The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

An ADVERTISING MEDIUM for Annfield Plain, Blackhill, Consett, Lanchester, Leadgate, Shotley Bridge, &c.

No. 575. {REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.} SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 1871. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Business Announcements.

REID BROTHERS,
GROCERS, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL BAKERS, AND MANUFACTURING CONFECTIONERS,
55, DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

TEA PARTIES, PIC-NICS, and FUNERALS Supplied or Contracted for. 734b

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

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

EXTRA STRONG and other STEEL PENS, with every article of Stationers' Sundries. Also, THOS. LOWE'S celebrated Steel Pens. JOHN HEATH, George Street, Parade, Birmingham.
Agent for Consett and District—ROBERT JACKSON, Consett and Blackhill. 894a

WATSON & RICHARDSON,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
LINEN AND WOOLLEN DRAPERS,
SILK MERCERS,
HABERDASHERS, HATTERS, HOSIERS, &c.,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE. 903a

S. WALKER, HAIRDRESSER, DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL (next door to Mrs. Gradon). Periodicals, Newspapers, and Magazines supplied and every description of stationery.
N.B.—Pictures and Mourning Cards Framed and Umbrellas Repaired. 771a

A. RICHARDSON,
BUILDER, CABINET-MAKER, & GENERAL HOUSE FURNISHER,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.
Feathers, Flocks, Rabbit Down, and Mattresses. 892a

JOHN JENKINS,
AUCTIONEER, HOUSE AGENT, APPRAISER, AND FURNITURE BROKER,
TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT.

PARTIES leaving the Neighbourhood can have their Furniture, &c., turned into Cash on the shortest notice. 660a

EDUCATION.

MRS. NICHOLSON, 4, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, respectfully announces that her School is now open for the education of Children of both sexes in the usual branches of an English education, including Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, &c.; also, Needlework and Music. 381b

JOSHUA HETHERINGTON,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
RESPECTFULLY announces that he has lately visited various manufactories in Sheffield, Birmingham, and Staffordshire, and has purchased largely of HARDWARE, CUTLERY, GLASS, CHINA, and JEWELLERY, which he is prepared to sell, wholesale or retail, at the lowest remunerative prices. 213b

WILLIAM RAW,
AUCTIONEER, APPRAISER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL,
COUNTY OF DURHAM.

VALUATIONS MADE FOR PROBATE AND LEGACY DUTIES.

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

☞ All Orders attended to with care and punctuality

EMIGRATION AGENT. 27

ENLARGEMENT OF THE NEWCASTLE READY-MONEY TEA AND PROVISION EMPORIUM

THE above Establishment has become so popular with the public of Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate, and vicinity that the Proprietor has been necessitated to take the large premises adjoining, which were used as Auction Rooms by Mr. Henry Brown. He is thus enabled to give more accommodation to his numerous Patrons, and also to have on hand a more extensive and varied Stock of Groceries and Provisions.
JAMES LAKE, PROPRIETOR,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT. 117b

J. W. DAVISON,
CABINET-MAKER, FURNITURE BROKER, IRONMONGER, &c.,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT, AND CATCHGATE, NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, in all its different Branches.
IRON BEDSTEADS, very Cheap.
MATTRESSES, FEATHERS, FLOCKS, RABBIT DOWN. HARDWARE GOODS.
MANGLING and WRINGING MACHINES
PAPER HANGINGS. PARAFFIN LAMPS.
PARAFFIN and BENZOLINE OILS, Best Quality.
FURNITURE DELIVERED FREE. 859a

THE TEST OF TWENTY YEARS
HAS FULLY PROVED THAT
THE PATENT LEVER WATCHES
MADE BY
JOHN D. CARIS,
20, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD,
AND
1, BROAD CHARE, QUAYSIDE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
ARE THE
BEST TIME KEEPERS ON RECORD,
WHILE THEY ARE ALSO
CHEAPER IN PRICE.

☞ Buyers of the above, within a radius of twelve miles, are allowed third-class railway fare. 235a

Business Announcements.

ESTABLISHED 1740.
DICKINSON,
TOBACCO MANUFACTURER,
22 AND 24, BIGG MARKET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 23b

AUTUMN FASHIONS.

R. W. SHAW

IS now showing all the NEW STYLES in MILLINERY, DRESSES, SKIRTINGS, SHAWLS, FLOWERS, FEATHERS, RIBBONS, &c.

DRESSES.

A large Stock of French Merinoes, French Twills, Lustres, Coburgs, Alpacas, and Fancy Dresses, very cheap.

WINCEYS.

In this Department some rare Bargains are being offered. Strong Heavy Winceys, at 3½d. to 8½d.; a good quality in Saxony ditto, at 10½d. to 16½d. A splendid range of Patterns in all the prevailing Colours of the season.

SKIRTS AND SKIRTINGS.

A lot of Fancy Wincey Skirts, from 4s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. Fancy Skirtings in great variety.

SHAWLS.

Every novelty of the season will be shown in this Department in Clan Tartans, Queensland, Tasmania, and other Shawls. A very heavy good Shawl at 5s. 11d., worth 7s. 6d.

MILLINERY.

The largest selection of Straw, Terry, Velvet, Lace, and Crape Bonnets, and Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats in the district. All the leading Styles are now in Stock. Mourning orders entrusted to our care will receive prompt attention.
Milliners supplied at Wholesale Prices.

SHIRTINGS.

A special lot of Wool Shirtings bought previous to the advance in wool, which are now being offered at Old Prices.

READY-MADE CLOTHING.

The increasing demand in this Department is sufficient proof of the Cheapness and Quality of our Goods. Each garment is cut in the Newest Style and Well Made. Men's Cord and Moleskin Trousers, from 3s. 11d. Boys' ditto, at 1s. 11d. Men's Cloth Trousers, at 4s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. A large assortment of Pea Jackets and Black and Tweed Coats. Men's Suits from 19s. 6d. Boys' ditto, 4s. 6d.

R. W. SHAW, PROPRIETOR,
LUTON HOUSE, MIDDLE STREET,
AND
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
AND
LEADGATE. 551b

SUPERIOR WATCHES, SHIP CHRONOMETERS, ENGLISH AND FRENCH CLOCKS.

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

LISTER AND SONS,
WATCHMAKERS TO THE QUEEN,
CHRONOMETER MAKERS TO THE ADMIRALTY,
12, 14, & 16, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 592a

BLACKETT STREET TEA AND GROCERY WAREHOUSE,
91 and 93, BLACKETT STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

JAMES JOHNSON, FAMILY GROCER AND TEA DEALER. Teas, Coffees, and Spices of the Choicest Quality. Good Useful Teas from 2s. per pound. Coffees 1s. per pound. Household Soaps from 3d. per pound. All kinds of Drysaltery Goods cheap and of the best Quality. Hotels and families supplied at wholesale prices.
TERMS—CASH. 879a

Business Announcements.

ESTABLISHED 51 YEARS.
JOHN WILSON AND SON,
WORSTED AND YARN MANUFACTURERS, WHOLESALE HOSIERS, AND HABERDASHERS, BLANKET AND FLANNEL MERCHANTS,
35, DEAN STREET, AND 14 & 16, ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCHYARD,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 704

A WORD ABOUT INDIAN TEA.

ENGLISH enterprise, capital, and industry have made India the Finest Tea Garden in the World, and now the British Tea Planting Companies of India have become the great competitors of the Chinese Empire. For years the Old People have said they could not get the Strong Fine Tea of the Olden Times. It is clear to us that either the Tea Plantations of the Chinese have become exhausted, or that the strongest desire of this peculiar people has been to give quantity rather than quality. It is plain to the most superficial observer, that even the Finest Chinese Tea, although it may be exquisite in flavour, lacks that power and richness peculiar to the Olden Times. It is well for the lover of this refreshing beverage, that the Cultivation of Tea in India has become a commercial success. Years ago, we commenced to combine the Chinese and Indian Teas. This method resulted in a great trade. You may have some idea of its properties, when we state that last year we sold 112,035 pounds of Tea to a delighted people.
The question will naturally suggest itself to your mind; Why do you not offer Indian Tea to the Public? We answer, the price appears high. We do not say they are dear, for the lasting power of Indian Tea is so great, that the second and third water in many instances is better than the first water of China Tea. Taking this economical view of the question, it is cheaper, suppose we say nothing of the increased satisfaction derived in drinking this life-sustaining Cup of pleasure. We would now like you to test the correctness of the opinion we have as to the strength, lasting power, richness, and economy of Indian Tea. We cannot sell this tea for less than 4s. per pound. We give you this notice that we do not intend to disturb the present mixed Tea Trade. We therefore desire you, should it be your pleasure to test our judgment, to inquire for Indian Tea at any of our Establishments.
WILLIAM STEWART, THE TEA DEALER,
CENTRAL ESTABLISHMENT, 33, GRAINGER STREET, } NEWCASTLE.
BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT, 33, SANDHILL,
BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT, 32, MOSLEY STREET,
SUNDERLAND BRANCH, CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET. 644b

XMAS. AND NEW YEAR'S FESTIVITIES.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY

BEGS to intimate to the inhabitants of Consett and the locality that he has just received some prime Articles which will enable them to keep a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." The first is an importation of upwards of

10,000 BOTTLES OF WINES AND SPIRITS

of the finest Quality. Buyers of a Bottle are supplied as cheaply as Purchasers of large quantities.
Then there are his GROCERIES and PROVISIONS; and those who have not yet tested his extensive and varied Stock, he would respectfully invite to do so, as he has this year made special arrangements for the supply of his ever increasing Christmas trade, and is receiving large arrivals daily. The following W. A. specially recommends:—Teas, Sugars, Currants, Raisins, Butters, Lard, and the largest consignment of CHEESE ever brought into Consett.
Country buyers would do well to pay an early visit to

WILLIAM AYNSLEY'S,
THE TEA DEALER,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 741b

W & A GILBEY—WINES & SPIRITS Agent in CONSETT, from whom Single Bottles or larger quantities can be obtained:—

W AYNSLEY
Grocer,
CONSETT

WINES (Foreign) on which duty was paid in London by some of the principal firms during the year 1868 —(*Wine Trade Review, 15th Jan., 1869*)

	Gallons
W & A Gilbey	670,904
Sandeman, Sons & Co	154,622
R Hooper & Sons	139,655
Dingwall, Portal & Co	137,307
H R Williams & Co	132,616
F W Cosens	115,814
Boyes & Beckwith	113,476
Lightly & Simon	99,008
Cunliffe & Co	93,285
Tod-Heatley & Co	83,674
Litre Bottle Wine Co	82,551
J Allnut & Co	82,264
Dent, Urwick & Co	78,884
Bond, Forbes & Co	77,277
D Taylor & Sons	71,943
Max Greger	71,475
Secretan, Campbell & Co	67,969
Boord & Son	67,587
Findlater & Co	66,243
Polak Bros & Co	66,074
Brooks & Oldham	63,859
C Kinlock & Co	60,683
Robertson Bros	59,347
Lemon Hart & Son	59,213
Domecq & Co	58,129

SPIRITS (Foreign) on which duty was paid in London by some of the principal firms during the year 1868 —(*Wine Trade Review, 15th Jan., 1869*)

	Gallons
Twiss & Brownings	242,436
W & A Gilbey	231,354
J & W Nicholson	165,605
D Taylor & Sons	144,608
Trower & Lawson	121,512
Dingwall, Portal & Co	110,263
R Hooper & Sons	106,043
Bond, Forbes & Co	95,855
Seager & Evans	87,328
Boord & Son	86,200
C Webb	73,947
Burnett & Co	64,910
E S Pick	60,253
Lemon Hart & Son	58,594
Bishop & Son	56,933
Dewerbank & Son	50,180
J Allnutt & Co	49,245
G Orme & Co	48,541
J & J Vickers & Co	48,357
Hills & Underwood	47,638
Marshall & Elvey	45,568
T H Furze	45,342
B Field & Sons	40,667
Osmond & Co	38,502
Pickford & Co	38,460

Gins and Whiskies (W & A Gilbey 279,682 gallons) are not included in the above returns.
Total quantity of Wines and Spirits paid Duty on by W & A Gilbey in the year 1868 ... 1,182,030

These SPIRITS are selected as being of the finest quality, and it should be observed that the variation in price is chiefly caused by the difference in strength, viz: 33 *under proof*, 17 *under proof*, and *proof*. Exceptions to this rule are the Castle SO Whiskey, Castle DO Whiskey, Castle F O Cognac, and Castle JO Rum, which are of the same fine quality as the other descriptions, but being more matured by age are slightly higher in price

For full description of each see Book of Prices

GINS

			Per Bottle	Page
Castle UP	GIN	33 *under proof*	2/0	20
Castle OE	GIN	17 *under proof*	2/5	20
Castle Proof	GIN	*proof*	2/10	20

The above can be had either Sweetened or Unsweetened.

COGNAC BRANDIES

Castle D	Cognac	33 *under proof*	2/10	22
Castle E	Cognac	17 *under proof*	3/4	22
Castle F	Cognac	*proof*	4/0	22
Castle FO 33	Cognac	*Old* 33 *under proof*	3/2	22
Castle FO pf.	Cognac	*Old. proof*	4/8	22
COGNAC BRANDY (L'Or Extrait du Vin)		*proof*	5/6	23

The above can be had either Pale or Brown

BRANDIES (*not Cognac Brandies*)

Castle UP	Brandy	33 *under proof*	2/2	23
Castle UV	Brandy	17 *under proof*	2/7	23
Castle Proof	Brandy	*proof*	3/0	23

The above can be had either Pale or Brown

SCOTCH WHISKIES

Castle UP	WHISKEY	33 *under proof*	2/1	24
Castle UV	WHISKEY	17 *under proof*	2/6	24
Castle Proof	WHISKEY	*proof*	2/11	24
Castle SO 33	WHISKEY	*Old* 33 *under proof*	2/3	24
Castle SO pf.	WHISKEY	*Old. proof*	3/1	24

IRISH WHISKIES

Castle UP	WHISKEY	33 *under proof*	2/1	25
Castle UV	WHISKEY	17 *under proof*	2/6	25
Castle Proof	WHISKEY	*proof*	2/11	25
Castle DO 33	WHISKEY	*Old* 33 *under proof*	2/3	25
Castle DO pf.	WHISKEY	*Old. proof*	3/1	25

JAMAICA RUMS

Castle UP	Rum	33 *under proof*	2/1	20
Castle UV	Rum	17 *under proof*	2/6	20
Castle Proof	Rum	*proof*	2/11	20
Castle JO 33	Rum	*Old* 33 *under proof*	2/3	20
Castle JO pf.	Rum	*Old. proof*	3/1	20
Castle White	Rum	*Old. proof*	3/1	20

QUALITY — As described in Book of Prices
STRENGTH —Specified with all Spirits
MEASURE —Six Bottles contain one gallon

Each Cork will bear W & A Gilbey's patent Seal with the name and distinctive mark thus:—

The signature will be on the side of each Cork thus:— W & A Gilbey

Business Announcements.

J. & J. PARKER,
JEWELLERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS,
(NEAR THE POLICE STATION.)
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

NEW SILVER WATCHES, from 30s.
NEW CLOCKS, with Striking, from 15s. Warranted.
CLOCKS and WATCHES of every description repaired on the Premises, Guaranteed.
PORTRAITS taken on the shortest Notice. 330b

WOOLLEN GOODS AT LAST YEAR'S PRICES.

VARDY and COMPANY Bought and Contracted for, last March and April, 40 Bales of WOOLLEN GOODS, at Prices lower than they had been since the year 1848, and fully 30 per cent. below present cost. The full benefit of their successful purchases will be given to their customers at their several Establishments during the month of SEPTEMBER.
250 pairs of CLOTH BLANKETS, large size, pure wool, 7s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., and 14s. 6d. a pair; worth 3s., 4s., and 5s. a pair more.
900 yards of SCARLET FLANNELS, all wool, 7¾d., 8¾d., 10½d., 1s., 1s. 2½d. per yard.
1,040 yards of WHITE FLANNELS, all wool, 8¾d., 9¾d., 10½d., 1s., 1s. 2½d., to 2s. per yard.
900 yards of BLUE FLANNELS, all wool, 9¾d., 10½d., 1s., 1s. 2d., 1s. 4½d., 1s. 6d. per yard.
KERSEYS, SERGES, SCOURERS.
SCOTCH and LANCASHIRE WINCEYS.—3,000 yards, special lot, 3¾d., 4¾d., 6½d. per yard.
1,000 yards of Real ABERDEEN WINCEY, 8¾d., 10½d., 1s., 1s. 2½d., 1s. 6d. per yard. 554b

VARDY AND COMPANY,
VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.

CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT.

JONATHAN C. WYLIE, MASTER.
Select Evening Class as usual, in English, French, Latin, Greek, Italian, and Euclid. One Guinea per Qr.

MR. E. BURTON, Professor of Music, Organist of ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, Benfieldside, TEACHER of the PIANOFORTE, ORGAN, HARMONIUM, &c. First-class References. Terms on application. Quarter commences Oct. 2, 1871.
Poplar Cottage, Shotley Bridge. 25

McEWAN'S CELEBRATED EDINBURGH ALES AND INDIA PALE ALE,
Are daily rising in public estimation.
Newcastle Stores and Offices—
FOUNTAIN HOUSE, Charlotte Square.
843 JAMES C. McINTOSH, Agent.

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED HAT SHOP IN NEWCASTLE.

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

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

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.
FIRE AND LIFE.
ESTABLISHED 1836.

Capital (fully subscribed)	£2,000,000.
Accumulated Funds	1,000,000.
Annual Revenue	375,000

FARMING STOCK, PUBLIC and PRIVATE BUILDINGS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCK-IN-TRADE, and Goods of every description Insured on the most favourable terms.
All Policies issued by the Company include the risk of lightning or explosion by Gas, without extra Premium.
During the last Ten Years the "Northern" has paid more than *One Million Sterling* for Claims under its Fire Policies.
Life Assurances, Endowments and Annuities granted. For particulars apply to the
DISTRICT AGENTS—
HOBSON & LIDDELL,
5, RYEHILL STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 379b

THOMAS LAMB,
STATIONER, BOOKSELLER, PRINTER, AND BOOKBINDER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

BIBLES, Hymn Books, Ledgers, Day Books, and Memorandum Books of every description. School and Prize Books. Periodicals, Weekly and Monthly, of all kinds. All kinds of Tin and Hardware Goods. Jewellery, &c.
Memorial Cards and Raffle Tickets on the shortest notice. Pictures Framed neat and cheap.
Agent for the *Consett Guardian*, advertisements for which are received and inserted at moderate charges.

REID AND SONS
GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERS TO THE QUEEN,
AND WATCH AND CLOCK MAKERS.

GUARD CHAINS in great variety, of all the newest and most fashionable styles, in 10 Carat Gold, from	£2 2s. to £10 10s.
GUARD CHAINS in Coloured Gold, 15 Carat, from	£4 4s. to £20 0s.
GUARD CHAINS in Dry Coloured Gold 18 Carat, from	£6 6s. to £25 0s.
ALBERT GUARDS, a very large assortment in all the newest and most fashionable patterns, in 10 Carat Gold, from	£1 15 to £10 10s.
ALBERT GUARDS in Coloured Gold, 15 Carat, from	£3 10s. to £20 0s.
ALBERT GUARDS, in Dry Coloured Gold, 18 Carat, from	7gs. to £25 0s.
LADIES' ALBERT or BROOCH CHAINS, in 10 Carat Gold, from	£1 10s. to £6 0s.
LADIES' ALBERT or BROOCH CHAINS, in Coloured Gold, 15 Carat, from	£2 10s. to 10gs.
LADIES' ALBERT or BROOCH CHAINS, in Dry Coloured Gold, 18 Carat, from	4gs. to £15 15s.

SILVER HUNTING WATCHES, from	3gs. to 14gs.
GOLD HUNTING WATCHES, from	6gs. to 40gs.
SILVER WATCHES, from	42s. to 15gs.
GOLD WATCHES, from	3gs. to 50gs.

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

Poetry: Original and Select.

MERRY—AND WISE.

Dear girls with laughing eyes,
"Be merry—and be wise,
So good old Christmas cries,
"This wintry weather."

Aye! let us one and all—
High, humble, great or small—
Give one long—one strong haul—
One haul altogether.

Our best for those to do,
Whom ceaselessly pursue
Want, Hunger, and their crew,
From darkness nether!

The jester in his rhyme
Thus fain would higher climb,
And at this holy time
Be wise and merry.

"Another year," he sings,
"Spreading its parting wings,
All of us nearer brings
To death's dim ferry:
Then banish selfish spleen!
Be kindness evergreen
Like holly, with its sheen
Of leaf and berry."—*Fun.*

Varieties.

Extracts from PUNCH.

ANOTHER SKETCH FROM ISLINGTON.—The pigs.—*Nephew*: "There aunt, ain't they beauties?" *Aunt* (cook out for a holiday): "O, Lor'! And what lots of drippin' they'd make."

A CRUMB OF COMFORT.—It is some consolation for all those unhappy persons whose income is derived solely from their own exertions that, provided they continue subject to that fearful condition, they will at least be spared such a trial as the Tichborne.

STRANGE INCONSISTENCY.—Have we not for years past heard of the miserably insufficient house accommodation to be found all over England? Is it not, therefore, astonishing that there should be men amongst us—some of them members of Parliament—who see no necessity for a "second chamber."

SERVED OUT FOR STAYING AT HOME.—*Mr. Brown* (veterinary surgeon): "You're home very early, Mary Ann. Warn't it a pleasant party?" *Mrs. Brown*: "On the contrary, my dear—delightful! Such *nice* people, you know. Not a trace of *business* in the room."

QUITE ONE OF THE FAMILY.—Scene—The family at breakfast. They had been very anxious lately about an impending interesting event in the newly-married life of the eldest daughter. *Enter Page* (with post-card, and unable to control his feelings); "It's all right 'm! Miss Clara 'm—(correcting himself)—'t least Mrs. Charles Perkins, twins. Yesterday afternoon, 'm. All three on 'em doin' well 'm!" [In these happy circumstances, the rebuke he got for daring to read the card, and for not bringing it on a tray as usual, was merely nominal.]

Extracts from JUDY.

What is to be?—Why, a verb.
Relief for the unemployed—Work.
Imposing figures—Cooked accounts.
The proper place for spinsters—Isle of Man.
The end of the world—To make money.
What is the plural of penny?—Twopence.
Christmas waits—Does he? Serve him right.

One Christmas entertainment which is sure to go—The dinner.

Christmas boxes—Look out for your nose, then, this festive season.

CHRISTMAS PUNCH.—To make one *tumble*, take six *tumblers*.

Death is the last person in the world to give you the cold shoulder.

Strange, but true—1872 will contain only forty-six weeks, for the other six will be *Lent*.

CON. FOR CHRISTMAS-TIME.—Do young ladies consider being kissed under the mistletoe a *capital* offence?

THE REASON WHY.—*Shopkeeper*: "Christmas boxes, indeed! Why, you don't deal here." *Little Girl*: "Oh yes, sir, we do, please, sir! Mother al'ays gets all her postage stamps of you."

SOMETHING LIKE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—*Junior Clerk*: "Haw; look here Fipps—I want to be away a month or so." *Senior Clerk*: "All right, old fellow. Leave, I suppose?" *Junior Clerk*: "Haw, no—domestic affliction—someone's going to marry me."

Extracts from FUN.

EVERY ONE HIS OWN 'OOK.—That nook, at Christmas, should be at his fireside.

PERT BUT PERTINENT.—Uncle John is a bad hand at guessing Bessie's riddles, charades, etc.,—she calls him enigma-ramus.

A COMMON PRACTICE.—"The man who is his own lawyer, has a fool for his client." We don't believe it—self-defence is one of the first laws of nature.

JOB-WORK.—A retired Indian officer writes to offer us his services. He says he knows he can write capital jokes, having been for many years employed in the Pun-job.

TOO MANY COOKS.—We are informed there are no less than twenty-one daily political papers published in Paris. No wonder the Parisians are in such a fog about political matters!

RIGHT TO A T.—A temperance lecturer the other day began his oration with the words:—"My teetotal friends!" "Nothing 'kin," said an inebriate listener, "we're total strangers." He was immediately put out. So was the lecturer.

SPORTING NOTE.—The hunting season has commenced in real earnest. We saw a silversmith the other day chasing a tankard. Besides, our own pack has been out all this week, owing to the visit of a deaf aunt, whose only amusement is playing cribbage.

THE TOWN MOUSE.—*Grandmamma*: "Well, Flora, as you've come to spend the Christmas with us, we must try and put some roses in your cheeks." *Flora*: "But, gran'ma, you haven't any roses in yours:—Granpa has lots—but they're on his nose though!"

Extracts from PUNCH'S ALMANACK.

Perfect quiet—The still room.
The hunting season—Leap year.
A measure of capacity—The skull.
Sentiment for May—May May be May.
The laundress's paradise—Washington.
A lady in waiting—A spinster aged thirty-five.
The best place in winter—"Between two fires."
Proverbial language of flowers—Onion is strength.

Poacher's proverb—Make hay while the moon shines.

Sentiment for August—May we, like the grouse, be on the wing.

Sentiment for February—May we look before we leap.

Sentiment for April—May there be no fools but on the first.

Sentiment for October—May there be nothing brewing but beer.

FUN BY A FOOL.—*Buffoon* (to porter ringing railway bell): "Don't ye! I say, you'll frighten the engine."

MISPRINTED MORAL.—Praising people to their faces is like paying tradesmen ready money; they pretend to dislike it, but they really like you.

A careful country gentleman refused to let his gardener plant three green-gage trees, because he had an objection to any *more-gages* on his estate.

UNLUCKY NEW YEAR'S GIFT.—A nephew, to ingratiate himself with a rich but penurious old uncle, whose health was failing from want of teeth, presented him by way of New Year's Gift with an artificial set. Poor fellow! The old gentleman got well and outlived him.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOL AT STANLEY.

Of late, considerable inconvenience has arisen in the rapidly increasing village of Stanley consequent on the Roman Catholics having a considerable distance to walk to their place of worship, and in order that this state of things might no longer exist, a movement was set on foot with a view of establishing a schoolroom and chapel of their own. A site was soon obtained from Col. Townley, of Townley Hall, near Barnsley, who besides giving the ground to build the school, also made a handsome donation of £100. The building is estimated to cost £656, and will be 46 feet by 25 feet. On Saturday the Rev. Dr. Chadwick Bishop of Hexham, and Newcastle, laid the foundation stone of the new building, which is dedicated to St. Joseph. About half-past twelve a procession was formed at the National School, headed by the Sacriston Drum and Fife Band, and followed by the Bishop, Canon Drysdale, Rev. P. T Mathew, and the Rev. Michael Gillinger, of Sacriston.

Dr. CHADWICK, in laying the stone, said they had assembled together in order to lay the foundation-stone of a building which he hoped would soon be finished. He was sure they would all feel pleased that there was to be erected another place in the neighbourhood where the children were to receive that great treasure of education. (Hear, hear). They would all feel an interest in the building, because it was was well known that the fortune of a young boy or a young girl rested upon their education. When a boy could read, write, and cast up accounts, there was little fear of him ever being out of employment. In this school which was to be they would not only learn to read, write, and cast up accounts, but they would be taught to behave themselves. They would be taught to know their religion—not only to know it, but to practice it. They had every reason to be thankful to Colonel Townley for his kindness. He had not only given the piece of land on which the school was to be built, but he had also given £100 towards building it. (Applause.) Besides this amount a very handsome sum had been raised, and it only remained for themselves to finish the good work that had been begun by contributing their weekly or fortnightly share. The Bishop then declared the stone laid in the usual way.

The Rev. P. T. MATHEW, Pastor of the Mission, said he was sure they would feel with him grateful to his lordship for his kindness in attending that day to place the first stone of that school. He was sorry that the day was so unfortunate for the rest of the clergy, who generally were very busy on a Saturday. They had had the pleasure of witnessing his lordship, the chief pastor of the diocese, lay the foundation-stone of a building, which he was sure was much needed in that place. (Applause). The rev. gentleman then called upon his hearers to come forward with their offerings towards the erection of the building.

After the collection, which amounted to about £15, the Bishop and his flock assembled in the National School (kindly lent for the occasion by the Rev. J. Mathwin, vicar of Tanfield), where the Bishop gave them his blessing, after which the proceedings terminated.

REV. PETER McKENZIE AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

On Monday evening the Rev. Peter McKenzie, from Newcastle, delivered his celebrated lecture on "Joseph" in the Town Hall, Shotley Bridge. The Rev. R. Stepney occupied the chair. There was a very good attendance, every part of the spacious hall being filled with people from all parts who had come to hear the celebrated lecturer.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the lecturer, said he was glad to see so many persons come from various parts of the neighbourhood, although the weather was not favourable. Their presence showed that they felt a lively interest in the subject which was to be brought before them, and which he had no doubt would be listened to throughout. He would not preface the lecture by any remarks of his, but would at once call on the rev. lecturer.

The Rev. PETER McKENZIE after expressing the pleasure it gave him in once more visiting Shotley Bridge, commenced the history of Joseph by first noticing Jacob's love for his son Joseph. "Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a coat of many colours." Here was an instance of the envy and hatred which is sometimes occasioned in families by making favourites. When Joseph's brethren "saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him." How dangerous it was for parents to mask their partial regard to children in finery of wearing apparel or any other manner. This "coat of many colours" proved that Joseph was the darling of his father, and on account of the distinguished regard shown to him by his father Joseph's brethren hated him. This "coat of many colours" was an eyesore, but when Joseph dreamed a dream it made "confusion worse confounded." That their sheaves should make obeisance to Joseph's sheave, which was looked upon by his brethren as a prediction of his own future greatness, was not to be tolerated; but when Joseph dreamed yet another dream about the sun and moon and eleven stars, things came to a stand-still. When Jacob despatched Joseph to look after his brethren in Shechem he little thought as he bade him good-bye how many years should pass before he would see him again. When his brethren saw that Joseph was approaching them, "they conspired against him to slay him." They said "behold, this dreamer cometh." There was something very ironical, very sarcastic, about this expression, something which said that Joseph had been the architect of his own dreams. Joseph came up to his brethren, and as he did so they looked terrible. They seized hold of him like a number of garroters seizing hold of a Methodist parson. (Laughter and applause.) Notwithstanding his tears, notwithstanding his entreaties, they put him into the pit, and then coolly sat down to eat the provision the boy had brought them. Reuben, who had interceded for the life of his brother Joseph when they wanted to kill him, had left his brothers and gone to look after the stock, intending at the glooming to return to the pit and liberate him. In his absence some Midianitish merchantmen passed, "and they drew and lifted Joseph up out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver." If they had only known what a precious treasure they had got for that £3 5s.—if they had known that they had bought the future King of Egypt, they would not have sold him to Potiphar at such a low figure. No matter what Potiphar paid for Joseph he got a cheap "pennorth." We learn that the "Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house and in the field. Joseph's dreams got him into trouble his "coat of many colours" got him into trouble, and now his good looks got him into trouble. His master's wife "cast her eyes upon Joseph," and here his troubles commenced anew. Potiphar's wife was a woman of quality, and it was Joseph's duty and interest to oblige her. But although Joseph had gone into Egypt without his coat of many colours, yet he did not go without his character. It was said that nature was always too strong for grace, but "Not for Joseph." (Laughter and applause). Potiphar's wife was like Satan: she tempted Joseph to sin, and then said "*you* did it." When Potiphar's wife found that Joseph was deaf to her solicitations she looked like December without moonlight. (Laughter.) She said to her husband "that pet of yours, that snake in the grass, has insulted me." Potiphar's wrath was kindled against Joseph, who was put into prison, "a place where the king's prisoners were bound." What a change was here again, from the overseer to the prisoner! How much need had we of humble hearts, for who knows how low and debased God may make our lot on earth. But the advantage of God's presence and favour was in every condition chiefly to be desired. If he be with us, we shall be well wherever we are. His blessing makes us rich and honoured, and without it all our labours are in vain. Godly and faithful servants are an inestimable treasure; and such as are wise will not fail to esteem and prefer them. Providential smiles are often but inlets to fearful and strong temptation, or to grievous and lasting distresses. But to what horrid length in the most shameful wickedness will such go as have once broken through the natural restraints of common modesty—abandoned themselves, they can use the most shameless endeavours to draw others into sin. A fiery furnace was less to be feared than a beautiful abandoned woman. Flight was the only preservative from violent temptations to uncleanness; and surely it was better to hazard our life than to wound our conscience. (Applause). But, in such most ensnaring temptations, a deep sense of the evil of sin, as offensive to God and injurious to man, was the only thing that would effectually prevent compliance. But how hard to obtain protection from a lying tongue; Soon the news of Joseph's imprisonment reached the outside ears. Some said "where is all his profession?" others, "Smooth waters run deep," and the tittle-tattlers were rolling it under their tongues with satisfaction. Here was an instance how the best of men could be accused of the most atrocious crime. There was a great readiness in men to believe an evil report especially against the professors of religion. Here was an instance how guilt could be honoured, and innocence oppressed and punished. But we were told that "the Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison." It was said that a good man would always get into his own place, and it was not long before Joseph was carrying the keys of the prison. Joseph used to have all the prisoners washed and their hair combed first thing in the morning, and it was like being in Oxford, only to have a look at them. (Laughter). There never was such a gaoler in this world. (Applause). Amongst the other prisoners over whom Joseph had charge were two of Pharaoh's officers—the chief of the butlers, the chief of the bakers. Joseph saw by their countenance that they were sad, and said "wherefore look ye so sadly to-day?" They answered that they had had a dream, and although they had looked through all the dream-books within their reach, still they could find no word of interpretation. (Laughter and applause). Joseph told the butler the meaning of his dream, as well as that of the baker! Distresses were often in the hearts of sinners, which themselves only know; and in his sovereignty God sometimes rendered his people more clear with respect to the future lot of others on earth, than with respect to their own. It was a mercy, even in a prison, to have one to compassionate our case; and communication of our griefs to godly men was a ready way to obtain solution of our doubts, and recover comfort in our afflictions. "Think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me; and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house." But we learn that the butler soon forgot Joseph. What a proof was here that worldly advancements render men strangely thoughtless." No favour, or even gratitude of men, especially of great ones, could be depended upon. The rev. lecturer next referred to Pharaoh's dreams of seven fat kine devoured by as many lean ones, and of seven large ears of corn devoured by as many thin and blasted ones—how none of the wise Egyptians being found capable to interpret these dreams, the chief butler remembered and recommended Joseph to Pharaoh, who interpreted them—of the seven years of extraordinary plenty, succeeded by as many of famine, how Joseph admonished Pharaoh how to manage the plentiful crops, so as to preserve his subjects alive during the famine. The lecturer afterwards referred to the change which again took place in the position of Joseph, who was made Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor. (Laughter and applause).

After describing the seven years of plenty, the rev. lecturer next referred to the scarcity of victuals in Canaan, which obliged Joseph's brethren to apply humbly to him for corn. What a mercy it was to be assured that in the Canaan above there would be no scarcity, no want. Next followed a description of how Joseph entertained his brethren, and how after their departure with the corn the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Want of space forbids us following the rev. lecturer in detail, and we can only say that the lecture throughout was listened to with the greatest interest by the audience.

Votes of thanks having been accorded to the chairman and lecturer, the proceedings terminated a little before nine o'clock.

Of the 21,000,000 of people of Italy, 17,000,000 can neither read nor write.

EPPS'S CHOCOLATE.—*La Situation* (the Imperialist organ), in an article, entitled, France et Angleterre," says: —"Nous n'avons en France qu'une seule usine ou la preparation du Cacao emploie un materiel et un personnel aussi considerables que ceux que nous avons vus dans l'uisne de Messieurs Epps. C'est une veritable curiosite dans son genre que cette immense fabrique."—The wrapper of each cake of Chocolate prepared by this firm is labeled "JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Also makers of Epps's Milky Chocolate (Chocolate and Condensed Milk) 449b

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TOWNS AND VILLAGES ADJOINING THE CONSETT BRANCH OF THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

and their respective Distances from the nearest Railway Station on that line.

	STATIONS.	FARES. 1		2		GOV.	
	NEWCASTLE						
	SCOTSWOOD	0	7	0	6	0	3
1	SWALWELL	0	10	0	8	0	4½
2	ROWLAND'S GILL	1	5	1	1	0	7½
3	LINTZ GREEN	1	9	1	4	0	9
4	EBCHESTER	2	4	1	9	1	0½
5	SHOTLEY BRIDGE	2	6	1	10	1	1½
6	BENFIELDSIDE	2	8	2	0	1	2½
7	KNITSLEY	3	2	2	6	1	5½
8	LANCHESTER	3	9	2	10	1	8½
9	WITTON GILBERT	3	9	2	10	1	8½
10	DURHAM	2	10	2	2	1	3½

Allansford	2 miles from either Nos 5 or 6
Annfield Plain	3 miles from No 8, and 4 miles from No 3.
Andrew's House	2½ miles from No 2.
Bantling Castle	3½ miles from No 4.
Benfieldside	1 mile from No 6.
Berry Edge (now Consett)	1 mile from No 6.
Billingside	2 miles from No 4.
Blackhill	(Benfieldside Station in centre of Blackhill).
Bradley Cottages	1½ mile from No 4.
Burnhope	2 miles from No 8.
Burnopfield	1½ mile from No 2.
Byermoor	2 miles from No 2.
Burnopfield Colliery	2½ miles from No 2, and about the same distance from No 3.
Butsfield	3 miles from either Nos 7 or 8
Blanchland	9 miles from No 5.
Castleside	3 miles from No 6.
Catchgate	3½ miles from either Nos 3 or 8
Causey	3½ miles from No 2.
Clough Dean	2½ miles from No 3.
Collierley Dykes	2½ miles from No 4.
Colpike Hall	1½ from No 8.
Consett (late Berry Edge)	1 mile from No 6.
Cornsay	3 miles from No 8.
Cragghead	4 miles from No 8.
Crawcrook	3 miles from No 2.
Crookgate	1½ mile from No 2.
Crookhall	2 miles from No 6.
Derwent Cottages	2½ miles from No 5.
Derwent Cote	2 miles from either Nos 3 or
Dipton	2 miles from No 3.
Dowlais Cottages	2½ miles from No 3.
East Castle Colliery	3½ miles from No 4.
Ebchester	½ mile from No 4.
Edmondbyers	6 miles from either Nos 5 or 6.
Esh	1 mile from No 9.
Fellside	2½ miles from No 1.
Flinthill	2½ miles from No 3.
Friars' Side	2 miles from No 3.
Gibside	1 mile from No 2.
Greencroft	1 mile from No 8.
Greencroft Cottages	2½ miles from No 8.
Greenhead	2 miles from No 5.
Greenside	2 miles from No 2.
Hamsteels	2 miles from No 8.
Hamsterley	1 mile from No 3.
Happy Land	3 miles from No 4.
Harperley Mill	4 miles from No 3.
Hare Law	3½ miles from either Nos 3 or 8
Healeyfield	3½ miles from No 6.
Hill Top (near Dipton)	2 miles from No 3.
Hill Top (near Esh)	2 miles from No 9.
Hobson	(or Burnopfield Colliery).
Holmside	3 miles from No 8.
Iveston	3 miles from either Nos 4 or 7, and 3½ from No 8.
Kyo	3½ miles from either Nos 3 or 8.
Knitsley	½ mile from No 7.
Lanchester	Close to Station.
Langley	2 miles from No 8.
Leadgate	2 miles from either Nos 4 or 6.
Lintz Colliery	1½ mile from No 3.
Lintz Paper Mill	½ mile from No 3.
Lintz Green	1 mile from No 3.
Lizzie Colliery (or South-Pontop) at Annfield Plain.	
Loud	4 miles from Nos 3 or 4.
Marley Hill	3½ miles from No 1.
Medomsley	1½ mile from No 4.
Mountsett	2 miles from No 3.
Muggleswick	5 miles from either Nos 6 or 7.
Minsteracres	6 miles from either Nos 5 or 6.
Newbiggin (near Lanchester)	1½ miles from No 8.
Newbiggen (near Blanchland)	11 miles from No. 5.
Newlands	3 miles from No 4.
Oxhill	4 miles from No 8, and 5 miles from No 3.
Pickering Nook	2 miles from No 3.
Pontop	3 miles from either Nos 3 or 4.
Rowley	3½ miles from either Nos 6 or 7.
Satley	4 miles from either Nos 7 or 8.
Shield Row	5 miles from No 2.
Shotley Bridge	1 mile from No 5.
Shotley Spa	1½ mile from No 5.
Shotley Field	2½ miles from either Nos 5 or 6.
Slaley	9 miles from either Nos 5 or 6.
Snows Green	½ mile from No 5.
South Derwent Colliery (Annfield Plain).	
South Medomsley Colliery (Pontop).	
South Moor	3½ miles from No 8.
South Pontop Colliery (or Lizzie) Annfield Plain.	
Spen (Garesfield)	2 miles from No 2.
Stanley	4½ miles from No 3.
Sunniside (near Marley Hill)	3 miles from No 1.
Swalwell	Close to No 1.
Tanfield	3 miles from No 2
Tanfield Lea	3½ miles from No 2.
Tantobie	3½ miles from either Nos 2 or 3
Waskerley	4 miles from No 6.
Waskerley Park (near Shotley Bridge)	2 miles from No 5.
Whickham	1 mile from No 1.
White-le-Head	3 miles from No 3.
Witton Gilbert	1 mile from No 9.
Whittonstall	1 mile from No 4.
Winlaton Mill	1 mile from No 1.
Winlaton	2 miles from No 1.

Railway Time Tables.

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

STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY

GOING EAST.—WEEK DAYS ONLY.

STATIONS.		A.M. 1, 2, 3.	P.M. 1, 2, 3	P.M. 1, 2, 3
Benfieldside	dep.	6·55	4·25	....
Cold Rowley	"	7· 3	4·35	....
Burnhill Junction	"	7·12	4·45	....
Tow Law	"	7·24	4·58	....
			1, 2.	
Crook	arr.	7·35	5.10	....
	dep.	7·40	5·20	....
Bishop Auckland	"	8· 5	5·50	....
Darlington	"	9· 0	6·40	....
Stockton	"	9·30	7·10	....
Middlesbro'	"	9·42	7·22	....

GOING WEST.—WEEK DAYS ONLY.

STATIONS.		A.M. 1, 2, 3.	P.M. 1 & 2.	P.M. 1, 2, 3.
Middlesbro'	dep.	6·22	5·15	....
Stockton	"	6·34	5·23	....
Darlington	"	7·15	4·30	....
Bishop Auckland	"	7·48	5· 0	....
			1, 2, 3.	
Crook	arr.	8·10	5·22	....
	dep.	8·12	5·25	....
Tow Law	"	8·23	5·35	....
Burnhill Junction	"	8·35	5·48	....
Cold Rowley	"	8·45	5·58	....
Benfieldside	arr.	8 58	6·10	....

CONSETT BRANCH.

UP TRAINS.—WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.		1,2,G. A.M.	1,2,G. A.M.	1,2,G. P.M.	1,2,G. P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	5·55	10· 0	2·15	5·20
Scotswood	"	6· 2	10· 7	2·22	5·27
Swalwell	"	6· 9	10·14	2·29	5.34
Rowland's Gill	"	6·19	10·24	2·39	5.44
Lintz Green	"	6·25	10·30	2·45	5 50
Ebchester	"	6·38	10·43	2·58	6· 3
Shotley Bridge	"	6·44	10·49	3· 4	6· 9
Benfieldside (Consett & Blackhill)	"	6·50	10·55	3·10	6·15
Knitsley	"	7· 4	11· 9	....	6·29
Lanchester	"	7·13	11·18	....	6·38
Witton Gilbert	"	7.20	11·27	....	6·47
Durham	arr.	7·35	11.40	....	7· 0

DOWN TRAINS—WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS		1,2,G. A.M.	1,2 G. P.M.	1,2,G. P.M.	1,2,G. P.M.
Durham	dep.	8·10	12· 0	....	7·55
Witton Gilbert	"	8·25	12·14	....	8· 9
Lanchester	"	8·36	12·25	....	8·20
Knitsley	"	8·47	12·36	....	8·31
Benfieldside (Consett & Blackhill)	"	9· 2	12·50	3·25	8·43
Shotley Bridge	"	9· 7	12·55	3·30	8.48
Ebchester	"	9·10	12·59	3·34	8.52
Lintz Green	"	9·20	1· 9	3·44	9· 3
Rowland's Gill	"	9·25	1·14	3·49	9· 8
Swalwell	"	9·34	1·23	4· 1	9·17
Scotswood	"	9·40	1·29	4· 8	9·24
Newcastle	arr.	9·50	1·40	4·20	9·35

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

UP TRAINS.

STATIONS.		GO. A.M.	RETURN. P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	8· 0	4. 0
Scotswood	"	8· 7	4· 9
Swalwell	"	8·13	4·15
Rowland's Gill	"	8·21	4·23
Lintz Green	"	8·27	4·29
Ebchester	"	8·40	4·42
Shotley Bridge	"	8·45	4·47
Benfieldside (for Consett and Blackhill)	arr.	8·55	4·56
	dep.	9·10	5·10
Knitsley	"	9·21	5·21
Lanchester	"	9·34	5·34
Witton Gilbert	"	9.46	5·46
Durham	arr.	10· 0	6· 0

DOWN TRAINS.

STATIONS.		GO. A.M.	RETURN. P.M.
Durham	dep.		4· 0
Witton Gilbert	"	8· 3	4·13
Lanchester	"	8·15	4·25
Knitsley	"	8·28	4.38
Benfieldside (for Consett and Blackhill)	arr.	8·40	4·50
	dep.	9·20	6·20
Shotley Bridge	"	9·25	6·24
Ebchester	"	9·30	6·30
Lintz Green	"	9·39	6·39
Rowland's Gill	"	9·46	6·46
Swalwell	"	9·57	6·53
Scotswood	"	10· 3	7· 7
Newcastle	arr.	10·15	7 15

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Christmas Readings.

THE NORTH MAIL.

Some twenty years ago, my wife and I were staying a short time one November in a little village in the North Riding of Yorkshire, and as I was then an enthusiastic lover of field sports, I took every advantage of the opportunity afforded by the nearness of the great moors to spend a day with my gun in search of grouse. On one occasion I was tempted to wander farther from home than usual, and when evening approached snow began to fall, and I suddenly found that I was lost. I wandered on and on for a considerable time, the snow ever becoming deeper and deeper, until all at once I landed upon a farm-house, into which upon knocking I was admitted. Here I was told that I was at least twenty miles from home, and was advised to stay over the night. Knowing, however, how much my wife would suffer at my absence, and observing that as the night went on the snow had ceased to fall, I determined to make an effort to reach home if possible by early morning. The north mail, I learned, passed a spot several miles from the house shortly after midnight, and I at once determined to make an effort to meet it, since on its southern journey it passed my own door. I therefore procured the services of the single serving man of the house, an old fellow who answered to the name of Jacob, as guard to the nearest highway, and set out on my return journey.

Although the wind had fallen, it was still bitterly cold when we emerged into the open air. Not a star glimmered in the black vault overhead. Not a sound, save the rapid crunching of the snow beneath our feet, disturbed the heavy stillness of the night. Jacob shambled on before in sullen silence, his lantern in his hand, and his shadow at his feet. I followed with my gun over my shoulder, not very much inclined for conversation. Presently Jacob came to a hault, and said—

"Yon's your road. Keep the stone fence to your right hand, and you can't fail of the way."

"This, then, is the old coach-road."

"Ay, 'tis the old coach-road.

"And how far do I go before I reach the cross-roads?"

"Nigh upon three miles."

I pulled out my purse, and he became more communicative.

"The road's a *fair* road enough," said he, "for foot passengers; but' twas over steep and narrow for the northern traffic. You'll mind where the parapet's *broken* away, close again the sign-post. It's never been mended since the accident."

"What accident?"

"Eh, the night mail pitched right over into the valley below—a gude sixty feet an' more—just at the worst bit o' road in the whole country."

"Horrible! Were many lives lost!"

"All. Four were found dead, and t'other two died next morning."

"How long is it since this happened?"

"Just nine years."

"Near the sign-post, you say? I will bear it in mind. Good night."

"Gude night, sir, and thankee."

Jacob pocketed his half-crown, made a faint pretence of touching his hat, and trudged back by the way he had come.

I watched the light of his lantern till it quite disappeared, and then turned to pursue my way alone. This was no longer a matter of the slightest difficulty, for despite the dead darkness overhead, the line of stone fence showed distinctly enough against the pale gleam of the snow. How silent it seemed now, with only my own footsteps to listen to; how silent and solitary. A strange disagreeable sense of loneliness stole over me. I walked faster. I hummed a fragment of a tune. I cast up enormous sums in my head and accumulated them at compound interest.

Meanwhile the night air seemed to become colder and colder, and though I walked fast, I found it impossible to keep myself warm. My feet were like ice, I lost sensation in my hands, and grasped my gun mechanically. I even breathed with difficulty, as though, instead of traversing a quiet north country highway, I was scaling the uppermost height of some gigantic Alp. This last symptom became presently so distressing, that I was forced to stop for a few minutes and lean against the stone fence. As I did so I happened to look back up the road, and there, to my infinite relief, I saw a distant point of light like the gleam of an approaching lantern. I at first concluded that Jacob had retraced his steps and followed me; but, even as the conjecture presented itself, a second light flashed into sight; a light evidently parallel with the first, and approaching at the same rate of motion. It needed no second thought to show me that these must be the carriage lamps of some private vehicle; though it seemed strange that any private vehicle should take a road professedly disused and dangerous.

There could be no doubt, however, of the fact, for the lamps grew larger and brighter every moment, and I even fancied I could already see the dark outline of the carriage between them. It was coming up very fast and quite noiselessly, the snow being nearly a foot deep under the wheels.

And now the body of the vehicle became distinctly visible behind the lamps. It looked strangely lofty. A sudden suspicion flashed upon me. Was it possible that I had passed the cross roads in the dark without observing the sign-post; and could this be the very coach which I had come to meet?

No need to ask myself that question a second time, for here it came round the bend of the road, guard and driver, one outside passenger, and four streaming greys, all wrapped in a soft haze of light, through which the lamps blazed out like a pair of fiery meteors.

I jumped forward, waved my hat, and shouted. The mail came down at full speed and passed me. For a moment I feared that I had not been seen or heard, but it was only for a moment. The coachman pulled up; the guard, muffled to the eyes, and apparently sound asleep in the rumble, neither answered my hail nor made the slightest effort to dismount; the outside passenger did not even turn his head. I opened the door for myself, and looked in. There were but three travellers inside, so I stepped in, shut the door, slipped into the vacant corner, and congratulated myself on my good fortune.

The atmosphere of the coach seemed, if possible, colder than that of the outer air, and was pervaded by a singularly damp and disagreeable smell. I looked round at my fellow passengers. They were all three men, and all silent. They did not seem to be asleep, but each leaned back in his corner of the vehicle, and absorbed in his own reflections. I attempted to open a conversation.

"How intensely cold it is to-night," I said, addressing my opposite neighbour.

He lifted his head, looked at me, but made no reply.

"The winter," I added, "seems to have begun in earnest."

Although the corner in which he sat was so dim that I could distinguish none of his features very clearly, I saw that his eyes were still turned full upon me. And yet he answered never a word.

At any other time I should have felt, and perhaps expressed, some annoyance, but at that moment I felt too ill to do either. The icy coldness of the night air had struck a chill to my very marrow, and the strange smell inside the coach was effecting me with an intolerable nausea. I shivered from head to foot, and turning to my left hand neighbour, asked if he had any objection to an open window.

He neither spoke nor stirred.

I repeated the question somewhat more loudly, but with the same result. Then I lost patience, and let the sash down. As I did so, the leather strap broke in my hand, and I observed that the glass was covered with a thick coat of mildew, the accumulation apparently of years. My attention being thus drawn to the condition of the coach, I examined it more narrowly, and saw by the uncertain light of the outer lamps that it was in the last state of dilapidation, and had evidently, as it seemed, been dragged from some outhouse in which it had been mouldering away for years, to do another day or two of duty on the road.

I turned to the third passenger, whom I had not yet addressed, and hazarded one more remark.

"This coach," I said, "is in a deplorable condition. The regular mail, I suppose, is under repair?"

He moved his head slowly, and looked at me in the face, without speaking a word. I shall never forget that look while I live. I turned cold at heart under it. I turn cold at heart even now when I recall it. His eyes glowed with a fiery unnatural lustre. His face was livid as the face of a corpse. His bloodless lips were drawn back as if in the agony of death, and showed the gleaming teeth between.

The words that I was about to utter died upon my lips, and a strange horror came upon me. My sight had by this time became used to the gloom of the coach, and I could see with tolerable distinctness. I turned to my opposite neighbour. He, too, was looking at me, with the same startling pallor in his face, and the same stony glitter in his eyes. I passed my hand across my brow. I turned to the passenger on the seat beside my own, and saw—oh, Heaven! how shall I describe what I saw?—I saw that he was no living man—that none of them were living men, like myself! A pale phosphorescent light—the light of putrefaction—played upon their awful faces, upon their hair, dank with the dews of the grave—upon their clothes, earth-stained and dropping to pieces—upon their hands, which were as the hands of corpses long buried. Only their eyes, their terrible eyes, were living; and those eyes were all turned menacingly upon me!

A shriek of terror, a wild unintelligible cry for help and mercy, burst from my lips as I flung myself against the door, and strove in vain to open it.

In that single instant, brief and vivid as a landscape beheld in the flash of summer lightning, I saw the moon shining down through a rift of stormy cloud—the ghastly sign-post rearing its warning finger by the wayside—the broken parapet—the plunging horses—the black gulf below. Then the coach reeled like a ship at sea. Then came a mighty crash—a sense of crushing pain—and then, darkness.

. . . . . .

It seemed as if years had gone by, when I awoke one morning from a deep sleep, and found my wife watching by my bedside. I will pass over the scene that ensued, and give you, in half a dozen words, the tale she told me with tears of thanksgiving. I had fallen over a precipice, close against the junction of the old coach-road and the new, and had only been saved from certain death by lighting upon a deep snowdrift that had accumulated at the foot of the rock beneath. In this snowdrift I was discovered at daybreak by a couple of shepherds, who carried me to the nearest shelter, and brought a surgeon to my aid. The surgeon found me in a state of raving delirium, with a broken arm and a compound fracture of the skull. The letters in my pocket-book showed my name and address; my wife was summoned to nurse me; and, thanks to youth and a fine constitution, I came out of danger at last. The place of my fall, I need scarcely say, was precisely that at which a frightful accident had happened to the north mail nine years before.

I never told my wife the fearful event which I have just related. I told the surgeon who attended me, but he treated the whole adventure as a mere dream born of the fever in my brain. We discussed the question over and over again, until we found that we could discuss it with temper no longer, and then we dropped it. Others may form what conclusions they may—I know that 20 years ago I was the fourth inside passenger in that Phantom Coach.—*From "Anne Carew," by Miss Edwards.*

GENTLE JACK.

When I first came to this forge, my next door neighbours were a family of the name of Hurlan.

They were a seafaring family, by which I mean they all got their living by the sea. There was Joe Hurlan, tall, lithe, strapping, black-eyed, with a fury of temper, who sailed his little fishing boat, and earned the pounds. There was old Mary, his wife, fat, round, blue-eyed, and placid—kept her bathing machines, taught the lady-visitors to swim, ducked their children, and earned the shillings. There was young Mary, slim, blue-eyed, and placid too—dried the towels and bathing-dresses on the beach, and earned the pence. There were five small girls and five small boys, who went out to sea along with father, and carried towels and gowns to and fro between young Mary on the shingle and old Mary with her machines on the sands, and earned the halfpence. Eleven children, and father and mother, you would think enough for the sea to have to provide with food, and blue gowns, and blue shirts, and tarpaulings, and mushroom hats. But this was not all. There was likewise a nephew of Joe's, a cheery happy-go-lucky sort of lad, who by turns helped Joe to earn the pounds, old Mary the shillings, young Mary the pence, and the small-fry the halfpence. To tell the truth, I think he liked helping with the pence best.

Now, though this lad was the son of Joe Hurlan's own and only brother, whose bones had never been laid dust to dust, but were contained among the mysteries of the deep sea, and though it had been Joe's own act to take the lad from his widowed mother, it was only too well known that uncle and nephew did not pull well together. Watching them at work, you would say it was no wonder.

Joe Hurlan was clever, quick as thought in his movements, industrious, brave as a lion, and too often not only as brave, but as furious and dangerous. Bitter words and sometimes bitter cries were heard from Joe's boat by those who cast their nets near it; and even on shore, I've heard the coastguard say, as he caught some sounds out at sea, "There's Hurricane Joe at it again."

Yet to meet Joe Hurlan in an ordinary way was to meet a right hearty, pleasant fellow, sound and true, who could spin a yarn—eh! couldn't he spin the very ale flat, and the pipes out, and show you a tempest, Joe could, any minute, as if he had it in his pocket? He was not far past forty, but he called himself old Joe.

Now young Jack Hurlan was so much the contrary in temper and manner to Joe, that he was called Fairweather Jack and Gentle Jack; and a harmless, happy, good-humoured soul he was.

That Jack was bred by the sea-shore there was no mistaking. Hair, face, hands, and bare breast were of different healthy sandy-browns, and his eyes were of a misty sea blue. He was always singing, whether at sea with Joe, or drawing out the bathing-machines for Mary, or mending nets and looking up at the pretty ladies on the Parade, or helping young Mary to fold the bathing-gowns. Not that Jack had much notion of any song; the thing he sang was a sort of chant he might have caught from the waves and stones when they mix and roll over in fresh, strong weather. There was a surging sort of rise and fall in Jack's song, which made one feel that the happines which was the source of it was boundless as the sea. His words were his own, and, as well as any one could catch them, were these, which no doubt came to him as he was shoving the heavy boat down the sands, and expecting a fierce voyage of it with Joe:

"Heave-a, heave O!
Pull along,
Never grieve, O!
That's my song."

It was not a favourite song with Joe Hurlan, who apparently had a theory that the passions of the winds and waters had their equivalents in human nature, and that it was necessary to let them see it. No sooner, then, did adverse winds assail him than he turned upon them, and upon Jack and all the world, with a fury that was far more formidable to the poor lad than the worst hurricane that ever blew.

But Jack suffered less than might have been expected. He was as ready to meet and greet his uncle's return to tranquillity and good-nature as the summer sun is to meet and greet the sea when the storm-clouds have wreaked their rage and passed away; and the result was scarcely less cheerful. Never were there two such friends, when they were friends, as Hurricane Joe and Fairweather Jack. Joe's remorse for his violence was deep though silent, and after every outburst the real affection he bore the orphan lad was strengthened by the recollection of the almost superhuman patience and gentle, sweet forbearance he had shown.

Yet Jack was merely a merry, good-humoured fellow, and, sad to say, so far from being a saint, that his uncle, who was true as truth itself, was often obliged to put a sudden stop to the torrent of fibs to which Jack gave vent when questioned, after a rough voyage, as to the bruises on his forehead or the swelling of his poor red knucles. He had fallen out of the boat on Eelsea Rocks, and met with innumerable calamities, told in the most natural manner imaginable, till Joe put a stop to the telling by crying out sternly—

"Hold hard with those lies, Jack, will yer?—Mary, 'twas me that mauled him."

There were land storms no less than sea storms with Hurricane Joe, and many a time have the whole household come scampering out and taken shelter in the forge here. Old Mary has stood trembling behind the door there; young Mary there, with Jack's arm round her waist; and the five bits of boys in their blue flannel shirts and tarqualins, and the five bits of girls in their blue flannel gowns and mushroom hats, filled the place so that there was scarce room for the sole of one's foot. I'd have to bear with their company till Joe would be seen slinking past, black as thunder with rage and shame.

By that time they might safely venture home; and home they would go, old Mary thanking and "God-blessing" me for the refuge, and young Mary smiling and blushing through her tears, and joining with her pretty voice in Jack's

"Heave-a, heave O!
Pull along;"

and the little monkeys of children jumping and tumbling over one another, and wickedly pretending to be frightened out of their wits by the distant view of Joe's back. In an hour or two would come Joe himself, fuddled with the comfort he had taken at the Flying Fish, and with remorse and shame.

"So the devil's had hold of me again, Sturt," he'd say.

And my answer was always—"He has, Joe Hurlan; and if you don't have a reckoning with him once for all, you'll find there'll come a day he'll be too much for you."

"Right you are—I feel it," Joe would growl. Before going in, he would steal off to the town, and come home with bulging pockets; and what with the jumping and shouting and clamour, the old Mary's laugh (which at bathing-time you could hear from one end of the Parade to the other), and what with Jack's "Heave-a, heave O!" I don't know but what neighbours had more reason to complain of the peacemaking than the storm.

But Joe Hurlan's passion was not always to blow over so harmlessly. It came to pass that every fit was longer and fiercer than the last. The children crouched down lower now when they came to the forge for shelter, and no more laughed and made fun behind Joe's distant back, but kept quietly in their hiding-places till he was out of sight; while old Mary trembled and young Mary cried much more than in old times. But I noticed that she and young Jack clung to each other closer and closer as things got worse and worse. When the girl went to meet her father and Jack after their little voyages, I noticed she would take count at once of every fresh bruise on Jack's face and hands, and grow deadly pale, and Jack's cheerful "Heave-a heave O!" no longer comforted her.

One night—it was a week before Christmas, and the tide was in as far as Eelsea-corner—Joe and the lad were at sea. I was sitting here near one o'clock; the wind was too high to think of sleep; I was sitting here half dozing, and suddenly I was aware that something more than wind was fumbling at the door.

"Whose there?"

"Joe Hurlan."

I open it; Joe comes in, with his head shrunk into his neck, and his back bent, his face livid, and his eyes turning everywhere but on my face.

"Back already, Joe?" I said.

He did not answer me, but went to his usual seat by the fire and sat down. I stood still before the open door; something made me suspicious of him.

"Where's Jack?" I asked him.

"Gone to his mother's," he said; then clenched his hands and rocked himself over the fire. Jack's mother lived as a sort of servant at the coastguard station, twelve miles off.

"How's that," said I, "when you've but just come ashore?" for he was dripping wet from the waist. "He's never going to walk there this time of night!"

He looked up suddenly—such a look as I never shall forget.

"Sturt, Sturt, don't torture me! Jack's not with his mother."

"Where is he then?"

"Why did he sing in the storm, while I was cursing?"

"Joe Hurlan," said I, "where is your brother's son?"

"Why did he sing Mary's hymns when we were in danger? Why did he sing hymns praising the Maker of the wind that was taking the bread out of the children's mouths?"

"I ask you again Joe, where is the son of your drowned brother?"

"Why did he steal my Mary's heart, and make her hate her own father for beating him?"

"You wretch, where's Jack?"

"He might have made a struggle—its his own fault. He knew it'ud rile me more to put up his hands like that, and cry out, 'Uncle, you and father were brothers—you'd never kill me!'"

"You pitiful scoundrel," says I, seizing his collar, "what have you done with Jack?"

"Let go! Didn't I tell you he's with his mother?"

"Will they find him there when he's sought for to-morrow, as he will be?"

"*Find him—find him!* O my Jack! they should tear me limb from limb, if that would find him!"

"Joe Hurlan," said I, "if Jack isn't with his mother, where is he?"

"*With his father!*" said Joe, in a sort of wailing whisper; "and I sent him there!"

And he looked up at me, qualing before me as if I should deal him instant justice.

Jack's face was before my eyes; Jack's voice was in my ears. I dared not trust myself alone with his destroyer. I only opened my door wide and pointed out; and he crept away.

I did not give Joe Hurlan up to justice the next day, as I had fully meant to do; I did not do it for reasons I shall tell you by and by.

Joe did not evade me nor put himself in my way. He did not give himself up, as I half expected he would. He told me afterwards it would have been almost a relief to do it, as far as he concerned; but he had not the courage to undeceive his wife and young Mary and all at home, who believed thoroughly his first statement—that Jack was at his mother's. He wondered much at my hesitation. I saw he did. In fast, once he almost told me so.

"Why do you keep the worm under your foot?" he said, putting his haggard face over the low door there, about the second evening. "Why don't you crush it at once?"

I turned my back upon him. I had done so whenever he looked over the door, as he had done several times since the night he came home without Jack. This went against the grain with him more than any words would have done.

The third evening he was there again, more haggard and wild than ever.

"Sturt," says he, "It must be all over. I must have swung for Jack. I must be in hell now. There's nothing worse than this—there can't be. They'll drive me mad. It's 'when Jack comes back,' from morning till night. What's the use of letting Christmas come? They'll know fast enough then, when it comes without him, that he'll never come at all. What d'ye say? Shall I make an end of it?"

I did not look at him or answer him, and he drew a long breath and crept away. He did not make an end of it that day.

The next morning, about twelve o'clock, he came straight into the forge, and clutching my arm said—

"Come out—come out, and tell me what the fools are all gaping at."

Shaking him off, I walked with him down to the road before the Parade, which was torn and tumbled about by the high tides, as it will be to-morrow. It was a fine bright morning, and all the gentry (there used to be more winter-gentry than we have now) had turned out, and were standing in little groups looking at something out at sea. All the townsfolk had turned out too, and were looking at the same thing. We asked an old sailor what it was, and he told us it was a dead body out just beyond the pier. Parson Browne—he was one of your sea-fanciers—was coming ashore that morning at four o'clock; and he had seen it, and given proper notice, and it had been fastened by a rope to a little sailing-boat.

There were some railings where he stood, dividing the road from a field the sea had laid waste. Joe leant against these with a row of other watermen, and looked out in the same direction as everybody else looked. All that could be seen of the thing they looked at from this distance was a small dark line on the bright glittering water, between the pier and the little boat. The motion of the waves made it first rise at one end and then at the other with a monotonous rocking movement.

I left Joe looking at it, and returned to my work. In the afternoon I went down to the sea again, and found all the town there; and more fine ladies than in the morning were on the Pier and Parade looking at the little dark line on the sunny water.

Joe Hurlan was in the same place. He had been fetched home to dinner by the children, and had slunk back again.

By this time all was ready for bringing it ashore. The shell that had been made for it in the morning was down on the beach, ready for it to be lifted into out of the boat that was just setting off to fetch it. Four men were going out in the boat. Just as it was putting off, one of them, a young fellow who happened to be a chum of Jack's sickened at the job, asked to be let off.

Joe wiped the moisture from his forehead with his sleeve when he saw this. It struck him that the young man had a sort of instinct about the thing, though not the slightest suspicion was afloat in the town about Jack's absence.

The lad was let off, and the three boatmen looked about for some one to take his place. No sooner did they catch sight of Joe's tall strong form leaning against the rail than they settled on him as the man of all men to be above letting any squeamishness stand in the way of a bold waterman's duty. They hailed him from the beach—"Ahoy there, Joe Hurlan! Bear a hand!"

Joe stood still. If ever a face aged years in a few seconds, his did. Crowds were looking at him, the man for whom the boat waited; they were impatient to see it off.

What was he to do? He was not a man who might refuse with impunity on the score of nervousness, he with his herculean frome and dark strong face. Yet to go to draw the thing in nearer and nearer, while all the town gazed on it, and would gradually recognise the features and form of its favourite,—draw *that* in, while the children all stood there, clustered thick as shell-fish on the groin, ready to see all, and shriek, "It's Jack, it's Jack!"—draw *that* in, while young Mary stood beside her mother, moved as if by some strange instinct to look on a scene he was sure she would at other times avoid! *She* would know him. Yes, Joe was sure of that; was sure, however altered Jack might be by cruel death and a cruel restless grave, Mary would know him—would know both the murdered and the murderer at a glance, and proclaim them both in her agony to all the world.

It rushed, all this did, in a minute through Joe's mind as he leant against the rail; and all eyes waited and watched to see him answer the summons he had received.

Would he go? I wondered; but as I wondered, he dragged his hat lower over his eyes, crossed the road, and dashed noisily down to the beach, plunging through the shingle with long determined steps.

The young fellow whose place Joe was to fill helped to shove the boat off, and in doing so murmured his friend Jack's own peculiar cry or song, which he had caught of him—

"Heave-a, heave O!
Pull along."

Joe started up, with an oar raised as if he would brain him; but mastered himself, sat down again, and contented himself with cursing him and his noise.

The boat sped on at last, riding evenly over the bright water, and showing no signs of the awfulness of its errand, except perhaps in the stillness and unrightness of the four men, each of whom kept his pipe in his mouth in a steady businesslike way.

The little sailing-boat, to which the dark little line was attached, was reached. A man—not Joe—unfastened the rope, and tied it to the other boat; and presently the four erect figures were rowing shorewards, and the dark line coming with them, held in tow at about three yards' distance. Steadily, gently it came along nearer and nearer, with the bright sunshine upon it and the gaze of all the town. Nearer and nearer it came till it began to assume other shape and substances than the thin black line it had before appeared.

The crowds pressed close to the Pier-side and to the edge of the Parade, and were beginning to distinguish the white face from the dark clothes of the floating form, when one of the four boatmen took a large dark piece of stuff from the bottom of the boat, and pulling the rope till the drowned man was nearly close to it, threw it carefully over, entirely concealing the face and form.

"That was father," I heard young Mary say. "O mother how good of him! I couldn't help looking, and it would have been so horrible to see it!"

Joe's terrors that this crime would find him out when the face of the dead man was seen were groundless; for it was so fearfully injured and changed that not one of Jack's old mates recognized him as they placed the body in the shell, and bore it as that of a stranger, and laid it inside a shed in the coal-yard.

At night, when a pair of strong but listless arms were thrown over the door there, and a pair of wild coal-black eyes were fixed on my fire, I was bad enough to almost pity the poor wretch. I knew something of the misery he suffered. I knew that if the picture of that bright sea and the pierstands, and the black line moving up and down, up and down—I knew that if this was so clear before *my* eyes wherever I turned that night, it was all far more horribly clear before his.

He didn't speak till I went to push him off and shut up for the night, and then he muttered—

"I shall give up the game in the morning. I shall go to Chalmers." (Mr. Chalmers was a magistrate) "and tell all. What's the use of waiting till his mother comes and knows him, or till my lads find him out, as they will to morrow. All the watermen and boys are ordered to go down and look at it to morrow. *I* must go, and I should do for myself alongside of him; for I couldn't deny Gentle Jack in death however I used him in life.

The morning on which Joe had determined to give himself up was Christmas-Eve; and when I looked in upon him, to see if he meant to carry out his resolution, I found him sitting by the fire, already dressed and his hat in his hand, waiting for the time when he thought Mr. Chalmers would be up.

I sat down opposite to him, and was invited to stay to breakfast by old Mary. Looking about me, I saw that a new torture had begun for Joe Hurlan.

Everybody was expecting Jack, and preparing and watching for him. It seemed he had never been away yet on Christmas-Eve, and old Mary, young Mary, and all the children were quite confident he would turn up in time for breakfast. There was his mug, with "Jack" on it in gold letters, on the table in the old place, and his plate filled with slices of bread and butter two inches thick, and one of young Mary's mince pies at the top. I tried to prevent the children running out so often to look for him, as I saw it was making Joe almost mad, though he sat very still and silent, with his eyes by turns travelling from the fire to the clock.

At last they gave up all hopes of poor Jack's coming to breakfast, and sat down to the table rather sulkily. As for Young Mary, I saw that many times she could not keep the tears from her eyes; and Joe saw it too, and turned his face.

As he was taking his food up and laying down again untasted, he suddenly started, and stared towards the open door; then gave a sort of laugh and dashed his hands over his face, as if he were scarcely awake. I supposed that he was now troubled by a dread of being found out and sent for before he made his own confession to the magistrate.

Before another minute had passed he started again in the same way, and stared at the door, and listened with the colour dying out of his dark face.

This time, instead of checking himself and getting quiet again, he only grew more and more excited, till at last he started up and cried—

"I *do* hear it—I'm *not* mad! Lord above! what is that?"

Joe stood holding his long arm stretched over the table and the children's heads, commanding silence.

Silence there was too, till something better and sweeter than any music Joe Hurlan ever heard began to fill our ears; and that something was a well-known and well-loved voice, singing heartily as ever, as it came nearer and nearer the door—

"Heave-a heave O!
Pull along;
Never grieve, O!
That's my song."

There was a stir among the children, a knocking over of chairs and a rushing to the door at which Joe stared as if expecting to see some unearthly thing. He thought, he has told me, that he half-expected to see that fearful thing from the coal-yard appear at his door as the singer of Jack's song. He has told me, too, how he seemed lifted from hell to heaven when, instead of that he saw Jack's own living face, fair, and brown, and smiling, and Jack's own honest blue eyes, gentle as ever—a little less merry perhaps, but the more human-like for being a little serious and anxious, as they sought out Joe's own guilty self. He would not have much to say to the clamorous children, did not even notice young Mary, to her gentle amazement; but went straight to Joe and stood before him. Joe looked at him still as if he was a being of some other and more wonderful world than ours.

"Uncle!" said Jack.

Joe stretched out his hand like one in a dream, and touched the lad's hair; then gripped his shoulder as if to make sure he was verily Jack in the flesh; and then he laid his arm against the wall and turned his face to it, muttering only—

"Lord above!"

Jack looked at him wonderingly, then his face grew more serious than I had ever seen it, and giving me rather an angry look, he said—

"Uncle, this is Mr. Sturt's doing, my staying away all the week. I sent to ask him if I might come home, or if you'd rather me lay-to at mother's till you'd forgiven me; and he sent me word I'd better bide where I was. I should a-come last night but mother wanted me to wait and bring old Lewis with me, as he wanted to see this body you've had ashore here. He's seen it, and says it's the chap that was drowned from a schooner of Brighton six weeks ago."

As Joe still remained with his face against his arm, Jack said in a low voice—

"Didn't you think I shud get in all right, uncle? It wasn't so far from Slater's Creek as I've often swum."

Still Joe was silent, and Jack's good-humoured face much troubled.

At last Joe looked up and said—

"Mary!"

His wife went thinking he was ill.

"Not you," he said rather huskily and ungallantly.

"Young Mary—the prettiest Mary." And as young Mary came, he said in a thick voice, "And Jack, if she were a thousand times better and prettier, she wouldn't be good enough to thank you—to love you—to thank you and love you all—her life—for her wicked—bad old father."

And they were married, and lived all together, and went on merrily earning the pounds, shillings, and pence, though on another and more profitable coast.—*From "The Haunted Coast" and other Tales. By Katherine Saunders.*

Education enters the mind through the gates of the senses.

GRATITUDE.—The truly grateful heart may not be able to tell of gratitude; but it can feel, and love, and act.

Genius has an orbit of its own; if it moved through the orbit of commonplace lives, it would not be genius, but commonplace.

Above all other features which adorn the female character, delicacy stands foremost within the province of good taste.

Fidelity, good humour, and complacency of temper, outlive all the charms of a fine face, and make its decay invisible.

MANLINESS.—It is a higher exhibition of Christian manliness to be able to bear trouble than to get rid of it.—*Beecher.*

HIDE A FRIEND'S FAULTS.—It is a noble and great thing to cover the blemishes and to excuse the failings of a friend; to draw a curtain before his stains, and to display his perfections; to bury his weakness in silence, but to proclaim his virtues upon the housetop.

THE WAY TO SUCCEED.—Fortune, fame, success, position, are never gained but by piously, determinedly, bravely striking, growing, living in a thing till it is fairly accomplished. In short, you must carry a thing through if you want to be anybody or anything.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY.—Of all the times in the year the Christmas-tide is that at which hearts and purse strings should open widest in thoughts and deeds of charity. Those should give who never gave before, and those who are charitable always should at this season give the more. Some of our overflow of happiness should not fail to reach the poor and miserable, whom Father Christmas, an aristocratic fellow, is otherwise apt to slight. "To give is more blessed, than to receive," especially when with so little so much happiness may be brought about. The most of those best able to give, who are apt to be personally uncaquainted with the misery of our great city and the proper ways for its relief, will do well to distribute their bounty through the regularly organized channels, which reach all classes.

WHAT WE DRINK.—Turn a total abstainer, drink water, tea, ginger beer. I fear (to use a vulgar expression) if I do so I only jump out of the frying-pan into the fire. Pure water is rare; it is contaminated in many ways; boys bathe in it, poodles are washed in it, cats terminate in it a too lively career, all that is horrible is drained into it, and then there are the lead pipes. Take milk: of fifteen samples examined the other day by a Manchester man, only three were found to be perfectly genuine. Ah! there's the cup that cheers, but not inebriates. Well, I must own that there are times when nothing is pleasanter than a good cup of tea; but where am I to get it? A writer in the *Food Journal* says of thirty-five samples of London tea submitted to him for examination sixteen were highly adulterated, and many of them quite unfit for human consumption. Chocolate, which is described as meat and drink, is adulterated with flour, potato-starch, sugar, cocoanut oil, lard, tallow, mutton suet, ochre, chalk, old sea biscuit and bran. Beautiful drink it must be!

D. IMRIE,
47 & 48, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

HAS the Best, Cheapest, and Largest Assortment of PAPER HANGINGS in the North of England. Hardware, China, Paraffin Oil and Glasses, equally reasonable. Powder, Shot, and Caps. 721b

D. IMRIE,
47 & 48, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

HAS always on hand a large Stock of the best WOOLS of all colours and prices. Haberdashery a large variety. CHRISTMAS TOYS for girls and boys. Come and buy! Come and buy!!

D. IMRIE,
47 & 48, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

KEEPS the Best and Purest CONFECTIONERY. Fruit Cake always on hand of his own manufacture, rich and good. British Wines unexcelled in quality. Jams, Jellies, and Marmalade.
TEA CAKES HOT EVERY DAY.

D. IMRIE,
47 & 48, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

HAS always on hand a fresh and well-assorted Stock of DRUGS from the best houses. A splendid assortment of Perfumery, Hair and Tooth Brushes, Combs, and every requisite for the toilet table. Patent Medicines.

D. IMRIE,
47 & 48, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

SUPPLIES the Best Quality of GROCERIES in Consett. Splendid Teas, from 2s. per lb. and upwards; Coffee, from 1s.; Sugars, Soaps, Tapicoa, Sago, Rice, Spices, and every other article of the Grocery Department.

Christmas Announcements.

YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER.

IF you want a nice tender cut of BEEF or MUTTON, go to
JOHN TOWNS'S,
Under the Theatre, Consett, where you can be supplied. Also some prime Dairy-fed PORK of the very best quality. 767b

CHRISTMAS BEEF.

A Splendid OX, weighing 91 stones, bred and fed by Messrs. CARR & Co., Carlisle, bought, slaughtered, and offered for sale, by
JOHN CRAWFORD,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,
also, prime MUTTON, bought of Mr. GEO. HARDY, Knitsley. 762b

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!!

Buy your Christmas Dinner at
J. PARKER'S
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,

WHO has slaughtered some prime BEEF, MUTTON, and PORK (the latter fed by Mr. P. McNALLY). 761b

CHRISTMAS BEEF AND MUTTON,

PRIME HEIFER, bred and fed by Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Bart., Blagdon, and bought of Mr. W. RIDDELL, of Rothbury, and other BEEF. Also a lot of splendid MUTTON on sale at the shop of
GEORGE WADE,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT. 763b

CHRISTMAS BEEF AT BURNOPFIELD.

MRS. ADAMSON has great pleasure in announcing to her Customers that she has provided for the Christmas Festivities, the BEEF of three prime Aberdeen Heifers; also splendid WEDDER MUTTON (averaging upwards of £4 per head), fed by C. HALL, Esq., of Hamsterley Hagg, and some fine DAIRY FED PORK. 753b

PORK! PORK!! PORK!!!

CHRISTMAS 1871.

A Fine Sucking PIG, 5 weeks old, and the best PORK, PORK SAUSAGES, PORK and MINCE PIES, POLONIES, &c., at
CHARLES IAGER,
SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT.
☞ See the decorated Pig's Head in the Window. 718b

WEST CUMBERLAND FAT STOCK SHOW.

FIRST PRIZE HEIFER, bred and fed by Major BROWN THOMPSON, of Bridekirk Hall;
One ditto, by Mr. JOHN HUNTER, West Wood, near Ebchester.
Prime Scotch WEDDER MUTTON, bred and fed by Mr. E. LEYBOURNE, Healeyfield.
Dairy fed PORK, ditto.
Prime Leicester MUTTON, by WM. DOWSON, West Newlands, near Wolsingham.
FOR DISPOSAL AT THE
CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE STORE. 764b

COME to the BLACKHILL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SABBATH SCHOOL FRUIT BANQUET, on the evening of CHRISTMAS-DAY.
ANNIVERSARY SERMONS to be preached on SABBATH, the 24th inst. Collections in aid of the Sabbath School.
TICKETS TO THE BANQUET, 6d. each, to be had of the Teachers or any of the Managers. 746b

PARLOUR PLEASURES FOR XMAS.

CHRISTMAS CARDS and FURNISHINGS for CHRISTMAS TREES, to be had in great variety at
S. WALKER'S,
STATIONER,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL. 748b

A GRAND EVENING CONCERT.

LEADGATE WESLEYAN CHOIR will give their Annual CONCERT of SACRED MUSIC, in the WESLEYAN CHAPEL, LEADGATE, on CHRISTMAS-DAY, December 25th, 1871, when Pieces from the Works of the following Composers will be performed—Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Jackson, &c.
Doors open at Six, to commence at Seven o'clock.
ADMISSION: Reserved Seats, 1s.; Unreserved Seats, 6d.
Tickets may be had from the Members of the Choir and at the Door. For Particulars see Programmes.
Conductor .. .. .. Mr. J. DAVISON.
Harmoniumist .. .. Mr. J. W. HEDLEY. 731b

CHRISTMAS, 1871.

JAMES LAKE,
HAS just returned from purchasing a first-class Lot of Cotherstone, Cheshire, Gloucester, Derbyshire, and American CHEESE, which will be sold at exceedingly low Prices.
J. L. would call particular attention to his finest New Season's ASSAM and CHINA TEAS, and would state that every one should give them a trial, as they are now unsurpassed by any.
Finest KIEL and CUMBERLAND BUTTER.
Prime CUMBERLAND HAMS and BACON.
Fine New FRUITS, &c.
Agent for the TYNESIDE BAKING COMPANY. A large quantity of FRUIT LOAF at various Prices.
ADDRESS—NEWCASTLE TEA WAREHOUSE, 14 & 15, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT. 726b

XMAS, XMAS, XMAS,
EVER FESTIVE XMAS.

M. ALMOND'S GROCERY and PROVISION ESTABLISHMENT, 56, FRONT STREET, CONSETT, is replete with a large, varied, and choice Selection of Articles suitable for the Christmas trade.
TEAS, and SUGARS. Strong, cheap, and fine flavoured, RAISINS, CURRANTS, LEMON PEEL, LARD, and SPICES.
A large and choice Assortment of CHEESE specially selected for the Christmas Festivities.
Beautifully Cured HAM at easy prices.
NOTE THE ADDRESS—
M. ALMOND,
GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT.
56, FRONT STREET, CONSETT. 747b

Christmas Announcements.

CHRISTMAS BEEF, MUTTON, AND PORK.

PRIME CHRISTMAS BEEF, MUTTON, and PORK (the latter fed by Mr. P. McNALLY), at
EDWARD DUNN'S,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT. 750b

CHRISTMAS BEEF.

WILLIAM WATSON,
OF TANFIELD,
WILL offer for Sale on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, two Splendid HEIFERS, fed by Mr. JOHN LAWS, Eachwick Red House, and one Splendid BULLOCK, upwards of 100 stones, fed by Mr. CARR, Biscuit Manufacturer, Carlisle, and which took the second prize last week at Carlisle Show; also, Splendid WEDDER MUTTON and DAIRY-FED PORK. 752b

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT
AND THE
CHOICEST PATTERNS
OF
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS
FROM WHICH TO SELECT, ARE AT
ROBERT JACKSON'S,
BOOKSELLER,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL,

XMAS BOTTLES
AT THE
QUEEN'S HEAD
SPIRIT STORES,
CONSETT.
R. MURRAY,
PROPRIETOR. 740b

LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE!!

CHEESE!
CHEESE!!
CHEESE!!!

COME and buy your Christmas CHEESE at the READY-MONEY TEA SHOP, where you can have Quality and Quantity. Fine and select Cheshire and Derbyshire Cheese at 8d. to 9d.
All that desire to make a discount and save money, ought to remember that a ½d. saved on every four-penny article is equal to a dividend of 2s. 6d. in the pound.

FRUITS! FRUITS!!
Fine Fruit Loaves, 6d. per lb.; very fine Currants, 4d.; Raisins, 4½d., now; Spices in great variety.

TEAS! TEAS!!
Of the finest importations; in fact, everything complete for making a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year, at
T. SWAINSTON'S,
THE READY-MONEY TEA DEALER,
12, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 751b

Business Announcements.

B. MOODY,
WATCH-MAKER, EBCHESTER. 708b

ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME.

THE steadily increasing demand for Mrs. ORD'S, MILLINERY BONNETS is a certain indication of success. The remainder of the cheap BLACK STRAW HATS reduced to 3½d and 10½d., worth from 6½d to 2s. 11d.
Just received, 494 yards of STUFFS, all Remnants, 2½d. to 11½d. per yard, worth from 4½d to 3s. 6d. per yard.
Splendid JEWELLERY as CHRISTMAS BOXES. Buy a 2s. 6d. parcel and you will have your choice.
R. ORD & CO.,
LORNE HOUSE,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 760b

Business Announcements.

MOWERS AND REAPERS by HORNSBY, BURGESS & KEY, WOOD and others.
HAYMAKERS AND HORSE RAKES by HOWARD, NICHOLSON, and ASHBY & Co.
Agricultural and Domestic Machinery of all kinds on hand or to order. Particulars and Prices on application to
HOBSON & LIDDELL,
HARPERLEY MILLS, and 5, RYEHILL STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. Town Warehouse:—RAILWAY YARD, CATTLE MARKET WEST.
Agents for "The Northern Fire and Life Assurance Co." 369b

CHEAP TAILORING AND DRAPERY
AT 8 AND 9, MILL TERRACE,
BLACKHILL.

DANIEL HARRIS
HAS now received his WINTER STOCK, and can make a GENTS' SUIT at Two Guineas, for Ready-money only.
GENTS' SCARFS from 2½d.
STOCKINGS from 2½d.
WINCEYS from 3¾d. per yard.
D. H. begs to announce that he Bought his Winter Stock before the Wool Markets got to such an enormous height, so that he is enabled to Sell at the above Low Prices. 571b

CARRIAGES NEW AND SECOND-HAND.

ATKINSON & PHILIPSON respectfully invite attention to their NEW LANDAUS, in three sizes, with and without side lights, and without outside head joints; and with the assistance of patent springs, a lady can with great ease open and close them from the inside.
Their BROUGHAMS, of Bijou, Miniature, Medium, and Clarence sizes, embrace several novelties, which give lightness and also style to their appearance.
Also, the VICTORIA PHAETON, with patent head, WAGONETTES, with and without heads, and Light PHAETONS under 4 cwt., of new design, and embracing the latest improvements in carriage building.
NORTHUMBERLAND CARRIAGE AND HARNESS MAUFACTORY,
15 PILGRIM STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 604b

CHEAP GROCERY EMPORIUM.

JOHN STARFORTH
(Lately with Mr. Swainston)
RESPECTFULLY informs the Public of this District that he has Opened the Shop in FRONT STREET, CONSETT, next door to the Post-office, with a First-class Stock of TEAS, COFFEES, and General GROCERIES, together with PROVISIONS of all kinds, which he will be in a position to supply at the lowest Newcastle prices.
J. S., whilst refraining from quoting prices, would observe that all orders entrusted to him will have his prompt attention, and will be executed on the most reasonable terms. A discount of One Shilling in the Pound will be allowed on all purchases of Five Shillings and upwards, thus introducing to Consett and the District, a new system of *bona-fide* Trading.
Note the Addres:—
JOHN STARFORTH,
THE NEW CROCERY EMPORIUM,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT. 691b

PREPARITORY TO STOCKTAKING.

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, we shall Reduce our Prices of MANTLES and COSTUMES very considerably.
A Lot of LADIES' WATERPROOF CLOAKS will be offered at the very unusual price of 3s. 11d. and upwards.
A Lot of CHILDREN'S JACKETS, from 10½d. WOOL SHAWLS, from 3s. 11d., &c.
ROBERT HEDLEY & Co.,
BLACKHILL. 769b

READY-MADE CLOTHING.

R. HEDLEY & CO.
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL
BEG respectfully to announce to their nnmerous Friends and the Public that they will offer, during this month, their
STOCK OF READY-MADES
amounting to about £300, at very much Reduced Prices.
Pilot Jackets, from 8s. 11d. to 10s. 11d.; about Thirty of these were 12s. 6d. and 14s. 6d.
Tweed Trousers and Vests, at 24s., reduced to 16s. 6d.; a few will be cleared out at 8s. 11d. and upwards.
About Twenty Superfine Coats (Fashionable), will be offered at 18s. 11d.; former price 30s.
☞ They must be sold within two or three weeks, and R. H. & Co. therefore uge an early call, as they are really cheap and well-worthy attention 739b

BLANKETS! BLANKETS!!

TREMENDOUS ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF WOOL.

ABOUT FIFTEEN PER CENT. INCREASE IN MANUFACTURED GOODS.

SEEING that the great Advance in the Wool Markets would very much Increase the Price of Blankets, we Contracted early in the Summer Season for over ONE THOUSAND PAIRS, which places us in the position of Supplying our Customers with those GOODS at OLD PRICES.
We shall Show during the next month a large Stock at the following prices:—(Large sizes) 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 14s. 6d., 16s. 6d., 18s. 6d., and 20s.
We would earnestly appeal to our friends to avail themselves of this opportunity as in all probability they will not be obtainable at the Price for some years to come.
Our first delivery of FURS just to hand. A Splendid Lot of MUSQUASH MUFFS at 3s. 11d.
ROBERT HEDLEY & Co,
BLACKHILL. 575b

Business Announcements.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS,
THE LANCHESTER COMMON ACT, reprinted from the Original Copy.—Apply to Mr. JOHN CALVERT, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 471b

WILLIAM WATSON, SOUTH PONTOP, is prepared to supply PIC-NICS and TEA PARTIES of every description, or Contract for the same.
FUNERALS SUPPLIED WITH BREAD. 414b

THE PUBLIC BATHS, CONSETT,
ARE Open Daily from Seven a.m. till Nine p.m. To preserve the standard of health and keep away all infectious diseases the whole body should be washed with soap and warm water at least once a week. 545b

THOMAS ROWE, BAKER & CONFECTIONER
LEADGATE AND CONSETT.
Middle St. Shop closed—orders to be left at Victoria St.
☞ PIC-NICS AND TEA PARTIES SUPPLIED OR CONTRACTED FOR. 685b

WM. MILLS, Carrier, (Successor to JOSEPH BARRON), from Newcastle, Ebchester, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, and Consett, begs to return his sincere thanks to the Public for their patronage since he commenced, and trusts by punctual attention to business to merit a continuance of further support. 714b

NOTICE.

FARMERS, GARDENERS, and others may be supplied with GAS LIME on easy terms, at the SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY'S WORKS, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.
JOSEPH H. BELL, Secretary.
August 5th, 1870. 775a

WILLIAM BORROW,
COOPER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
HAS always on hand CHURNS, BUTTER TUBS, POSS-TUBS, WASH-TUBS, PAILS, &c. Old Tubs repaired on the shortest notice. 341b

CLOCKS! CLOCKS!! CLOCKS!!!

First-class new Striking Clocks, from 12s. 6d.
Eight days' ditto, from 22s., warranted.
Sold by J. WOOD,
2, TRAFALGAR STREET CONSETT.
Clocks, Watches, Brooches, &c., Cleaned and Repaired on the most reasonable Terms. 638b

ENVELOPES!
ENVELOPES!!
At Prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to 10s. per 1,000.
Sold by ROBERT JACKSON, Bookseller, Derwent Street, Blackhill.

WILLIAM BROWN,
PRACTICAL CLOCK AND WATCHMAKER,
9, GIBSON STREET, CONSETT,
(Opposite the Co-operative Store Reading-Room.)
RESPECTFULLY announces to the inhabitants of Consett and District that he has commenced Business as above, and trusts by exceedingly moderate charges to merit a share of public support. 724b

GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL MILLER, and SEEDSMAN,
GROCER, DRAPER, & PROVISION MERCHANT
HARPERLEY STEAM & WATER CORN MILL,
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN,
Has always on hand a large STOCK of Pure Linseed and Cotton Cakes; Indian Meal; Pea Meal; Barley Meal; Boxings, Sharps, and Bran; Oats whole and crushed, and feeding stuffs of every description.
G. H.'s Mixture of Permanent Clover and Grass Seeds has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturists of the District upwards of Twenty Years..
Fine SEED PEAS, SPRING TARES, SEED BARLEY &c., &c., on hand. 145b

D. HEANEY,
SOLE AGENT IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
FOR THE
CITY OF EDINBURGH BREWERY COMPANY
(LIMITED),
BEGS to announce to his numerous friends and customers, that he is now prepared to supply them with the very superior Ales of the eminent Firm he has now the honour to represent, and requests the favour of receiving their esteemed orders immediately.
OFFICES:
THORNTON STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, AND WHITEHAVEN.

NOTE.—I deem it scarcely necessary to make any public allusion to the persistent and discreditable attempts which have lately been made, in some quarters, to damage my character and reputation as a man of business, but, in justice to myself and to those who have hitherto so kindly extended to me their support, I desire as briefly as possible to lay before them the facts of the case which was attempted to be bolstered up against me at the Tynemouth Petty Sessions last week, and which was so summarily disposed of by the magistrates, resulting in the entire discomfiture of my enemies, and my own honourable acquittal from the infamous and unfounded charge brought against me.

Daly, the person *in whose name* the charge was brought, was proved, at the investigation thereof, to be unable to write his own name, which was accordingly appended to the Bill in question by his son, who was in the habit, as well as others of the family, of signing for the father when his signature was required in the way of business. The Bill was signed in the presence of the father and his late wife, who managed the business, and sanctioned the acceptance of the bill. It was drawn for a part only of a sum of £50 odds he owed me at the time, that part being for ales supplied by Messrs. Morison and Thompson, of Edinburgh, and long over due, and I had no interest in, and derived no pecuniary benefit whatever from the proceeds thereof, even supposing that it had been honoured at maturity, but on the contrary was liable to Messrs. Morison and Thompson, in repayment of the amount, I being responsible to them, under our agreement, for any bad debts made in the course of business. The bill having been dishonoured by Daly, the Edinburgh firm instituted proceedings against him for the recovery of the amount, and he subsequently transferred the business to his son, for the purpose of evading payment of his just debt, which was only partially recovered. I admit *the irregularity* which the circumstances of the transaction necessarily imposed upon me, *but how could there possibly be any intent to defraud*, such as is ascribed to me; the idea is simply preposterous, and at once discloses not only the utter groundlessness of the charge, but also the bitterly hostile and contemptible spirit of those with whom it originated. Not one word of this preposterous charge was ever narrated, until at least three months after the events above mentioned, and it is inconceivable that it should have occurred to a man such as Daly, to bring forward a charge of procuring forgery of a bill, which he never dreamt of, repudiating at the time of presentation, nor long afterwards. I can with the utmost confidence leave the matter in the hands of my friends and an unprejudiced public, in the belief that they will at once recognise the influence which has been at work, and the motives which have dictated this nefarious attempt to blast my character and future prospects in business. I can also, with equal confidence, solicit from my friends and customers, a continuance of the many esteemed favours I have received from them in the past; and I can assure them that nothing shall be wanting on my part to merit their kind support. I may say of the Brewery Company, I have now the honour to represent, that they will do everything in their power to produce an ticle which will give the fullest satisfaction.

736b D. HEANEY.

Public Notices.

A FEW NOW READY.—ENORMOUS DEMAND.

JACKSON'S
BUSINESS AND HOUSEHOLD
ALMANACK FOR 1872,

WHICH will be extensively circulated in Consett, Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, Leadgate, Annfield Plain, Stanley, Lanchester, Dipton, Ebchester, Tanfield, Castleside, Tow Law, and surrounding neighbourhood.

JACKSON'S
BUSINESS AND HOUSEHOLD
ALMANACK FOR 1872,

Will contain, besides a vast amount of general information,
A DIRECTORY FOR THE DISTRICT,
Compiled at great expense, and corrected up to the time of going to press,
The names and residences of the Magistrates in the Lanchester Petty Sessional district;
Lanchester Board of Guardians;
Lanchester Highway Board;
Consett Local Board;
Leadgate Local Board;
Benfieldside Local Board;
Tow Law Local Board.
Directors of Consett Ironworks;
Directors of Consett Waterworks Company
Directors of Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Company;
Directors of Annfield Plain Gas Company;
Directors of Dipton Gas Company.
Benfieldside Burial Board; also the Cemetery Charges, with Rules and Regulations;
Shotley Bridge County Court.
The various places of Worship with the names and Residences of Ministers in the District.
The New Postal Regulations;
Postal Arrangements, including the time of Arrival and Departure of Mails from the various Post-offices in the District, and Names of Postmasters.
Shotley Bridge Hirings and Fairs;
Coaches and Carriers leaving Consett, Shotley Bridge, &c.;
List of Bankers with their London Agents;
List of Fairs for the Counties of Northumberland and Durham.
The Population of the district at last census; with the rateable value of the various townships in Lanchester Union.
Local Building Societies with time and place of meeting;
Local Friendly Societies, with time and place of meeting.
Dates of holding Local Petty Sessions at Lanchester, Shotley Bridge, &c., &c.

CONTENTS OF ALMANACK FOR 1872.

Windsor and its Historical Associations—with an Engraving of Windsor Castle.
Hampton Court—with an engraving of Hampton Court.
Cottage on Magna Charta Island—with an engraving of the Cottage.
Medmenham Abbey—with an engraving.
Old Somerset House do.
The Star Chamber do.
Three Mile Cross do.
Old London Bridge, do.
Upton Church, do.
Eton College, do.
Hogarth's Tomb, do.
The first Bridge on the Thames, do.
Chelsea Bridge, do.
HAPPY HOMES.—
Home.
Look before you Leap.
Take care of the Littles.
Courtship.
Taking a House.
Mutual Duties of Married Life.
Live Within your Means.
Home Training.
Home, sweet Home.
Woman's Sphere.
Order Heaven's first Law.
CHOICE READINGS.—
How Michael Faraday became a philosopher—with illustration.
Uses of Tea.
Unaccountable antipathies.
Are the Children at Home—a Poem.
Value of Prudence.
The Cost of War.
Characteristics of Boys.
Hypocrisy and assumption of cant.
Beauty of the Universe.
Chronological Table of remarkable events.
Benevolence.
Business of ordinary life.
Children.
The Imperial Crown of England.
What constitutes a State?
The Steam Engine.
Rules for Sleep.
Advantages of Reading.
Common Sense.
Art of Reflection.
Rules for Youth.
Physical glories of Britain.
Description of an Avalanche.
The National Debt.
Origin of the English Parliament.
Table of English and Scottish Sovereigns.
INFORMATION FOR EVERYBODY.—
How to make your Will.
Form of a Will.
Rules for the Disposal of the Personal Estate of a Person Dying Intestate.
Probate and Letters of Administration, Assessed Taxes, Licenses, &c.
Rates of Postage.
Festivals.
Eclipses.
Bill Stamps and Promissory Notes.
Birthdays of the Royal Family.

PRICE ONE PENNY; ON SUPERIOR PAPER, WITH A DIARY, TWOPENCE.

Public Notices.

LEADGATE WESLEYAN SCHOOL.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, SERMON, SPEECHES, TEA.
W. JENKINS, Esq., in the Chair. 756b

JUVENILE SERVICE OF SONG.

THE SCHOLARS of the Consett Wesleyan Sunday School will give a SERVICE OF SONG, illustrative of the "Pilgrim's Progress," early in January. 733b

A LECTURE on the "Holy Land" (with views of the same), will be delivered by the Rev. W. FARRAR, M.A., in the British School-room, Consett, on Tuesday, December 26th, 1871. There will be an interval of ten minutes, during which Sacred Music will be given. See Bills. 736b

£1 REWARD.

A GREENGROCER in Blackhill, while going his round, on Saturday, December 9th, circulated a SCANDALOUS REPORT calculated to injure F. W. Clarke's Character and Business. Such Parties as will give Evidence will receive the above Reward. 745b

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

THE ANNUAL BALL will be held on Monday, Evening, January 1st, 1872, in the Town Hall, Shotley Bridge. Dancing to commence at Nine o'clock p.m. Tickets to be had at the Door.—Gentlemen, 1s. 6d.; Ladies, 1s.; Gallery, 6d.
N.B.—The Gallery to be cleared at Twelve o'clock.
Refreshments will be provided; also, Breakfast, at the King's Head, Shotley Bridge, at Four o'clock a.m., on January 2nd, 1872. 759b

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL, TRAFALGAR HOUSE, CONSETT.

Conducted by the Misses WILSON, from Chester-le-Street.

THE course of instruction will comprise the several branches of a good English Education, with Music, Vocal and Instrumental, Drawing, French, &c.
Duties to commence on Tuesday, Jan. 25th, 1872.
PROSPECTUS OF TERMS ON APPLICATION. 716b

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that all or any Person or Persons entering into the occupation of any House, Shop, or other building, to which Gas has been supplied to the previous occupant, upon such entry must first obtain the consent of the Secretary of the Company before consuming the Gas supplied by the said Company. In default thereof, upon proof of the use of the Gas, without first obtaining such leave, such Person or Persons will be Prosecuted as the Low directs. For the convenience of Persons in the Consett and Leadgate districts, the Secretary can be seen daily at the Brickworks Office, Consett, or at the Company's Office, Shotley Bridge, to whom all applications must be made.
By order of the Directors,
JOSEPH H BELL, Secretary.
Shotley Bridge, October 9, 1870. 242a

BEAMISH, PONTOP, AND CONSETT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE THIRD ANNUAL PLOUGHING and HEDGE-CUTTING MATCH of this Society will be held upon the Farms of Mr. G. Bailey, Pelton, and Mr. G. Heppell, Newfield, on Wednesday, January 10th, 1872, when the following prizes will be competed for, viz:—
Class I.—Wheel Ploughs.
First Prize, £2; Second Prize, £1.
Class II.—Swing Ploughs.
First Prize, £2; Second Prize, £1.
Class III.—Wheel Ploughs (Youths, under 18 years of age.)
First Prize, £2; Second Prize, £1; Third Prize, 10s.
Class IV.—Swing Plough (Youths under 18 years of age.)
First Prize, £2; Second Prize, £1; Third Prize, 10s.
Entry in above Classes 2s. 6d. each
Class V.—Hedge Cutting.
To Cut and Scour abont 3 Roods of Hedge.
First Prize, £1; Second Prize, 10s.; Third Prize, a Spade, presented by a member.
Competitors in each of the above Classes to be members of the Society (at this date), members sons or servants from Martinmas last.
Entries to be made to Mr. Geo. Heppell, Newfield, or the Secretaries, on or before Saturday, January 6th, 1872. Competitors to be on the Ground at Eight o'clock on the morning of the Match.
The DINNER will take place at the Fleece Inn, Pelton, at 4·30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each.
JOHN RICHARDS, } Secs.
GEORGE RIDLEY, }
Beamish, 14th Dec. 1871. 749b

For Sale.

50 SHARES in the Consett Water Company offered for sale.—Apply to Mr. R. Hedley, Butcher, Middle Street, Consett. 732b

FOR SALE, a First-Class BAGATELLE BOARD, Slate Bottom, and all complete.—Apply to Elizabeth Robinson, Miners' Arms Inn, Castleside. —Nov. 30th. 710b

HEARSE, with Ostrich plumes, for one or a pair of horses; two C-spring MOURNING COACHES; and a One-horse MOURNING COACH, with Box for Children's Funerals, for Sale.—Apply to Atkinson and Philipson, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 603b

TO TAILORS.

FOR SALE, a First-class THOMAS'S SEWING MACHINE.—Apply to R. Ord & Co., Middle Street, Consett. 699b

A GOOD BROUGHAM, A MINIATURE BROUGHAM, a Sociable LANDAU, a BAROUCHE, a WAGONETTE, to carry six persons inside, and also one to carry four, a WAGONETTE OMNIBUS, a SHAMROCK PHAETON, a PONY PHAETON, and a DOG CART, also several sets of Single and Double HARNESS, sent in for Sale on Commission, at Atkinson and Philipson's Northern Counties' Carriage and Harness Repository, New Bridge Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 605b

FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES.

FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES for SALE on the Delves Estate, situate near the Consett Ironworks and the town of Consett.
These Building Sites are outside the district of the Consett Local Board, and are therefore free from all Rates, Building Regulations, and other control of that Board.
Applications to be made to John Dolphin, Esq., or Mr. T. R. Dolphin, Delves House, Consett; or to Mr. J. P. Dolphin, Solicitor, Wolsingham. 199b

Found.

TAKEN UP at Cushy, Leazes, near Muggleswick, a Black-faced EWE. The owner can have her on payment of expenses to Joseph Makepeace, Muggleswick; and if not claimed within 14 days, will be sold to defray expenses.
Dec. 20, 1871. 754b

To Let.

TO BE LET, Tithe free, and entered on the 13th of May, 1872, MIDDLE FRYERSIDE FARM, in the chapelry of Tanfield, and County of Durham, containing 64 Acres or thereabouts, of which 26 Acres are old Pasture.
Middle Fryerside is situate one mile from Rowlands Gill Station on the Consett Branch of the North Eastern Railway, and about eight miles from Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Mr. John Darling, Middle Fryerside, will shew the Farm with plan and conditions of letting, and further particulars may be obtained from Mr. R. H. King, Land Agent, Warkworth, who will receive offers up to the 6th of January next.
Warkworth, Acklington, December 15th, 1871. 743b

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. Henry Brown.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

SALE of HORSES, CARTS, HARNESS, &c., will take place early in January, 1872, belonging to Mr. Andrew Ford, Contractor, Blackhill.
H. BROWN, Auctioneer.
Consett, Dec. 21, 1871. 755b

By Mr. John Jenkins.

CROOKHALL.

MR. JOHN JENKINS is instructed by Messrs. T. Elsdon & Co., to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Wednesday, December 27th, 1871, 4 Excellent Well-bred COWS, all calved within one month; also 1 Three-year-old HEIFER, to calve in March; 1 Geld Cow and Calve; about 3 Tons of Excellent Old Land HAY; 1 Set of Spring-Cart HARNESS; also, the whole of the DIARY UTENSILS.
Sale to Commence at One o'clock. 766b

By Mr. J. Murray.

CONSETT.

FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE FOR SALE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, at the house of Mr. Richard Murray, the Queen's Hotel, Consett, on Monday, the 8th day of January, 1872, at Seven o'clock in the Evening (under powers of Sale contained in a Mortgage Deed),
Mr. JOHN MURRAY Auctioneer.
All that FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE situate in Gibson Street, Consett, containing Cellar, Parlour, Kitchen, and 2 Bedrooms, with Stable, Pantry, and other conveniences, as now occupied by Mrs. McGough and another. The Property has been properly sewered, and Gas and Water are laid on.
Further particulars can be had on application to the Auctioneer, Consett; Mr. Geo. Stillman, Bishop Auckland; or,
W. DALE TROTTER,
Solicitor, Bishop Auckland.
Bishop Auckland, December 14th, 1871. 757b

Wanted

WANTED, a Small HAND-CART Suitable for a Stationer.—Apply, stating terms, to J., *Guardian* Office, Consett. 727b

WANTED, a Strong Active LAD as Light Porter; also, a YOUTH who has been at the Trade a year or two.—Apply at J. Potts's Drapery Establishment, Middle Street, Consett. 711b

TO COAL HEWERS.

WANTED, at the New Colliery, Milkwell Burn, near Ebchester, a number of Coal Hewers.—Apply to Mr. T. N. Soppet. 677b

TO COAL HEWERS.

WANTED, at Victoria, Garesfield Colliery, (Lintz Green Station) COAL HEWERS. Steady men will meet with constant employment.—Apply to Mr. Jos. Barron, Chopwell. 758b

GREAT DESIDERATUM FOR LOCALITY.

WANTED in Blackhill, or near it, by an ex-pupil Teacher, brought up in the profession and thoroughly steady, a ROOM (or convertible premises), suitable for a select School. Lease with guarantee, if required, or "Site" purchased; or a smaller Room for a late or Evening Class for the highest branches of Education, engaged *pro tempore.* Address "C. Teacher," Office of this paper.
[Not Repeated.] 729b

Pennsylvania can supply 20,000 tons of coal per annum for 500 years.

A reason given for George Peabody being so wealthy is that he never had a wife.

Messrs. Robert Wotherspoon & Co., manufactures of the Glenfield Starch have unsolicited, reduced the working hours of their employees from 60 to 57 hours per week. The same firm having, many years ago, reduced the working hours in their extensive confectionery estabeisement to 57½ hours, at which they continue.

Leonard Smith, traveller, again appeared at the Bishop Auckland Police Court, on Monday, on the charge of embezzling several sums of money belonging to his employer, Mr. F. A. Bainbridge, brewer and wholesale spirit merchant, at Bishop Auckland. No one appearing to prosecute, the case was dismissed.

A meeting of miners employed at Jane Pit was held at Etherley, on Saturday, when it was resolved to ask for an advance of 9d per score for hewers, and 2d per day for narrow work, and also 3d per score for putters, and 2d. per day for drivers. A requisition to this effect was sent to Mr. Lishman the viewer.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Female Complaints.—The disorders peculiar to women are the most delicate and difficult to conduct to a favourable termination, unless they obtain prompt relief from well accredited sources. Upon their early and judicious treatment hangs the momentous question whether women enjoy strength, soundness, and cheerfulness or pine away in weakness, disease, and misery. Holloway's inestimable preparations are the most reliable remedies for restoring weakened or suspended functions. The Ointment should be rubbed on the back and stomach at least ten minutes every night and morning till restoration takes place, and perfect functional regularity is induced. While thus using the Ointment, Holloway's Pills should be freely taken in order to purify the blood and cleanse the system.

TO ADVERTISERS.

All orders for advertisements in the *Consett Guardian* should state the number of insertions for such advertisement. When this is not stated the insertion of the advertisement will be continued until an order to stop it is received, up to which time it will be charged for.

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

Owing to a rush of local news and advertisements at a late hour, "Rambler's" notes are unavoidably crushed out.

The Satley Charity.—A report of the origin and present condition of this charity will be given in our next issue.

The Consett Guardian.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1871.

CHRISTMAS 1871.

Once again "Christmas comes, the time of gladness," though the 1871st anniversary of that unique birth at Bethlehem has narrowly missed being a time of sadness to the United Kingdom, as the feast was in a national sense in 1861, when Albert the Good's death threw a gloomy shadow over the festive time, which was felt in every public assembly and in almost every house. It has pleased Providence to spare the nation a similar but even greater affliction at the present time. That fatal 14th of December, which many without the slightest superstition, dreaded as likely, by its simple recurrence, to have the worst effect upon one in the condition of the Prince of Wales, proved the actual turning-point of his disease, for on that day the first amendment was preceptible, and it has continued steadily though very gradually ever since up to the moment of writing; so that it may well be hoped that the bulletins of Christmas Eve, if it is then still thought expedient to issue bulletins, will be of such a character as not to throw the slightest shade on legitimate Christmas merriment, while giving cause for the most hearty thankfulness that the prayers of a nation for the restoration of its future King have been mercifully heard. Supposing that the recovery of the Prince continue to progress as favourably as at the present moment, that one circumstance will give quite a distinctive character to the Christmas of 1871, especially if we only compare what is now probable with what might have been if his Royal Highness's illness had unhappily terminated like his father's. When we consider how the Prince's illness has affected political, social, and com mercial public matters during the past two or three weeks, and the deep anxiety it has awakened in the country, we may form some inadequate conception what our Christmas would have been had he not been spared to us. As it is, congratulation and gratitude will heighten our enjoyment of the impending festival, though perhaps our mirth and merriment will be softened down to a less boisterous character than it would have been by the influence of our recent feelings. Another matter upon which we may well felicitate ourselves in connection with this year's Christmas is, that the frost which came upon us prematurely at the beginning of the month did not last on Christmas, increasing, as it would naturally have done in intensity. It is all very well for those who enjoy sound health, who are warmly clad and well nourished, and who have every comfort in their homes, to talk of frost in December as "fine seasonable weather," and to tell us, in the words of an irrational adage, that a "green winter makes a fat churchyard;" but those who have ever seriously considered the matter know that a hard frost is at any time a calamity to the weak, the sick, and the poor, and that one of long duration leading up to Christmas must infallibly produce much misery amidst the prevailing enjoyment of the festival. There are many thousands of poor people in the United Kingdom who have not sufficient food, fuel, clothing, or bedding to defend themselves from the attacks of frost, and who suffer bitterly in consequence, especially when sickness or physical weakness is combined with poverty. For the wants of these charities of Christmas —especially the feast of charity and goodwill —in some measure provide; but no amount of Christmas benevolence could provide against the privations of a hard winter commencing with December. Besides, many persons who would have been otherwise out of employment, and who would have swelled the number of the indigent classes at this festive time, have happily been able to resume work since the frost broke up, and are somewhat better prepared to keep Christmas than they would otherwise have been. Still there is want enough about us, which is sure to increase during the next month or two, to give exercise for that benevolence which, in the generally prosperous state of the country, and in view of the mercy recently vouchsafed to the nation, should endeavour to provide for every indigent person the boon which we heartily wish our readers—

A Merry Christmas!

A donkey the other day stubbornly refused to come out of a boat which had brought him across the Mersey. At last, after many kicks had been applied and other precautions of that kind, a man stepped forward addressing him affectionately, "Come along, brother," and the donkey obeyed at once.

The members of the Lintzford Band of Hope are making strenuous efforts to arect a hall in which to hold their meetings.

Mr. Thos. Robson, of Morpeth, who was up till lately a pupil of the Rev. Wesley Farrar's, vicar of Castleside, has just graduated B.A. at the University of Durham.

Accident at East Tanfield Colliery.—On Tuesday night an accident of a severe character befel a workman named William Reed, of Shield Row. He had just commenced work in the Brockwell seam, when, by a fall of stone, he suffered severe contusion of the ribs. He is progressing favourably.

Erratum—Walsh v. Allan.—We regret that in our report of the above county court case last week, we inadvertently stated that judgment was given to plaintiff. It should have been "judgment for defendant with costs." Plaintiff and defendant in the two last lines of the report appears from some cause or other to have been transposed.

Accident at Consett.—On Saturday the 16th, a man named James Carellan while engaged in uncoupling a waggon on the railway, between the Tin Mill Pit and the Conseft Iron Works, was accidentally caught between the waggons and a pillar, and was most severely crushed. He was at once conveyed to the Consett Infirmary.

Shotley Bridge Paper Mills.—Messrs. John Annandale and Sons, paper manufacturers, Shotley Grove, having requested a deputation of their workmen to wait upon them at the office, they very kindly and unsolicited intimated their intention of closing their works seven hours earlier on Saturdays, without any reduction in wages; the finishers and day-workers to have an allowance of 3½ hours per week. This arrangement to come into operation at once.

Entertainment at Lintz Colliery.—The Lintzford Band of Hope gave an entertainment on Saturday evening in the Lintz Colliery School-room, the Rev. M. Stirrup, presiding. Several recitations were given in excellent style; melodies were also sung by the members of the Band of Hope. The chairman addressed the meeting on the benefit to be derived by persons abstaining from the intoxicating cup. The meeting was a success in point of numbers, and at the close a collection was taken in aid of the intended hall. The room was crowded to excess.

Coffee Supper at Consett.—On Saturday evening, a coffee supper was held in the Welsh Chapel, Trafalgar Street, under the auspices of the "John Wesley" Division of the Sons of Temperance. The supper was prepared and served out by Mesdames C. White, Elliott, Brand, Arnot, and Misses White and Elliott, and was partaken of by upwards of thirty persons, who did ample justice to the repast which had been prepared for them. At the conclusion of the supper the company passed a unanimous vote of thanks to the ladies for their services, after which they parted, highly delighted at the manner in which they had been entertained.

Consett Wesleyan Sunday School Band of Hope.—The first of a series of meetings intended to be held in connection with this organisation was held in the Wesleyan School-room, Nelson Street, Consett, on Saturday evening—Mr. T. Shotton in the chair. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer, after which the chairman made a few remarks, and urged the members of the Band of Hope to be careful to abstain from the temptations to drink which would be put in their way both at Christmas and New Year. Mr. T. Carr also gave an address. The remainder of the meeting was occupied in singing and interesting readings.

Fatal Accident at Lintz Colliery.—On Saturday last a fatal accident occurred in the "Busty" seam, at Lintz Colliery, to a boy named Thomas Fenwick, aged 17 years, residing at Hill Top. It appears deceased was a pony driver, and his duty was to help the "putters" up a "dip." By some means the waggon got unfastened and ran backwards, jambing Fenwick up against a prop, inflicting such injuries as to cause almost instant death. John Bainbridge, a putter, who accompanied Fenwick, narrowly escaped from the same fate. The deceased was the principal support of his mother and several children.

Gale at Consett.—On Monday, a violent gale of wind from the west prevailed in this district. Accidents of a trifling nature occurred, and a number of ironworkers at the Tin Mill were compelled to cease work.—At Dunston on the south side of the River Tyne, a new engine factory was blown to the ground; the walls were only two bricks in thickness. The workmen received timely warning by the swaying of the walls, and ran out of the way, but Mr. Archer, sen., a proprietor of the factory, and a boy were buried in the ruins. They were extricated after considerable difficulty. Mr. Archer was in an unconscious state, and very seriously injured about the feet and head. He, however is expected to recover. In Newcastle and Gateshead considerable damage has been done to property by the gale.

Temperance at Burnhope Colliery.—On Saturday evening, an entertainment was given in the School-room, Burnhope Colliery, under the auspices of the Band of Hope at that place. The musical department was sustained by several violinists and vocalists, among the latter being Mr. J. Weir, Blackhill; Mr. W. Weir and son, Burnhope; and Mr. Anderson, Burnhope. The speeches were for the most part advocative of the Order of the Sons of Temperance, and were given by Bros. G. Lowes, D.G.W.P., Consett; W. M. Patterson, G.W.A., Consett; G. Farrage, Highgate; and J. Weir, Blackhill. On the whole the meeting was a most successful one, and at the close a number signified their intention of uniting with the Order, so that it is probable a division may be opened at Burnhope shortly. Mr. John Dormand, jun., of Lanchester, was in the chair.

Two Biographers.—On Monday morning, "Elfin" had the following in the *Chronicle*:—"The Life and Times of John Wesley," by the Rev. Luke Tyreman, which is by far the best memoir of the venerable founder of Methodism, and which was originally published in three volumes, is appearing in monthly parts of half-a-crown each. Mr. Tyreman is a north-country man, and is intimately connected with Newcastle by marriage. It is pleasing to note that the life of Wesley, with the life of his great contemporary, Whitfield, two of the best religious biographies that have appeared within recent years, have been written by north-country ministers, the Rev. Mr. Gledson, a gentleman belonging to Shotley Bridge, being the writer of George Whit field's life. ["Elfin" has made a slight mistake. The latter biographer, the Rev. J. P. Gledstone, of Sheffield, as a large number of our readers will be aware, is the son of Mr. John Gledstone, of Consett. —Ed. *C. G.*]

An Innkeeper Charged with Permitting Card Playing in His House.—At the Stanhope Petty Sessions, on Friday,—before the Rev. H. Slater and V. Rippon, Esq.,—the landlord of the Phœnix Inn, Stanhope, was summoned to answer a charge of allowing certain persons to play at cards for money. P. C. Cowell swore that on the morning of the 8th ult. he was listening at the window, and heard some persons say they would play for sixpence, then it rose from half-a-crown to a sovereign. He also heard one of the players cry out that "clubs were trumps." His evidence was confirmed by another police constable. Mr. Taylor, solicitor, Hexham, who appeared for the defendant, contended that there was no sufficient case made out, that the parties who were playing cards were commercial men and in the commercial room, which was their home and considered sacred from all intruders, and denied that they were playing for money. The three gentlemen were then called, who proved that they did not play for money, but only for amusement, and contradicted the evidence of the police officers almost in toto. The Bench dismissed the case.

Local and District News.

Lanchester Wesleyan Methodist Chapel has been recently licensed for the solemnisation of marriages.

"Derwent Valley" Lodge of Good Templars, Blackhill.—The following are the officers of the above:—Bros. S. Leybourne, D.G.W.C.T.; John Bushby, W.C.T.; Edward Wardhaugh, W.V.T.; Wm. Bell, W.S.; William Montgomery, W.C.; Alex. McRan, W.F.S.; Wm Walton, W.M.; Sister Helen Hale, W.R.H.S.; Sister Jane A. Leybourne, W.L.H.S.

Exhibition at Dipton.—On Monday evening last the scholars attending Mr. Coward's school, together with a number of their friends, enjoyed an excellent treat through the kindness of Mr. R. Clark, who admitted the whole of them free at the first exhibition of his new magic lantern, recently purchased by him at his sole expense. The exhibition was held in the new hall behind the Sportsman's Arms Inn. The lantern is to be had free of charge for any charitable purpose.

Fatal Accident at the Lintz Colliery.—An inquest was held at the house of Mrs Susan Cheesman, Hill Top, Dipton, on Tuesday, before Mr. J. M. Favel, coroner, on the body of Thomas Fenwick, a pit boy engaged at the Lintz Colliery. From the evidence it appeared that on Saturday last the deceased had been going up an incline in the Busty Seam, pushing behind the tub, when from some cause the tub broke away and caught deceased, and crushed his head so severely that death was instantaneous. A verdict of accidental death was returned. Deceased was seventeen years of age, was much respected, and was the sole support of his mother, who is a widow.

Educational Honours.—In addition to the young lady given by us last week as having been successful in obtaining honours in connection with the North Yorkshire and South Durham Pupil Teachers' association, we are informed that Thomas J. Leonard and Mary Chaytor obtained each a prize and certificate; and Mary E. Forster, Peter Milligan, and Wm. Elliott (all of Consett British Schools) a certificate each. Among the other successful candidates were—Masters Emerson (two cousins), Tow Law, and Mainprize, Wolsingham.

Readings at Tanfield Lea.—On Saturday evening the 16th inst., readings were held in the Reading-room of the above-named place, to which a goodly number of the inhabitants resorted. After a very short, but eloquent address from the chairman, Mr. James Wilson, of Tanfield Lea, the evening's business began with a song by Mr. George Hall, who, afterwards, singing a Scotch song, was loudly *encored*, as indeed he well deserved; this was followed by Mr. Prevell reading "Horatius keeps the bridge," that gentleman later in the evening reading two more pieces. The remaining readers and singers were Messrs. Short, Turnbull, Atkinson, and Douglass, all of whom were well received. It may here be remarked that these readings will be continued fortnightly, varied occasionally by lectures from some eminent gentlemen in the neighbourhood, and it is to be hoped that the effort thus being put forth will be duly appreciated by the workmen for whose benefit these readings are. We are now in the middle of the long, cold nights, and this institution provides not only daily, weekly, and monthly papers and periodicals, but also a large and varied stock of books, and all these privileges are open to the public for the nominal fee of 6d. per quarter. If this is thoroughly understood among the workmen, and also the straightforward manner in which the society is carried on, there cannot be the slightest doubt but that all, or nearly all those in the vicinity, would become members.

The late Dr. Steggall.—In the *Medical Times* we find an obituary of John Steggall, M.D. This gentleman who was the third son of the Rev. W. Steggall, M.A., rector of Hesset, Suffolk, at which place he was born, received his early education at Bury St. Edmunds, under the Rev. Dr. Dalkin, having as one of his schoolfellows young Bloomfield, afterwards Bishop of London. On the completion of his preliminary studies, he entered the London Hospital, where he became the especial favourite of Sir William Blizard and Dr. Billing. At the end of his professional studies he was made M.R.C.S. in 1825, and then going to Italy, he graduated as M.D. at Bologna and Pisa in 1826. Returning to England he became L.S.A. in 1827, and entered on the practice of his profession. In 1836 he was admitted a member of the Royal College of Physicians, and elected physician to the Metropolitan Free Hospital. The deceased gentleman was well known to the profession as the author of several works of great merit. He also devoted much of his time in preparing pupils for their higher medical examinations, and among the lists of students who attended his lectures, we find the names of Albert Smith and William Palmer, the former of Mont Blanc celebrity, the latter the notorious murderer. Dr. Steggall was an accomplished artist, and produced several portraits of more than average merit. In the season of 1846 he exhibited a painting at the Royal Academy. He was considered a ripe scholar, learned in the living and dead languages, and in his death the medical profession has lost a bright ornament and a great authority. He leaves by his wife the Signora Geltruda Elbina Giuseppa (Bonetti), seven children. Of his sons, the eldest, John Billing Steggall, is M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. and obtained the gold medal of the Apothecaries Society. The second son, the Rev. Frederick Steggall, is the vicar of Consett, in Durham, and we understand his second daughter is married to our townsman, Mr. Austine one of the members of Kingston Corporation for the Norbiton Ward.—*Surrey Advertiser and County Times.*

Workmen's Supper at Leadgate.—On Saturday night the enginemen, stokers, and others, numbering upwards of 50, connected with the locomotive department of the Consett Ironworks Company met at the house of Mr. Longstaff, Masons' Arms' Inn, Leadgate, and partook of a friendly supper. Besides those connected with the department, several of the tradesmen including Mr. R. W. Shaw, draper, Mr. Parker, butcher, Mr. Richardson Smith, farmer, South Bradley, and others received invitations to attend. The supper was served in Mr. Longstaff's large room which was admirably suited for the occasion. The viands did infinite credit to the cuisinary capabilities of the worthy hostess. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Brown, manager of the locomotive department, occupied the chair, and Mr. Parker, the vice-chair. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts in which much sympathy was expressed for the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family, the chairman in drinking prosperity to the Consett Iron Company, stated that upon the prosperity of the Company depended the prosperity of the tradesmen and merchants as well as the enginemen and gaffers. He expressed the great pleasure he felt at receiving their kind invitation to attend the banquet, and trusted that nothing but the most intimate relations would exist between them. He referred to the difficult positions in which gaffers were placed and laid it down as his principle of action to do as he would wish to be done by. The toast was coupled with the name of Mr. Jenkins, the general manager, who Mr. Brown characterised as the right man in the right place. Drunk with all the honour "twice told" In proposing success to the agricultural interest, Mr. Shaw stated that they were all very thankful for the iron and the coke that was manufactured in their midst, but without the farmers they could not have enjoyed such an excellant supper of beef, mutton, potatoes, bread, &c., as they had just risen from. The toast was coupled with the name of Mr. Smith, of Bradley. Other toasts and songs followed, indeed, the singing was the great feature of the evening. The singing was good and the character of the songs did infinite credit to the taste and judgment of the singers. After spending a very pleasant evening the company broke up a little after eleven o'clock.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

With comparatively genial weather, London streets look just now more animated and cheerful than of late, and many of them are thronged with people "out to see the shops," which look bright and cheery with Christmas goods. Trade throughout the country has certainly been more prosperous and the employment of the working classes more general at this time of the year than has been the case for many a year back, and it was only the sad news about the Prince that depressed and deadened business. Now that the news is favourable, trade is reviving; meetings, concerts, and entertainments which had been postponed are again announced; balls and parties which had been put off will be given; and there will be "a sound of revelry by night" in many and many an English home where otherwise the Christmas week would have been a very dull and dreary one. Country visitors are beginning to arrive thick and three fold, or more than that, and a few millions—well, say thousands—of Londoners are preparing to go out of town, to enjoy their Christmas holidays down in Loamshire or Cokutown (I suppose there is some enjoyment even there), or the Black Country, or the Lake Country, or elsewhere. Altogether, town and country seem likely to enjoy the holidays, and I hope at any rate that you, my courteous reader, may have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

I am glad that Government mean to bring in a bill to abolish, or at all events reform the truck system. I have always thought it a villainous mode of paying men. We can easily see how pitably erroneous is the system by imagining our public functionaries paid in truck. Fancy Mr. Gladstone taking out a considerable portion of his salary in "surplus stores," or Mr. Lowe being partly remunerated with confiscated tobacco!

Sinbad the sailor was not more glad to get rid of the Old Man of the Mountain than I, for one, am to get rid of the incubus of Sir Roger Doughty Tichborne, or the doughty claimant of the Tichborne estates, be his name what it may. And I think that omnivorous personage the general reader may be congratulated on not even being asked to read six or eight columns of hair-splitting, word-twisting evidence every day. We shall be mercifully spared this infliction till the middle of January. When will this awful trial end? It will have dragged its slow length along for seventy days when adjourned, extending over an actual period of six months, and it may last as much longer yet, to the infinite disgust considering the court-martial already held, is the of all concerned. Another intolerably long affair, Megæra Commission. We are now being elaborately told much that we knew before and more that nobody cared to know, while what the public do want to know—"whom we shall hang," as we used to say during the Crimean war—is studiously kept from us, at present at least.

Nobody, I suppose, will come forward, and take that £500 offered as a reward for the discovery of the sender of that false telegram announcing a certain—or rather uncertain—railway amalgamation the other day. It is to be presumed that the author of this villainous swindle will not now be traced, and—an Irish friend at my elbow adds this—the name of the perpetrator must be added to the long list of undiscovered criminals!

The direction which public thought is already taking in consequence of the illness of the Prince of Wales was wholesomely manifested at the recent meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, when Dr. Brewer, M.P., upon the subject of sewer gasses producing typhoid fever, moved for a return of all persons employed in the sewers, pen-stocks, and pumping stations, with their names, ages, length of service, the number attacked by typhoid or enteric fever, its length, how many cases of fatal termination, &c. Dr. Brewer deserves the thanks of the community for taking the initiative in a matter of vital importance. If we are not mistaken, Mr. John Hollingshead once made a valuable contribution to the literature of London drains, which might be advantageously republished. The son of Mr. Hain Friswell, who is a clever chemist, could, I believe, speak with confidence on the subject, and I hope he will. London and its environs progress in relation to questions affecting sewerage. There is a Bill in Parliament for the drainage of the Thames valley, for conveying the sewage of 300,000 persons and depositing it on a farm 3,000 acres in extent in the centre of the water shed of the Thames, near the Bourne Brook.

Mr. George Odger does not appear to be much the worse for having been mobbed by a party of royalist roughs at Reading, but William Schofield, who was injured in the Dilke riot at Bolton, is dead, and a verdict of manslaughter against some person or persons unknown has been returned. Royalism, or ruffianism, of the "respectable" sort has had too much of its own way lately. If the friends of constitutional liberty are not awake to the danger which threatens the Englishman's right to express his sentiments freely in public meeting assembled, it is high time they were made sensible of it. We may esteem or contemn the eloquent shoemaker and the contumacious baronet, as accords with our notions, but we cannot afford to lose the right of saying our say freely and unmolested in the face of the public. A racing man has discovered a comic vein in the Dilke agitation. Ought not the baronet to call out Mr. Somerville for having named his bay yearling colt, by High Treason out of Remedy by the Cure, "Sir Charles Dilke?"

I hope some one who is competent to do it will write a life of the late Mr. George Hudson, the Railway King. What a varied career was his! And it is only now that he is dead that we begin to find out what a great public benefactor he was, with all his failings.

"Vitals are baked here," is the horrible announcement placarded in the window of a New York eating house.

Brown's Bronchial Troches, for the cure of Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh, or any irritation or soreness of the throat, are now imported and sold in this country at 1s. 1½d. per box, put up in the form of a "losenge." It is the most convenient, pleasant, safe, and sure remedy for clearing and strengthening the voice known in the world. The Rev Henry Ward Beecher says:—"I have often recommend them to friends who were public speakers, and in many cases they have proved extremely serviceable." The genuine have the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" on the Government Stamp around each box. Sold by all medicine venders.—London Depot, 493, Oxford Street.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children.—Should always be used when Children are cutting teeth; it relieves the little sufferers at once, it produces natural quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is perfectly harmless, and very pleasant to taste. It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by thousands of Medicine dealers in all parts of the world at 1s. 1½d. per bottle, and Millions of Mothers can testify to its virtue.—Manufactory, 493, Oxford Street, London. 662b

Local Police Courts.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, December 18.—Before H. C. Silvertop (chairman), T. Wilson, and A. Town, Esqrs.

A NAME FOR EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK.

Matthew Parker, Consett, was charged by P.C. Bolton with drunkenness on the 16th inst.—From the evidence of the officer, it appears that between eleven and twelve o'clock in the morning the defendant was committing a nuisance against a wall near Trafalgar Street, Consett, and in consequence all persons passing had to step off the flags into the middle of the road. On the officer asking the defendant his name, he gave so many different names that the officer was obliged to lock him up.—Fined 5s. and costs.

A MARTYRED HERO.

Patrick McGuire was charged by P.C. Bolton with having been drunk and riotous at Consett, on the 17th inst. The officer stated that about half-past twelve o'clock on Sunday morning he heard a disturbance going on in Green Street, and on proceeding to the place witness found a woman lying on the ground, and the defendant standing over her and striking her with his fists.—Defendant, in defence, said he found the poor woman lying helpless on the ground, and as he took pity on her he was in the act of lifting her to her feet when the officer made his appearance. He admitted that he had had a few glasses, but he denied being drunk.—The bench did not appear to think that the defendant had acted the part of the good Samaritan, as he had stated, and he was mulcted in the sum of 5s. and costs, 11s. 4d.

AN "UNFORTUNATE."

Mary Wallace, whose face showed marks of recent illusage, was charged by P.C. Foster with drunkenness at Consett, on the 17th inst. The officer said he found the defendant lying in a helpless state in the middle of the road, and as she could give no account of herself he took her to the lock-up.—Defendant: Somebody struck me.—Superintendent Oliver: She is a stranger.—The defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 5s. and costs, and in default was sent to prison for seven days.

A FORGIVING WIFE.

Peter Quin, Leadgate, was charged with assaulting his wife, Phœbe Quin, on the 10th inst. Complainant, who sported a facial adornment, in the shape of a black-eye, said that she did not wish to press the case against her husband.—The Clerk: You must first tell the magistrates what he did to you, and then it will be for them to determine.—Complainant: He came into the house, and I gave him a bad tongue. He then struck at me, and the policeman walked in.—Superintendent Oliver: The defendant is also charged with an assault on the policeman while in the execution of his duty, but as it is not a very serious case we will not go into it.—The Chairman: What have you to say in answer to this charge?—Defendant: I was drunk and in a passion.—The Chairman: You are liable to be sent to prison for six months, but as your wife has consented to forgive you this time, you can go about your business after paying the costs. Getting drunk is an offence in itself, and I consider that when a man strikes a woman as you have done he is a coward.—The defendant paid the costs, 3s. 10d., and left the court.

A GOOD BEGINNING.

George Bates was charged by P.C. Smith with drunkenness at Consett, on the 17th inst. It appears that on Saturday the defendant was engaged by Mr. Bailey as a labourer, after which he seems to have gone on the "spree," the result of which was that he had to be carried to the lock-up by the police, assisted by a couple of civilians.—The defendant was fined 5s. and costs, 11s. 4d.

RESCUED BY THE POLICE.

Thomas Telford was charged by Sergeant Forster with drunkenness at Consett, on the 17th inst. It appears that about one o'clock on Sunday morning the sergeant found the defendant lying within two feet of the fire at the Consett Brickflats in a helpless state of intoxication. Fined 5s. and costs, 11s. 4d.

GETTING DRUNK AND BREAKING THE FURNITURE.

Michael McPartling, puddler, Leadgate was charged by P.C. Firn with having been drunk and riotous at Leadgate, on the 3rd inst. From the statement of the officer it appeared that about two o'clock on the morning of the 3rd the defendant and his wife had been quarrelling on their way home, the wife who was drunk, having been knocked down several times. On getting home the quarrel was renewed, and the assistance of the police had to be called in, not before, however, the defendant had broken all the furniture and crockery in the house.—Fined 5s. and costs, 12s. 6d.

SLIDING ON THE ICE.

Richard Jones, puddler, and *James Forster*, ironworker Blackhill, were charged with a contravention of the Consett Local Board Act by sliding on the ice on a footpath near Blackhill, on the 16th inst. P.C. Stamper stated that about seven o'clock on the morning of the 6th he caught the two defendants sliding on a footpath near to the Tin Mill.—Fined 6d. each, and ordered to pay the expenses; the Chairman remarked that it was a very dangerous amusement, and one for which, if brought up again, they would be fined the full penalty, 40s.

Joseph Batey, Joseph Carroll, Edward Mellon, and *Robert Tracey*, boys belonging Consett, were charged by P.C. Bolton with a similar offence at Consett, on the 3rd The officer stated that about six o'clock on Sunday the 3rd, he found, the two defendants and a inst. number of others sliding on the middle of the street. People were just going to Church, and the defendants were causing a great deal of annoyance by running up against them.—Fined 6d. each and costs.

Thompson Beldon, Wm. Richardson, and *John Morris*, belonging Blackhill, were charged with a similar offence on the 4th.—Sergeant Nattrass proved the offence, and the defendants were each fined in the nominal sum of 6d and costs.

ALLOWING A HORSE AND CART TO STAND IN THE STREET.

Francis Wood Clarke, gardener, Blackhill, was charged with allowing his horse and cart to stand longer in the street than was necessary, contrary to the Benfieldside Local Board Act. P.C. Stamper stated that on Saturday the 2nd inst., he was on duty in Durham Road, Blackhill, and he observed the defendant's horse and cart standing across the highway from seven o'clock until half-past eight. There was no person either loading or unloading the cart, and witness went into the shop and told the defendant that he was laying himself open to a charge of cruelty to animals by allowing his horse to stay in the street so long.—The Chairman: How wide is the road?—Stamper: I measured it, and I found that there was only a distance of five yards from the horse's head to the kerbstone, and it was impossible for two conveyances to pass.—Defendant: Did I tell you that my wife had had a fit?—Stamper: You said so.—Defendant: Was there a boy watching the cart?—Stamper: No.—Defendant: Was there not a boy close to the shop?—Stamper: There was a boy inside the shop.—Sergeant Nattrass corroborated Stamper's statement.—Defendant, in defence, said he was not aware of the rules of the Local Board. On the night in question he went to Shotley Hall to seek his rabbits, and on returning discovered that in his absence his wife had been seized with a fit. He denied that his cart remained the time stated by the police officer and produced a letter to prove that he had been at Consett during that time.—Mr. Town: Could the defendant's cart have been at Consett without your knowledge?—Stamper: No sir; he could not have gone without my knowledge.—The defendant was fined 1s. and costs, 8s.

AN IRREPRESSIBLE "SMITH."

Thomas Smith, labourer, Blackhill, was charged by P.C Stamper with having been drunk and riotous at Blackhill, on the 2nd inst. It appears that on Saturday night, the 2nd, the officer was on duty near to Jobling's public-house in Derwent Street and as there was a great disturbance inside, the officer entered and found the defendant wanting to fight the landlord, who was endeavouring to eject him. On getting him outside the defendant wanted to fight the officer.—Fined 5s and costs, 12s.

GETTING A LITTLE ELEVATED.

John Graham, ironworker, Consett, was charged with refusing to leave the "Rose and Crown Inn," Blackhill, when requested to do so.—Mrs Wigham stated the defendant was very tipsy, and the policeman came in at the time and took him out.—Mr. Town: Did he refuse to go out?—Witness: No, sir.—P.C. Stamper: Were you requesting Graham to leave when I entered?—Witness: Yes.—Stamper: Did he go out?—Witness: No.—Superintendant Oliver: What caused him to go out?—Witness: The Policeman.—Fined 5s. and costs, 14s. 6d.

TRESPASSING IN PURSUIT OF GAME.

Thomas Walton, stone-miner, Medomsley, was charged with trespassing in pursuit of game between Medomsley and Allendale Cottages, on the 6th inst. P.C. Farnaby stated that on the day in question he was on duty between Medomsley and Allendale Cottages, he heard a gun fired and on looking in the direction of the report he observed the defendant issuing from the smoke in a crouching posture. Witness followed him and on overtaking the defendant he asked the latter if he had leave to shoot on Mr Thomas Hunter's property, that being the property where the shot was fired. Defendant said he had leave on the other Mr. Hunter's land, and that he was not on Mr. Thomas Hunter's land when he fired the shot.—The Chairman:—Are there two Hunters?—Witness: Thomas and James Hunter. Their land adjoins.—The Chairman: Which land was he on when the shot was fired.—Witness: On Thomas Hunter's.—The Chairman: When you spoke to him where was he then?—Witness: About half-a-mile from the place where the shot was fired.—Mr. Town: Did you ask him if he had permission to shoot on Mr. Thomas Hunter's land?—Witness: He said he had not, but that he be had leave from Mr. Jas. Hunter.—Wm. Fishburn said he was gamekeeper for the High Hamsterley estate. Mr. Grace had the exclusive right of shooting over Mr. Thomas Hunter's farm.—Defendant: Thomas Hunter allowed me to shoot over the farm.—Fishburn: Mr. Thomas Hunter told him that Mr Grace had bought the shooting over the farm, and discharged the defendant two years since on account of Mr. Grace buying the shooting.—The Chairman: Did you ever give him permission to shoot over the farm.—Witness: Three years back. We agreed for a sum, but he never paid anything.—The Chairman: Did you discharge the defendant yourself?—Witness: No; my son discharged him, but I was present at the time.—The Clerk: Did you ever renew the permission?—Witness: No.—Defendant in his defence stated that he was going across James Hunter's field, when, on account of having lost one of his fingers, his gun accidentally went off. Mr. Bolton, who held the shooting over Mr. James Hunter's farm, had given him leave to cross over to Mr. Thomas Hunter's land, over which he said he had received permission from Mr. Thomas Hunter to shoot.—The Chairman: Have you paid any money to Mr. Thomas Hunter for shooting?—Defendant: I have paid him by giving him some game. He said I might shoot over the ground and give him game.—The bench thought that the defendant clearly had no leave to shoot over the land, and he was fined £1 and costs, in all £1 10s.

Wm. Crawford, and *Peter Matthews*, puddlers, Consett, were charged with a similar offence on land in the occupation of Henry Lanchester, on the 11th inst. P.C. Stamper stated that about half-past eleven on the morning of the 11th he caught the two defendants beating the hedges in the neighbourhood of Howns Gill. They had a small terrier dog with them, and witness heard Matthews say "perhaps we will find one in here," at the same time striking the hedge with a stick.—Mr. William Reed, of Knitsley Farm, said he held the shooting over Mr. Lanchester's farm. He was greatly annoyed by poachers, so much so, in fact, that there was scarcely a rabbit left on the estate.—The Chairman said that Crawford, who is a youth about fifteen years of age, had been convicted for wilful damage in July, 1870; in July, 1871, he had been fined 10s. and costs for trespass in pursuit of game; and in September, 1871, had been convicted for larceny.—The defendants were each fined 40s. and costs, £2 7s. 6d. in all.

CASE UNDER THE POACHING PREVENTION ACT.

William Hutchinson, alias Shaw, shoemaker, Cutlers' Hall, was charged with a contravention of the Poaching Prevention Act, on the 11th inst. From the evidence of Police-Constable Stamper it appeared that on the day in question the defendant was going from Bridge Hill to Allansford, and as he was proceeding along the road he examined all the conduits with a little dog he had with him. Suspecting that the defendant was in search of game, the officer went up to him, and on being searched a net was found in one of his inside pockets. The peg of the net appeared to have been recently in the ground, and the net itself was covered with rabbit down.—Fined 10s. and costs, 17s 6d.

MASTER AND SERVANT.

William Garnett was charged with refusing to fulfil a contract which he had entered into with his master Anthony Shaw, Bunker Hill, near Leadgate. It appeared that the defendant had hired himself for six months, but in consequence of the defendant's father having broken his arm a few days after the contract was made, the defendant went to assist his father on his own farm.—The complainant said he had sustained loss to the amount of £2, but if this sum was paid he was quite willing that the contract should be annulled.—The defendant agreeing to this the contract was accordingly annulled.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, Dec. 21st.—Before A. H. Talmadge, H. Smith, Esqs., and Lieut.-Col. Joicey.

CONVICTION FOR SELLING BEER WITHOUT A LICENSE.

James Gilbert, hut keeper, Consett Waterworks, was charged with a breach of the Excise Act, on the 10th inst. Mr. Granger, of Consett, prosecuted; and Mr. Wallace, of Newcastle, defended.—P.C. Addison stated that on Sunday morning, the 10th, he was on duty at the Consett Waterworks along with another police-officer named Reay. About two o'clock he observed a light in defendant's hut, and on looking through the window he observed a man named Thompson drinking along with the defendant and a lodger. Witness observed Thompson pay for some drink which he afterwards found out to be gin and ale.—For the defence Thompson was called, and stated that he had been along with the defendant drinking at the "Moor Cock" Inn up to about midnight. Defendant left a little before him, and having to go past the defendant's house, he went in for the purpose of lighting his pipe, when he was asked to partake of some gin. He positively swore that he never paid for any of the drink he received, and that he was never in the defendant's house before.—Oliver Watson said he was a labourer at the waterworks, and lodged at Gilbert's. The defendant brought half-a-pint of gin home from the public-house, of which he gave some to the last witness. Witness was quite sober at the time, and could swear that he never received any money as payment for either the gin or ale.—Mr Talmadge said they had no doubt but that the evidence of the police-officer was quite true, and they would therefore inflict a penalty of £2 10s. and costs.

DRUNK AND RIOTOUS.

Wm. Thompson, engineman, the witness in the last case, was charged with having been drunk and riotous at the same time and place.—P.C. Alderson stated that he saw the defendant in Gilbert's hut. The defendant was fighting with Gilbert, who he was threatening to kill.—Mr. Wallace, who appeared to defend, admitted that his clent was drunk, but denied that he was riotous, and hoped that the magistrates would dismiss the case upon payment of costs. This they refused to do, however, and he was fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

John Jenkins, pitman, Dipton, was charged by P.C. Morland with a similar offence at Dipton on the 9th inst.—Fined 5s. and costs.

John Elliott, pitman, was charged by Sergt Haw with a similar offence at Cornsay Colliery on the 10th inst. Defendant stoutly denied the charge, and he was dismissed on payment of costs.

James Kavannah was charged by the same officer with a similar offence at the same time and place.—The defendant pleaded guilty, and he was fined 2s. 6d. and costs

THREATENING LANGUAGE.

John Millow, pitman, Greencroft Cottages, was charged by John Dodd, publican, Annfield Plain, with using threatening language on the 9th inst. Complainant stated that on the day in question he put the defendant out of his house, where he feigned to be drunk. The defendant afterwards returned to the house and used obnoxious and threatening language to him.—Mr. Granger for the defence, urged that the charge was not made from any bodily fear, but simply at feeling annoyed at the observations made by defendant.—The magistrates said that Mr. Dodd had endeavoured to keep his house respectable, and they would therefore bind the defendant over, himself in a surety of £20, and two sureties of £20 each, to keep the peace for six months.

PITCH AND TOSS.

Francis Conroy was charged by Sergt. Haw with pitch and toss at Quebec, on the 17th inst. The officer stated that on the above day he saw a crowd of about 150 persons, some of whom were playing at pitch and toss. He saw the defendant picking up the coins. The officer also stated that pitch and toss was practised every Sunday at the above place, and it was with great difficulty they could be caught, as they always had scouts out.—Defendant denied the offence, and said that he was accidentally passing at the time.—Committed to prison for seven days, and to pay costs, 9s.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

William Pellow was charged with doing wilful damage at Pontop, on the 4th inst. Sergt. Brown stated that on the above day he saw the defendant, along with other three boys, all about ten years of age, gathering the workmen's tools together in a heap, and afterwards commit a nuisance upon them. Witness caught defendant, and he had his trousers down at the time.—Fined 1s. and costs.

ASSAULT.

Thomas Jenkins was charged with assaulting James Smith at Waterhouses, on the 11th inst. Complainant at first refused to be sworn, stating that they had agreed to make it up. It was only on being threatened for contempt of court that he gave evidence, from which it appeared that the defendant had kicked him on different parts of the body.—P.C. Smith stated that the complainant came and told him that he was coming from Crook when the defendant and other two men attacked him.—Fined 10s. and costs.

Correspondence.

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

THE VERDICT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Thank heaven: the great pen duel is ended. The im-mortal combat between Mr. Cross and "Investigator" is finished. What rejoicing in the land where the gossiping *Guardian* circulates, now that this wordy warfare is at an end. Do, sir, for your readers' sake, bind these two reckless ink-wasters to peace and quietness towards each other, and every reader of the *Guardian*, for an indefinite period. And as some expiation is due to your many readers from these two mental Napoleon's for suffering under their literary inflictions, with your consent I hereby sentence "Investigator" to the mildest form of shot drill for one hour every day for one calendar month; and for Mr. Cross, I think it will be sufficient punishment if he is compelled to read no other literary production but his own for the same period.

Yours, &c.,
Gentle Jenny.

Tow Law, December 20, 1871.

HELP FOR MR. MIALL.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—As a letter appeared in your last week's issue signed "Robert Scott," containing gross misrepresentations, I am sure you will not refuse a reply. Before exposing its fallacies I would like to ask who this Robert Scott is, who pretends to so much knowledge? He certainly is not known as a worshipper at Collierley Church, and how it happens that he knows so much more than the officials, of course, remains with himself.

Now, sir, Mr. Robinson has not been a *regular attender* at Collierley Church for upwards of twenty years. Mr. Robinson's so-called *regular attendance* will not go further back, than four years. The less said about it prior to the above the better. Neither has he always occupied *one seat*. The seat usually occupied by Mr. Robinson is the one *behind* that of the *new occupant*. Why he changed his seat is best known to himself, and I can hardly surmise why he goes reluctantly back. Mr. Scott omitted to state that Mr. Robinson's usual seat possesses a patent brass handle, and what is more, a *lock*. It is quite true Mr. Robinson was desired to return to his own occupied seat—Was there anything wrong in this? I am sure you will agree with me that Mr. Scott displays great ignorance in pew letting, and he cannot be a regular attender at any place of worship or he would not express such surprise at crimson cushions, &c. He surely is aware that people like to make their seats comfortable in places of worship, and why should Collierley be an exception? I think his allusion about "making the path to heaven much smoother" is sadly out of place. The decorated pew, sir, is as free as any of the others as soon as necessity asks for the extra room, and the sexton has strict orders to throw the pew open when required. This order has been given from the first, so that Mr. Scott's practical words go to the winds. The new occupant, too, will be glad to accommodate either Mr. Scott, Mr. Robinson, or anyone else, if at any time they find their own seats occupied and they fail to please themselves in another part of the church. I am sure, too, that the attendance of the new occupant and family will bear favourable comparison with that of either Mr. Scott or Mr. Robinson, and as supporters of the church, sir, there is no comparison at all. Whether Mr. Scott is an eccentric man or not he certainly has given vent to some eccentric nonsense, and I doubt not but that Mr. Miall himself would blush at the eccentric ideas of his disciple. I hope, sir, that next time Mr. Scott favours you with a letter, *facts* instead of *fiction* will form the contents. As Mr. Scott appears to have written entirely from hearsay, I would invite him to attend himself and see whether these things are so.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,
A Member.

WAR AND THE MINERS' UNION.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I was quite aware what reception my letter would meet with from a certain class of my fellow workmen. I have been denounced as one entirely ignorant of union, by your correspondent, Mr. Reynoldson, published in your impression of the 9th. Wonderful discovery! Slanderers are like flies that leap all over a man's good parts, to light only upon the sores. Well, sir, if twenty years' battling in the cause merits nothing better from my friend's pen, I am content to labour on, knowing that he that converteth one man from gross acts of injustice towards his brother shall hide a multitude of sins. I have been a very popular man, but now I find popularity is like the uncertain glories of an April day, which now show all the beauties of the sun, and bye-and-by a cloud takes all away. Had Mr. Reynoldson confined himself to facts, and based his "thinks" upon such of my sayings and doings as he might have known to be correct, I would have respected any little ebullition of temper he might have displayed: but what am I to think of a man whom I find abusing me and my principles because I hold and endeavour to disseminate moderate, temperate views on union. I would advise my friend, Reynoldson, who is rather hasty, to think, speak, and act with more precaution. Sir, it may appear to Mr. Reynoldson that I am not acting the part a union man ought to do; but how am I to do this, if I am the ignorant person he represents me to be. But perhaps my friend in his next epistle will enlighten me, then, perhaps, I may have something tangible to deal with, and may then be more disposed to go further into it. Mr. Reynoldson says it appears I am acting on the same principle as John Taylor. I deny the charge, and challenge him to produce the evidence. I am no enemy, but an earnest advocate for properly conducted unions, being a delegate no less than four different times. But there are such things as bad unions—unions of knaves to fleece honest men—unions of simple men to support practices which affect our own interests—unions of dishonest men to dupe the honest working man of his hard earned pence—in short, union is as often used for base purposes as for good ones. Union, as I take it, is to unite all into one and treat each other as brethren. I have a perfect repugnance to a paper war with Mr. Reynoldson or any one else; but if he means to continue the war let us have the truth and nothing but the truth, and not give hotter kale than he can sup himself, lest he gets his mouth burnt. I will conclude as I did before by wishing success to the Union and all honest men. Hoping that this hint will be taken into consideration,

I am your humble servant,
Henry Foggon.

Lintz Colliery, Dec. 18, 1871.

CORRECTION OF UNTRUTHS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Those of your numerous readers who have read my communication of the 5th inst. will easily see that Mr. Taylor's facts, as he calls them, are *non est* before me and other miners, for what I have seen I must believe. When we, as a body of miners at Pontop, had all joined one in hand in the shape of seeking more score price, and when we solicited the masters for an advance of price, John Taylor would stand aloof from us rather than come forward to look after his rights like the rest of his brother miners.

Mr. Taylor complains of a resolution that was passed on Monday night, November 13th; this is where he complains of tyranny having commenced towards him. There was no resolution made to that effect on that night; therefore, Mr. Taylor's fact is *non est*. Mr. Taylor talks about non-unionists; there is not a miner at Pontop but what is in the Miner's Union, save John Taylor, who is a non-unionist. John Taylor says that I am on the contrary shift to him. Now, for nine months we were both on the foreshift together which continued up till nine weeks ago, and since I have been one week on the foreshift and one week on the backshift, so that every other week John Taylor and I are both on the pit heap together. He still goes on further to say that he has not seen me at the pit for the last three or four months. I wonder where his consistency is to say so, when we have both been in the cabin together while on the pit heap; and when we have descended into the mine, we have been standing beside each other, waiting on the pick tub coming down? Now, how is it possible for us to be on the pit heap every other week together, and for John Taylor to say that he has not seen me for three or four months? If Mr. Taylor has not seen me, I have seen him, and have talked with him, and yet he calls those facts that he has placed in your journal. I say they are not.

Mr. Taylor talks about the most important thing, "the benefits the Union bestows for sixpence a fortnight." He goes on to say that "the bargain might be a good one." It is not only "going to be," but it has already been, and we have good proof of it. Since the miners of Pontop have all joined the Miners Association, we have received from four to six shillings a fortnight more in wages, and Mr. Taylor has received the same, if not more; and he will still stand aloof, and throw obstacles in our path. Mr. Taylor talks about buying nothing cheap—cheap markets are not always the best; but had it not been for his brother miners at Pontop seeking after an advance, and at the same time the masters giving an advance of score price, John Taylor would have had to go to "cheap markets" as well as any one else, for he is the very man that likes to buy cheap.

Mr. Taylor states that I am interested in "offering union wares thus to sell." Has Mr. Taylor ever been at any of our union meetings to hear what I have said, or to see what I have done? I say not. Perhaps it would have been a great deal better for him had he attended our meetings; the evil would not have been existing towards him as there now is. Mr. Taylor supposes that I have been salaried for being local secretary; but Mr. Taylor supposes wrong; and if I had, he takes pretty good care that he would not pay anything towards it.

Mr. Taylor says that "the coke-drawers sought more price, and they got more than they asked for, without being in the Union." This is not a fact, there were coke-drawers in the Union three months before they sought more price. Well, they did seek advance, and got it, but they did not get more than they asked for. They sought for 2d. per oven at the little ovens and 2½d. at the big ovens, and they got 2d. all round, big and little; therefore this fact is *non est*.

Mr. Taylor is afraid of "spending powder and shot over exceedingly small game," but the small game generally flies too sharp for the vulture to catch them, so I conclude with my last communication, for which I hope you will kindly grant a small space in your valuable journal.

Yours most respectfully
Robert Reynoldson.

Greencroft Cottages, Dec. 19, 1871.

Markets.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

The *Mark Lane Express*, in its review of the above, says:—The sharp weather we have had, though it held the frost in the ground for three days of the past week, has at length given way in the presence of a very decided change to great mildness. Should this be much felt in the Baltic it will release some vessels destined for British ports, and the fear of it has already some influence in the London trade, the last market being uncommonly flat, notwithstanding a loss of 37,000 quarters of Russian wheat through the fire at Rotherhithe. Putting the Chicago disaster and our own together, this season has brought unusual losses on a moderate gathering, not, however, yet felt, from the overloaded state of the other granaries and the possibility of the arrival of further large receipts. Holland and other places have experienced the same marked fluctuations as ourselves; but we are now getting so far into winter that we can hardly expect much future severity. The country trade has exhibited no change. Fogs have been so much the characteristics of the season that in too many instances to thrash the corn was to injure it 2s or 3s. per quarter, which has been like offering a heavy discount to secure funds for the payment of rent and expenses. We consequently now very much need a clear air, moderate frost, and dry weather to help us well through the winter.

CORN MARKETS.

Newcastle Corn Market, Tuesday.—At this day's market there was a moderate supply of wheat from the country, but a large coasting and foreign arrival. The trade ruled dull, and where business was done a decline of 1s. on the rates of this day week had to be submitted to on all descriptions. Barley, beans, and peas were each 6d to 1s lower. Malt dull. Oats moved off slowly at barely late rates, and the same may be said of the flour.

Durham Corn and Provision Market, Saturday.—The following were the prices current at this market this day:—Barley 8s 6d; Oats, 5s 6d to 7s 0d per boll. Beef, 8d to 10d; mutton, 8d to 10d; veal, 9d to 10d; pork, 9d to 10d per lb. Chickens, 2s 0d to 2s 6d; ducks, 2s 9d to 3s 0d; hens, 1s 0d to 1s 9d; turkeys, 6s 0d to 10s 0d; geese, 6s 0d to 9s 6d; hares, 3s 6d to 4s 0d each. Pigeons, 1s 0d to 1s 3d; rabbits, 2s 0d to 2s 8d per couple. Partridges, 2s. 6d to 3s 0d; pheasants, 7s 0d to 0s per brace. Butter, 1s 7d to 1s 8d per lb. Eggs, 6 to 7 for 1s. Apples, 2s 7d to 3s 6d; onions, 10d to 1s 6d per peck. Potatoes, 8d to 9d per stone.

Darlington Corn Market, Monday.—Red wheat, 14s 3d to 15s 0d; white ditto, 15s 0d to 16s 0d; barley, 8s 6d to 9s 0d; grinding qualities, 0s 0d to 0s 0d per boll; long oats, 2s 6d to 3s 0d; short ditto, 3s 0d to 3s 6d per bushel.

Hexham Corn Market, Tuesday.—There was a fair supply of wheat at our market to-day, the greatest portion of which was of inferior quality and for which there was a dull sale; good samples sold readily at late rates. Barley was a fair supply, for which 3d per Hexham boll more money was obtained. Oats a small supply, and no change in prices.

London Corn Market, Wednesday.—Market dull English and foreign wheat neglected at the decline of Monday. Town flour unaltered; country and American marks dull. Barley, maize, beans, and peas dull. Oats 3d cheaper since Monday. Attendance thin, and scarcely any business doing.

CATTLE MARKETS.

Newcastle Cattle Market, Tuesday.—At our Christmas market held to-day we have to record one of the worst supplies of cattle, both as regards quantity and quality, that has been shown here for many years past. From whatever country or district there has been an almost indescribable falling-off. The ripe, symmetrical, compact, and full-fed short-horned heifers, which in years gone by came from the Kelso district, are now completely extinct; and even from North Northumberland there is a lack of quality as compared with former years; while the Aberdeens do not possess the high finish which we have been accustomed to see. In sheep the show is unusually small, including a lot of very good hoggets—this year's lambs—from Berwickshire. Also, a large and splendid show of pigs. The Irish mustered in great force and good quality. The supply of beef comprised 1,270 head. Sales were rather slow for the first hour or two, after which the choice qualities moved freely off. In exceptional cases 11s per stone was offered and refused, but the general top figure for beef was about 10s. 6d. per imperial stone, and as the day advanced business improved, with a good clearance at the close. The number of sheep was 3,650. The mutton trade was in an active state at ½d per lb advance on Tuesday last, with a fair good clearance. Pigs—1,605 were shown. The pork trade was in rather a sluggish state, late rates were barely supported, and nearly all were disposed of.

Prices:—Beasts, prime heifer, 10s 3d to 10s 6d; secondary sorts, 8s 9d to 9s 3d; inferior sorts, 6s 0d to 8s 0d; first-class oxen, 10s 0d to 10s 3d; middling, 8s 3d to 9s 0d; cows, 6s 6d to 8s 0d; pork, large, 4s 0d to 6s 0d; small, 6s 6d to 7s 0d per stone of 14lbs. Sheep, good vendable mutton, 9¾d to 10d; middling, 7¾d to 8¾d; tups, ewes, and inferior, 8½d to 9d per lb., sinking offal.

Darlington Cattle Market, Monday.—Best beef 9s 6d to 10s; secondary sorts, 8s to 9s 3d. Lean beasts were in fair supply, but did not sell readily, though fair prices were obtained, some of best selling from £14 to £15 10s; secondary sorts, £10 to £12. Irish, £7 to £10 each. The supply of sheep was scarcely so large as usual: best made 8½d to 9½d; secondary sorts, 7½d to 8½d. Pigs, especially fat, made good prices.

Wakefield Cattle Market, Wednesday.—The annual Christmas show of fat stock was held here to-day, but there was neither so large or choice a stock of prime animals as was exposed last Wednesday. About 900 good useful fat beasts were offered, and trade ruled brisk at an advance of fully 1s per stone on last week's quotations. Beef of ordinary quality made 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. and prime 11s per stone of 14lbs. 2,800 sheep were penned, but althought most of them were of prime quality trade ruled very dull at lower prices.

MISCELLANEOUS MARKETS.

Newcastle Hay and Straw Market, Tuesday.—There were 115 carts of hay, and 28 carts of straw in the market. Prices: old land hay, £6 0s 0d to £7 10s 0d; this year's growth, £4 0s 0d to £5 6s 0d; new land hay, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d; this year's growth, £4 5s 0d to £5 10s 0d; clover hay, £4 0s 0d to £4 10s 0d per ton. Wheat straw, 2s 0d to 2s 9d; barley straw, 2s 0d to 2s 6d; and oat straw, 2s 4d to 3s 0d per thrave.

Middlesborough Iron Market, Tuesday.—To-day there was again an excellant attendance on 'Change at Middlesbro'. Comparatively little business, however, was actually transacted. There is really no alteration in the condition of the trade. The demand exceeds the power of supply. In some instances inconvenience is felt owing to the insufficient supply of coal and coke. The manufactured trade is as brisk as ever. Plates and angles cannot be had. Rails are in greater request, and trade generally is good.

Business Announcements.

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BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

The usual monthly meeting of this Board was held on Wednesday, in the Board Room, Town Hall Building, Shotley Bridge. The following members were present: Mr. Charles Wilson (chairman), Mr. William Ritson, Mr. E. O. Tregelles, Mr. H. Carss, Mr. J. Priestman, Mr. R. Latimer, Mr. W. Wilson, Mr. Thos. Muse, Mr. J. Annandale, jun., and the Rev. F. B. Thompson.

The minutes of last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.

THE DRAINAGE SCHEME.

Mr. Lawson the eminent engineer attended to confer with the Board on his drainage scheme. Shortly after ten o'clock the members of the Board, in conjunction with Mr. Lawson, proceeded to the Paper Mills of Messrs. Annandale, where an inspection was made of the mills and the courses of the stream down to Shotley Bridge. On returning to the Board-room the first question considered was

THE OUTFALL OF THE SEWERAGE.

It was found that in consequence of Mr. Richardson objecting to the outlet being on the Spa Well grounds, provision would have to be made for the outfall elsewhere. Two other schemes had been advocated by several members of the Board namely, to carry the sewerage on to the Haughs, belonging to Thomas Wilson, Esq., on the Northumberland side of the Derwent; or to carry it down to the place first projected by Messrs. Lawson and Mansergh, namely, on to land belonging to John Hunter, Esq., of Westwood. Several members of the Board doubted whether sufficient area would be available if the outfall were carried out at the Wood Street point.

Mr. Carss suggested that a pipe could be taken across the Derwent, near the bridge, to take the sewerage from the higher levels of the township on to the upper Haughs, leaving the lower Haughs available for the sewerage from Shotley Bridge.

Mr. Lawson thought, from the appearance of the ground from the Paper Mills down to the bridge which crosses the Derwent at Shotley Bridge, that sufficient level would be obtained to carry the sewerage from the Paper Mills on to the upper Haughs also, leaving the lower portion of the Haughs available for the Shotley Bridge sewerage.

Mr. Ritson said he would like to have separate estimates respecting the sewerage from the Paper Mills—the estimates to show the difference between the pipe necessary for carrying off the sewerage from the water-closets and the houses at the Shotley Grove Mills, and also if a pipe were brought from the Mills, what would be the cost.

Mr. Carss thought that if the surplus water or refuse water from the Mills had to be brought down, a considerable quantity of additional land would be required and he (Mr. Carss) would like to know what quantity of extra land it would take.

Mr. Lawson stated that if the Messrs. Annandale could furnish him with the quantity of refuse water likely to come from the Mills daily, he could then frame his estimate accordingly.

It was arranged that Messrs. Annandale should send Mr. Lawson information as to the quantity of refuse discharged from their works, together with the point of discharge, and that Mr. Lawson should afterwards give the Board an estimate of the cost of draining their piece of the sewerage separately from their other refuse, and of the other combined.

THE GAS QUESTION.

The Highway Committee reported they had come to terms with the Gas Company for the lighting of the public lamps on the following conditions—that the gas has to be 3s. 6d per thousand feet, by meter indication; that the Local Board finds their own lamplighters; that the lamps, lamp-posts, and surface pipes are to be delivered into the hands of the Local Board in an efficient condition; and that the lamps, &c., are to be returned to the Gas Company in the same condition as the Local Board received them. Mr. John Smith is to act on the part of the Board, Mr. Bruce, gas manager, on the part of the Gas Company; and Mr. Straughan, plumber, is to officiate as referee.

On the motion of Mr. William Wilson, seconded by Mr. Muse, the gas agreement was signed.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The following report was read and referred to the Highway Committee:—We are getting materials on to the several roads, especially Durham Road. I have found a difficulty in getting the limestone carted. Mr. Beckwith complains of his price being too little, and he does not give that attention to our work that I could wish. During the month we have covered nearly the whole of the footpaths with ashes. In consequence of the gas pipes being laid in the footpaths between the Police Station and Blackhill, we will be under the necessity of giving that part another covering. My attention has been called to the dangerous state of the roads, or rather the fence dividing the roads from the Slonks Well into Shotley Bridge. Mr. John Wrightson, of Blackhill, on leaving Shotley Bridge one night, about a fortnight ago, fell over the wall and sustained some injury. I would like to have the instructions of the Board concerning this matter.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The following report was read from Mr. Smith, and referred to the Sanitary Committee:—I have inspected the nuisance complained of by Mrs. Wardhaugh at Baxton Burn, caused by privies and ashpits belonging to Mr. Routledge of Consett. I have seen Mr. Routledge on the subject, and he is prepared to abate the nuisance and I expect it will be attended to shortly. The privies, &c., for the most part are in a reasonable condition. We still continue the use of disinfecting powder, and I have given orders for an application of quick lime to all sinks, &c., during this week.

SURVEYOR'S ACCOUNTS.

The Surveyor's account was read and ordered to be paid as under—Messrs. Ord and Maddison, £70 3s. 7d.; Mr. Smith's monthly pay-sheet, £38 19s. 7d; Mr. Smith's quarter's salary, £8 15s.

APPLICATION FOR THE USE OF THE BOARD-ROOM.

An application was received for the use of the Board-room on the 23rd, for the distribution of the clothing, &c., of the Ladies' Clothing Club.—Acceded to.

ADDITIONAL TRAIN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN BENFIELDSIDE AND DURHAM.

The Chairman stated that he had received information, but not officially, which would follow, that the North-Eastern Railway Company had, in reply to the memorial prepared by Mr. Booth, asking for an additional to and from Durham, agreed to give one extra train each day.

This being the whole of the business, the Board separated.

The blacksmiths and joiners of Kibblesworth Colliery have received the concession of the nine hours, to commence on January 1, 1872.

A Very Young Thief.—On Monday, at the Bishop Auckland Police Court, a little boy, eight years of age, named William Morgan, son of an iron worker, was charged by the North-Eastern Railway Company with stealing a large bale of stockings, value £7 10s. 8d., from the shop of J. Manley, parcel depot, on Thursday. The parcel had been left until the parcel-boy had delivered some others in the town, and, on returning for it, it had been stolen. The youth was seen to take the parcel out of the shop, and drag it down Newgate Street. On getting to Great Gates he could not get it any further, and promised a little boy a halfpenny to assist him. The two then got it to Mr. Whitfield's, marine store dealer, to sell it for old rags, and it was weighed as such; but, on Mr. Whitfield cutting it open and finding it to contain new stockings, prisoner ran away. Information was then given to Police-sergeant Harrison, who traced the youth and took him into custody.—The depositions which had been taken were read over, and the magistrates said that as prisoner was such a very little boy, and of such tender years, they would not go into the case, and ordered the goods to be returned to the railway company, and the child was set at liberty.

CONSETT BRITISH SCHOOLS.

The above schools have taken the lead in Christmas treats in this locality, and with a large number of the young people in Consett yesterday (Thursday) was a great day. The large room was ornamented for the occasion with evergreens, holly, and banners, and in the afternoon 340 children were regaled with tea and cake by the teachers and a few friends. Subsequently, the parents and public to the number of 150 partook of the good things supplied by Mrs. John Wilson, Mrs. J. Glendinning, Mrs. J. Routledge, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. R. Frazer, Mrs. G. Routledge, Mrs. G. Smith, and Mr. A. Moir. The ladies were assisted by a number of damsels, and valuable aid was afforded by Mesdames Whitehead, Chaytor, and Elliott.

The entertainment given after tea was a very successful affair;—but who ever knew of a children's concert to fail? The chair was occupied by

Mr. W. Jenkins, of Consett Hall, whose rising was the signal for an outburst of applause. Having spoken of the pleasure it gave him to take part in that social gathering, and to assist in carrying out the education of the children, he said there was no shbject of so much importance to them as the education of the children, and the progress Consett schools were making was highly satisfactory. He had the honour to be one of the managers, but he did nothing. The Vicar, assisted by Mr. Grant and Mr. Cross, did the work so well, that the school at the last examination was beyond the average. (Hear, hear.) After reviewing the principal events of the year, he touched upon the commercial prosperity of the country. The trade prospects were brighter now than they had been for many years, and with care on the part of the employers, the working classes, and the legislature, it might go on for years. He then dwelt at some length on the government education scheme, and he made bold to say it was a great benefit. He was sorry a large class in the country were unwisely seeking to thwart its operations. There were no doubt difficulties in the way, but he was the greatest friend of the children who would sink all his religious differences, and give the scheme a start. There were sad marks of the want of education in Consett—200 or 300 children went to no school; and he should hail the day when there would be a Board in every township, and compel the children to go to school. But he would have the parents in Consett to use the present system, and if it was found necessary afterwards, have it amended. Don't let them encourage the feeling of opposition in the country, so as to thwart its operations. In Consett British Schools there was no religious bias; no catechism to be learnt; it was a broad school; and the Vicar had no desire to thrust anything upon them favourable to the Church of England. There were all sorts in the school, and he hoped no school would be shut against the children of the workmen through religious bias. Mr. Jenkins then pointed out the importance of regular attendance at school, after which he showed how the schools were maintained, the Government grant for this year being something like £120.—The following lengthy programme was afterwards gone through:—

Hymn	"High heaven my home,"	Children
Round	"Invitation to singing,"	Children.
Recitation	"The barber of Bagdad,"	Master Routledge.
Recitation	"The snow,"	Miss Elliott.
Recitation	"The wreck of the Hesperus,"	Miss Robson.
Song	"The bugle horn,"	Children.
Recitation	"Oh! why should the spirit of mortal be proud,"	Miss J. A. Batey.
Recitation	"The sword,"	Master Davis.
Recitation	"Jenny Lee,"	Miss Glendinning.
Song	"Before all lands,"	Children.
Recitation		Master Landres.
Recitation	"Saturday,"	Miss Wilson.
Recitation	"Truthfulness,"	Miss Davis.
Song	"The cricket,"	Children.
Recitation	"The serpent's tail" (an allegory)	Miss Knifton.
Recitation	"Christmas cheer,"	Master Perry.
Recitation	"Flowers,"	Master Fiddis.
Hymn	"Gentle Jesus,"	Children.
Recitation	"The hour of prayer,"	Miss M. Wilkinson.
Recitation	"The child's first grief,"	Miss E. Wilkinson
Recitation	"Talents,"	Master Robson.
Recitation	"The little one,"	Miss Davis.
Song	"Lightly rows,"	Children.
Recitation	"The hand-post,"	Master Elliott.
Recitation	"Little Bell,"	Miss Grant.
Recitation	"Run and play,"	Master M. Chapman.
Song	"The fairies' dance,"	Children.
Recitation	"The death of Master Tommy Rook,"	Master Williams.
Recitation	"God made all things,"	Miss M. E. Thompson.
Recitation	"The beggar man,"	Miss Patterson.
Hymn	"Jesus came our souls to save,"	Children.
Song	"Oh! come, gentle Spring,"	Children.

The Vicar, in the course of the evening, gave a short address. His work, he said, was made easy by the pecuniary help he got from Mr. Jenkins, and by the labours of the teachers. The past year, though there had been much sickness amongst the children, had been one of great success, and the grant was one-third larger than on any previous year. Two of the children had become pupil teachers during the year, and had passed a creditable examination. Mr. Leonard, who had finished his apprenticeship, had given the managers the greatest satisfaction during his term, and had left with a spotless character. (Applause.) He was now in London, and he trusted that he had by this time got a Queen's Scholarship in the Wesleyan College. Every two months their pupil teachers went to Darlington to the Pupil Teachers' Association, in which there were more than 100 schools. They subscribed £2 annually, and this year they had got as prizes more than £4 worth of books, besides certificates. Mr. Leonard had got three handsome books, and he hoped there was a brilliant future before him. After referring to the advantages now offered to teachers, he spoke briefly on the question of School Boards, but he would leave them for other men to get up, as he did not consider those in existence reflected much credit upon the places where they were located, and they might be the same in this neighbourhood.

Mr. Ainsworth, who has recently come to Consett, came forward at the call of the chairman, and reminded the children that they were sent to school for their own benefit, and they had to make good use of their time. To those who had got prizes he would say, "Excelsior;" and to those who had not, "Nil desperandum," which might be liberally translated "better luck next time," "Try again."

Mr. John Elliott, at a later stage, was called upon, and he showed the young folks how much better their opportunities for scholastic improvement are than they were formerly. The reading books were more varied, and were filled with useful information, written in the most interesting style; while the mode of communicating instruction was also greatly improved. The same ratio of improvement, however, was not observable, he thought, in the other books, as "Potter's Mathematics" contained as much as would necessitate a search through a backful now. After relating an anecdote or two, he hoped the youngsters would derive more advantages, get more prizes, that there would be more pupil-teachers, and move education the wide world over.

Mr. Jenkins and the Vicar presented prizes to the following children, those in the first and third sections being given by the first-named gentleman, and the remainder by the managers:—

Attendance.—*Mixed:* Jno. T. Routledge, 415; Jos. Routledge, 414; Wm. Bennison, 413; Thos. Davis, 412; Christina Grant, 412; Mary E. Thompson, 400; Sarah Pickering, 399 *Infants:* A. M. Chapman, 428; Thos. James, 428; Mary Hall, 428; Mary C. Grant, 427; Joanna Davis, 421; Jno. Fiddis, 419; Rose Carroll, 418; N. Robson, 410.

On Examination.—*Standard* 6: Alice Gregory, 978; John T. Routledge, 913; Eliz. Routledge, 838; George Christopher, 820. *Standard* 5; Caroline Knifton, 783; Michael Fawell, 689. *Standard* 4: Chas. Knifton, 874; Christina Grant, 850; M. A. Mowbray, 802. *Standard* 3: Mary Barnett, 723; Mary Patterson, 576; M. A. Wilson, 564. *Standard* 2: Joseph Lindow and E. J. Robson. *Standard* 1: Charles Routledge and Mary A. Shell.

Good Conduct (decided in the upper classes by the Children themselves).—Robert Moon, Samuel Jones, William Gregory, Mary A. Elliott, Mary J. Glendinning and Mary Godley.

Sewers.—Mary A. Mowbray and Mary Robson.

After votes of thanks to Mr. Cross, Mrs. Grant, and Assistants; to the Managers of the School, and the Consett Iron Co., the company dispersed.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY NEAR SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

Early on Sunday morning the inhabitants of Shotley Bridge were startled by a report that Mr. John Wilson, master joiner, of Ebchester, had been robbed of his watch and money while on his way between Highgate and Ebchester. It appears that Mr. Wilson had been drinking at Dixon's public-house at Highgate, on Saturday night. Two men named John Swinburne and Thomas Errington were also there, the former of whom partook of some drink with Wilson. About twelve o'clock Wilson left the house with the intention of going home by way of the Benfieldside Edge Road and had proceeded as far as Benfieldside Church when he was suddenly seized from behind by a couple of men, one of whom rifled his pockets while the other prevented him from shouting. Wilson, being a strong and active man, made a good deal of resistance, but he was unable to shake off the two men, who succeeded in dragging him to the ground. After possessing themselves of all the valuables Wilson had, the two men ran down the Church Bank in the direction of Shotley Bridge, followed by Wilson, who at once gave information of the robbery to the police.

THE PRISONERS BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES.

On Monday morning the two prisoners, Thomas Errington, and John Swinburne, were brought before the Shotley Bridge bench of magistrates (H. C. Silvertop and A. Town, Esqrs.) and charged with robbery from the person of John Wilson, on Saturday night. The first witness called was—

Andrew Dixon, innkeeper, Highgate, who stated that on Saturday night the prosecutor and the two prisoners were in his house. Swinburne and the prosecutor had a glass of ale together. The prosecutor left the house and the two prisoners left, about ten minutes afterwards.

Mr. Silvertop: What time was it then?

Witness: Five minutes to twelve.

Prosecutor stated that he observed the two prisoners in Mr. Dixon's house while he was there. After leaving the public-house he went down the Church Bank, and while he was going along the path he heard footsteps behind him, and suddenly a man got hold of him and put his hand into his trousers pocket and took out his money. Prosecutor saw another man close by, who came to the others assistance, and prosecutor was then laid on to his back and his watch taken from his watch pocket.

Mr. Silvertop: Did you know the men?

Prosecutor: Yes.

Mr. Silvertop: Who were they?

Prosecutor: Those two men (pointing to the prisoners).

Supt. Oliver applied to have the prisoners remanded to Lanchester until Thursday.

Mr. Silvertop: Have you anything to say why you should not be remanded until Thursday?

Swinburne: We have plenty of witnesses to prove that we went home together.

Mr. Silvertop (to Dixon): What state was Mr. Wilson when he left your house?

Dixon: He was rather "fresh," but he could walk.

Mr. Silvertop: He was sensible enough to know what he was doing?

Dixon: Yes, sir.

Mr. Silvertop (to prosecutor): After you got up did you find the watch anywhere?

Prosecutor: I felt them take the watch out of my pocket?

Mr. Silvertop: Have you found the watch yet?

Prosecutor: No, sir.

Supt. Oliver: The police found part of the appendages of the watch where the prosecutor had been pulled down.

Mr. Silvertop: You will have to be remanded until Thursday next.

Swinburne: Will you not take bail, sir?

Mr. Silvertop: No.

On Thursday, the two prisoners were brought before the Lanchester bench of magistrates (A. H. Talmadge, H. Smith, Esqrs., and Major Joicey). Mr. Wallace, solicitor, of Newcastle, appeared to defend the prisoners.

In answer to the Clerk (Mr. Watson), the prosecutor said the two men who attacked him took out of his pockets a silver watch and guard, a pocket-book, and five or six shillings in money.

The Clerk: Are these the two men who took the articles from you?

Prosecutor: Yes.

The Clerk: You swear to them?

Prosecutor: Yes.

The Clerk: Was there any name on the watch?

Prosecutor: My own name was engraved on the back of it.

The Clerk: Has any of the property been recovered since?

Prosecutor: No, sir.

Supt. Oliver said he had got a description of the articles stolen, but as the police had not as yet been able to trace it, he asked to have the prisoners remanded for a week.

Mr. Smith: When did the robbery take place?

Supt. Oliver: On Sunday morning.

Mr. Wallace: The men have been in custody three clear days, and I think you certainly have had time to recover some of the stolen property. As there is no evidence to prove that the prisoners are the men who attacked the prosecutor, I think you can scarcely remand them.

Supt. Oliver: We have almost sufficient evidence to convict them as it is.

Mr. Wallace: Have these men ever been convicted for felony or larceny before?

Supt. Oliver: I would rather not answer that question.

Mr. Wallace said he was equally anxious that the character of his clients should be vindicated, as he was that the ends of justice should not be frustrated. He had not asked the prosecutor any questions, as he was aware that Mr. Wilson had been drinking on the night of the alleged robbery, and he asked their worships to bear this in mind. He would ask them in the name of justice, if they determined to remand the two prisoners to admit them to bail, because Mr. Oliver had told them that he had not as yet received any clue as to the whereabouts of the articles alleged to have been stolen, and the only evidence there was against these two men was the evidence of the prosecutor himself. In conclusion he would only say that he had several witnesses who could prove that these men were not at the place of the robbery at the time stated, and this being so he had not the slightest hesitation in asking them to admit them to bail.

Mr. Talmadge: That would be quite out of the ordinary course of proceeding. In these cases it is not customary to admit to bail.

Mr. Wallace: The prisoners are men well known in the district. One of them has been in the neighbourhood for nine years. They can produce two sureties of £50 each.

Mr. Talmadge: It is quite out of the question.

The prisoners were then remanded until Thursday next.

"The Lion, the Net, and the Mouse."—To prevent Pirates, and unprincipled Traders from deceiving the public, the proprietor of Powell's Balsam of Aniseed has been compelled to adopt the above Trade Mark (Lion, Net, and Mouse), and this design will in future continue to appear upon the wrapper of each genuine Bottle, and any one imitating it will render themselves liable to fine or imprisonment. The following letter will bear testimony to the wonderful curative properties of this old cough medicine. - "Her Majesty's Gun Boat, 'Netley,' Wick, North-East Coast of Scotland, 7th September, 1868.—Dear Sir,—Having had a most distressing and severe Cough, which caused me many sleepless nights and restless days, I was recommended by His Lordship the Earl of Caithness, to try your most invaluable Balsam of Aniseed, and I can assure you with the first dose I found immediate relief, even without having to suspend my various duties; and the first small bottle completely cured me, therefore I have the greatest confidence in fully recommending it to the million. Most respectfully yours, W. Linzell, H.M.G.B. 'Netley.'—To Mr. Powell."—Prepared and Sold by Thomas Powell, 16, Blackfriars Road, London; and Sold by Chemists and Medicine Vendors throughout the World. In Bottles only, at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. each. Ask for "Powell's Balsam of Aniseed." 660b

"WHY AM I A CHRISTIAN?"

The above was the subject of a lecture delivered in connection with the Consett Lecture Association on Tuesday evening by the Rev. Wesley Farrar, vicar of Castleside. Mr. Siddle occupied the chair, and briefly introduced

The Rev. Lecturer, who said that although he was getting into a sort of pulpit, yet he was not going to be very sermonic. He put the Bible before him because it was a grand text book, and he was sure that its presence was a sufficient guarantee that he should say nothing that was not in strict accordance with the tenor of that Holy Word. (Applause). He was going to put the question to each one of them—"Why am I a Christian?" This was a very inquisitive age—an age full of curiosity, for men would know the reason "why." The apostle Peter, in his first epistle, said to the Church of his age, "be ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." In addressing himself to this subject he would take the four classes of religionists, so to speak, that pervade the world. There were the Pagans, the Mahometans, the Jews, and then there were the Christians. He would ask them all what reason they had for this hope in them, and inasmuch as the Pagans were the most multitudinous, one would imagine that they would be able to give the most satisfactory reason. Let them go to the multitudinous nations that embraced Paganism; let them go to India and what did they see there? Superstition, jugglery, obscenity, orgies, cruelty, and in fact everything pandering to the passions. This was the religion of the multitudes of India. Of China they knew but little, and of the little they knew it made them sick at heart. He next came on to Africa, the land of savagery,—a nation almost without a God,—a nation some of whose dialects seemed to have no word for God, except in the abstract. Here also was cruelty, human sacrifice, here were deeds of blood, of murder, attached to the name of religion. This was Paganism, but in this worship a satisfactory reason could not be found, "why am I a Christian?" He next came to Mahometanism. He supposed out of the 950,000,000 souls in the world, 200,000,000 were followers of the false prophet. When he opened their books and read the pages, he discovered some noble thoughts, some grand poetical ideas, and fine imagination; but all these were counteracted by the horrid barbarities practised, and consequently no satisfactory reason could be found here for their religion. He would now proceed to the most interesting part of his subject—he would now come to Judaism. He would make all the other religions preface and prelude. On looking at the statistics of this nation he found that they were comparatively few in number—only 5,000,000 out of the 950,000,000 of this would. They were scattered abroad everywhere—they had no polity,—they had, in one sense, a nationality but yet they were not a nation. He would come dispassionately to an examination of their creed. They were a minority, but let them give this minority a fair hearing. Here was the text book of Judaism, and as soon as he opened its pages he was struck with the peerless sublimity of the readings. When reading the pages in this marvellous book they were fascinated with the beauty of the stories. He had been with Jacob in Bethel,—he had read the story of Joseph until his eyes gushed with tears,—he had come forth with Israel out of Egypt. He would pass on to prophecy, those odes of prophecy, those noble songs which David sang. They were continually telling of burdens ready to fall upon nation after nation, and we had seen them realised. These glorious songs were continually telling of the coming one, whose chorus was, "blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Applause). They were like beacon-fires, pointing you onward until at last the Lord's house on the top of the mountain was reached. But these types were the etchings that the painter would not fill in—these prophecies were left unfulfilled, and he was obliged to say "not there can I find a satisfactory reason for the hope that is in me." He would turn from the burdens of Judaism and seek some better road to lead to heaven. He now came to the "Christian," and certainly that religion had taken possession of most of the civilised parts of the earth. (Applause). He turned to its books, and strange to say they were those self-same books which he had just left. Just where Judaism left us in the dark Christianity comes and takes us by the hand—it was the day-light springing from on high. He turned to its pages, and strange to say it was the story of this child that was to be born, and this son that was to be given. He found just what prophecy said was to transpire 1,000 years before, was all fulfilled. We had the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the very place marked out for the "child to be born and the son given;" and we had Christ sacrificed. "Why am I a Christian?" Because he had been to the foot of the Cross—because he had gazed upon Jesus crucified—and because he saw there a whole burnt offering. "Why am I a Christian?" Because he was born for a better world and his heart and home were yonder. Jesus was also." That was the reason why he was a Christian, coming to receive men, "that where He is I may be (Applause). Might it be said of us, "he led a Christian life—he died a Christian death—he has gone to a Christian home." (Applause).

The Chairman said he was sure they would all be highly gratified at the eloquence of the rev. lecturer. He had shown clearly and truthfully the great comforts and benefits that attended a Christian life. They were all aware that Christianity consisted of brotherly affection and self-denial, and he was sure that if they would only follow the precepts laid down by the reverend lecturer they would all have a satisfactory reason for the hope that was in them. (Applause).

Mr. Potts said he was sure the whole of those present would be very much benefited by the eloquent and instructive lecture which they had heard, and he had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the Rev Mr. Farrar.

Mr. W. M. Patterson seconded the motion, which was carried amidst considerable applause.

The Rev Lecturer in returning thanks, said he always felt an interest in anything connected with Consett, and although he was in another communion, yet he was Wesley in heart as well as name (Applause).

Mr. Elliott proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Siddell, and the proceedings terminated.

Valuable Discovery for the Hair.—A very nicely perfumed hair dressing called "The Mexican Hair Renewer," now being sold by most Chemists and Perfumers at 3s. 6d. per bottle is fast superseding all "Hair Restorers"—for it *will positively restore in every case Grey or White hair* to its original colour, by a few applications without *dyeing* it, or leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth on bald spots, where the hair glands are not decayed. Certificate from Dr. Versman on every bottle, with full particulars. Ask for "The Mexican Hair Renewer," prepared by H. C. Gallup, 493, Oxford Street, London.

Sweeping Condemnation of Burns by a Dundee Minister.—In accordance with the wish of the Supreme Court of the Free Church, the Rev. John Macpherson, on Sabbath afternoon, brought under the notice of his congregation the subject of the sin of intemperance. He chose for his text the words: "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit." After picturing a few of the leading characteristics of the drunkard—namely, his terrible debasement, selfishness, cruelty, slavishness, &c.—Mr. Macpherson alluded to some of the causes which, as he said, were calculated to goad people on in the sin of intemperance. Referring to Burns, whom he stagmatised as a wretch who had on inconceivable account to give before the bar of God for his Bacchanalian songs—songs which almost invariabaly were to be found side by side with the whisky bottle—songs calculated to make the people regard sin as a light matter—Mr. Macpherson said he felt he must speak out on this point. He would not praise a man who applied his genius to a bad use. It seemed to him that a glameur was over the eyes of some men when they saw genius in Burns. He could only term unsanctified genius diabolical cleverness.

LEADGATE WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL.

The annual public examination of the scholars attending the above school was held in the school-room, on Wednesday evening, in the presence of the Rev. R. Stepney, superintendent minister, and a large number of parents and others interested in the institution. Mr. E. J. Harding, teacher, "drilled" the children, and it was difficult which most to admire, the tact of the former or the readiness of the latter. "The Conversion, Journeys, and Labours of St. Paul," was gone through in a manner which could not fail to produce a most satisfactory impression. For instance the teacher would repeat the first portion of a sentence, and promptly all the youngsters would supply the finish. After this is carried on with great rapidity for a minute or two, he stops short, and asks Sarah why John was not suffered to accompany Paul? Sarah at once gives the answer. In the same way he enquires of John what took place on the morning after Paul and Barnabas were thrust into prison? John cannot answer quick enough whereupon up go a forest of hands, indicating that they who are attracting the teacher's attention in this way can answer. Thomas and Mary are chosen, and they recite the occurrence. After a considerable time had been spent in this way, during which Mr. Harding gave the chief features of the narrative when he was not asking questions, the children joined in singing "Let us with a gladsome mind." This done, we had the reading lesson. A pupil teacher stepped in front of the junior scholars, gave the reading, "Try again," and called upon Henry to read a section, then Hannah, then Rachel, then James, and so on, until they all got the signal to stand, and read the story *en masse*. A school song having been given, Mr. Harding put the seniors through in a similar fashion with "There lives and moves a soul in all things," and "Above, below, where'er I gaze." That which seemed to us to be the most interesting to the visitors was the arithmetic lesson. The "sums" were not given from any book, but made on the spot by the teacher, a pupil teacher working the question for him. No sooner were the figures given out than the faces of the pupils assumed the most serious aspect, and nothing was heard save the ticking of the pencil on the slates. Just a breath or two, and up rises young Sobersides from Shotley Bridge, "as cool as a cucumber," at the top of the gallery; his was finished. We will watch that youth. Another question is given out; he sits up for a moment, with the right hand placed upon his mouth, the only motion apparent being his fingers upon his lips; he rises; we look around—he is first again. Mr. Harding subsequently went to the elder scholars, and gave more difficult sums. A frizzy-headed little fellow, from South Medomsley Colliery on the back form, a complete contrast to the leader of the younger ones, was the first on his feet; but a taller, Leadgate youth, with considerably less fire, was a powerful rival, and at times it was difficult to tell which had it. A spell at mental arithmetic followed, then we had an examination on geography, in which some of the scholars tested each other. The most satisfactory part of the examination to us was the grammar lesson, in which the children seemed to have a capital idea of the relation of one word to another, and we fully endorse the remarks of Mr. Stepney with respect thereto. Juvenile songs and recitations took up the remainder of the evening, and we cannot resist giving the names of the reciters. They were — Martha Appleton Geo. Whinney, Rachel Firn, Chas. Hedley, Esther Hetherington, John W. Henderson, Margaret Bainbridge, John Collinson, Barbara Storey, Thos. Barron, Annie Dawson, Geo. Hedley, Sarah A. Keenleyside, John James, Jane H Simpson, John Walton, Sarah J. Pott's Thos. Muse, Jane Whitfield, Thomas Stark, Wm. Little, Dorothy A. Richardson, Robt. Henderson, Alice Whittaker, John Bessford, Ralph Storey, Maria Lanks, and Geo. Applegarth. A dialogue was said by three boys, and Mary Jane Turbitt sang "The Bridge," which was heartily applauded.

Rev. R. Stepney, at the conclusion, said if he had not been present he should have had inflicted a loss upon himself. He did not know when he had been more gratified with an examination, and if Mr. Harding had done nothing more during the year than prepare the children for it, he had done a good work. It was a marvellous thing to him how they had got up to their present condition, and they seemed all to delight in the training they got there. Their acquaintance with grammar was surprising and if himself and other adults present had been put through in the same fashion as the children, he doubted they would have been at fault.

Mr. J. Jopling proposed and Mr. Stark seconded in eulogistic terms, a vote of thanks to Mr. Harding, which was carried by acclammation.

A verse of the National anthem was sung, and the benediction pronounced after which the gathering separated.

A rather fast youth was relating his experience of his voyage across the ocean to a sympathising friend. Said he, "I will tell you what, old fellow though. You can get as tight as you please every day, and everybody thinks you are only sea sick."

An Irishman riding on the front platform of a horse-car, with a heavy bundle on his shoulder frequently shifted it from one shoulder to the other for indeed it was no trifle to sustain. Noticing these movements, the driver asked why he did not set his bundle on the platform. The Irishman replied "Be jabers, I think the horses have enough to do to drag the car wid its load of passengers. "I'll carry the bundle myself."

Heaving the Lead.—The "Amaranth" was coming down the upper Mississippi, loaded with pig lead. As she was going over a shoal place the pilot gave the signal to heave the lead. The only man forward at the time was a green Irishman. "Why don't you heave the lead?" demanded the mate.—"Is it heave the lead, your honour? Where to?"—"Overboard, you blockhead."—The Irishman snatched up one of the pigs of lead and threw it overboard; the mate in endeavouring to prevent him, lost his balance and fell into the river.—The captain, running to the edge of the roof, asked: "Why don't you heave the lead, and sing out how much water there is?"—"the lead is heaved, your honour and mate's gone down to see how much wather there is," responded Pat.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

Consett—At 7, Consett Terrace, on the 14th inst., Mrs. Richards, of a daughter.

At 6, Consett Terrace, on the 16th inst., Mrs. Hopper, of a son.

At 17, Sunderland Street, same date, Mrs. Kane, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Shotley Bridge—At the Primitive Methodist Chapel, on the 17th inst., by the Rev. E. Rust, Mr. Robt Oldfield to Mrs. Agnes Stuart, both of Consett.

Lanchester—At the Parish Church, on the 17th inst., by the Rev. J. Dingle, Mr. John Maddison to Miss Sarah Dawson, both of Leadgate.

Durham—At the Register Office, on the 18th inst., Mr. Richard Hall to Miss E. J. Dodds, both of Consett.

DEATHS.

Lanchester—On the 16th inst., aged 20, Martha, and on the 20th, aged 63, Mary, wife and daughter of Mr. Matthew Brewer.

Jarrow—On the 17th inst., aged 32, Mr. Wm. Siddle, formerly of Blackhill.

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