection of SILK TIES, SILK HANDERCHIEFS AND MUFFLERS, SUITABLE FOR PRESENT SEASON. Also, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN'S WINTER GLOVES AND UMBRELLAS. LADIES' GLOVES A SPECIALITY. GENTLEMEN'S HATS AND CAPS In all the Latest Styles. BALLS! BALLS!! WHITE DRESS SHIRTS, AND GLOVES IN SILK AND KID, And CHOICE SELECTIONS OF DRESS BOWS AT THE 2 W'S, HATTERS AND MERCERS, 24, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, AND NEWCASTLE. 799m

Public Notices.

WILLIAM FOSTER, THE PEOPLE'S TAILOR, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT. 852m

MESSRS. KING AND O'CONNOR, Front Street, Consett, beg to inform the Public that they have a fine selection of Suitings and Overcoatings on hand. A trial solicited. Agents for the celebrated Light Flexible Felt Hats. 837m

MISS WILSON, Shakespeare Street (opposite the Old Post Office), Consett, begs to inform the public that she has a splendid stock of first-class Confectionery and Toys, Tobacco, Cigars, &c., suitable for the festive season. 839m

W. NICHOL, Saddler and Harness Maker, Front Street, Consett, respectfully tenders his thanks to his numerous customers and the public generally for their patronage in the past, and trusts by strict attention to business and good workmanship to further merit a share of their patronage and support. 850m

HENRY HANSOM, having purchased the business from Mr. Robert Hart, Shakespeare Street, Consett, begs to inform the public generally that he provides Dinners, Teas, &c., as before. First-class Dinners always ready. Our Home-made Meat Pies, 2d each; Mince and Pork Pies specially for Christmas. 840m

MRS. HETHERINGTON, CONFECTIONER, Newmarket Street, Consett, has at present on hand a good ASSORTMENT of CONFECTIONERY of the best Quality. FRUIT and RICE LOAVES of all sizes. HOME-MADE BREAD and TEA-CAKES. A great Variety of Toys and Fancy Goods.

NOTICE.

JOHN R. WOOD begs to inform the inhabitants of Consett and district, that he has commenced business as TOBACCONIST at 30, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, and trusts by strict attention to business and selling best goods at the lowest possible price to merit a share of public patronage.—Note Address, 30, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT. 821m

M. BROWN, PLUMBER AND GASFITTER, ANNFIELD PLAIN AND STANLEY. A Large STOCK of GASFITTINGS, ELECTRIC BELLS, GLOBES, &c., always on Hand. REPAIRS NEATLY EXECUTED. 835m

XMAS PRESENTS! XMAS PRESENTS!! IN ENDLESS VARIETY AT J. A. CASTLE'S Drapery Establishments, Front Street, Dipton, and Front Street, Stanley. Do not fail to see grand display of DOLLS, TOYS, FANCY GOODS, &c., &c., in Windows. 836m

DERWENT VALLEY PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.

THE FIRST ANNUAL PLOUGHING COMPETITION will be held on January 17th 1894, or first favourable Wednesday. Prize List Rules, and Form of Entry, may be had on application to Secretaries. Entries close January 3rd, 1894. 894m

J. R. BRODIE, OUTFITTER AND HATTER, CHURCH STREET, CONSETT. Has the latest styles in Silk Handerchiefs, Scarfs, &c., for Christmas and New Year's Gifts. Best shop for Men's Mercery of all descriptions. J.R.B. thanks the public for past favours, and trusts by supplying a good article at a moderate price, to still merit an increasing share of patronage and support. 838m

E. TAYLOR, Shoemaker, Shakespeare Street, Consett, begs most respectfully to thank his friends and the general public for past patronage accorded to him during the 26 years he has been in business, and trusts to merit a continuance of the same. A large and well-selected stock of Boots and Shoes for winter wear. All repairs done on the shortest notice. Best workmanship and material guaranteed. 844m

A SPLENDID DISPLAY of FANCY GOODS, suitable for Christmas and New Year's PRESENTS, consisting of Dolls, Fancy Toys, Lace, and Christmas Handkerchiefs, Silk Handkerchiefs, Pinafores, Christmas and New Year's Cards, and a Miscellaneous Assortment of Useful Articles too numerous to mention at T. C. FRATER'S, NOTED CHEAP GENERAL DRAPERY, MILLINERY, and READY-MADE CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT, HAVANNA HOUSE, WEST STANLEY. Inspection Invited. 834m

GREAT TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL.

THE Medomsley "Sons of Temperance" will hold their Seventeeth ANNUAL FESTIVAL on New Year's Day, 1894, in their Temperance Hall. A sumptuous KNIFE and FORK TEA will be provided at 3.30 p.m. In the Evening a Grand CONCERT will be given. MISS E. L. CONNELL, member of the Gateshead School Board will give an address on Temperance. Come early for Tea Tickets. For particulars see bills. 888m

CONSETT WESLEYAN METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.

ON XMAS DAY, in the Co-operative Hall, SALE OF WORK, PUBLIC TEA, AND PROMENADE CONCERT.

TO BE OPENED at 3 o'clock. TEA at 4. CONCERT at 6.30. SPINSTERS AND BACHELORS CHOIRS' ORCHESTRA. ADMISSION—One Shilling entrance to Hall, and Concert Sixpence. Proceeds New School Building Fund. 901m

XMAS AND NEW YEAR.

FOR TEAS, COFFEES, FRUIT, FRUIT WINES, CHEESE, BUTTER, FLOUR, etc., For the Festive Season, try M. FAWELL, 40 FRONT STREET, (Corner of Delves Lane), CONSETT. Goods Delivered to any Part. Agent for TOWER TEA, the Best in the Market. A Stock of FEEDING STUFFS always on hand.

THOMAS BARRY'S, Haircutting, Shaving, and Shampooing Saloon, 11, Victoria Street, Consett. 11, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT. T. B. begs leave to thank his numerous Friends and Customers in Consett and surrounding District for the kind patronage they have afforded him in the past, and hopes by strict attention to business, to merit the same in the future. N.B.—Ladies' Combings made up on the premises, and Umbrellas neatly repaired and re-covered. FIRST-CLASS ASSISTANT KEPT.

DALGLEISH, (Late Rowe and Co.'s) COCOA ROOMS, CONSETT. Mr GEO. DALGLEISH begs to thank the public of Consett and neighbourhood for the support hitherto accorded to him, and hopes to merit a continuance of the same. For Xmas and New Year a large stock of Xmas Cakes and Fruit Loaves. Fruit Loaves, from 4½d. to 1s. each. Melton Mowbray Pies, 2d., 4d., and 6d. each. Balls, Tea Parties, etc., contracted for. Balls, Tea Parties, etc., catered for on reasonable terms. J. H. COURTNEY, Manager.

DISTRESS AT BLACKHILL.—The following are authorised to receive SUBSCRIPTIONS on Behalf of the WORKMEN at the CONSETT TINMILL WORKS:—HENRY LODGE, Treasurer, 38, Roger Street, Blackhill; T. KANE, Secretary, 66, Princess Street, Consett; WM. SMITH, 2, Ridley Street, Blackhill; or any Member of the Committee.

The following subscriptions have been received:—

	£	s	d
Money acknowledged	270	0	0
Mr R. Jackson	0	5	0
Mr Stobart, Wolsingham	0	13	0
Total income	270	18	0
Total expenditure	270	0	11
Balance in hand	0	17	1

Public Notices.

CONSETT PRIVATE ASSEMBLY.

THE ANNUAL BALL will be held in New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, January 3rd, 1894. Music by Mr R. Smith's Orchestral Band. Decorations by Carnegie and Co., Newcastle. Invitations may be had by applying to G. JACKSON, 24, Newmarket Street. 902m

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.

IN consequence of the holidays, the next Subscription Meeting will take place on TUESDAY, the 2nd January, in the small hall of the New Town Hall, between 7 and 8 o'clock. 843m

NOTICE.

THE FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 370th STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

NO Subscriptions will be taken on the 26th of December, and 2nd January. If paid on the 9th of January, no fines will be charged for those two weeks. An Appropriation Meeting will be held on the 15th of January in Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill, at 7-30 p.m. All clear will participate according to Rule.—By order, D. ORMEROD, Chairman. 848m J. GIBBINSON, Secretary.

MR. WM. MILBURN, Pork Butcher, Havelock Street, Consett, takes this opportunity of thanking his numerous customers. During this and next week he will offer for sale some splendid Dairy-fed Pork. Fresh Rabbits and Ducks twice a week. A trial order solicited.

CHRISTMAS CHEER.

MARY AYNSLEY, Butcher, Shakespeare Street, Consett, begs to thank her customers and the public generally for their patronage in the past, and also begs to state that she has secured Prime Beef and Mutton also Dairy fed Pork. 864m

GEORGE WADE, The Oldest Established Butcher in Consett, begs to thank his customers and the public generally for past patronage, and hopes to receive a continuance of the same. For the Festive Season, he has secured some PRIME ENGLISH HEIFERS from Mrs Anderson's Black Hedley. He has also received a large Supply of Beef, Mutton, Pork, Veal, and Geese. 877m

MR JOHN CRAWFORD, Victoria Street and Church Street, Consett, will OFFER FOR SALE, at the above shops, the Beef of the First Prize HEIFER, fed by Lord Brougham, Brougham Hall, which took first prize at Gateshead and other Auction Marts, and was shown round Consett on Wednesday last: together with other choice BEEF, MUTTON, GEESE, TURKEYS, DUCKS, &c.

MESSRS MILBURN, BUTCHERS, MEDOMSLEY. Return sincere thanks for past favours, and beg to inform their Patrons that they have secured a Prime SUPPLY of BEEF, MUTTON, and PORK for the Festive Season. Messrs Milburn have also purchased a pair of Highland Kyloes at the Benfieldside Auction Mart. 919m

CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

BUTCHERING DEPARTMENT.

IN returning sincere thanks to our customers, we beg to state that for Christmas consumption we have purchased at Benfieldside Auction Mart, first and second Prize Beasts, fed by Mr R. Dixon, Broad Oak, also. First Prize Bullock and Heifer from Lanchester Auction Mart, fed by J. Nicholson, Esq., Manor House; some Prime Scotch Wedder Mutton, fed by Mr John Sherlock, Gold Hill, and also Dairy-fed Pork, &c. 884m

GOOD OLD ENGLISH BEEF AND MUTTON.

JOHN LOVAT, Derwent Street, Blackhill, in again returning thanks to his customers and the general public for their most liberal patronage in the past, begs to inform them that he has secured for the festive Season, some Prime BEEF and MUTTON, purchased from the best well-known breeders of the district. Sausage, Potted Meat, etc, at prices to meet the times. A good supply of Dairy-fed Pork and Veal, at the lowest remunerative prices. 883m

SHOTLEY BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY LIMITED.

MR R. DICKINSON wishes to inform his numerous Customers and the Public generally that he has secured for the Festive Season one of PRIZE HIGHLAND KYLOES at the Benfieldside Auction Mart, fed by Mr Oswald, of the Derwent Flour Mill Farm; Third Prize Heifer, Royal Auction Mart, fed by J. Pattison, Esq., High Waskerley Farm; also a prime Heifer, fed by D. Bell, Esq., Bell's Craig, Lockerbie. Also the First Prize Mule Hoggs, fed by Mr Oswald, Derwent Flour Mill Farm; First Prize Shearlings, fed by Messrs Allandale and Sons, all of which were purchased at the Benfieldside Auction Mart. Dairy Fed Pork from W. Charlton, Esq., Ebchester.

MR R. HAND, BUTCHER, 13, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, Again returns thanks to his numerous customers for their past patronage, and begs to state that for the Festive Season he has procured some PRIME BEEF, MUTTON, and PORK, bred and fed by Mr Majoribanks, Liberal member for Berwickshire. See the window for cuts and quality, which are to be disposed of at reasonable prices. All orders will have prompt attention. 861m

EDWARD LOCKEY, BUTCHER, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, Again takes the opportunity of thanking his customers and the public generally for their liberal support in the past, and trusts by strict attention to his business to merit a still further share of their favours. He also begs to inform them that he has a most choice selection of PRIME HEIFER BEEF from Mr Ridley, a most noted feeder of Peel Well; Mr Dixon, of Broad Oak; and Wight and Bruce, of Newcastle; also, PRIME SCOTCH WEDDERS from Mr Sherlock, Gold Hill; SECOND PRIZE WEDDERS from Benfieldside Auction Mart, fed by Mr Teasdale, the Ridding; and DAIRY-FED PORK, from Messrs H. Oliver, S. Rowe, R. Anderson, G. Gibson Rowley.

W. B. FOGGON, Durham Road, Blackhill, begs most respectfully to thank his customers and the public generally for their liberal support, and respectfully informs them that he has secured for the festive season some Prime Heifer Beef, Black-faced Wedder Mutton, and Dairy-fed Pork of the finest quality. 879m

FOR THE BEST FLOUR, FOR FINEST PROVISIONS, AT LOWEST PRICES, CALL AT W. WHITFIELD'S PROVISION STORES, LEADGATE. 854m

JAMES DALY & CO.

BEG to return thanks to their numerous Friends for the very generous support received during the past twelve months.

We again call attention to the quality of our 2/6 TEA. AND OUR YORKSHIRE FLOUR. There is nothing yet in the Market to equal them.

We have been appointed Agents for the following FURNITURE & BED MANUFACTURERS— S. Thompson and Co., Keighley. W. H. Davis and Co., Birmingham. N. Rosenstruch, London.

Customers should examine our Samples and Catalogues before buying elsewhere, as all Goods will be Sold at Manufacturers' Prices. 863m

Public Notices.

NOTICE.—MRS. WALTON'S TEMPERANCE and COMMERCIAL HOTEL, 14, Sherburn Terrace. COMMERCIAL ROOM, WELL-AIRED BEDS and REFRESHMENTS. 875m

CONSETT & DISTRICT 741st STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE Subscription Meeting WILL NOT BE HELD on Monday, 25th inst., or on Monday, January 1st next. If three weeks subscriptions are paid on January 8th no fines will be charged. C. W. ALMOND, (Chairman,) 872m ALEX ROBSON, (Secretary.)

WILLIAM ROWE, Baker and Confectioner, Front Street, Leadgate, in thanking his Customers and the Public, begs to state that he has a large Variety of FRUIT LOAVES, SEED CAKE, RICE CAKES, etc., and General CONFECTIONERY. 876m

MRS R. HAND, Milliner and Fancy Goods dealer, Newmarket Street, Consett, thanks her customers and the public generally for the patronage already accorded to her, and begs to inform them that she has a nice selection of goods suitable for presents, including Ladies' Shawls, Pianofores, Aprons, etc. Millinery done on the premises. 82m

MISSES BELL AND BINNING, Dressmakers and Milliners, New Town Hall, Consett, return their sincere thanks to their many friends and the public for the patronage already bestowed, and hope to secure continued favours in the future. Hats trimmed and Dresses made to order on the premises. A large variety of suitable presents for Xmas and New Year, including Fans, Gloves, Lace, Handkerchiefs, etc., for evening wear. 8[illegible]m

E. KINLESIDE, GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT, POST OFFICE STORES, LEADGATE. Try our CELEBRATED TEAS at 2s., 2s. 6d., 1s and 3s. 6d. per lb. 99m

SONS OF TEMPERANCE, BLACKHILL.

THE Annual MEETING of the "Star of Hope" Division, will be held in the Hall, on Friday night, December 29th, for the Election of Officers, and other important business. 871m A. RICHARDSON, R.S.

BLACKHILL, CONSETT, AND DISTRICT "MODEL" BUILDING SOCIETY.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Xmas and New Year's Holidays (Dec. 25th, and Jan. 2nd next.

OWING to the above holidays the ordinary subscription meetings of this Society will be held on Thursdays, Dec. 28th, and Jan. 4th, at the usual hours. W. RAMSEY, Secretary. Office:—65, Derwent Street, Blackhill. 882m

J. G. COOKE, Newsagent and Stationer, 38 Durham Road, Blackhill, wishes to announce to the inhabitants of Blackhill and Shotley Bridge, that he now has a complete stock of toys, fancy goods and Christmas and New Year's Cards for this Christmas. Please to give him a call. All kinds of newspapers and periodicals supplied to any part of the district at the shortest notice. 881m

PHILIPSON BROS., GROCERS, FLOUR, AND PROVISION MERCHANTS. Hams, Finest, 7½d per Lb.; Bacon, 6d and 7d. best Bladder Lard, 7d; Selected Cheeses. Try a Bag of our Flour at 12s 6d. Tea at 1s 4d, 1s 6d, 1s 10d, and 2s 4d. Currants, 2½d and 4d. White Sugar, 2½d per lb. 55, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

F. A. COLTMAN, PROPRIETOR OF THE WHEAT SHEAF INN, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, BEGS to thank all his Friends and Customers for the kind patronage and support accorded to him hitherto, and trusts by supplying everything of the best quality, to still further merit a continuance of their favours. F. A. C. has some fine Blends of Old Scotch and Irish Whiskies, of the highest quality; also, Wines and Champagnes, Cigars, &c., which he can thoroughly recommend. Private Families supplied. Prices and Samples given on application. 880m

FISH! FISH!! FISH!!!

THOSE who wish to spend a Merry Christmas are invited to pay a visit to the noted CONSETT FISH SHOP (the largest in North-West Durham), where a choice selection of FISH can be obtained at Moderate Prices. PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS:— THOMAS CRICK, HAVELOCK STREET, CONSETT.

SHAKESPEARE BOOT SHOP.

A WELL ASSORTED STOCK OF BOOTS to select from suitable for Winter wear. Gent's Waterproof Boots, from 14s 6d per Pair. SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO REPAIRING. NOTE THE ADDRESS: NINIAN BELL, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By Mr John S. Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 1893.

Being Christmas Day, there will be NO SALE at this Mart, but will continue on New Year's Day as usual, and the Auctioneer takes this opportunity of thanking his numerous patrons for the support he has received, not only at the Mart, but every other way, and he will continue to use his utmost endeavours to give to his patrons—both buyers and sellers—as heretofore, the utmost satisfaction, and will at all times be happy to receive a commission for the disposal of all classes of Stock, Valuations, &c.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen, Yours faithfully, JNO. S. MURRAY, The Agricultural Auctioneer. Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside.

Farm Stock Sale, Castle Dene Farm, near Iveston.

MR J. S. MURRAY, instructed by Mr Thos. Turnbull, who is declining Farming, will SELL BY AUCTION on Wednesday, January 3rd, 1894, the whole of his FARM STOCK, Implements, Dairy Utensils, and part Household Furniture, &c., viz:—

4 Young Geld Cows, all in milk.
1 do. do. due to calve in May.
3 Spring Calvers.
1 Fat Bullock.
2 One-and-a-half year old Stirks.
3 Yearling Stirks.
1 Shearling Leicester Tup, fat.

Coup Cart and Shelvings, Horse Hay Rake, Iron Plough, Pair of Harrows, Sheep Rack, Sheep Troughs, 4 Ladders, Hay Knife, Hay Spade, 2 Grindstones, Cart Saddle and Trappings, Trace Chains, Head Collars, Neck Collars, Backbands, Bellybands, &c., the whole of the Dairy Utensils, Churn, Milk Bowls, Dishes, Cans, &c., Hay Rakes and Forks, Gripes, Shovels, 3 Large Metal Pans, Old Iron, &c., and part of the Household Furniture.

Sale at one o'clock. Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside.

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.

J. BAGNALL, AUCTIONEER, VALUER, HOUSE and LAND AGENT, will undertake Auction Sales upon most reasonable Terms, and conduct 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

CHRISTMAS FAT STOCK SALES.

BENFIELDSIDE.

At the Benfieldside Auction Mart, on Monday, Mr John S. Murray held his 12th yearly Christmas prize show and sale. There was an exceedingly numerous attendance of buyers from all parts of West Durham, and even further afield. The number of entries was much greater than at any previous sale, and the quality was of the most excellent description. The first prize for the single bullock was secured by Messrs J. and A. Anderson, of Black Hedley, with a superb animal, which was also awarded the champion prize of £3, for the best beast in the show-yard. There was a splendid show of cows, the best ever seen in the district. The quality of the sheep also was all that could be desired. The numbers forward were:—97 fat cattle, 350 fat sheep, 30 pork pigs, 20 turkeys, and about 80 geese. The judges were:—Messrs Wm. Wheatley, Shotley Bridge; George Harrison, Consett; John Towns, Consett; Edward Lockey, Consett; Robert Hand, Consett; John Parker, Leadgate; and Edward Todd, Leadgate. The awards and prices realized were as follows:—

CATTLE.

Class I.—Bullock, J. and A. Anderson, Black Hedley, 1st—sold to the Leadgate Co-operative Stores for £37; Mr Robert Dixon, Broad Oak, Ebchester, 2nd—Consett Stores, £28 10s; Derwent Flour Mill Farm, Shotley Bridge, 3rd—Mr Punton, Tantobie, £21 10s.

Class II.—Heifer, Mr R. Dixon, Broad Oak, 1st—Mr Geo. Thompson, Iveston, £25 10s; J. Pattison, High Waskerley, 2nd and 3rd—Mr J. Cuthbertson, £23 10s, and Shotley Bridge Stores, £23, respectively.

Class III.—Cow, Michael Anderson, Whitehall, 1st—Mr Robinson, Catchgate, £26 10s; Jonathan Pattison, 2nd—Mr Edward Todd, Leadgate, £25; Derwent Flour Mill, 3rd—Mr T. Parker, West Stanley, £21; J. Hunter, Medomsley, 4th—Mr Lumley, Leadgate Stores, £24 10s.

Class IV.—Pair of Highland kyloes, Derwent Flour Mill, 1st—Messrs Milburn, Medomsley, Mr George Cawthorne, Hobson, £27 each; Derwent Flour Mill, 2nd—Mr Dickinson, Shotley Bridge Stores £21 5s, Mr Swinhoe, Medomsley Stores, £19 5s.

Cattle not for Competition.—Heifer, sent by J. Palliser, High Waskerley,—Mr Ed. Todd, Leadgate, £22 10s; Bullock, R. Dixon, Broad Oak, —Mr Robinson, Catchgate, £24; heifers, R. Dixon —Mr George Harrison, Consett Stores, £22 10s.

SHEEP.

Class VI.—Fat hoggs, Derwent Flour Mill, 1st; J. Pattison, 2nd.

Class VII.—Shearlings, Messrs Annandale and Sons, Lintzford. 1st; S. Bruce, Whittonstall, 2nd.

Class VIII.—Fat ewes, W. Taylor, Summerfield, 1st; J. Hunter, Medomsley, 2nd; Messrs Annandale and Sons, h.c.

Class IX.—Shearling mules, W. Potts, Shotley Field, 1st and c.; J. Teesdale, Edmenbyers, 2nd.

Class X.—Pair of mule hoggs, Derwent Flour Mill, 1st; J. Hunter, 2nd; J. Pattison, and J. and A. Anderson, h.c.

Class XI.—Black-faced wedders, over three year old, Leybourne and Angus, Healeyfield, 1st; J. Surlock, Gold Hill, 2nd and c.

Class XII.—Black-faced wedders, under three year old, George Hepple, Espershields, 1st; J. Teasdale, 2nd.

Class XIII.—Black-faced ewes, Leybourne and Angus, 1st and 2nd; T. Robinson, Derwent Grange Farm, 3rd.

Sheep Not For Competition were forwarded by the Derwent Flour Mill, Messrs T. Surtees, G Hepple, John Pattison, Foster Hall, J. Walton, T. Robinson, Messrs Graham, and other noted breeders.

The chief purchasers of sheep included the following:—Fat hoggs, Mr R. Hand, Consett, 46s each; Messrs Milburn, Medomsley, 43s. Pair of Shearlings, Mr Dickinson, Shotley Stores. 52s; Mr James Lovatt, Blackhill, 49s 6d; Mr Rippon, Dipton Stores, 46s. Fat ewes, Mr Lovatt, Blackhill, 50s; Mr Lomley, Leadgate Stores, 40s; Mr A. Robinson, Whittonstall, 40s. Shearling mules, Mr M Adamson, Leazes, Burnopfield, 54s; Mr E. Lockey, Consett, 49s; Mr M. D. Greener, Leadgate, 48s. Mule hoggs, Mr Dickinson, Shotley Stores, 44s; Mr J. Bean, The Snods, 36s; Mr Rutherford, New Houses, 35s. Black-faced wedders, Mr R. Hand, Consett, 50s; Mr E. Lockey, Consett, 45s and 46s. Black-faced wedders, Mr Thos. Keenleyside, Leadgate, 32s; Mr Edward Todd, Leadgate, 31s. Black-faced ewes, Mr J. Towns, Consett, 42s; Mr W. Parker, Blackhall Mill, 32s. The following were also large buyers:—Messrs William Wheatley, Shotley Bridge; Frank Swainstone, T. Patterson, Geo. Wade, Bedley Nicholson, Mrs Aynsley, and Mrs Pattison, Consett; J. Siddle, P. White, R. Barrass, Moralees; S. Lowes, and W. Foggon, Blackhill; Barron, Edmonbyers; T. Watson and A. Swinburne, Stanley; John Parker, Leadgate; and T. Oswald, Lintz Green.

Geese ranged from 3s 6d to 12s a head; turkeys, 8s to 10s. Pigs from 25s to £6 2s 6d. It was a remarkably level sale, nothing going at fancy prices. Quotations:—Beef ruled from 7s to over 8s per stone; pork to 8s 6d; and mutton from 7d to 8½d per lb.

A good start was effected, and some of the sheep were disposed of, prior to adjourning to luncheon, which was served up at the Royal Hotel, Benfieldside, a substantial repast being provided by Mr and Mrs Robertshaw, the host and hostess. "The health of the auctioneer" was most enthusiastically received.—Mr Murray acknowledged the compliment, and also proposed "The health of the judges," to which Messrs Wheatley and Parker responded.

TOW LAW.

The ninth annual Christmas prize show and sale of fat cattle and sheep, was held at the Tow Law Auction Mart, on Monday, and was exceedingly well attended by butchers and dealers. There was a grand lot of animals entered for the various prizes offered for competition, and at the sale Mr Joseph Vickers, the able and much-respected auctioneer, disposed of the numerous lots in good time, and obtained some excellent prices. Prior to the sale of fat cattle, a capital luncheon was provided in the Cattle Mart Hotel, by Mr Wheatley. The chair was occupied by Mr J. H. Atkinson, Greenwell, Wolsingham. and there were about seventy others present. Ample justice having been done to the repast, the Chairman submitted the loyal toasts, which were duly honoured.—The Chairman next proposed "The judges," and in doing so said from what they saw both of cattle and sheep, the mart was not on the retrograde, but was on the advance, (Hear, hear). He could say without fear of contradiction, that there was one of the finest shows of cattle and sheep that he had ever seen exhibited in that mart, and was a credit to any mart in the district. (Hear, hear). He was sure the judges had had an arduous task that day.—Mr Thos. Hall (Tow Law), in responding, said they had had a hard task that day. They had been very careful in making their awards, and he expected every one would be satisfied with the decisions which had been arrived at. (Hear, hear).—The Chairman proposed "Success to the Mart." He said it was almost out of place to propose the toast of the success of the mart. The success of that mart was sure, because it was on a sound basis. (Hear, hear). They had one of the best marts in the county; and they not only offered grazing and fat cattle from the county of Durham; but from Ireland, Scotland, and the South. (Hear, hear) —Mr Jos. Vickers responded, and said the show that day was one of the best shows that he ever remembered since he had the honour of conducting it. The sheep were an excellent lot, especially the fat hoggs.—The judges were as follows:—Cattle—Mr J R Hodgson, Crook, and Mr J Davis, Quebec Sheep—Mr J Moralee, Crook, and Mr T Hall, Tow Law. The prize-winners and the names of the purchasers were as follows:—

Fat Heifer—1 and champion prize, J Thornton, Tribley, Chester-le-Street—purchaser, H P Sharp, South Bank, £39 10s; vhc and vhc in champion class, Pease and Partners, North Roddymoor Farm—Shaw, Spennymoor, £24 15s; vhc, Bell Brothers, Lowfield, Willington—purchaser. Watson, Spennymoor, £17 15s; hc, Bell Brothers — purchaser. Watson, £19.

Fat Steer—1, J Thornton, Tribley—purchaser, Hodgson, Crook, £31 10s; 2 and champion, J Sanderson, Burnigill, Sunderland Bridge — purchaser, Brandon Stores, £30 10s; vhc, J Sanderson—purchaser, J Hall, Tow Law, £24 10s.

Fat Cow—1, Cochrane and Co., New Brancepeth—purchaser, R Pallister, Crook, £26; 2, Messrs Saddes, Clickemin, Quebec—purchaser, J Walburn, Square House, Lanchester, £23; vhc, J Emerson, Willow Green, Frosterley—purchaser, Mr Bramley, Cornsay, £19.

The purchasers of non-prize-winners were J Elliot, Westgate; G Rushford, Witton Park; C Sharp, Stockton; Mr Forbes, Spennymoor; Mr Brunton, Bishop's Close; and Mr Jarnell, Stockton.

Sixty-five fat cattle were next offered, the buyers being:—Shaw, Spennymoor, 4; Watson, Spennymoor, 4; Gould, Page Bank; Jarnell, Stockton, 2; T Hall, Tow Law, 2; Brunton, Bishop's Close; T. Addison, Crook, 2; Stobbs, Brandon; Hodgson, Crook, 4; Askwith, Crook, 2; C Sharp, Stockton, 5; Robson; Wild, 2; R Ridley, Stanhope; Humble; T Hodgson, Sunniside; G Moralee, Crook; C Hamilton, Wolsingham; and White, Cockfield.

The winners in the sheep classes and the purchasers were:—

Pen of Three Fat Sheep: Leicester or Cross-Bred —1, R Crow, Hedley Hope, Tow Law—purchaser, T Hall, Tow Law, 53s 6d; 2, J Cowan, Nafferton, Brancepeth—purchaser, Sharp, Stockton, 45s; 3, R Crowe—purchaser, Sharp, 46s

Pen of Three Fat Hoggs: Leicester Cross-Bred.—1, J Thornton, Tribley, Chester-le-Street—purchaser, Oddy, Witton, 56s each; 2, J Sanderson—purchaser, Fail, Durham.

Pen of Three Fat Black-Faced Wethers.—1, J Emerson—purchaser, Davies, Quebec, 70s each; 2 J Emerson—purchaser, Pickering, Frosterley, 67s each; 3, J Reed, Intake, Frosterley—purchaser, Hedgson, Watson, Spennymoor, 42s 6d each.

Pen of Three Black-Faced Ewes:—1, R Crowe—purchaser, Bramley, Cornsay, 50s; 2, J J Stephenson, Broadwood, Frosterley — purchaser, Hodgson, Sunniside, 41s 6d each.

The principal sheep buyers were:—Ward, Stanhope; Greenbank, and Scott, Mount Pleasant; Simpson, Hodgson, Moralee, and Addison, all of Crook.

NOTES FROM THE SPEN DISTRICT.

[By "Paul Pry."]

THE "DARKIES" CONCERT.

The Miners' Hall was crowded to excess on Saturday se'nnight, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. Everyone gave expressions of their satisfaction that the darkey troupe of minstrels had far exceeded their expectations. There was at times a little disorder, caused by the younger portion of the audience, but I hope our lads will conduct themselves better in future, as this kind of thing gives strangers a bad impression.

SICK FUND AT VICTORIA GARESFIELD.

This fund was commenced on 3rd February of this year, and has a membership of 233. The income up to Dec. 8th was £65 16s 11d, the outlay up to the same date being £65 1s 11d, leaving a balance of only 15s in the treasurer's hands. This shows what can be done, even when the payments are small—only 3d per fortnight for each member. The sick benefit is 5s per week. I make this note in order to influence other workmen throughout this county to do something for each other, as many spend their money for that which is not bread. I hope the local lodges will not be behind Victoria Garesfield next year, but will begin sick funds at once.

CONSETT CRICKETERS' ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT.

The yearly entertainment which is promoted by the members of the Consett and District Cricket Club, passed off with the greatest *eclat* in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday evening, the building being filled by a numerous and distinguished audience of ladies and gentlemen. It was at one time thought the recent depression in local trade would have had a marked effect upon the success of the gathering; therefore it is all the more gratifying to record the fact that the people of the town and neighbourhood have proved themselves loyal supporters of the disciples of our summer pastime, and came up to the scratch at the command of the indomitable secretary (Mr W. Ramsay) and his spirited band of willing workers. The programme on the present occasion was rendered by the original Blackhill Ethiopian Minstrel Troupe, numbering in all some 36 performers; their efforts were supplemented by the services of Mr T. Hoffman, the well-known Newcastle humourist. The undermentioned constituted the vocal element of the troupe:—Trebles: Masters Wilson, L. Kelly, Veitch, Unett, Kelsey, Carr, A. Kelly, and Johnson. Alto: Messrs E. Robinson and T. Atkinson. Tenors: Messrs M. Hobday, T. D. Dryden, D. Jones, and Chas. Gambles. Basses: Messrs T. D. Dales, Th. Jamieson, J. Askew, P. Ainsworth, H. Symington, T. Longworth, J. Kelly, jun., W. Surtees, and H. Young. Bones: Messrs F. W. Brodie and A. Wood. Tambourines: Messrs J. Westgarth and Thos. Thornton. Interlocutor: Mr J. Symington. Stage manager: Mr Jas. Kelly. The orchestra was apportioned as follows:—First violins, Messrs J. Hope and R. Sanderson; second violins, Messrs J. Spencer and J. Heslop; double bass, Mr W. Hardcastle; flute and piccolo, Mr G. A Williams; cornet, Mr Jos. Lamb; Mr Williams acting as musical director and accompanist. The first portion of the programme was contributed exclusively by the minstrels, who gave the subjoined pieces in a style that left nothing to be desired:—Overture, the band; opening chorus, "Dashing through the Snow," (with sledge-bell accompaniment); song and chorus, "The old log cabin in the dell"; song and chorus, "Time may steal the roses"; comic song and chorus, "Meet me at the golden gate," (with appropriate local reference); song and chorus, "Inex Rovina"; song and chorus, "Waiting for thee," (written and composed by Mr T. D. Dales); comic song and chorus, "De double weddin'"; song and chorus, "Bring back the old folks"; song and chorus, "The emigrant"; comic song and chorus, "The laughing Nigger"; song and chorus, "Come where my love lies dreaming"; song and chorus, "Only to see her face again"; comic song and chorus, "The little pie"; closing chorus, "The American National Guard." Opening the second part the band played the "Heliotrope Waltz," which was a very nice selection, and fully performed. The greatest treat of the evening, however, was the comic songs by Mr Hoffman. He first gave "The Doctor," (including some local allusions, which were appraised at their proper merit), and "The death of Ta-ra-ra-boom-deay," and succeeded in provoking roars of laughter as well as volumes of applause. In response he favoured with "The funny old cock." Mr T. W. Brodie next figured in an amusing "stump oration," wherein he touched upon such topics as the water supply, the sewerage drain, &c., his remarks being fully appreciated. Mr Hoffman again appeared in front of the curtain, and brought down the house when he sang "My old Dutch," and "The Coster's Courtship," followed as an *encore* piece, "The comforts of a home." The entertainment terminated with an eccentric and laughable walk-round (presented for the first time in Consett), entitled "The Black Brigade," in which the full strength of the company appeared. Mr G. H. Erskine, of Newcastle, accompanied Mr Hoffman's songs with much ability. This was, without doubt one of the most enjoyable entertainments given in the town for some time.

Throat Irritation and Cough.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d, tins 1s 1½d., labelled "James Epps & Co., Ltd., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." Dr. Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease."

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 Realisable," "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., 48, Theobald's Road Holborn, London, W. C

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 Ruin," "An Ocean Secret," "Recalled to Life," "Who Killed John Cameron?" "The Police Minister," "For True Love's Sake," &c., &c.

CHAPTER X.

I Will Change Your Bride Into Your Widow Unless My Demand is Instantly Granted."

The young wife tried hard to do as she was bidden, and being a girl of strong determination and immense restraint, not wholly without success.

She smiled and talked, and Sir Harry was grateful even for this, inasmuch as there was a great deal of glass window in his new carriage, and, setting even Conside and its vicinity aside he had no ambition that the inhabitants in the direction through which their route lay (all of whom would be sure to rush out of doors to get a good view of so extraordinary a phenomenon as a four-wheeled carriage) should also catch sight of a weeping and apparently inconsolable bride seated within it, for what divers conclusions, all of a most unflattering character towards himself, might they not draw from such a spectacle?

Such conclusions were all the more probable, inasmuch as his relations with his first wife had been subjected to a great deal of uncharitable comment, and even hostile criticism, chiefly with reference to her mysteriously sudden death, of which several different versions had got about, as also to the quiet manner of her funeral, and the fact that, instead of being buried in consecrated ground, she had been interred just under Owl Hill, on Conside Hall estate, almost within the shadow of a sombre wood, and that so heavy and hideous a monument had been built above her unhallowed grave, that it loooked as though 'twere intended as a prison house, out of which even her ghost would have no chance of escape in order to upbraid or otherwise torment the living.

To his friends the baronet gave a satisfactory reason for all this, namely, that his unhappy wife had suffered from frequent aberrations of reason, and during one of such attacks, had committed self-destruction; and it being the law of the land that all suicides should be buried in the dead of night, at cross roads, with a stake driven through the body, he had not dared to seek Christian sepulchre for his deceased spouse for fear lest the altogether barbarous one should be meted out to her in its stead; and therefore it was that he had had her buried as quickly, quietly, and unostentatiously as possible, in his own grounds, whereon it would be a trespass, and, consequently a breach of the law, for any one to come in order to disturb or violate her poor remains.

As a clergyman and a surgeon had confirmed this somewhat extraordinary tale, and both had never ceased to be on good terms with the baronet, and as, moreover, he had won the character of being a most humane man, and had on one occasion risked his own life (he being a very indifferent swimmer) to save that of a child who had fallen into the flooded Wear river, near Hylton, nearly every one was at last disposed to absolve him from all blame on his dead wife's account, and Mr. and Mrs. Radcliffe must certainly have done so, or surely they would never have allowed their one remaining and fondly-beloved child to have become her successor.

As for the common folk who resided within half a dozen miles or so around of the Hall, they one and all laid the blame of the doleful occurrence upon the Spectre, and hoped, with many a dubious shake of the head, that it might not prove so malignant towards the second wife as it had undoubtedly been to the first one, or even, as it was already becoming," some added, "to poor Miss Lucy, who had by far too old a head upon her young shoulders, who never made the least sound as she moved about, or smiled except at night time, or left a shadow upon the sunniest wall, as she glided rather than walked around and about the old, neglected, weed overrun garden, whilst in face she resembled a lovely corpse instead of a fresh, healthy young girl of seventeen."

So cronies gossipped concerning Sir Harry's only child, who was just three years his new bride's junior, and in all truth a pale, dreamy looking girl, with large, melancholy, violet-hued eyes, who seldom spoke above a whisper, and smiled rarely indeed, if ever.

Such an aspect, and such manners, were natural, perhaps, in one who had been reared from earliest childhood amidst such grand yet gloomy surroundings, and with ancient books and equally ancient-looking domestics (whose parents and grandparents had lived in the same family from the time it built the Hall), for her sole companions during the lengthy period that her father was fighting in Flanders, or wandering to and fro over the rest of Europe.

But even when he was at home, it had for years been his custom to give himself almost wholly up to the society of the rough country knights and esquires who, like himself, were ardent foxhunters, and from all association with whom his little daughter was rigorously and necessarily excluded, for bachelor parties were, at the period to which we are referring, mere drunken saturnalias, in which boasting, swearing, and, where the best known local notabilities of the time took part in them, obscenity and licentiousness also, ran riot as it were, and whereat it was the highest ambition of a host to drink all his guests under the table, whilst he yet managed to keep his own chair; and be it remembered we are not speaking of the doings of profligates and reprobates, but of those of reputedly honourable and upright gentlemen, and steady church goers, who managed to retain the affection, and very often the esteem also, of all who knew them.

Sir Harry had often spoken to Rose of his daughter Lucy, and prognosticated what friends they would in a very little while become; and now that Conside had been left behind them, and they were passing the peaceful ruins of White Lodge; all embosomed amidst trees, with the burial ground of the gentle Nuns changed into an apple orchard, now in full blossom, her husband said to her:

"I've no doubt that Lucy is already counting the seconds of her leaden-footed minutes, as the pass, whilst standing at one of the windows with her eyes fixed on the winding road by which she knows that we must approach, in eager lounging for our coming."

"Lucy?" exclaimed Rose, with a start. "Lucy!" she repeated, in an enquiring tone, as she glanced round at her husband in a bewildered kind of way.

"Yes, my daughter Lucy, to be sure. Why, what other Lucy could you have possibly thought I meant?"

"Oh—to be sure—of course; and I shall be equally glad to see her. I have been looking forward to making her acquaintance for months. Why, wasn't she one of my bridesmaids?"

"Gracious heavens, my love, what can you have done with your memory and your wits? I've told you at least a score of times that I couldn't overcome Lucy's natural, yet most unhappy bashfulness and timidity sufficiently to induce her to be even present at our wedding, far less to take an active part therein as one of your bridesmaids. I really can't tell what to make of you, you are so strange and altogether unlike yourself in many things, to-day."

"It is a strange day to me, you see, and I am unlike my usual self, else I should be Rose Radcliffe still, instead of Lady Howarth. Besides all that, to tell you the truth, when you mentioned Lucy to me just now I was thinking a great deal more of your "spectre" than of your daughter."

"Oh, was that the time of day?" laughed the baronet, with all his vague suspicions laid at rest by this apparently naive confession. "Well, my dear, I do assure you that you'll think less of the family spectre each week that passes over your head in his reputed habitation, for I've never seen him, and Lucy's never seen him, and I don't believe that either my father or my mother, who lived in Conside Hall for more than 50 years, ever saw him either; so you can tell from all that that he isn't very obtrusive or troublesome. I promise you most faithfully that if he should ever become so I'll get the parson of the parish to lay him with bell, book, and candle, and he shall be buried in company with a double-combed cock," having a stake driven through its body. No ghost was ever known to rise again after that formula of the church had been carried out.

All this while the carriage was rolling along the lonely country road that led towards their home, between newly-budding hawthorn hedges, now and then passing a solitary yellow-washed and rush-thatched cot, standing in its little patch of garden by the wayside, or, further back, some old, red-roofed mansion, half-buried amidst trees.

But with each furlong passed over, the track became worse and worse, until, at last, it was fit only for pack horse, so that the carriage more than once nearly came to grief, and it became something more than questionable ere long whether it would arrive at its journey's end, without, at the very least, its springs being broken.

At last it reached a deep and dangerous dingle, with a rapid stream crossing its bottom, and a thick fir grove on either side of the way, whose gloomy and funereal-looking foliage met o'erhead and almost blotted out the sky.

It looked like a spot devoted to robbery and murder, and hardly had the carriage plunged and lurched into and across the brawling stream, which rushed over its axletrees, and almost invaded its interior, than a man darted out of the fir plantation on the right, through one of the many gaps in the hedge, and pointing a pistol at the driver's head, peremptorily ordered him to "pull up his cattle or be shot dead, whichever he preferred."

On his immediately choosing the first-named alternative, the stranger, who was dressed like an impoverished gentleman, his clothes being of good material, but in the last stage of seediness, and hanging loosely upon him, stepped close up to the carriage, revealing by the action that he was masked as well as armed, and, pointing his pistol at the baronet in turn, he exclaimed:

"My bullets will reach further than your sword, and, as prudence shows no lack of courage, you, will prove yourself a wise man by parting with your purse rather than with your life, Sir Harry Howarth."

"I'faith, I think that you are about right there," laughed the baronet, for to be stopped and robbed on the highway was far too commonplace an incident in those days for much fuss to be made over the matter. "Here is my purse, so pray be so polite as not to further frighten the lady, for I have but just married her."

But the lady was as frightened as she well could be already, though less by the marked stranger's pistol than by his voice.

Nor did the words that he next spoke at all tend to reassure her, for they were:

"Gentlemen of my profession are proverbially polite to the fair sex, and although I am as yet scarcely more than an amateur therein, having, barely a couple of hours ago, stolen a horse whereon to commence business, I will, in that respect, act with the courtesy of a veteran. I have my little fads and fancies though, and the famed Rose of Conside, which you have this morning plucked from its parent stem, is, I have heard, celebrated for beauty of arms and shoulder. I must see both, Sir Harry, and, as all shows have to be paid for, let the cost of the solicited exhibition be the retaining of your watch, chain, and rings. You will perceive that I am prepared to pay quite a fancy price for the gratification of my whim."

The whim seemed to be a most distasteful one to the bride, who gave vent to a hysterical scream, whereat Sir Harry exclaimed furiously: "Insolent fellow, what do you mean?" and the stranger responded, quite calmly, "I mean that I will change your bride into your widow unless my demand is instantly granted!"

CHAPTER XI.

Looks as Though Some One Had Given Her A Crack With A Red Hot Poker, Don't It, Now?"

Now, the bravest of men, when cooped up inside a close carriage, with a dress rapier for sole weapon, may well think twice before attempting to try conclusions with a determined and unscrupulous scoundrel who stands without, covering him the while with a double-barrelled pistol, and with his forefinger curled around the trigger.

"Show the fellow your arm, Rose. Dash it all! needs must, I suppose, when the devil drives; though it's like his infernal impudence to demand such a thing," stuttered the baronet, furious with impotent passion.

"No, no; I would rather die," cried Rose, distractedly, and apparently in the very extremity of terror.

"Aye, but it is not you who will have to die; and, after all, he only asks for a view of what you have freely shown, and doubtless will again, in many a ball room. Prudery must, therefore, yield to necessity in the present instance."

"If you were the brave man that I've always deemed you, you would kill the insolent braggart."

"And so I would, and that blithely, if I could only get at him; but he knows very well that I am wholly at his mercy, boxed up in this rat trap."

"Come, my patience is a deal shorter than your tongue, so actions instead of words, please."

This from the seeming highwayman; but Rose exclaimed again; "No, no, anything rather."

"But, my dear, if you don't really desire to be made a widow—for, be he rogue or madman, I can see that the rascal's thoroughly in earnest—you will at once do as he bids you. Here is a pair of scissors in your chatelaine, and I can snip up a sleeve in the twinkling of an eye. Tut! tut! there is nothing indelicate in showing an arm and a shoulder."

Rose could only moan this time, and the baronet saw fit to accept the moan as an assent.

"Not that arm. It must be the other," exclaimed the highwayman, suddenly. "I am very particular even in the matter of ladies' arms, and I believe that, in most cases, the right arm is the more comely of the two."

"Ah, you are a madman. Now, I know it for certain. But as a madman is even more dangerous than a sane one, the right arm be it. Come, Rose, be good enough to turn yourself round just a little."

"No, no, no; he will shoot at it; I know he will. I am frightened out of my life, and you are a pretty protector."

"You are a precious odd kind of a wife to think so little of a husband's peril. Why should he be more likely to fire at your bare arm than at your covered one. Its very roundness and whiteness will prove its best safeguards."

"Not against him. Not against him! Oh, how I wish that I was dead—dead!"

"Man—whoever and whatever you are—can't you perceive how your request agitates and distresses this lady? Take my watch, chain, and rings, and go. The watch is worth fifty guineas at the least, and there's many a pretty arm and shoulder that may be seen for nothing. What satisfaction would the sight of my bride's be to you five minutes hence?"

"A charming memory is something," laughed the stranger, bitterly; "but, in any case, I intend to have my own way in the matter; wherefore, for your own sake, I would advise you to use force if persuasion will not answer the purpose. Remember, it would be a dreadful shock to her to be covered all over with your blood and brains, Sir Harry."

This last hint proved all sufficient, and the baronet seised hold of his wife's right wrist, who no longer offered the least resistance, but crouched in the opposite corner of the carriage, looking the very incarnation of stony dispair.

He next commenced to snip up her tightly-fitting sleeve, taking the greatest care not to run the points of the scissors into her velvet soft flesh.

He did so more than once, however, despite his caution, but she neither winced nor even seemed to feel it.

At length the exquisitely full, fair, and rounded limb was bare almost to the shoulder.

"Will that content you?" asked the baronet, looking round at the highwayman.

"Another couple of inches I think will," was the reply.

Three more snips, followed by a quick parting of the rich material, and the milk-white and dimple shoulders were wholly revealed; and lo! just beneath it there gleamed a red, angry-looking scar of about an inch in length, and perhaps half-an-inch in breadth.

It was terrible to think that such a mark should mar such incomparably soft, pure, and glossy loveliness. 'Twas an indelible scar that, so situated, even a strong man might have been excused for weeping over.

"Looks as though some one had given her a crack with a red-hot poker, don't it now?" observed the stranger, with a grin; and then he added, with a sudden and entire change of tone and manner:

"Come, Sir Harry, I've seen all that I wanted to see, and, demmee, the sight pleases me so well that here's even your purse back again, well filled though it seems to be. Ha! ha! ha! it will pay me a vast deal better to have you in my power than for you to have me in yours; so I've not robbed you, please to remember, of a single stiver."

With this apparently sarcastic remark, the fellow turned abruptly round, and leapt into the fir grove again through the same gap in the hedge that had let him out of it, and in the twinkling of an eye he was lost to view.

Sir Harry Howarth at once dashed open the carriage door with the intention of pursuing him, and forcing him to explain his last most mysterious speech; but a moment's reflection convinced him that the stranger would be able to shoot him down from behind a tree trunk without the slightest hazard to himself, whilst, even had he been unarmed, the activity of youth would, without doubt, enable him to laugh and scorn all the efforts of a middle-aged man to bring him within distance of his rapier's point.

Thus unpleasantly convinced of the utter futility of pursuit, Sir Harry bade his terror-stricken coachman drive on, which he did most willingly, and the baronet, throwing himself back in his carriage, began to turn the full flood of his impotent rage upon his agitated and trembling bride, whom he coarsely accosted with:

"Well, my lady, what am I to think of this? Dash it, I have been subjected to a rapid succession of mysteries from the moment that I brought you out of church as my wife. First of all there's some old admirer of your's ducked for calling you a 'cat.' Aye, I caught that fragment of gossip if you didn't. Next there's an ill-looking face staring in at your dining-room window, and your exclamation of 'Oh, Heaven, he lives! He is there!' and your father's of "It's that rascal Halcamus Greenwood?" quickly succeeded by an evidently burning desire to despatch the said Halcamus Greenwood to Kingdom Come, whoever he may have been. Then follows your entire forgetfulness of my daughter Lucy, though we've talked about her scores and scores of times, and on dozens of such occasions you've professed to regret that she wouldn't come to our wedding; whilst now, to cap all, a scoundrel turns up who insists on seeing your naked arm and shoulder, enforces his demand by a threat to murder your husband if it is not at once complied with, and, on his whim being humoured, he exhibits a grim kind of satisfaction at the discovery of an unsightly scar upon your otherwise dainty flesh, which very naturally fills me with the most intense surprise, as well as the most bitter chagrin. 'Pon honour, madam, I think I am entitled to a full explanation."

"I am really in no condition to give you one, and, surely, it is not so very remarkable that a timid girl should be affected—strongly affected—by the strange succession of startling events which have made such an impression even on you—a man and a soldier?" pleaded Rose, with a heaving chest and a hunted kind of look in her eyes.

"You can, at the very least, tell me how you got that infernal scar, which is such a blemish to your beauty?"

"Yes, I can do that, certainly, though I would much rather not. As you insist, however, I may as well confess that my sister Ruth, who is of a very jealous and passionate disposition, gave it me, because, at our first ball at Shotley Bridge, someone spoke of my shoulders as being rounder and whiter than hers, and she overheard the remark. We had a fire in our bedroom that night; and she heated a poker in it, and struck me therewith just as I was slipping my ball dress off, after our return home. Happily, the blow fell just below my shoulder, and where the arm is always hidden by a sleeve. Ruth was very sorry afterwards for what she had done, and begged of me to keep it a secret, well knowing that our father would have horse-whipped her to within an inch of her life had it ever come to his ears."

Hang it all, she was a nice sort of sister. Well, I've good reason to be thankful that I didn't marry her, at any rate. She ran off with some worthless, good-looking scoundrel I've heard rumoured, but I was away fighting in Flanders at the time, and when I came home, the scandal had grown stale, and, as I almost immediately met and fell in love with you, I didn't poke up its dying embers in order to discover if there was still any fire in them, because I shirked the possibility of becoming acquainted with anything that might prejudice me against yourself. I argued that you were in no wise accountable for your sister's follies or misdeeds, whichever they may have been. The fellow was your father's groom I've been told, and was called Greenwood. By-the-bye, what was his Christian name?"

Rose would have preferred that almost any other question had been put to her.

"I—I forget," she stammered, faintly.

"Forget? Impossible! Why should you want to hide his Christian name from me? By great George our King, I remember it now, though, without your telling me. It was Halcamus—Halcamus Greenwood—and your father called the white-faced, evil-looking man who came staring in at the dining-room window 'that rascal, Halcamus,' and it was this very Halcamus who you were so astonished to see alive. Egad! the mystery is still deepening. But, confound it, I must postpone all attempts to solve it for a while, because here we are almost at the Hall, and I should not like Lucy to discover us bickering like cat and dog on such an occasion as the present. We shall have plenty of time on our hands in which to grow better acquainted with each other, and it will be all the more needed because, on my side, I find that I do not seem to know you half so well as I thought I did."

Rose merely sighed by way of reply, and she could have made no more fitting answer had she been possessed of the eloquence of a Demosthenes.

Having thus expressed herself, she looked out of the carriage window, upon a grey and grim old mansion, composed of a centre and two wings, with a massive stone porch that was approachable by means of a bridge which spanned a broad moat of leaden-hued water.

The deep fissures in the walls on either side of the doorway showed that this had once been a draw-bridge, and capable of being pulled up and let down at will, but it was so no longer.

For the rest, the roof of the old mansion was flat and battlemented, and its facade was adorned with twelve deep-mullioned windows, whose cornices, as well as those of the massive portico, were ornamented with huge carved monsters that could hardly have been imagined except in a nightmare.

"And so this awful looking and most lonely looking residence is to be my future home," poor Rose thought, almost despairingly.

[To be continued.]

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 calomell. 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.

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. It has hosts of admirers, male and female young and old Sold by Chemists and Perfumers.

"How to Behave," price sixpence.—To be had o Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

"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 28 Newmarket Street, Consett

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.

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.

WALDRIDGE WHITE STAR V OAKEY'S LILYWHITES 2ND.—Played on the latter's ground, the result being a draw of two goals each.

STANLEY UNITED V HIGH ROW SPORTSMEN.—Played on the latter's ground, and after a good game resulted in a win for United by three goals to two.

HARE LAW WANDERERS V KYO RASCALS 2ND.—Played at Hare Law, and resulted in a victory for the Rascals by three goals to two.

BLACKHILL PARK 2ND V CASTLESIDE.—Played on the former's ground, and ended in a win for the Park by one goal to nil.

CONSETT CHURCH Y.M.C.A. V BENFIELDSIDE CHURCH CHOIR.—Played at Shotley Spa, and resulted in a draw of two goals each.

CONSETT CHURCH Y.M.C.A. V ALLENDALE JUNIORS.—Played at Consett, and resulted in a victory for the Juniors by two goals to one.

LINTZ NOMADS V BUSTY BANK EXILES.—Played on the former's ground, and resulted in a victory for the Nomads by five goals to nil.

CONSETT TOWN RESERVE V LEADGATE WEST END.—Played on the former's ground, and resulted in a draw of four goals each. Referee, Mr J. Ross, jun.

SPEN ALBION JUNIORS V LINTZFORD JUNIORS.—Played on the former's ground before a large number of spectators. Owing to another team having to play on the same ground, only two "15's" were played, the result being a draw—no goals scored. Referee, Mr Thos. Smith, Lintzford.

HEDLEY HILL TERRACE RANGERS V BURNOPFIELD TEMPERANCE.—Played on the ground of the latter. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors, only two "15's" could be played, and the Rangers ran out victorious by three goals to nil.

WOLSINGHAM BIBLE CLASS V FROSTERLEY BIBLE CLASS.—Played at Wolsingham. The home team won the toss, and played against the wind. The visitors scored seven minutes from the start, and immediately afterwards the homesters equalised. Play then ruled rough till half-time, when the score stood one goal each. Wolsingham pressed on resuming, and quickly added three goals. Frosterley then ran the globe up the left, and scored No. 2. The home team, for whom Watson played well, added another point, the result being as under—

Wolsingham ....Five goals
Frosterley ....Two goals

LINTZ ROVERS RESERVE V SHOTLEY BRIDGE 2ND.—Played on the ground of the former. The visitors won the toss, and elected to play against the wind. W. Gilfellon started the globe for the home team, and succeeded in scoring the first point three minutes after the commencement. Not long after another goal was added by the same player. The Lintz forwards put in some very clever passing, and obtained a corner, which was beautifully taken by P. Hughes, and the custodian put the leather through his own goal. The home team continued to have much the best of the play, W. Gilfellon putting on other four goals and J. Dunning one, and at the interval the Lintz men led by eight goals to none. The second period was more evenly contested, the homesters adding another point, and the final score was—

Lintz ....A Nine goals
Shotley Bridge ....Nil

ALLENDALE PARK V HAMSTERLEY UNITED.—These teams met on the former's ground at Medomsley to play off their return fixture. The home captain (Walton) won the toss, and elected to play up the incline. Play opened fast, the home forwards taking the ball to the United goal, but Mansell relieved the pressure with a huge kick. The visitors got away, only to be repulsed by Walton, who sent in a fast shot, Lynop getting his head at it and placing nicely past the goalkeeper. The visitors appealed for off-side, and the point was disallowed. The half-time whistle found the score—

Park ....Nil
United ....Nil

On resuming, the home team began to press heavily, Milligan and Mansell getting in some strong kicks for the United. From a throw in, Walton placed well to Lynop, who did the needful for the Park. Shortly afterwards the same played notched another, and just before the whistle sounded for time Murphy added a third goal with a swift shot. Result—

Park ....Three goals
United ....Nil

The Park team was as follows:—Goal, Coulson; backs, Bailey and Clogg; half-backs, Walton, Burns, and Ryans; forwards, R Davison and E Lynop, right wing; M Murphy, centre; Lynop and Parker, left wing.

MEDOMSLEY WHITE STARS V IVESTON VILLA.—This match was played at Medomsley. The Villa started with the advantage of the wind, and soon got the ball down to the home goal, but Makepeace saved in his usual cool style, and Cruddas sent past from the goal kick. Robinson received, but was dispossessed by the visitors' backs, who gave to Cruddas, the latter making a good run and shot, but the home custodian cleared again. The Stars now began to combine much better, and several times worked the globe up to the Iveston fortress, but were always repelled until Brown received, and racing half the length of the field scored a splendid goal for Medomsley. Midfield play ensued for a time, neither team having much advantage until the Iveston centre forward equalised with a high shot. Half-time score—

Stars ....One goal
Villa ....One goal

Jos. Walton re-started for Medomsley, who quickly made tracks for the visitors' goal, Robinson, Gillender, and Leathard having hard lines in not scoring, the shots always being saved at the expense of corners. Brown placed well, but the Villa left back relieved with a big kick. The forwards secured, but could not make any headway against the Stars' defence. The visitors' outside left (who was playing a good game) made a capital run, but Gibson relieved with a strong kick, and the ball being headed nicely into the goalmouth by Brown, enabled Gillender to place his team ahead. Final score—

Stars ....Two goals
Villa ....One goal

LANGLEY PARK ALBIONS V HASWELL MOOR ROVERS.—Played on the former's ground before a good concourse of onlookers. The visitors were rather late in arriving, which caused the latter portion of the second half to be played in semi-darkness. The home captain (Dodgson) won the toss, and choose to play with the wind and slope in his favour. The Rovers kicked off, and soon made tracks for the Albions' goal, but were easily pulled up by Shorten, who was in grand form. The home team now had a look in, and gave the visitors' defence plenty of work, which they did in good style. The Albions gained a corner, which was taken by R. Cooper, who scored off the Haswell custodian. The Rovers soon after came near scoring, J. Baker putting in a stinging shot which Vickers just managed to save by giving a corner, the latter being easily cleared. The home team attacked, and Smith headed a grand goal amid cheers. The Rovers strove hard to score, but were beaten back, and at the interval the record stood—

Albions ....Two goals
Rovers ....Nil

Lamb resumed for the home team, and the visitors were soon hovering round the Langley goal, but try as they would they could not break through the grand defence opposed to them. The Albions worked the leather into the Rovers' quarters, and came very near scoring, Lamb slipping when he had the goal at his mercy. The homesters continued to press, and had hard lines in not scoring against the wind. The visitors' backs relieved the pressure, and the forwards got into the Langley territory, where they experienced ill-luck, but Vickers kept his charge well and cleared some difficult shots. Several corners were conceded to the visitors, but they failed to improve upon them. Result—

Albions ....Two goals
Rovers ....Nil

The following represented the Albions:—Goal, J. Vickers; backs, J. Shorten and E. Dodgson (capt.); half-backs, M. Maddison, F. Walker, and J. Eggleston; forwards, W. Pattinson and R. Cooper, right wing; T. Lamb, centre; J. Smith and W. Hepburn, left wing. Linesman, J. Peel.

LIZZIE CELTICS V DIPTON WANDERERS RESERVE.—Played on the former's ground. The visitors started the game with a strong breeze in their faces. The home team secured and ran down the field, and some work was seen in the Dipton goal, but the backs cleared well. The Wanderers' left wing got in a good run or two, but never reached the Lizzie custodian. Twenty minutes from the start the Celtics drew first blood from a scrimmage in goal. The homesters now did all the pressing, and were awarded a free kick for hands close to the visitors' goal, which was taken by P. Bell, who sent in a stinger which struck several players and went through. Half-time score—

Celtics ....Two goals
Wanderers ....Nil

On resuming, the visitors pressed, but the Celtics' backs checked them, and the home forwards secured and made a strong run, scoring their their goal amid great excitement. The wind now dropped somewhat, and some very fast play was witnessed, the shooting of the Wanderers being miserable. The home halves secured and gave to R. Bell, who put to Robson, the latter dribbling past the backs and scoring once more. Soon afterwards the same thing was repeated, Robson taking the globe past the backs and scoring the fifth point for the Celts. The Wanderers scored their only goal from a scrimmage, and a somewhat unpleasant game ended as under—

Celtics ....Six goals
Wanderers ....One goal

HOBSON WANDERERS v. CONSETT TOWN.

Owing to the lamentable death of Mr George Watson, who was one of the vice-presidents of the Hobson club, and a very highly respected member, the above game was cancelled; as likewise was the 2nd eleven's match against Godfrey. The Wanderers have determined, out of respect for Mr Watson's memory, to wear crape bands in their match against Cambois on Saturday.

RUGBY.

BLACKHILL ROVERS 2ND V WEARDALE (Holders of Spennymoor Charity Cup.)—These teams should have met at Blackfine, but Weardale cancelled the game, thus leaving the Rovers again without a match.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v. SALTWELL (GATESHEAD.)

Played at Gateshead. During the first period the Rovers were awarded a free kick, J. Aisken placing a goal. The second half was of a very rough nature, and a poor game ended—

Rovers ....One penalty goal (three points)
Saltwell ....Nil

Referee, Mr G. Wright (Mount Pleasant.)

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

[BY "OFF-SIDE."]

Owing to the unusual pressure of advertisements on our columns this week, I have been notified by my editor to make these "Jottings" as brief as possible. As a matter of fact, there is very little to comment upon, scarcely any matches of importance having been brought off last Saturday.

—o—

LANGLEY PARK ALBIONS STILL WINNING.

Haswell Moor Rovers were down to play Langley Park Rovers, on the latter's ground, last Saturday; but as the Rovers are broken up the Haswell men asked the newly-formed Albions to take up the fixture, which they consented to do, and did it well. The visitors were somewhat surprised at being beaten, more especially as the Albions were short of two of their best men—viz., J. Wardle (captain) and F. Vickers, the clever right-winger. The winners have now played three matches since their formation, and won them all, scoring ten goals to one. There is no doubt that the Albions have the necessary material for turning out a real good eleven, and they will shortly be strengthened by a new player on the left, where they are at present rather weak.

—o—

Returning to the game under notice, J. Vickers did well in goal, and is improving rapidly. Shorten was probably the best back on the field, although Dodgson ran him very close, his clean kicking and tackling being splendid. As regards the halves, too much praise cannot be accorded to J. Eggleston, who worked like a horse all through. Maddison, who made his first appearance in the Albion's ranks, did fairly well, but wants more practice. The forwards were all in good trim, particularly Smith, Lamb, and Cooper. The best man on the losing team was G. Baker, who was the saviour of his side, and time after time averted danger by his powerful kicks. W. Moses was also a stumbling-block at half-back, and broke up the Albion's combination on numerous occasions.

—o—

A VICTORY FOR ALLENDALE PARK.

Hamsterley United turned up at Medomsley on Saturday with a strong team—which included J. Hunter (Dipton Wanderers) and W. Mansell (Leadgate Park)—to decide their return encounter with the Park, but had to retire beaten by a majority of three goals. Musgrove and Mansell played a capital game at back for the United, while Milligan, Hunter, and Kirtley were also very prominent throughout. The mainstay of the winners was the halves—Walton, Burns, and Ryans—who put in some grand work, and were too good for the Hamsterley forwards. J. Lynop played a splendid game on the left wing, as did E. of that ilk on the right, while Murphy is a promising centre.

—o—

AXWELL ROVERS WIN AGAIN.

Raby Rovers were the visitors to Swalwell on Saturday, and although defeated, they played a good game, the most conspicuous men being Scott, Robson, W. Abbott, and Ions. The whole of the home team did well, and it would be unfair to single any of them out for special praise. The Swalwell men have had a remarkably successful season, having only once tasted the bitters of defeat, and that was at the hands—and feet—of the strong Leadgate Exiles in the Durham Cup Competition.

—o—

HEAVY SCORING AT THE LINTZ.

Shotley Bridge Rovers 2nd journeyed to the Lintz on Saturday to play the Rovers Reserve, and are likely to remember their visit, as they received a crushing defeat to the tune of nine goals to none. Coyle had nothing to do in the home goal, but McKevor played an excellent back game, and the halves all did well. Hughes displayed improved form amongst the forwards, and the left wing were in grand form. Owing to Lee being unable to play, his place was taken by Gilfellon, who proved a success in the centre. The visitors were employed in defending most of the game, in which department they showed to great advantage in the second half.

—o—

LUCKY JUNIORS.

On Wednesday se'nnight, the Spen Albion Juniors were entertained to a splendid supper in the Miners' Hall, Victoria Garesfield, by Mr John Tucker. Before supper dancing and singing were enjoyed by the team, the music being supplied by Mr John Charlton. After supper, Mr Geo. Short proposed, and Mr W. Smith (Lintzford) seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Tucker for his kindness, which was carried amid cheers.

—o—

DISAPPOINTMENTS.

Mr George Gray (hon. sec. Marley Hill St. Cuthbert's, writes as follows:—We have been greatly disappointed this season by clubs, such as Gateshead Albion, Ouseburn Wesleyan, and Blackhill Park. The latter, after being beaten in the first fixture at Blackhill, distinctly told us they would not play the return match. Such clubs as this should be left severely alone. Marley Hill are about to join the Durham Association, and therefore their supporters may look forward to better treatment than the club have formerly been used to.

Mr Wm. Smith (hon. sec. Lintzford A.F.C.) asks me to insert the following:—You will oblige by granting me a small space to complain of the conduct we are receiving at the hands of other clubs. Our team has been disappointed four times at home this season—viz., by Seghill, Swalwell Mission, Blackhill Park, and South Moor Violets. This is very hard, and is the cause of some clubs becoming disorganised. I hope other teams will be more honourable, and try to fulfil their fixtures, and not cause unnecessary expense and trouble to clubs they have arranged dates with.

—o—

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

The following are the results of the Northern Alliance Competition up to Saturday:—

	Plyd	Won	Lst	Drn	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Hebburn Argyle	7	5	1	1	16	6	11
Gateshead N.E.R.	8	5	2	1	23	17	11
Sunderland A	7	5	2	0	20	12	10
Newcastle United A	11	4	5	2	26	24	10
Shankhouse	7	3	1	3	20	9	9
Rendel	9	3	3	3	22	20	9
Blyth	9	3	5	1	19	19	7
Dipson Wanderers	9	2	5	2	15	25	6
Willington Athletic	5	1	1	3	7	6	5
Southwick	7	0	6	1	3	33	1

—o—

MEMS.

All clubs having dates with Medomsley White Stars 2nd are requested to cancel them, as they are unable to raise a team.

To the disappointment of a large number of people, Southwick failed to carry out their Northern Alliance fixture with the Wanderers at Dipton last Saturday.

I understand that Southwick were unable to raise a team. Surely this is a poor excuse for a Northern Alliance club. If they cannot keep their fixtures, they should drop out, and allow some other club to take their place.

I know of several clubs who would be only too willing to join the Northern Alliance, and it may safely be said that any of them would acquit themselves with more credit than Southwick has done.

West Stanley Athletic write to complain of their ill-treatment at Medomsley last Saturday. On arriving at the latter place they found the Stars playing another team, and they had to wait till the match was finished, and play a scratch team, there being only time for ten minutes each way. My correspondent concludes by asking—Is this fair? If the facts are as stated by Stanley, it was most decidedly unfair.

The game between Consett Tow Reserve and Lead-West End, last Saturday, was completely spoiled by rude Boreas, and the match was simply a scramble from beginning to end. The only satisfactory item about the contest was the result—a draw of four goals each.

—o—

MATCHES WANTED.

Consett Albions would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 12 to 14. Apply, G. Thompson, Traveller's Rest, Delves Lane, Consett.

Leadgate Exiles have Christmas Day and New Year's Day open, and would like to arrange with local teams; return played. Apply, J. Costello, Leadgate.

Leadgate Boys' Brigade would like to arrange a match away for New Year's Day. Average age, 17. Apply, J. J. Birtley, St. Ives' Road, Leadgate.

Busty Bank Exiles would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 14 to 17. Apply, J. W. Baker, Store Terrace, Busty Bank, Burnopfield.

West Stanley Athletic have several vacant dates, and would like them filled up as soon as possible. Apply, A. J. Chrisp, Havanna Houses, West Stanley.

Newfield Juniors would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages 15 to 17. Apply, A. Howey, No. 4, Brick Row, Newfield, near Chester-le-Street.

Iveston Villa have several vacant dates, and would like them filled up at once. Apply, G. W. Lee, Iveston.

DURHAM COUNTY PUPIL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

LOCAL PRIZE-WINNERS.

The 25th annual meeting and prize distribution in connection with the Durham County Pupil Teachers' Association was held in the Temperance Hall, Bishop Auckland, on Saturday. Sir Joseph Pease, Bart., M.P., presided, and was supported on the platform by the Bishop of Durham (Dr Westcott), Mr Theodore Fry, M.P., Mrs Fry (who distributed the prizes), Mr J. B. Hodgkin, Revs E. Price, — Haworth, W. J. Knowlden, J. J. Byles, T. E. Lord, and F. E. Loxley, Messrs M. R. Wright (Durham College of Science), W. A. Spafford, J. Lingford, J.P., J. Barnett (secretary to the Association), W. Hewitson, W. Booth, &c. Letters of apology for absence were received from the Bishop of Richmond, Mr H. Fell Pease, M.P., and others. The local prize-winners were as follows:—

SCHOLARSHIP LIST—First class: Females—H. J. Hill, Westgate Board. Second class: Females—L. J. Burdon, Kyo, Annfield Plain Board; M. A. Wilson, Ushaw Moor, St. Joseph's R C. Males—C. Turnbull, Stanley, Crook Board; T. C. Charlton, Consett British.

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR POSITION ON THE QUEEN'S LIST—H. J. Hill, Westgate Board, Stanhope, £4.

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR READING (given by the North of England School Furnishing Company)—G. Dixon, Oxhill Board.

Females—Fourth year: H. J. Hill, Westgate Board, 1,120; L. Burden, Annfield Plain Board, 1,089. Second year—S. J. Patterson, Consett British, 1,273; E. Brodie, Consett British, 1,230; M. J. Hogg, Consett British, 1,222. First year—C. Kellett, South Moor Infants, 1,218.

Number of female competitors, 169; prizes, 39.

Males—Fourth year: H. Farnsworth, Consett British, 1,197; G. Dixon, Oxhill Board, 1,155; J. P. Armstrong Waterhouses British, 1,013. Third year: J. W. Bryant, Consett British, 1,341.

Number of male competitors, 69; total, 235. Prizes, 18; total 57.

NOTES FROM THE STEEPLE.

[BY THE "OLD CROW."]

It is difficult to realise that Christmas Day is only a day or two in front of us. The weather is in no sense of the sort we are always anxious to have associated with Christmastide. Instead of crisp, frosty, bracing air and roads made brilliant by the glistening snow, we are enjoying, at the moment quite soft weather, dirty slushy roadways, and all the discomfort of an early November, with occasional reminiscent touches of the stormy winds peculiar to the breezy month of March. Then again, we do not feel inclined for Christmas yet, somehow. It is curious, perhaps, but none the less evident, that with most of us Christmas comes this year in an almost startling sudden manner and finds us all unprepared. Probably when the time comes we shall, after all, reconcile ourselves to the situation. When the roast goose and apple sauce put in an appearance and the annual plum pudding graces our respective tables, we shall then, no doubt, realise that the time has really come, and lay ourselves out to give dear old Father Christmas a hearty greeting once more. I wish a my readers a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

There is a particularly powerful and realistic play being presented this week at the Theatre Royal, Consett, and drawing large audiences. The company responsible for its production is the same as was at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, some weeks ago, and is an all round capable one. *A Grip of Iron* is probably the most sensational play ever put on the boards of the local theatre, and all who like this description of piece would do well to make a point of seeing it whilst they have the opportunity. The scenery forms quite a feature of the production, and evokes no small amount of enthusiasm amongst the audience. Mr F. Powell gives a powerful portrayal of the part of "Iagon," chief of the stranglers, and he is capitally supported by the members of a very numerous company.

I wonder whether any of my readers who are vocalists are intending to sing that popular ditty, "Daisy Bell," at any forthcoming concert. If so, they should be careful to first get permission from the composer or the original singer of the song, or else they will land themselves into trouble. Originally the song was announced as "singable" without fee at any concert or other place of entertainment, music-halls alone excepted. Such has been the popularity of the song, however, and so strong is the disposition on the part of amateur vocalists to sing it at any or every concert that the composer and the lady holding the singing-right have now "made other arrangemants," and the copies of the song now in circulation have removed the privilege. It should be carefully noted, therefore, that the song may not now be sung at any concert, even by an amateur, without the special permission of the parties named having first been obtained, and a vocalist infringing will render himself liable to prosecution. Let all ye "Ethiopians" and others be on your guard.

Here is a rather good story:—A well-known Irish vocalist was doing his "turn" at a provincial music-hall. The auditorium was crammed, and many of the audience were quite within touch of the stage. At the close of the first song, a deputation approached the singer.

"Testimonials" were by no means unknown in those parts, and the vocalist paused in the expectation of a purse of gold at the very least. Then outspake the leader of the deputation:—

"Mr F——. Sir,—A few of us have subscribed to present you with this penny song-book. For the love of the Lord, sing something new!"

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"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.

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.

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

Local Police Courts.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

FIRST COURT.

THURSDAY, December 14th.—Before Lieut.-Col. E. Leadbitter-Smith (presiding), W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq., E. W. E. BALLENY, Esq., and WM. LOGAN, Esq.

CLOSING UNSANITARY HOUSES.

On the application of Mr J. E. Parker, acting for the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority, the Bench issued orders under the Housing of the Poor Act for the closing of four unsanitary dwellings at Busty Bank. The houses had been condemned by the County Council medical officer (Dr T. E. Hill), and also Dr Benson, the Sanitary Authority's officer.

CHARGE OF STEALING A PAIR OF UPPERS.

John Linsley, and *Stephen Doyle*, *alias McKinley*, miners, were charged on remand with stealing a pair of boot tops, the property of Alex. Dodds, butcher, of Quebec. At Lanchester, on Tuesday night, 5th inst., information of the robbery was given to P.C. Robinson, who arrested the accused soon afterwards.—Defendants denied the charge, and said they could not be charged with theft, when the stolen articles were found upon them. (Laughter.) They were fined 20s each, or 14 days hard labour.

ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF A BOY.

William Palmer, a miner, was summoned at the instance of the Tanfield School Board for not sending his boy to school.—Defendant said that the reason he had kept the boy off school was because he alleged that he had been ill-used by the teachers.—Mr Seymour Meddick the schoolwarden, said he told the defendant that by keeping the boy off for a whole week was not the proper way to get the matter investigated. Witness had seen the teachers, and they all positively denied that the lad had been unnecessarily caned. He had been two times summoned to appear before the Board, but Palmer had not done so.—Defendant said that the reason he did not go to the Board was that the schoolmaster promised to put the matter all right.—The Bench imposed a fine of 5s including costs.

DESTROYING A PONY'S EYE.

Wm. Teasdale, a putter boy, employed by the South Moor Coal Company, was charged with destroying the eye of a pony on Nov. 24th. Mr W. H. Oliver (Durham), appeared to prosecute, and called Thomas Dobson and Robert Southgate, the deputy overman and horsekeeper, who stated that on that date defendant was caught beating the pony with his whip lash about the head and forelegs. The animal was attached to a set of 10 tubs, although the tubs was the proper number. Teasdale was cursing and swearing, and was thrashing the animal very violently. It was discovered that the pony's left eyeball had been broken, and it was blind in that optic. The colliery veterinary surgeon also gave evidence.—Defendant denied that he punished the animal too severely. He alleged that one of the lads threw a stone at the pony and caught it on the eye.—The Chairman said that defendant might consider himself lucky that he had not been prosecuted by the Inspector of the R.S.P.C.C. instead of under the mines rules. It was a most abominable case of cruelty, and defendant would be fined £2 and 12s 6d and costs, or one months hard labour.

BREACH OF THE MINES ACT.

Samuel Cowley hewer pleaded guilty to going beyond a certain fence he was not authorised to pass in the Morrison Pit, at Annfield Plain.—Defendant said he merely passed through a yard or two to another place to warn a man who was firing a shot dangerously near him at the other side of the board.—The officials of the mine said that the defendant could have got access to the man in question by another route.—A fine of 5s and costs was inflicted.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Mrs Susannah Heslop, innkeeper, Shield Row, was summoned at the instigation of Mr James Laidler, an inspector under the food and drugs act, for selling a pint of rum which Mr Stock, (county analyst, certified to be adulterated to the extent of 7 per cent beyond the legal limit.—Mr T. W. Welford (Consett), defended, and called evidence to show that the rum had just been got in, and mixed by Donald, but was not ready for sale. The rum of the strength was in the jug, and the waiter gave the inspector the stuff which had just been mixed.—The Chairman said the majority of the Magistrates were in favour of a conviction, defendant would be fined £1.

SECOND COURT.

Before EDMUND E. W. E. BALLENY Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

About 20 topers were before the court, the usual fines being imposed.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Dec. 18th.—Before COUNCILLOR JAMES ANNANDALE (chairman), and W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Over 40 persons were proceeded against for drunkenness, and the usual penalty in each case was imposed.

TEETOTAL FOR 11 YEARS.

Ed. McCabe, miner, of Leadgate, was accused by Sergt. Nicholson with being drunk at Leadgate, on the 9th inst.—Defendant: Have you ever seen me inside a public house for the last two years.—The officer: No but you were intoxicated on this occasion.—Defendant said that he had been teetotal for 11 years and was not guilty of the offence laid to his charge.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF HORSES.

Christopher Robinson, farmer, of Castleside, was proceeded against for being drunk in charge of two horses and a cart near to Allansford, on the 25th ult.—P.C Haw proved the case.—Defendant who did not appear when the case was called, was fined 10s and 14s 6d costs.

THE SHEEP WORRYING CASE.

Matthew McKenna, a labour of South Garesfield Colliery, was charged with causing damage to three sheep belonging to Matthew Adamson, farmer and butcher, The Leazes, near Burnopfield, the damage being assessed at £4 15s. Mr J. G. Murray (Consett), prosecuted, whilst Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) defended. After again hearing the evidence of the two boys Cranston with reference to seeing two dogs in the field, the Chairman said the case stood in the same position as last Court day. The Bench were again divided, and therefore the case would be dismissed. If prosecutor procured any fresh evidence within six months he could bring the case on again.

ASSAULTING HIS FATHER.

John Mulhearn, labourer, of Consett, was summoned for assaulting his father, James Mulhearn, on the 2nd inst.—Prosecutor alleged that defendant knocked him on to the floor, and kicked him.—Defendant pleaded not guilty.—The Chairman said defendant was a cowardly fellow to attack his father, and would be fined 20s, and 20s costs.

BREACHES OF THE PEACE.

Michael Day, and *John Jordan*, miners, were bound over in the sum of £5, and defray 7s 6d each costs, for fighting at Tanfield, on the 9th inst.

Joseph and *Thomas Greener*, and *John Scott*, were similarly dealt with for committing a breach of the peace by fighting at Blackhall Mill, on the 9th inst. P.C. Hudson gave the facts of the case.

DOG LICENSE.

Henry Nevins, miner, of Lintz Colliery, was fined 10s and 7s costs for keeping a dog without a license on the 23rd ult.

THREATENING LANGUAGE.

John Davison, of Blackhill, was bound over in the sum of £5, and ordered to pay 8s 6d costs for using threats to Mary Shepherd, on the 23rd ult.—Mr Dickinson (Consett) prosecuted.

OBSCENE LANGUAGE.

Margaret Lamb, was fined 1s and 9s costs for using obscene language at Consett, on the 4th inst.

STEALING A HEN AT BLACKHILL.

Joseph Urwin, was proceeded against by C. Stewart, barman of the Commercial Hotel, Blackhill, for stealing a hen, on the 15th inst.—After hearing the evidence the Bench inflicted a penalty of 10s including costs.

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.

Business Announcements.

ECONOMY! FRUGALITY!!

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE! HOLBROOK & CO.'S

HALF PRICE.

WHITE SEWING MACHINES.

Light Running, Speedy and Noiseless, Simple in Construction, and of Thorough Workmanship.

OVER 800,000 NOW IN USE.

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WHITE SEWING MACHINES.

For Family Use, Corset Making, Dressmaking, Mantlemaking, &c., &c. Hand Machines, convenient for carrying about, Prices from Fifty Shillings. Hand and Treadle Machines. Large Machines for Tailors and Manufacturers; in short, suitable Machines for all classes of work.

WHITE SEWING MACHINES.

Guaranteed for Five Years; no charge for repairs in that time, and despite the large numbers sold, the Company has never failed in a single instance to make good its guarantee.

Weekly or Monthly Payments, without Additional Cost.

Price Lists and Samples of Work by Post, Free.

Beautiful Samples always on View.

ENQUIRE FOR WHITE MACHINES.

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White Sewing Machine Co.,

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J. & M. STELLING,
39, Roger Street, Blackhill.
W. BEST,
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FOR THIRTY YEARS has maintained its world-wide reputation as the only 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 Forces.

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.

UNION LINE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICA GOLD FIELDS. The Royal Mail and Intermediate Steamers sail from Southampton every Friday, for [illegible] Union Steam Ship Co., Limited, [illegible]

WILLIAM ELLIOTT,
5, Mount Pleasant, Consett.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S WORLD FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE THE GREAT 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 SWAN TAYLOR, M.D., F.R.S., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology.

"257, 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 HOUGHTON."

"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. BERNER."

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.

Sold in Bottles 2s 9d, and 11s each, and in cases containing six times the quantity, 11s—sufficient to effect a permanent cure in the great majority of long-standing cases.

BY ALL CHEMISTS and PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS throughout the world, or sent to any address on receipt of 33 or 132 Stamps by the proprietors, THE LINCOLN & MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, LINCOLN.

Write for the New Pamphlet on Skin and Blood Diseases with full directions for diet, &c., to the Secretary, Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln. Sent post free.

TRADE MARK. "BLOOD MIXTURE."

ASK FOR CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE, and not be persuaded to take an imitation

HINTS FOR THE HOME.

THE PROPER WAY TO BREATHE.

"Most people," says the *Family Doctor*, "when they breathe properly do it rather by instinct than consciously; and, on the other hand, hundreds of thousands of people do not breathe well, and are suffering from more or less severe affections of the lungs or throat, on account of this manner of incomplete respiration, or, in other words, because they breathe too much by the mouth and not enough through the nostrils. The mouth has its own proper functions, eating, drinking, and speaking; and the nostrils have theirs, smelling and breathing. It is obviously less dangerous to breathe by the mouth in summer than in winter. If you inspire through the natural tube, the nostril, the air passing over the mucous membrane lining the different chambers of the nose is warmed to the temperature of the body before entering the lungs. On the contrary, if you breathe by the mouth, the cold air comes into contact with the delicate membrane which lines the throat and lungs and gives rise to local chilling, which often culminates in inflammation. Many people in winter use respirators, which they place over the mouth on going out of doors, thus diminishing the quantity of air which passes between the lips, and compelling them to breathe through the nostrils. But they may achieve the same result by keeping the lips closed, a habit which is easily acquired and induces a natural method of breathing. We believe that if we all adopted the simple rule of shutting the mouth while breathing there would be a noticeable diminution in lung and throat affections, which have many victims during the year. Man is the only animal who adopts the pernicious and often fatal habit of breathing by the mouth. The habit is contracted in infancy, and is strengthened in adults, thus causing consumption, bronchitis, sore throat, &c."

AIRING THE BEDS AND BEDDING.

Everything connected with the beds should have a thorough cleaning and airing in the fall. Later in the year it is not so easy to expose blankets, mattresses, &c., to sun and air as one can do it now. If the blankets have been put away in some substance having a strong odour it may require more than one day on the lines to make them perfectly odourless. A clear, windy day should be selected for this purpose. If there is a suitable place in the yard spread some furniture covers on the grass and lay the mattresses on them; then beat well with a rattan, turning the mattresses when one side has been beaten, and then beating the other. Hang the pillows on the line, but in the shade. If you have no shady place wait for a sunless, windy day to air the pillows. The heat of the sun draws the oil from the feathers and gives a disagreeable odour to the pillows. Beat the pillows well. Hang the blankets on the lines, shaking them well. While the bedding is airing brush and wipe the bedsteads. If the bed-linen has been packed all summer spread old sheets on the floor of a sunny room and spread the folded linen on these. Open the windows, and at the end of a bright day the linen will have lost any odour or dampness that it may have acquired during the summer. Comforters, or down quilts, if they are used, must be aired like the blankets. The window screens, when taken out, should be brushed and numbered, and a memorandum of the numbers kept. Put the screens where it is dry and there is no danger of anything being pushed against them. If there are double windows have them brushed and washed carefully, and wash the permanent windows on the outside before putting on the outside windows, as they cannot be cleaned till spring.—*The Ladies' Home Journal.*

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

GALVANIZED CORRUGATED IRON ROOFING SHEETS,

Large quantity of Slightly Defective Sheets:—

5ft.	long by 2ft. wide		1s 3d	each
6	"	"	1s 6d	"
7	"	"	1s 10d	"
8	"	"	2s 1d	"
9	"	"	2s 6d	"
10	"	"	3s 0d	"

For all practical purposes the above are as good as perfect sheets, being water-tight, fire-proof, &c.

If painted with red Oxide 2d to 6d per sheet extra.

Red Oxide Paint specially prepared for iron work and ready for use. Price on application

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

BRUCE AND STILL,

CONTRACTORS FOR

IRON ROOFS AND BUILDINGS

DESIGNS AND ESTIMATES FREE.

75 NORFOLK STREET, LIVERPOOL.

THE BANK BALANCE.

"Yes," said the young man, as he threw himself at the feet of the pretty Girton girl; "I love you and would go to the world's end for you."

"You would not go to the end of the world for me, James. The world, or the earth as it is called, is round like a ball, slightly flattened at the poles. One of the first lessons in the elementary geography is devoted to the shape of the globe. You must have studied it when a boy."

"Of course I did, but——"

"And it is no longer a theory. Circumnavigators have established the fact."

"I know; but what I meant was that I would do anything to please you. Ah, Minerva, if you know the aching void——"

"There's no such thing as a void, James. Nature abhors a vacuum; but admitting that there could be such a thing, how could the void you speak of be a void if there was an ache in it?"

"Well, at all events," exclaimed the youth, "I have got a pretty fair balance in the bank, and I want you to be my wife. There!"

"Well, James, since you put it in that light, I——"

The famous Four-in-Hand Club was formed in 1800.

Some of the stars move with a velocity of nearly 50 miles a second.

In Babylon it was proof of death to stand a corpse up in the sunlight and see if it would cast a shadow.

A woman well known in Society has an album containing the photographs of all her costumes for the past ten years.

The title of "majesty" was not introduced until the reign of James I. Before his time the kings of England were saluted with the title of "highness."

The custom is universal in Madrid of closing one of the two outer doors of the house when a person dies. This door is closed for a novena, or period of nine days.

War and glory have been costly things in France. Between 1792 and 1815 she sacrificed one-half of the 4,500,000 soldiers she sent to fight her battles. War has cost her in this century not far from 6,000,000 lives.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. John Crawford.

Consett Auction Mart, Gibson Street, Consett.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD will hold his usual MONTHLY SALE of HORSES, CARTS, HARNESS, &c., at the above Mart, the first Wednesday in every month.
Entries respectfully solicited. 747m

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

By Mr. George R. Hobson.

Town Hall Sale Room, Friday, Dec. 22nd, 1893.

THE ANNUAL SALE of GEESE, TURKEYS etc., will be held as above.
Early entries solicited.
Sale at Seven p.m.
740m GEORGE R. HOBSON, Auctioneer.

By Mr J Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

OWING to Christmas Day falling on Monday, the usual WEEKLY SALE will be held on Saturday, December 23rd, 1893. Present Entries:—40 to 60 Dairy Cows and Heifers, 6 Store Cattle, 9 Finger Calves, a number of Fat Cattle and Sheep, 4 New Ladders.
Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 12 noon.
918m J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

By Messrs Green and Dowson.

LANCHESTER AUCTION MART.

THE usual FORTNIGHTLY SALE of Cows, Fat Cattle, Sheep, Store Cattle, Pigs, &c., will be held on Monday, Jan. 1st, 1894. Entries solicited to
895m J. GREEN, Satley, Tow Law.

By Mr. John Pedley.

Murray's Hall, West Stanley.

MR JOHN PEDLEY, the Yorkshire Drapers Auctioneer, will return to the above hall, on Saturday, December 30th, 1893, and commence a 16 Days SALE OF CLOTHING, DRAPERY, BOOTS, CARPETS, WRINGING AND SEWING MACHINES, OILCLOTHS, and FURNITURE, &c., &c.
Auction Sale each night at 6·30.
Not the slightest Reserve. Over £700 worth to clear.

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 METNELL 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.)

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 METNELL under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Office—Front Street, Dipton, by Lintz Green Station

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

Business Announcements.

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

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

GLENDENNING'S

BEEF & MALT WINE

THE MOST RELIABLE WINE FOR INVALIDS.

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

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

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING, Newcastle.

LOCAL AGENTS:—

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—J. LUMLEY, Railway Inn
BLACKHALL MILL.—T. ARMSTRONG, Wine and Spirit Merchant.
BLACKHILL.—R. MURRAY, Royal Hotel.
BURNOPFIELD.—WM. STONES, Burton House.
CONSETT.—W. AYNSLEY, Grocer, &c; T. D. DRYDEN, Grocers, &c.; THOMAS MILNER Chemist.
DIPTON.—R. ARMSTRONG, Wine and Spirit Merchant.
ESH.—WM OYSTON, Wine and Spirit Merchant.
LEADGATE.—WM. AYNSLEY, Grocer, &c.; JOHN SNAITH, Queen Victoria Hotel.
MEDOMSLEY.—R. RUTHERFORD, Royal Oak Hotel.
SOUTH MOOR.—M. DIXON, Oak Inn.
STANLEY.—WM. AYNSLEY, Grocer, &c.; T. FORSTER, Wine and Spirit Merchant.
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—M. ELSDON, Wheat Sheaf Inn.
SPEN.—R. BROWELL, Miners Arms.
TANFIELD.—JOHN IRWIN, Pack Horse Inn.
TOW LAW.—J. MOSES, Post Office.
Agents in every town and village.

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING and SONS, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 769m

Business Announcements

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.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Owing to a pressure on our space we have been compelled to condense our local news and reports.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, 1893.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY

[BY "INCOGO."]

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas again! Verily, our lives are wearing away. It is but as yesterday since we were awakened long before the dawn by the harmonious voices of the members of our church and chapel choirs; who, according to an old and very commendable custom, take up annually the heavenly song, and re-echoes the refrain: "Peace on earth, and goodwill to men." The successive generations come and go; and the glad voices, which, on Christmas morning, have mingled with the voices of the night, are now hushed for ever; but others have arisen phenix-like from the ashes of the past, and the the anthems of thankfulness and praise go on from year to year like a lulaby of a river for ever and for ever. Many pleasing memories cluster around the Christmas season, and although in the kingdom of nature her operations are at rest, and silently awaiting the enervating touch of the rousing breezes in the early months of the year, Christmas really seems to be regarded as the spring time of the heart. The trials and troubles of the past are buried for the nounce, and the poorest in the land dine as sumptuously as their basket and their store can provide. It is happily one of the truest and best features in modern life and character that the poor and the needy are not forgotten by those who have and to spare. It is written: "It more blessed to give than to receive," and may such be the experience of all whose hearts prompt them at this joyous and festive season to give of their substance to "earth-born fellow mortals," to whom the tide of fortune hath wafted nothing more than the bare necessaries of the passing hour, and the work-a-day requirements of the life which now is. One need not pause and ponder on the many-sided motives by virtue of which men are actuated in the disposal of Christmas favours, for, to the credit of our race, it may with truth be said that those kindly impulses come unbidden from the depth of the human heart, actuated no doubt, by

"——— some spirit
Which protects and controls
Every impulse we inherit,
By some sympathy of souls."

PERHAPS.

As Christmas comes but once a year, it would perhaps, be well to reserve by periodical supply of observations on men and things for the short space of a single week. I am thinking of my many readers with their light hearts and heavily laden stomachs, and of how injudicious it would be on my part to pen a single line calculated to mingle a drop of gall in their cup of pleasure. When I next have the pleasure of addressing them we will be on the threshold of a brand new year, and as we will be by that time girding our armour on to go forth and face the mighty possibilities of the future, I can then have my "say," and my readers their "think." "Can you punish a man for his think," said a prisoner to a judge. "No," was the ungarded reply. "Well," continued the prisoner, "I am not such a scoundrel as your lordship—takes me to be." "I think, and I command you," said the judge, "to put you words a little closer and repeat that statement." So much you see for the license granted to a man's "think."

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

The Wesleyan spinster's tea, on Monday, Dec. 11th, realised £16, not £14, as stated last week.

MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, LONDON.—At the practical examination, held in Newcastle, on December 18th, 19th, and 20th, the following pupils of Mr George Dryden, A.L.C.M., successfully passed in pianoforte playing:—Senior division—Miss Alice Lewis, East Kyo. Junior division (first-class honours)—Miss Margaret M. Ledger, Dipton; second class honours, Miss Dora May Welch, South Moor.

Mr T. Swainston, auctioneer, Consett, sold the papers, &c., at the Consett Reading and Recreation Rooms, on Tuesday night. A good sale resulted.

MASONIC BALL.—The brethren of the Constance Lodge of Freemasons will hold their annual ball in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, January 24th. Secretaries—Bros. C. Routledge and G. T. Hyden.

MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, LONDON, (INCORPORATED 1893.)—The following pupils of Mr T. Jones, 5, Church Street, Consett, have successfully passed in the practical examination in pianoforte playing, on the 19th inst:—Junior grade, Miss Edith Dodds, South Pontop; Miss T. Maddison, Greencroft Cottages. Primary grade, Miss M. A. Cooper and Miss M. Gladders, East Castle. Examiner, Dr E. M. Lott.

THEATRE ROYAL.—*The Grip of Iron* as produced by Mr John Atkin's celebrated company is proving an immense success here, crowded houses being the rule every night, and it is well deserving of public support, as never has there been such a production upon our stage as is produced here this week. The *caste*, which is a very powerful one and well filled, is as follows:—Mr F. Powell who plays the part of "Jagon" was the recipient of well deserved applause for his careful and and able delineation of the character. Mr Eric Hudson as "Lorentz di Ribas," and Mr Francis Hanley as "Paul Blanchard" was also good, whilst Mr Wood as "Cocoa," and Mr J. Huvell as "Dodot" the detectives was excellent. The personation of "The Smiler" was produced with great mirth. Miss Elsie Caruve was an able "Sophia Blanchard," and Miss Kate Sydney as "Cora," and Miss Florence Nelson as "Marie" each did full justice to their respective parts. The staging of the piece has been excellent the audience receiving the production of the last act with immense applause, so much so, that on Monday night Mr Atkin in response to loud cries had to appear and bow his acknowledgements. Next week, *Under Two Flags* is announced.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of the committee of this association, held last Thursday, a letter was read from Mr Geo. Wells, Kent, explaining why he was unable to come to the district to deliver addresses on his double queen system, as arranged, and the explanation was considered to be satisfactory. It was arranged for Mr Wells to come in the early part of February, and if he should find it impossible to renew the engagement, the committee will endeavour to arrange a course of lectures by a well known expert, who is familiar with Mr Wells' system.

LOCAL BOARD.—A special meeting of the members of the Consett Local Board was held on Wednesday forenoon, to hear the report of Dr H. Maclean Wilson, a Local Government Board Inspector, with reference to his recent inspection of the district in connection with the general cholera survey. The report was of a favourable character, and complimented the Board upon the sanitary condition of the district, and upon the method adopted for the management of the sewerage. Mr Wilson suggested various improvements with respect to privy-middens, the system of high walling round yards, the removal of butchers' offal, the management of lodging-houses, &c., and stated that he had inspected the Fever Hospital, and considered the same most advantageous to the district.

UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.—On Saturday evening, under the auspices of the Consett United Temperance Association, Mr L Travers, assisted by Miss Olive Torrance, gave a most successful entertainment in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, to a capital audience.—On Sunday night, the usual gospel temperance service was held in the same building. A capital programme of music was rendered.

BLACKHILL.

MUSICAL HONOURS.—At the local examination in connection with the Musical International College, London, held in Newcastle, on the 18th inst. and following days, before Dr E. M. Lott, the undermentioned duly satisfied the examiner and passed pianoforte playing:—Junior honours (second class)—Master James E. Palliser, Derwent Street, Blackhill. Junior (pass)—Miss Grey, Beattie Terrace, Blackhill. Elementary (pass)—Miss Edith D. Wilson, Ridley Street, Blackhill. The above are pupils of Miss Harker, A.L.C.M., Blackhill.

TANFIELD.

On Saturday afternoon, in Tanfield parish churchyard, the funeral of Mr George Watson, of Hobson Colliery took place, the body being followed to its last resting place by a very large number of mourners. Over 100 people were unable to gain admission to the parish church. The service was conducted by the local clergy.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

DEATH OF MRS DICKINSON.—The death took place on Monday night, at Belle Vue House, Shotley Bridge, of Mrs Dickinson, the widow of the late Mr John Dickinson, at the age of 74 years. She was the last of the old family of Dickinsons, Robert, Joseph, and John, the three brothers being prominent men in the district a quarter of a century ago.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC RECITAL.—On Tuesday evening a most enjoyable entertainment in the shape of musical and dramatic recitals was given in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, by Mr Leslie Kenyon (gold medallist) of Mr Edward Terry's Comedy Company, and Miss Mary Raby of the Principal London Theatres. There was a large and fashionable audience present. The programme rendered was a treat, and consisted of humourous, musical, and dramatic recitals, sketches and comediettes. Owing to limited space we are obliged to withhold from giving a detailed account of the entertainment.

VICTORIA GARESFIELD.

We wish to draw attention to our advertising columns, where will be found the winning numbers of the Victoria Garesfield Colliery Christmas prize drawing, which is in aid of the widow and orphan fund. The committee wish to take this opportunity of returning thanks to Mr Archer, manager, and Mr Minks, back-overman, for the kindly interest with which they have assisted this good object, and also for the interest taken in everything for the benefit of their workmen.

LOW FELL.

MATINEE AT LOW FELL.—On Wednesday afternoon se'nnight Miss Gray held her annual matinee in the Church Institute, Low Fell. The room was nicely decorated for the occasion, and the children were all in fancy costume, which gave a very pretty effect. Various dances (including the maypole dance) action songs, musical drill, were gone through in such a manner as to reflect great credit on Miss Gray and her teachers. During an interval in the proceedings the prizes gained by the successful pupils in the recent examinations were presented by the Rev Dr Simons, vicar of St Helen's. A large number of parents and friends were present, and were highly pleased with the entertainment.

BURNOPFIELD.

On Monday, the remains of Miss Dickinson, the daughter of the late Mr Dickinson, of Priestfield Lodge, who died last week in London, from the effects of an accident which happened to her in the hunting field some 12 months ago, were interred in the churchyard of St. James's, Burnopfield, in the presence of a numerous company.

LINTZ GREEN.

PRESENTATION TO MISS A. B. LAYCOCK.—On the occasion of the marriage of Miss Annie Barbara Laycock with Mr Edward A. Mitchell-Innes, a handsome piece of silver plate was presented to her by the tenantry on the Lintz estate, in this county. The presentation was made on behalf of the tenants, in London, by Mr R. J. Aynsley, of Gosforth, the agent for the property.

PELTON FELL.

P. M. TEACHERS' MEETING.—At the yearly teachers' meeting of the Pelton Fell P.M. Sunday school, Mr W. Dixon presided, in the absence of the Rev Jas. Young. The report shows a decided increase in both teachers and scholars. An excellent tea was provided by the young ladies, and a good company sat down.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST BAND OF HOPE.—On Friday evening, a good programme was carried out, and an excellent address on "Malt Kiln" was given by Mr D. Dyson, after which special prizes were awarded to the following for recitations said during the last six weeks:—Sarah Matthew, Elizabeth Brown, Susan E Ash, Sarah Howard, and Sarah E. Jones. With each book was given a badge and medal. We are pleased to note the continued success which attends this Band of Hope. From the yearly report we find that 109 pledges were taken, and the average weekly attendance is 98·3, while the attendances for the three previous quarters were 99, 97, and 94.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

SOUTH DERWENT PRIZE BAND.—The sum of £20 has been publicly subscribed towards the funds of this celebrated band. At a recent meeting, the band secretary (Mr Barker) submitted a balance sheet showing the financial position of the band, which was considered satisfactory, after which Mr Barker and Mr Wilson were appointed collectors.

LANCHESTER.

Yesterday (Thursday) at the Lanchester Petty Sessions, before Mr Edmund Balleny, Charles Wm. Greaves, joiner, (who was arrested on a warrant by Inspector Daley at Seaton Delaval on Wednesday), was remanded on a charge of deserting his wife and family on Dec. 1st.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM.—On Wednesday night, the service of song, entitled "Pioneers of Primitive Methodism," was given by a select choir of married people at Allendale Cottages, when Mr W. Richardson presided over a fair audience. The connective readings were ably given by Mr Wm. Hogg, Westwood. Proceeds were for school fund. Mr R Bewley conducted, and Mr Jos. Bewley presided at the harmonium.

SEWING MEETINGS.—The result of the tea provided at the usual sewing meeting, held at Medomsley, on Monday, realised about £2 15s. The provisions were generously provided by Mr and Mrs J. Sanderson, Fines Houses, Medomsley. A similar gathering at Mr and Mrs Jas. Gibson's, Medomsley Edge, realised £2. The proceeds have been turned over to Mr J. Crawford, the treasurer of the Allendale Cottages Primitive Methodist Bazaar Fund.

STANTEY.

BLACK STAR MINSTRELS.—In the Co-operative Hall, West Stanley, last Saturday, this troupe gave one of the best minstrel performances seen for a long time in Stanley. The audience was not very large, but yet a respectable gathering. The various songs, both comic and sentimental, were very enjoyable, while the jokes and dialogues of the cornermen were perhaps even more acceptable. The introduction in the second part of various clog dances, and especially of a stump speech on "Temperance," formed a pleasant variety. The comic sketch, "Justice Extraordinary," produced roars of laughter, and brought a most enjoyable entertainment to an end.

THE STRANGE FATALITY AT WEST STANLEY.

A BOY KILLED BY A FALLING FIREPLACE.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

As briefly intimated in the last issue of the *Guardian*, an inquiry was held on Thursday se'nnight, by Mr John Graham, coroner, at the Stanley Inn, into the circumstances attending the death of William Peel, aged seven years. The lad was killed by a fireplace falling upon him in the West Stanley Board Schools, belonging to the Tanfield Parish School Board. Mr Bates was chosen as foreman of the jury, who not only viewed the body, but closely scrutinised the place where the accident occurred. Mr T. Pringle (chairman), Rev Father Thompson, and Mr Jonathan Green, together with Mr W. H. Ritson (clerk), and Mr Little (schoolmaster) represented the School Board; and Mr Jos. Routledge appeared for the contractors.

At the outset, the foreman asked if it would not be necessary to have the architect of the building present?

The Coroner: We will see about that later on; and then, if thought necessary, we can adjourn the inquest. I don't know in what direction the evidence may turn.

Edward Peel, miner, West Stanley, identified the body of his son, and said that the boy did not attend the Board Schools.

Margaret Peel, daughter, aged 13 years, testified that about eight o'clock on the Monday previous, her brother and herself went into the Board Schools at Stanley, along with Annie Mowbray, the caretaker, at 9 p.m. She went into the Infant Schools to put a duster into the cupboard, which stood under the gallery, near the door. As she was passing this particular fireplace, her brother said to her, "Mary, can I get that piece of stick?" which was sticking out of the grate. There was no fire burning at the time. Witness said "I don't care." He put the one hand down in to get the stick, and placed the other hand upon the mantelpiece. Witness turned away towards the cupboard, when she heard a fall. On looking round she saw that the metal fireplace had fallen upon her brother. She shouted to Annie Mowbray, who came and assisted to lift the fireplace off her brother. Witness also went for the schoolmaster. The fireplace was loose.

Annie Mowbray, who lodged with the Peels, deposed that she was caretaker at the schools. On the Monday night in question, at eight o'clock, she went to clean the schools for the following day. Deceased was writing on the blackboard just before the calamity took place. Witness had gone into the lower class-room, and two or three minutes later she found that the iron fireplace had fallen upon the boy Peel's brow. She assisted to raise the fireplace off the boy, and then ran for Dr Steele, but the poor little fellow died immediately after his arrival.

In answer to the Coroner, Miss Mowbray stated that she had been engaged in cleaning the schools for the past three months. She went in every night to clean the place. Witness first noticed that the fireplace was loose about a fortnight ago. She spoke to one of the pupil teachers (Lydia Spark) about the matter. Witness thought Isabella Heslop was there at the time.

The Coroner: Why did you not mention the fact to someone in authority—some older person?—Witness: I did not think it was as dangerous as it was.

What did you say to Lydia Spark?—I said, "This fireplace is coming down again, Lydia."

When did it first come down?—About two months ago at the very least.

Was it in the same condition?—No, not so bad as this time, but still it was loose.

Did you mention the fact to anybody the first time?—No, Miss Spark lost my keys down behind, and then the place was repaired.

The Foreman: Has this former collapse of the fireplace anything to do with this inquiry?

The Coroner: I think it has. We will have to see whether the fireplace was properly set in the first instance. Here was new schools, not yet two years old, and certified as being all right, and here's a fireplace comes down and kills a little boy.

In reply to further questions witness explained that the fireplace was repaired by Patrick Burns, a mason. The schools were opened in August, 1892.

By the jury: She had no suspicion whatever that the fireplace would come down on Monday night.

Wm. Henry Ritson, Lanchester, clerk to the School Board, stated that the schools were opened on the 16th August, 1892, after being some twelve months in course of erection. The architect was Mr J. W. Rounthwaite, of Blackhill. There was one contractor for the whole building—Messrs Routledge and Mordue, Annfield Plain. The total cost was £3,200. The fireplaces were all of one class and the specification stated that the stoves, ranges, &c., must be all "set in the best manner." The fireplaces, &c., first of all put in were chosen by the architect, but when the members of the Board saw them they were objected to as being too small for heating the building. The objectors were Mr H. C. Wood, Burnopfield, (then chairman of the Board), Mr J. Green, Stanley; and Mr M. G. Armstrong, also of Stanley. These stoves and ranges were accordingly taken out, and Mr Rounthwaite sent for Messrs Emley and Sons illustrated price list—this being the same firm that supplied the former stoves—showing designs of those stoves and ranges afterwards put in at an increased price, and these were now on the premises. The contractor accepted and fit in the fireplaces. A local committee had charge of any repairs, and they dealt with the defect to the fireplace two months ago. Witness saw the present defect on Monday afternoon at 3·30—the date of the accident. He had no previous notice, but just happened to see it, having been there at the time. He noticed that the plastering along the back of the mantel had been removed for an inch in breadth along the whole length both the plugs being exposed, the plaster being off the front of each. He did not try the plugs, however, but he observed that the mantelpiece was not firm. The children were still in school. Witness drew the attention of the mistress (Agnes Macpherson) to the fireplace and she said "it was only a few weeks since it was refixed." He (Mr Ritson) said it would have to be repaired again. At that time he did not think the mantelpiece was in a dangerous state, or he himself would have seen about remedying it at once. He would have had the mantelpiece repaired under any circumstances, not in the least expecting that it would come down, but the mantelpiece looked untidy and not in harmony with the rest of the building. For refixing these five substituted five places, the Board had been charged £3 15s.

The jury: Did you consider that the hold fast in the plug was sufficient to hold the fireplaces?

Witness: I cannot say, I only had to carry out the instructions of the Board.

Agnes Macpherson, of West Stanley, mistress of the Infants' School, stated that in the beginning of September she saw the fireplace was loose at one side. The plug, however, was not out, but the fireplace was standing a little from the wall at that end. She wrote to Mr Colquhoun, a member of the Board, about the matter, and it was put right the next day. At the end of last week, witness again noticed the same fireplace loose, but did not see if the plug was unfastened. She thought it was not so bad this time as it was on the last occasion. The reason she did not communicate with Mr Colquhoun or any other member of the Board was because she did not think it was so rickety. Lydia Spark never reported the matter to her this last occasion, but she did so the first time. Witness did not notice that from day to day the fireplace became worse.

By the jury: The children could not get near the fireplace because there was a strong fireguard in front of it. She never made a remark to the schoolmistress that the fireplace would be coming down and killing somebody. There had been no complaint from pupil teachers or children regarding the fireplace being unsafe.

Patrick Burns, Front Street, West Stanley, a mason, employed by Mr William Johnson, said he had nothing to do with fixing the fireplace when the schools were built. Close upon three months ago, however, he was sent to refix the fireplace in the Infants' School. It was separated from the wall three-quarters of an inch on the left hand side, the other end not being so far apart. This was caused by both plugs being loose. He drew out the screws and put fresh plugs. He drove in nails instead of the screws, believing that this would cure the defect. The reason why the plugs were drawn at the first was the heat in the chimney caused them to pine, and he inserted large plugs. Witness drove the plugs in tight with a hammer, but did not plaster the hole-up.

A juryman thought that one of the plugs was the old one, and Sergt. Liddell went, at the Coroner's request, to the schools for the plugs, which were shown to the jury.

The Coroner (to witness): It looks very much as if you did use the righ hand plug? You might as well tell us the truth. I am suspecting that you are not telling all you know.

Witness averred that he was describing precisely how he fixed the plugs, both being fresh ones.

Replying to the jury, witness explained that he drove in the extra nail to make the catch on the lug of the fireplace more secure.

The Coroner said they could not find any fault with that.

Witness (proceeding) said he did not think these fireplaces could be fixed with "cramps," inasmuch as they were not adapted for that purpose. In his own mind he was hardly satisfied with the way these fireplaces were fixed; but they could not be fastened in any other way. He merely reset the fireplace in the same position as it had been done previously. He did the job in overtime on a Saturday afternoon, and received payment himself from the Clerk of the Board. It was his own job, and he did not do the work under the direction of his employer.

The Coroner: Then we are putting the blame on the shoulders of some person that is not responsible.

Mr Bates considered that the fireplaces were far too small for large schools like those.

The Coroner concurred with the foreman of the jury, and expressed his astonishment that such work should be turned out by respectable manufacturers. They were very paltry affairs, and there was no means of fixing the same securely.

A juryman thought it was possible to have fastened these fireplaces with "cramps."

The Coroner said that this might have been done when the fire place when originally set. Burns merely refixed it, as it had been formerly placed, having no instructions to do otherwise.

The foreman of the jury said the architect was very much to blame for passing such things.

The Coroner remarked that he would go even further than that to hold the makers responsible as well.

The Foreman: Well neither the contractors or the witness Burns are at fault.

The Coroner said that the mode in which these fireplaces was constructed was most unsatisfactory—They were paltry and unsafe, because there were no means of fixing them properly with iron cramps. These fireplaces would weigh about 3 cwt, and there were only a couple of lugs, held by screws fixed into plugs driven into the wall. As soon as the plugs shrunk from the heat of the chimney they came out, and caused the fireplace to fall down. This was the second time that this particular fireplace had given way within a few months, and the schools had only been opened a little more than a year.

A juryman said it was not uncommon to have fireplaces fixed in this way.

The Coroner: I know that they are now being made according to this method, but they are useless rubbishly fireplaces for all that.

Another juryman pointed out that deceased had no business in the school at the time.

The Coroner: I have not taken that question into account, because the fireplace might just as easily have fallen upon anybody else—say the caretaker when she was cleaning up the fireplace.

Another juryman said that there was another fireplace in the schools wich was giving way in the same manner.

Mr Ritson explained that it was the intention of the Board during the Christmas holidays to have all these fireplaces taken out and some substantial ones substituted.

The Coroner felt certain that it was not the intention of the Board that the fireplaces should be in a dangerous condition.

The jury eventually returned the following verdict:—"That on Dec. 11th, Peel was killed by an iron fireplace, in the Infant Department of the West Stanley Board Schools, falling upon him, the same not having been secure, and insufficient means of fastening or attaching the same to the chimney breast."

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE.

[BY "CASTLESIDEITE."]

In wishing our many friends a merry and happy Christmas, we are not unmindful that there are many vacant chairs, and with those who have recently lost their loved ones, we extend our sympathy in their hour of deep sorrow. We may be pardoned if we again make kindly reference to the death of our neighbour, Mrs W. Aynsley, of Cleadon House (Consett) and Consett Park. We can fully endorse all that was said in your last weeks issue. We have met Mrs Aynsley a few times in her home, and have happy recollections of her great kindness, and her readiness to interest a comparative stranger. True, she was "a devoted wife, an exemplary mother, and a good neighbour," and in her sudden decease we wish to express our sympathy with her sorrowing husband and family. We also wish to express our sympathy with Mrs Graham and family, of Waskerley, who were so suddenly bereft of a loving husband and affectionate father. Our friends at Waskerley have certainly been called "to pass through deep waters" of late, in each case Christmas will pass in shade and cloud.

Professor Morgan has been amusing many during the past week by lecturing, and by his mesmeric entertainments, which have been largely patronised and which have been of the most amusing character.

The Sewing Meeting supper held in the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, which was given by Mrs R. Robson, realised the sum of £2 0s 10d. The tables were presided over by Miss Harker and Miss Bainbridge in a very graceful manner.

The Rev. J. Wallis, vicar, conducted services in the St. John's Church, on Wednesday night. The Rev A. E. Salmon is conducting evangelistic services in the Wesleyan Chapel each night during the week. This young divine is an excellent preacher.

FOOTBALL.

TO MORROW'S FIXTURES (SATURDAY, DEC. 23RD.)

Dipton Wanderers v Hebburn Argyle, at Hebburn.
Dipton Wanderers Reserve v St. Peter's Albion, at Dipton.
Consett Town v Brandon Rovers, at Brandon.
Consett Town Reserve v Stanley Nops, at Consett.
Lintzford v Axwell Rovers, at Lintzford.
Lintzford 2nd v Prudhoe Castle, at Lintzford.
Waterhouses Wanderers v Wolsingham C.I., at Waterhouses.
Oakey's Lilywhites v Marley Hill St. Cuthbert's, at Stanley.
Hedley Hill Terrace Rangers v Burnopfield Temperance, at Hedley Hill.
Blackhill Park v Shotley Bridge Rovers, at Shotley Spa.
Consett Church Y.M.C.A. v Benfieldside Church Choir, at Consett.
Lizzie Celtics v South Moor Violets, at the Lizzie.
Shotley Bridge Rovers 2nd v Lintz Juniors, at Shotley Spa.
Hobson Wanderers v Cambois, at Cambois.
Esh True Blues v Cornsay Rovers, at Esh.
Waldridge White Star v Pelton Fell Institute, at Pelton Fell.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Dipton Wanderers v Southwick, at Southwick.
Hobson Wanderers v Brighton (Newcastle), at the Hobson.
Oakey's Lilywhites v Ouston Institute, at Ouston.
Consett Church Y.M.C.A. v Consett Guild of Bell Ringers, at Consett.
Lintzford v Byer Moor, at Lintzford.
Lintzford 2nd v Clarence, at Newcastle.
Oakey's Lilywhites 2nd v Ouston Institute 2nd, at Stanley.
Waterhouses Waterhouses v Leadgate Exiles Reserve, at Waterhouses.
Marley Hill St. Cuthbert's v Stanley United, at Stanley.
Waldridge White Star v St. Oswald's (Eighton Banks), at Waldridge.

Only two cases came before these Sessions on Friday for the whole of Weardale and the Derwent district as well as for the month, and these were for the non-maintainance of parents.

CHRISTMAS CHEER.

(Continued from Page 3.)

DRAPERS.

MR WM. RICHARDSON,

of Bessemer House, Blackhill, is not behind his neighbours in extensive preparations for the festive season. Mr Richardson has at present a splendid window display, which is but an earnest of what may be seen inside. He is now showing strong overcoats, boys' reefers, and men's suits admirably adapted for the winter season. There is likewise a splendid stock of hats, caps, and mercery in all the latest styles at the lowest prices. Give him a call so as to get one of his cheap bargains.

BUTCHERS.

MR H. NICHOLSON,

Middle Street, Consett, is once more to the front with his prime beef, mutton, and pork. Mr Nicholson has purchased a Highland kyloe, weighing 67 stones, fed by Mr Thos. Stephenson, Newbiggen House, Blanchland.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD,

Victoria Street and Church Street, Consett, is offering for sale the prime beef of a 1st prize heifer, fed by Lord Brougham, of Brougham Hall, which took premier honours at Gateshead and other auction marts. The animal was shown round Consett on Wednesday last. There is also a choice display of mutton, geese, turkeys, &c.

CONFECTIONERY.

MRS S. A. FAIRLESS,

of the West Durham Bakery, High Spen, wishes to inform the inhabitants of West Stanley and district that she is in a position to cater for teas, parties, balls, &c., during the festive season. Mrs Fairless may be depended upon to give the utmost satisfaction.

PLUMBING.

MR RALPH RITSON,

Bell-hanger, gas-fitter, &c., of Park Road, Consett, is open to contract for all kinds of plumbing, &c., at moderate charges. Mr Ritson is noted for the excellence of his work, and all orders will be most promptly attended to.

WEARDALE.

A SUCCESSFUL TEACHER.—In our issue of Dec. 1st we stated that Miss H. J. Hill, of Daddry Shields, Weardale, a pupil teacher under Mr Freehand, Westgate Board School, had won a Queen's Scholarship. We are now able to state that out of nearly 7,000 competitors, 4,750 of whom have been successful, she was number 128 on the first-class list, being the first of all competitors in the Tees and Wear Valleys. At a meeting of the Durham County Pupil Teachers' Association, held at Bishop Auckland, on Saturday last, and presided over by Sir Joseph Pease, M.P., Miss Hill received the special prize of £4 from the hands of Mrs Theodore Fry. Miss Hill goes to Darlington Training College in January next.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

BLACKHILL—6, Cort Street, 12th inst., the wife of Thomas Smith, of a daughter.
CASTLESIDE—18th inst., the wife of P.C. Haw, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BLACKHILL—St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 20th inst., Edwin, sixth son of Mr John Brown, Rose Mount, Consett, to Isabella, second daughter of Mr R. Frankland, of Blackhill.
LANCHESTER—Register Office, 16th inst., G. F. Brookland, of Oakey's Cottages, to L. Nicholson, of Stanley.—Same day, George Coltman to E. Thornton, both of Burnhope.—Same day, T. E. Wilson to E. B. Smith, both of Stanley.

DEATHS.

CONSETT—No. 16, Green Street, 17th inst., aged 6 years and 5 months, Eliza, the third daughter of William and Eliza Almond. 909m
LEADGATE—28, Watling Street, on the 20th inst., aged 60, John Turnbull. 898m
SHOTLEY BRIDGE—At Belle Vue House, on the 18th inst., in the 75th year of her age, Sarah, widow of the late John Dickinson, Esq. 813m
HIGH TWIZELL—9th inst., George Dawson, infant son of Henry and Mary Jane Findlay. 857m
CATCHGATE—13th inst., aged 77, Thomas, husband of Jane Wood.
DIPTON—Jane Ann, wife of John Rumney.
BURNOPFIELD—14th inst., aged 8 months, Mary, daughter of Nicholas and Ann Potts.
17th inst., aged 44, Mary Ann, wife of Gilbert Miller.
STANLEY—3, Benton Terrace, aged 80, Mary, relict of the late Thomas Taylor, of Eden Hill.
WEST PELTON—Grange Villa, 16th inst., aged 47, Ellen, wife of Elijah Ellwood.
BYERMOOR—14th inst., aged 49, George, husband of Mary Hall.
BLAYDON—13th inst., aged 20, James, son of Ralph and Mary Cuthbertson.
BLAYDON—James Street, aged 75, Peter Horan.
STANHOPE—14th inst., aged 16 years, Mary Alice Walton.

In loving memory of John Adolphus May, watchmaker, Consett, who died December 25th, 1875.
"Gone from sight, but still to memory dear."

In affectionate remembrance of David Tweed, son of David and Agnes Tweed, who died Dec. 22nd, 1892.
"Gone, but not forgotten." 889m

In loving memory of Eliza Vasey, who died at Consett Junction, on December 25th, 1889.
"Gone, but not forgotten." 911m

In memory of Margery, beloved daughter of George and Margaret Coulthard, who died at Leadgate, December 20th, 1892, aged 10 years and 4 months.

"What happy hours we once enjoyed,
How sweet their memory still;
But they have left an aching void
The world can never fill." 912m

In loving memory of our dear mother, Susan Maria Easton, Tanfield Lea, who died December 21st, 1892.

"A light is from our household gone,
A voice that we loved is stilled;
A place is vacant at our hearth
Which never can be filled."—POLLIE. 858m

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