ARRIVAL OF
JUBILEE CAPS. Also,
TWO PEAKED CAPS
Prices from 4½d. up to 1s. 6d.
KID GLOVES,
For Ladies and Gentlemen, 2, 4, and 6-Buttons
Black and Coloured, 1s. 11½d. to 2s. 11d. per pair.
Largest assortment of Ladies Lisle, Taffeta, and Pure Silk Gloves, from 2½d. up to 1s. 11½d. per pair.
BAIN & CO'S
DRESS AND DRAPERY MART,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

ARRIVAL OF
NEW HATS,
Prices 1s. 11d. up to 2s. 9d.
SCARFS AND COLLARS,
Prices from 2d. up to 1s. 6d.
BRACES AND FRONTS.
Prices 3½d. up to 1s. 6½d.
BAIN & CO'S
DRESS AND DRAPERY MART,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

No. 1,428. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, December 23rd, 1887. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

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

MONEY LENT PRIVATELY,
From £20 to £2,000,
in town or country, on approved note of hand alone, at 5 per cent. Also upon furniture, trade or farm stock (without removal), and to assist persons into business.

No sureties required. Strictly private, and no delay. Write or call on actual lender,
Mr. F. DUNBAR,
Kent Villa, St. Mary's Road, Harlesden, London

Contracts.

TO CONTACTORS.

TO LET, the SEVERAL WORKS required in the ERECTION OF BUSINESS PREMISES at Dipton, for Annfield Plain Co-operative Society, Limited.

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract may be seen, and Forms of Tender will be supplied, at our Office, Rose Cottage, Shotley Bridge.

Tenders, sealed and endorsed, are to be delivered at the Architects' Office on or before the 29th inst. Office will be closed on the 24th and 26th inst.

The Proprietors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.
JOHN SMITH & SON, Architects.
December 15th, 1887. 813y

Lost.

LOST, a Red HEIFER with white face; scissor-marked "M" on the far rump.—Finder will be rewarded on returning it to Mr THOMAS MORPETH, Butcher, Consett. 850y

LOST, on Monday, December 12th, between Consett and Newcastle, Three SCOTCH WETHERS.—Apply to Mr GEORGE THOMPSON, Allansford. Anyone detaining them after this notice will be prosecuted. 856y

Wanted.

WANTED, a good GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply at Freemasons' Hotel, Consett, from Saturday to Monday. 848y

WANTED, by the Annfield Plain Co-operative Society, a Young Woman not under 15 years of age, as ASSISTANT CHECK-CLERK. Wages, 6s per week.—Apply at Committee Room on Tuesday night, December 27th, at Seven o'clock.

WANTED, a SERVANT GIRL.—Apply to Mrs CALVERT, Broom Hill, Ebchester. 842y

WANTED, a respectable Boy as APPRENTICE to the Printing Business.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. 841y

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

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

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

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

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

FREE PASSAGES to Queensland, Australia.—50 Female Domestic Servants WANTED for Queensland every Month. Free Passages granted by Mail Steamers. Immediate employment on arrival. Wages £20 to £50 per year. No Passage Money to re-pay.—Apply only to WM. J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead (Queensland Government Agent). N.B.—Cheap Fares to Australia, £12 12s.; America, £3 10s; Canada, £3; South Africa, from £15 15s.

To Let.

TO LET, a HOUSE, in Victoria Street, Consett; suitable for Private House or Small Shop.—Apply to H. CORNFORTH, Havelock Street, Consett.

TO LET, a good JOINER'S SHOP, now occupied by Mr Thomas Raine, Blackhill.—Apply to RICHARD MURRAY. 636y

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP, in Derwent Street, Blackhill; a good Stable attached.—Apply to M. FRANKLAND, Blackhill. 637y

TO LET, a Six-roomed HOUSE, 19, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.—Apply to D. MARTIN, Fell Farm, Consett. 649y

TO LET, a Four-Roomed HOUSE, with Yard, in Wood Street, Shotley Bridge.—Apply to ROBERT BELL, Watling Street, Leadgate. 235y

TO LET (November 11th) a HOUSE containing Seven Rooms, with every Convenience, situated in Medomsley Road, Consett.—Apply to C. ROUTLEDGE, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 522y

TO LET, Well Fit-up DINING ROOMS, doing a fair business, near Armstrong's Works, Scotswood Road, Newcastle. Moderate Ingoing.—For particulars apply at *Consett Guardian* Office. 363y

TO LET, or FOR SALE, that Well-accustomed Linen and Woollen DRAPERY SHOP, No. 19, Middle Street, Consett; plate-glass Front; in a good position for business. Considerable part of the purchase-money can be left on Mortgage.—Apply, 23, Middle Street. 818y

CASTLESIDE.—TO LET, a HOUSE, containing Four Rooms, Large Garden, Small Close of Land, Byre, and every Convenience. Also, a Two-roomed COTTAGE.—For particulars apply to Mr. T. J. MUSE, Castleside House. 673y

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a useful COW, to profit.—Apply to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 836y

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

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

FOR SALE, Two STOVES, BARS, two COILS, and a quantity of IRON PIPES, for Heating Purposes.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office.

PROPERTY CATALOGUES.—If you wish to Buy, Sell, Let, or Rent Property of any description, see Mr H. M. Furness's Catalogue, sent post free on application. Entries solicited. No charge for insertion.—Office: Forth House close to Central Station), Newcastle-on-Tyne

TO SMALL CAPITALISTS.

FOR SALE, a current-going BUSINESS, which has been successfully carried on for 20 years by the present proprietor, who is now retiring from the Furniture, Hardware, and Fancy Trade Stock. Can be greatly reduced to suit purchaser; this being a rare chance for one or more pushing men seldom to be met with. Stock and Fixtures taken at valuation, and every instruction given to new beginners.—Apply to WM. WILKINSON, Furniture Broker and Ironmonger, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green, Co. Durham. 391y

For Sale.

HARMONIUMS FOR SALE.

HARMONIUMS, Gothic style, Fret Front Holder and Music Desk, £6. Burr Walnut, 7 Stops, £6; Burr Walnut, 5 Stops, £5; solid American Walnut, by Gilbert Bauer, £5 10s; Kelly and Co.'s Burr Walnut, 8 Stops, £10; American Organs, from £5; Bell and Co.'s and Estey and Co.'s from 13 to 70 guineas.—DAWSON AND CO., 142, Northumberland Street, Newcastle. 942s

Business Announcements.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

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

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

WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER & VALUER, Land, House, Insurance, and Emigration Agent, Share Broker, &c. Intending Emigrants can be Booked in the finest Ships to America and all our Colonies. Valuations and Auction Sales of Agricultural Stock, Contractors' Plant, Household Furniture, &c., will be conducted with ability and care on Reasonable Terms and prompt payments by
WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER, BLACKHILL.

CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT
FOR
XMAS CARDS, NEW YEAR'S CARDS, and a great variety of Fancy and Useful Articles suitable for the Season.

Desk and Pocket Diaries, 1888, Annuals, Account Books, Pocket Books, &c.,
TRY
J. COCKBURN,
GENERAL AND FANCY STATIONER,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

☞ Schools Supplied. Books Bound. Books not in Stock, may be had on a short notice. Newspapers &c., delivered to order. 789

THE WHISKEY,
BEN-GLEN-DEW,
42s. per Case of One Dozen each, or 21s. per Gallon (packages included).
RICHARD MURRAY,
BEN-FIELD-SIDE.

XMAS CASES OF ASSORTED SPIRITS AND WINES. 790y

QUEENSLAND.
ROYAL MAIL LINE STEAMERS.
PASSAGE £17 ONLY.
LAND ORDER WARRANTS, value £20, are PRESENTED FREE TO all approved PASSENGERS travelling BY THIS LINE.
This young and promising Colony is now offering Special Advantages to all Classes.
FARMERS and OTHERS may obtain FREEHOLD LAND under the Homestead Clauses of the present Land Act up to 160 Acre Blocks, for 6d. per annum per acre, being paid as Rent for Five Years, making 2s. 6d. per acre in all, when payment ceases and the Land becomes Freehold.
LARGER FREEHOLDS and LEASEHOLDS, on specially favourable conditions, may be had under the recently-passed Land Act.
For further Particulars apply to A. BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT; WM. J. JOHNSON, 96, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE; GRAY, DAWES, & Co., 13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, or the Brokers, Gellatly, Hankey, Sewell, & Co., London; Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow. 30y

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY.
First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.
Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.
Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.
THE SHORTEST AND BEST ROUTE TO THE WEST.
Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO. 19 and 22 Water Street, Liverpool ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; W. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law; J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; JAMES POTTS & SON, 26, Sandhill Newcastle-on-Tyne.

☞ SOMETHING FOR HARD TIMES.

GREAT CLEARANCE SALE
IS NOW GOING ON,

SWEEPING REDUCTIONS IN THE PRICES
OF
DRAPERY GOODS,
READY-MADE CLOTHING, &c.

SEE OUR SPECIAL
MEN'S BLACK WORSTED SUITS, AT 16s. 11d.
BOYS FROM 2s. 6d.

SOME RARE BARGAINS TO BE OBTAINED
AT
C. F. COOKE'S,
CHEAP DRAPERY WAREHOUSE
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

PRESENTATION
BIBLES.

Some of them are really MANY VOLUMES IN ONE, and include such Aids to the Student as Summaries of the Books; Notes on the Natural History, General History, Mineralogy, Chronology, &c., of the Bible; also, an Atlas, Concordance, Dictionary, &c., *forming a portable Biblical Library*, so to speak. The contributors are authors of note. Each Bible in this stock contains the Psalms and Paraphrases, and prices range from 1s upwards.
ROBERT JACKSON'S,
GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET,
AND
9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

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

WILLIAM STEWART & SON,
23, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD NEWCASTLE 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

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

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

DENTISTRY.
MR. R. COLLIER,
SURGEON DENTIST,
Supplies PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH at Moderate Charges.
PERFECT FIT GUARANTEED. CHILDREN'S TEETH REGULATED WITH GREAT CARE
TEETH STOPPED, &c. CONSULTATIONS FREE. NITROUS OXIDE GAS ADMINISTERED IF DESIRED.
50, GRAINGER STREET, NEAR ART GALLERY, NEWCASTLE

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BAZAAR
AND
GRAND DISPLAY OF NOVELTIES IN FANCY GOODS.

1
Oh, Christmas has its varied joys
For little Girls and little Boys,
But best of all is buying toys
At BATCHELOR'S.

2
So put your coat on, dear Papa,
And come with us and dear Mamma,
To see the wonderful Bazaar
At BATCHELOR'S.

3
Ten thousand toys are surely here,
Now, make your choice, says Papa, dear,
An easy task it's very clear,
At BATCHELOR'S.

This box of Soldiers I select,
They are so martial and erect,
And I this Horse and Cart expect
From BATCHELOR'S.

5
For presents, Miss, I am in quest
For a young lady—Oh, suggest
A tasty trifle, you've the best
At BATCHELOR'S.

6
A Present, Sir, I fain would buy
For my intended (on the sly),
And so I thought it best to try
Famed BATCHELOR'S.

7
And this is how we journey back,
Half tottering beneath each pack,
We're thankful that we made attack
On BATCHELOR'S.

8
In every nursery near and far,
There sounds a loud and great Hurrah
For Toys bro't from the great Bazaar
At BATCHELOR'S.

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR,
9, AND 9a, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

A Large and Select Assortment of CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

☞ WANTED! ☜
People who wish to save money to Purchase their Groceries and Provisions at
R. WILLEY'S,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERY AND PROVISION ESTABLISHMENT,
20, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

WILLEY'S TEA AT 2s, DEFIES COMPETITION.
WILLEY'S COFFEES ARE OF THE FINEST QUALITY.
WILLEY'S BACON, LARD, CHEESE, BUTTER, &c., are of the Finest Brands only
WILLEY'S SOAPS ARE USED EVERYWHERE.
WILLEY'S FLOUR AND FEEDING STUFFS, at Lowest Market Prices.
WILLEY'S FOR FRESH COUNTRY BUTTER AND EGGS, from several Prize-taking Dairies.
Fresh three times every week.

Orders by Post punctually attended to. Goods delivered daily by our own cart.
Bottler of Bass & Co.'s Pale Ale and Guinness's Stout. Mild and Bitter Ales on draught. The Trade supplied.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:—R. WILLEY, 20, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 615y

TRY
JOHN HUME & SON'S
CELEBRATED
"GERM MEAL."

SOUTH ACOMB, STOCKSFIELD-ON-TYNE,
June 7th, 1887.
Messrs. JOHN HUME & SON,
GENTLEMEN,

You may recollect that some time ago I purchased several tons of your Germ Meal, and as I keep an accurate account of the food used by our cows, its cost, quantity used, and the amount of milk produced per week, it may interest you to know the result.

During the week preceding the use of the Germ Meal, the cows had maize meal at the rate of 7½ lbs. per day, and before that they had the same quantity of barley meal. A slightly less weight, 7¼ lbs. of Germ Meal was given to each cow per day, with as you will see, the most satisfactory results.—The increase in the milk produced was slightly over 5 per cent., which, with the lessened cost of your meal, showed a saving by its use of close upon 20 per cent. The increase in the return of milk for the week on which Germ Meal was used, over that on which maize meal was used, reached 16½ gallons; and as the latter cost 24s. per qr. of 34 stones, as against 20s. 6½d. for the same weight of your Germ Meal, the advantage derived from its use has been strikingly demonstrated in my experience.

I am, yours faithfully,
W. TROTTER.

JOSEPH MURRAY,
FAMILY GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
16, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

CHRISTMAS, 1887.

In respectfully tendering his thanks to the Public of the District for the increased support that has been accorded to him during the year 1887, begs to state that he still continues to keep a SUPERIOR CLASS OF GOODS IN STOCK, of every description, such as has given universal satisfaction in the past; and hopes, by continuing to sell the same class of Goods in the future, to still merit a further share of their patronage.

FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON I HAVE A GOOD SUPPLY OF—

Cumberland Home-Fed Hams and Bacon; Wiltshire-Smoked Hams and Bacon; Irish and American Hams and Bacon.

The Finest Danish and Irish Butters, from the best Dairies; arrivals every day of the Cumberland Dairy Company's Fresh Butter.

Cheese—Gorgonzola, Stilton, Cotherstone, Derby, Cheshire, Gouda, and Edam's, of the finest qualities,

Fruits—Currants, Raisins, Muscatels, Sultana's, Valencias, Almonds, Prunes, and Dates.

Indian and China Teas, and Coffee, finest imported.

Marmalades, Pickles, Jams, and Jellies, made from selected Fruits.

Agent for the Zoma Tea, for which Prizes to the amount of £200 is given away for this month.

A fine assortment of Huntley and Palmer's Biscuits and Cakes, in Fancy Packages.

THE BEST and PUREST CLASS OF FLOUR KEPT ONLY IN STOCK.

ALL KINDS OF FEEDING STUFF FOR HORSES AND CATTLE.

ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO, AND DELIVERED TO ALL PARTS OF THE DISTRICT.

Business Announcements.

FOR CHRSTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS
THE 2 W.'S SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.
THE 2 W.'S SILK MUFFLERS.
THE 2 W.'S SCARFS AND TIES.
THE 2 W.'S LINED KID GLOVES.
THE 2 W.'S ASTRACHAN GLOVES.
THE 2 W.'S BOYS' SUITS.

NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, AND NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

W. T. SMITH,
SURGEON DENTIST,
OF 19, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the Inhabitants of Consett and the readers of the *Guardian* that he will visit at Mr. F. JONES', No. 1, MOUNT PLEASANT, EVERY MONDAY, FROM 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M., where he has every accommodation for receiving his numerous Patrons, and is performing the very highest class operations that can be done in the Dental Profession, in all its branches both Operative and Mechanical, (having received a most thorough dental education in America). Also, all diseases of the oral cavity (the Mouth), facial neuralgia, &c.

Decay can be arrested in the Teeth by stopping them with Gold, Silver, and other Materials, whereby they can be preserved to last a lifetime, if proper care is taken by keeping them cleansed from all foreign matter, such as animal, vegetable, and tartar, which is so often allowed to collect round the necks of the Teeth.

Artificial Teeth inserted with all the latest American inventions and improvements. They can be retained in the mouth by Suction (an American Invention), without the aid of springs, wires, or clasps of any description, which [illegible] destroy the remaining Natural Teeth. The mouth is prepared to receive the Artificial Teeth on the American principal, absolutely different from the English, and no cause is permitted to remain which can in any way produce Neuralgia, or effect the eye and ear. As diseased Teeth and roots is one of the principal reasons of the various ailments of these most valuable organs [illegible] the Teeth are once inserted they fit perfect without the least pain in any way.

Teeth may be extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas, and other means by which the operations become painless.

All fees for services will be most reasonable, especially for Artificial Sets. 963x

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS NOTICE.

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

Invites the attention of his Customers and the Residents of the surrounding District to his New and Choice Assortment of Provisions of every description, which he believes to be unequalled, and defy competition in the North of England

SPECIAL FEATURES.

Excellent Sugar	1½d. per lb.	**DESSERT FRUITS, &c.**	
Granulated Sugar	2d. ,,	Splendid New Muscatels ...	10d. and 1s. per lb.
Crystalised Sugar	2½d. ,,	Fine New Jordan Almonds...	1s. per lb.
Castor Sugar	3d. ,,	Delicious Figs	6½d. per box.
Finest Loaf Sugar	2½d. ,,	Very Fine Figs	3d. per lb.
Splendid Currants	3½d. and 4d. ,,	Prunes	5d. ,,
Very Fine Valencia Raisins	4d. and 4½d. ,,	Metz Fruits, in Boxes	6d., 1s., and 1s. 8d. per box.
Very good Do.	3½d. ,,	Barcelona and Brazil Walnuts, Chesnuts, and Cocoa Nuts.	
Very Choice New Sultanas ...	4d. and 5d. ,,	French Apples, Oranges, and Grapes.	
Lemon Peel	4½d. and 6d. ,,	Peaches, Apricots, and Bartlet's Pears, in Tins.	
Finest Orange and Citron		**SOAPS—PALE, BLUE, &c.**	
Tapioca	3d. ,,	Best Pale Soap	2d. and 3d. ,,
Finest Patna Rice	1½d. and 2d. ,,	Best Grey Mottled Soap ...	2d. and 3d. ,,
Matches (Bryant and May's)	1½d. and 2d. per doz.	Margerison's White Wax and Golden Pale.	
Square Blue	4½d. per lb.	Dry Soap	1½d. and 2d. ,,
6d. Tins of Mustard	3½d. each.	Dip Candles ...	3½d. per lb., or 3s. 0d. per doz. lbs.
Black Bullets...	3d. per lb.	Wax Candles ...	4d. per lb., or 2lb. packets, 7½d.
Pure York Mixtures	4d. ,,	Relish...	2d. and 3d. per bottle.
Best Coloured Sweets ...	3½d. and 4d. ,,	Pickles and Onions,	4½d. per Bottle, and one quart Bottles, 7d.
Ground Rice ...	2d. per lb. or 6d. per qr. stone.	Vinegar, ...	3d. per quart, or 10d. per gallon.
Pure Cassia, 1d. per oz.	Nutmegs, 3d. per oz.	2lb. Bottles of Plum Jam, and Pure Gooseberry,	4½d. each.
Crosse and Blackwell's Pickles.	Walnuts.	Splendid Jam, in Jugs, 1s. (Bottles not charged).	

TINNED MEATS.

2lb. Tins Roast Beef	9½d. per tin.	Tins of Sardines	4½d. and 9d. per tin
,, Corned Beef	1s. ,,	Tins of Milk	2d., 4d., and 5d. ,,
,, Tins Rabbit		Tomatoes.	
Corned Beef	6d. per pound.	1lb. Tins of Lunch Tongue.	
Chicken, Ham and Tongue, and Sausage.		Paysandre Ox Tongue.	
Genuine Irish Sausage, 11d. per Tin (Best in Town).		Salmon—Hume's Crown Brand—finest caught.	

HUNTLEY & PALMER'S BISCUITS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Their Christmas Orient, Ice Cream, Christmas Nuts, and Dessert Biscuits, in Ornamented Tins of New Designs, I can with confidence recommend.

SPLENDID FRUIT LOAVES, ALMOND CAKES, ORNAMENTED BRISTOL CAKES, SNOW CAKES, RICE CAKES, AND GENOA CAKES. ALSO, A MAGNIFICENT SULTANA CAKE, 6d. EACH

A GOOD AND CHEAP BISCUIT.

Tea Biscuits ...	3d. per lb. or 9d. per qr. stone.	Lemon Drops	4d. per lb.
Mixed	3d. ,,	Currant Drops	4d. ,,
Ginger Snaps ...	4d. ,,	Arrowroot Drops	6d. ,,

TEA.		COFFEE.	
Cheapest and Best Tea in the Market.			
Autograph	Sold at 2s. per lb.	Finest Plantation Coffee (Whole) ...	1s. 8d. per lb.
Challenge Cup	2s. 6d. ,,	Franks' Coffee, in ¼lb. & ½lb. Tins...	4d. and 8d.
Nabob	3s. 0d. ,,	Mixture of Chicory and Coffee	
Empress...	3s. 4d. ,,	Fresh Ground ...	1s., 1s. 2d., and 1s. 4d. per lb.
Strong Useful Tea	1s. 4d. ,,	French Coffees (Sharp's) in Tins	
		Cocoas—Fry's, Epps', Cadbury's, Van Houghton's.	

PROVISIONS.

Extra Choice Butter	1s. 4d. per lb.	Finest Hams (Whole)	6½d. per lb.
(This is the finest produced.)		Shoulders (Whole)	4½d. ,,
Choice Danish Butter	1s. 2d. ,,	Finest American Bacon	
Choice Irish Butter	1s. ,,	Splendid Roll Bacon	6d. per lb.
Finest Butterines ...	6d., 8d., and 10d. ,,	Finest American Cheese... ...	6d. and 7d. ,,
Bladder Lard	5d. and 5½d. ,,	Very Fair Cheese	3d. and 4d. ,,
Kit Lard	4d. ,,	Best Dutch Cheese	6d. ,,

A SPLENDID STOCK OF CHEESE, INCLUDING ROCHEFORT, GORGONZOLA, STILTON, CHESHIRE, GLO'STER, DERBY, AMERICAN, AND EDAMS.
HOME-FED HAMS AND BACON. WILTSHIRE SMOKED HAM.

FLOUR.	FLOUR, &c.
Splendid Fines Flour at 1s. 4d. per stone.	Crushed Oats and Beans, 12st. for 12s. 0d.
Best Superfines at 1s. 6d. per stone.	Indian Meal, 1s. per stone.
Finest Hungarian Flour at 1s. 9d. per stone.	Hen Corn, Rough Barley, Maize, equally low in Price.
Wheat Meal, Whole Meal, Granulated Meal, best Scotch Oatmeal.	Boxings, 8s. 6d. per Bag of 12st.
	Bran, 5s. per sack.

I thank you for your past Orders, and hope to have your continuance.

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

ECONOMY IN ALES. OCTOBER BREWINGS.

NINE GALLON CASKS.—CASH PRICES.

	NINE GALLONS.		EIGHTEEN GALLONS.
Mild Ales	10s. 6d., 12s., 13s. 6d.	Bass' Indian Pale Ale	18 Gallons for 25s., 27s.
Bitter Ales	10s. 6d., 13s. 6d.	Mild Burton	18 Gallons for 21s., 24s.

BOTTLED ALES AND STOUT.—PER DOZEN.

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

BRITISH WINES.—PER BOTTLE.

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

AGENT FOR W. & A. GILBEY'S WINES AND SPIRITS.

	PER BOTTLE.		PER BOTTLE.
Whiskey, from	1s. 9d. to 3s. 6d.	Brandy, from	2s. 6d. to 5s 6d
Rum ,,	1s. 9d. to 3s. 0d.	Port Wine ,,	1s. 0d. to 3s 6d
Gin ,,	1s. 6d. to 2s. 10d.	Sherry ,,	1s. 0d to 3s. 6d

GOODS DELIVERED DAILY TO ANY PART OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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

Correspondence

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

TOW LAW MECHANICS' HALL.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian

SIR,—I was at the Jubilee concert on Monday last, in the Mechanics' Hall, Tow Law, and would have enjoyed it much had the room not been so cold. I was pleased to see that it had been painted and redecorated, but I would respectfully suggest to the committee the necessity of getting a good stove, so as to have the room properly warmed, instead of chilling the audience, and spoiling a splendid programme by half starving the company. No one can listen to even good music with any degree of pleasure when they have cold feet, and a good heating apparatus is just the one thing needful to make the hall a popular and comfortable place.—I remain, yours &c.,

Tow Law, Dec. 14th 1887. VERY COLD.

THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE PIANO.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I see in "Rambler's" Roundabout Notes in last week's issue he asks a question What is this I hear about Castleside in connection with the School Board? It is an old saying that a "rolling stone gathers no moss." I would have him to understand he has been either rambling too slow or too fast, as the application is not of recent date, but occurred about a year ago; and no wonder the application being made, as the head of the house has been unable to work for nine or ten years on account of ill-health; and as far as the piano one is concerned, it does not belong to the head of the house, but was given as a present to the eldest daughter, and not one of the family knew until it arrived at their door. So the public will understand the wisdom that is centred in the Castleside School Board, and I consider there is just as much charity as wisdom in rejecting the application. May I ask which of the members of the School Board would refuse to take a piano in when sent to the door instead of sending it back, as the highly intelligent members of the School Board said ought to have been done in this case?—Yours, &c.,

A SYMPATHISER WITH THE AFFLICTED POOR.
Blackhill, Dec. 15th 1887.

Trade Notes.

THE CONSETT IRONWORKERS' DELEGATE.—At a meeting of ironworkers employed at the Consett Ironworks, held at the British Schools on Saturday night, Mr Thomas Williams was re-elected without opposition as the men's representatives on the Board of Arbitration for the ensuing year.

DURHAM MINERS' ASSOCIATION.

The series of meetings held in connection with this association were continued during last week at Annfield Plain and Dipton, for the purpose of strengthening the organisation of all the societies comprised on the Labour Federation Board.—At Annfield Plain the meeting was held in the Cooperative Hall on Wednesday night, presided over by Mr John Orr, president of the Colliery Mechanics' Association. Addresses were delivered by Mr L. Trotter, secretary to the Colliery Mechanics' Association, Mr J. Wilson, treasurer of the Durham Miners' Association, on the value of trade unionism, and the necessity of every working man becoming a member of a trade society. Mr Wilson, referring to the question of paid labour representatives, said some slight dissatisfaction had been manifested with the present arrangement, but it was very slight. His allusion, later on, to the illness of Mr W. Crawford, M.P., was sympathetically received by the audience.—A meeting was also held at Dipton on the same evening, the chair being occupied by Mr J. Forman, president of the Durham Miners' Association. Addresses were delivered by the chairman and Mr W. H. Lambton, secretary of the Colliery Enginemen's Association.

Cricket.

WEST STANLEY CRICKET CLUB.—On Wednesday se'nnight, the above club held their annual supper at Mr W. Charlton's, Stanley Hotel, when there was a fair gathering of members and friends. The supper was of a most excellent description, and was deserving of the special vote of thanks accorded to the host and hostess. Amongst those present were Messrs T. Lamb, T. W. W. Ritson, J. Chaytor, T. W. Dixon, R. Johnson, and others. The club have this year played 14 games lost 7, won 6, and drawn one greatly in their favour. The president's prize (an inscription bat) was won by Mr R. Gibson for the highest total during the season. The vice-president's prize goes to Mr J. G. Mann for highest average. Two special prizes, subscribed for by the members, viz., a bat and a pair of shoes to Mr J. Harkness in recognition of his long and valuable services to the club, and a bat to Mr W. Dodds, who has for a few seasons just missed second prize. Amongst other toasts The president's health (Dr Mantle) was most cordially drank for his lasting kindness towards the club. Mr F. Lamb was chairman, and Mr F. W. Dixon vice-chairman. Songs were contributed by Messrs Benfold, Snape, Ritson, and others. The club is in a fairly good financial position, and enjoys the patronage of many of the principal residents of West Stanley.

Sporting Items

RABBIT COURSING AT WINLATON.—A large company assembled in a field near Mr J. Atkinson's, Queen's Head, to witness Mr R. Fenwick's small dogs rabbit sweep, for which there were 40 entries. Richardson's Soft Lass and Robinson's Ploughboy divided first and second money; Spier's Lady Campbell third. J. Atkinson acted as starter, and R. Fenwick as judge.

RABBIT COURSING AT DIPTON.—The rabbit coursing sweepstakes held at J. Oates's, Hill Top, Dipton, which closed with 32 entries, resulted on Saturday, as follows:—Third round—Herschell beat Rat Trap; Cur beat Little Jim; Cur, 2nd lot, beat Box Egg; Madge against Box Egg. The owners of the five left in agreed to divide on account of darkness setting in.

SHOOTING AT BURNOPFIELD.—A match at pigeons, for £15 a-side, at 15 birds each, was decided between Ed. Shotton, of Rowland's Gill, and Thos. Layburn, of Low Spen, the conditions being 1¼oz of shot and use of one barrel. Scores—Ed. Shotton, 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 0—6; Thos. Layburn, 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1—8. Mr J. Armstrong was referee.

WRESTLING AT PRUDHOE.—Another of the series of competitions for all-weights, for which Mr H. Tulip gives a silver cup (to be won three times in succession or four times in all), was brought off at the Halfway House Inn, when Armstrong threw Dobson, West Wylam, twice out of thrice and won. Mr Edward Collins was referee. There were twelve entries for the youth's competition, which resulted as follows:—J. Mitchell, West Wylam, 1; M. Storey, West Wylam, 2; and J. Christer, Mickley, 3. Mitchell having won three times previously, the prize now becomes his property.

WRESTLING IN WEARDALE.—The popular rendezvous at Wearhead was again crowded to witness the dual Christmastide contest for all weights and 9½ stones, both of which secured a good entry, and some excellent sport was witnessed. E. Rowell, Burnhope, supplemented his recent success by winning again, in this his first essay in the heavy-weights. Rowell is the most improved wrestler seen out this season, and with ordinary luck, ought to bring back the classic honours to Weardale, his only fault being one which is easily remedied, viz., standing a little too far in with his left leg, hence running the risk of being "hooked" or "inside clicked." Willie Bell, Weardale, was bracketed the winner of the light-weight contest. Messrs Ralph Philipson and Wm. Wearmouth umpired the result.

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

Football.

FIXTURES.

Dec. 24.—Consett v. Tudhoe, at Consett.
" 24.—Consett 2nd v. Tudhoe 2nd, at Tudhoe.
" 24.—Shotley Bridge St. Cuthbert's v. Mount Pleasant, at Shotley Bridge.
" 24.—Leadgate Exiles v. St. Mary's, Gateshead at Gateshead.
" 24.—Leadgate v. St. Paul's, Spennymoor, at Spennymoor.
" 24.—Leadgate 2nd v. Newcastle 2nd, at Newcastle.
" 24.—Hobson Temperance Rangers 1st and 2nd v. Elswick Rangers Swifts 1st and 2nd, at Hobson.
" 24.—Burnopfield v. Consett Sextons, at Burnopfield.
" 24.—Tantobie v. West End Swifts, at Tantobie.
" 24.—Hillwell Burn Royal Blues v. Pelton Fell, at Pelton Fell.
" 24.—Pelton Fell Harriers v. Bishop Auckland, at Bishop Auckland.
" 24.—Mickley v. Mickley Veterans (for a supper).
" 24.—Swalwell Rangers 1st v. Jarrow St Bede's, at Jarrow.
" 24.—Swalwell 2nd v. Harp 2nd, at Newcastle.

ASSOCIATION.

West Wylam Juniors beat Mickley Juniors on the home ground by a goal to nil. D. Carr kicked the goal.

HAMSTERLEY RANGERS V. CHOPWELL ROVERS.—Hamsterley journeyed to Lintz Green to play off their fixture with the latter team. Chopwell having won the toss elected to play with the wind in their favour. After the leather had been put in motion, some give-and-take play took place for about ten minutes, when Anderson (Hamsterley centre) got possession of the leather, took it up the ground at a rapid pace, passed to left wing, and Stubbs neatly shot number one for Hamsterley. This seemed to put the Rovers on their pins, as some good play was witnessed from the backs. At this period Mr F. Dixon blew his whistle half-time been up. Play again being commenced, the leather was taken neatly down the ground by Cousins, when a corner was granted to the Rangers. Anderson, who is a stalwart young man, neatly headed through, making number two for Hamsterley. The game throughout was most satisfactory and ended in a victory for Hamsterley by three to nil. Mr T. Dixon acted as referee. Hamsterley:—J. Bewley, goal; T. Richardson and T. Walton, backs; F. Hume, T. Embleton, and J. Reney, half-backs; Anderson, Evans, Stubbs, Cousins, and T. Bell, forwards.

DURHAM ASSOCIATION CUP.

BEDE COLLEGE V. MEDOMSLEY.—Played on the Racecourse, Durham, before a fair number of spectators. At 2.30 Jackson kicked off for the College against a strong westerly wind. Medomsley, with this advantage, at once began to press, but were not able to overcome the powerful defence of the home team. Play, however, continued mainly in Durham territory for a considerable time, until at length the College forwards broke away, and Jackson, dribbling well up the centre, passed the backs, and eluding Beadling, who had come out, shot a capital goal. From the kick-off the ball, by some smart passing, was once more taken into Medomsley ground, but Campbell returned with a long kick, and the College defence was again tried. From one of Millar's long kicks Taylor secured possession, and passing well to the centre, the second goal was scored for the College. During the remainder of the first half play was very even, and when the whistle blew the score was:—Bede College, two goals; Medomsley, none. After a short interval, Little re-commenced on behalf of Medomsley, and the home forwards, getting on the ball, took it smartly down the field, and Taylor notched number three for his team. Medomsley now made strenuous efforts to score, Dales and Little especially being prominent, but the former was too well watched by Cockburn to get far away. Millar's immense kicks at this point proved of good service to his men, and from one of these Jackson standing well down the field, shot another goal. Two more points were added to the Collegians, and just before the call of time Medomsley got past young and scored their first and only goal. Result:—Bede College, six goals; Medomsley, one goal. The game was interesting from beginning to end. The visitors played hard and well, but were beaten at all points, Campbell and Barron at back, Dales and Little in the forward rank, and Beadling in goal being most prominent in their efforts. The home team, although suffering from the ordeal of a week's examination, played their very best game. The forwards played with capital combination, Jackson, Taylor, and Robinson showing up well. The latter, although suffering from a sprain, dribbled almost as well as ever. The three half-backs left nothing to be desired, Cockburn securing many marks of appreciation for the way in which he repeatedly dispossessed Dales of the ball. Millar and Young could scarcely be overcome, the former rousing the enthusiastic cheers of the spectators by his magnificent tackling, kicking, and dribbling. Hull, in goal, stopped some rattling good shots. Players.—Bede College—J. E. Hull, goal; J. Young and G. Millar, backs; J. Cockburn, O. Levison, and E. G. Chatt, half backs; J. Robinson and J. Hutchinson, right wing; A. Jackson, centre; A. W. Taylor and J. W. Siddle, left wing. Medomsley—Beadling, goal; Campbell and Barron, backs; Taylor, Hornsby, and Cant, half-backs; G. Walton and W. Walton, right wing; Little, centre; Dales and Hunter, left wing. Umpires—Messrs D. Elliott and Murphy. Referee—Mr Dixon, Darlington.

RUGBY.

Shotley Bridge St. Cuthbert's played a draw with the Gosforth Rovers.

RYTON 2ND V. CONSETT 2ND.—Consett 2nd arrived at Ryton with ten men, but obtained the services of three of the Ryton 3rd. Ryton 2nd played with six third team men, as nine of the regular second were playing at Consett with the first. The game was played in two twenties, and a good struggle resulted in a win for Ryton 2nd by a dropped goal and a try to Consett 2nd's nil. Ryton played two men short; Consett, on short.

CONSETT V. RYTON.—Played on the ground of the former at Benfieldside, before a good number of spectators. T. Jameson, the Consett captain, kicked off, and play during the first half was principally confined to the forwards. Jameson picked up, and made a capital run until collared by the Ryton back. After some give-and-take play the game was restricted to mid-field, but Jameson again secured the ball, and running half the length of the field scored a try, which was not improved. Nothing of importance occurred after the change of ends, except that Jameson and Dotchins, for the home club, made some smart runs. Simpson and Benson also played in admirable style for the visitors, but were not able to score a point. The result was:—Consett, one try; Ryton, nothing. Mr T. H. Kirkip was referee, umpires being dispensed with. Teams:—Ryton—Icton, back; F. Simpson (capt.), Nelson, Simpson, and Potts, three-quarter backs; Chapman and Brown, half-backs; Benson, Hall, Latimer, Brown, Dodds, Oliver, Hetherington, and Buglass, forwards. Consett—A Wood, back; W. Dotchin, J. McTaggart, and P. Gibson, three-quarter backs; T. Jameson (capt.) and J. Anderson, half-backs; W. Kempster, C. Dibley, N. Scott, M. Hinchley, J. Fiddes, L. McTaggart, Moss, J. Todd, and A. Struthers, forwards.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

On Monday Tanfield Lea and Leadgate Exiles will play on the Exiles' ground.

St. Ives' (Leadgate) are willing to play matches with boys under 15 years of age; Association Rules, 1st and 2nd teams.—Apply, hon. sec., East House, Leadgate.

Leadgate Young Exiles would like to arrange a match with any other club in the district; players to be under 13 years of age. Address—N. Hill, 54, Plantation Street, Leadgate.

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

REV D. POWER AT THE FELLING

The following is a verbatim report of the eloquent sermon preached by Father Power, of St. Mary's Church, Blackhill, at Felling Church, the other Sunday morning. The preacher took for his text the words—"There hath stood One in the midst of you Whom you know not." He said:—I.—At the time these words were uttered our Lord had not yet began his public career. He had not yet worked any miracles, nor advanced the claims in support of which these great works were done. There seems, then, at first sight, no reason why the Jews should have recognised in the reputed son of Joseph the Messiah for Whose coming they had so long prayed. Thirty years before, it is true, angels announced the tidings of great joy that should be to all peoples, and their wondrous tale was strangely confirmed by the appearance of the Magi in Jerusalem, and their inquiries for the new-born King of the Jews. But the retirement in which our Lord passed His early life—a retirement broken only by His discussion with the doctors in the temple—perhaps favoured the idea that the Messiah, if he had come at all, must have perished in the massacre of the Innocents, a victim to Herod's ambition. Why and how the Jews deserve the rebuke contained in the text seems at first sight rather a difficult question. II.—The fact is simply this: The antagonism that exists between vice and virtue explains the attitude of the Jews to our Lord. An opportunity was offered and lost. The seed was sown but the weed and briar checked its future growth. The Jews knew not Christ, because they wished not to know Him; because they were not willing to submit to the sacrifices and to perform the duties that knowledge of truth invariably brings with it. Jesus, Whom they knew not, though in their midst, was the true light that enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world. "Every man that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, because his works are evil." So, though even the fulfilment of ancient prophecy and of fondly-cherished hopes were at stake, a policy of expediency was preferred to truth and justice. "If we leave Him alone, all will believe in Him; and the Romans will come and take away our place and our nation." This they said when they planned His death; but the same fire of earthly wisdom, and of promising all that was highest and holiest, had corrupted their hearts and blinded their intellects, and indisposed them for receiving our Lord and profiting by His presence. All Jerusalem as well as Herod himself, was disturbed at hearing of the star that announced the birth of our Saviour. This explains why, when He came into the world, the world knew Him not; why, when He came unto His own, His own received Him not. He was born in a stable, and passed the first years of His life in exile in a foreign land. In the full effulgence of their various power and heavenly eloquence, when men admitted that He spoke as one having power, and as no man had spoken before; when wind and wave obeyed Him, when He went about doing good, curing sickness, multiplying food, restoring the light of gladness to eyes long drenched with the blinding brine of sorrow, raising the very dead to life, He was still a prophet without honour in His own country. He was despised and the most abject of men. Thus from beginning to end of His career—not merely in the grey dawn when he was emerging from obscurity, but in the noontide splendour of His day—it might be said, "There hath stood One in the midst of you Whom you know not." III.—A few years went by, and the lamentable effect of this abuse of grace became apparent. Jewish nationality was extinguished: Jerusalem was numbered amongst the things that had been. Like autumn leaves her bravest children lay dead in her streets. The Temple was plundered and ruined. In far foreign lands tens of thousands of her children endured the yoke of slavery more hateful than death beneath the smouldering ruins of the holy city. All this because Jerusalem, in the day of her visitation, in the day when Christ stood in her midst, knew not the things that were to her good. And worst of all, the enemies of Christ lost the grace and favour that His coming offered; but "to as many as received Him gave He power to be made the Sons of God, to them that believed in His name." IV.—In the days of childhood we heard with deep emotion the sweet, sad story of the Man of Sorrows. With the dramatic instinct and vivid imagination of earlier years, fired by faith and love, we pictured the various scenes of our Lord's life. At one time we were at Bethlehem. We noticed Joseph's meek request for the shelter of a human roof wherein the son of God might be born, and hoping against hope, we saw the faces of the householders at Bethlehem, pained at the rough refusal, edified at Mary's sweet, unruffled patience. Now, we were sitting at the feet of Jesus making the better choice, and attending to the one thing necessary. How bravely we stood by Christ in the hour of trial, willing to watch with Him, willing to drink with Him His bitter chalice, too brave and too loving to flee when the Shepherd was struck, and determined if needs be, to suffer and die with Him. How indignant we were with the Judas that betrayed, the Peter that denied and all the apostles that abandoned our loving Saviour! How our hearts quivered at the insults offered to the Son of God, at the indignities heaped upon the Man of Sorrows! What awful echoes the lash and the hammer awoke in our hearts! We bless the sun for the sympathy he showed in withdrawing his light from that awful scene of Calvary, and from the dead, strangely mingled with the living, round the Cross, we asked if earth in the depravity of her early history, or hell itself with all its malice, or heaven with all its love, could surpass that scene of love and malice that was transpiring before our eyes? We watched till all was over, till the burden of sorrow had crushed the Sacred Heart. In the ever-thickening gloom we kissed the wounds whence flowed the streams that cleansed the world's sin. With tender care we plucked the thorns from the brow of Christ, and placed His body in the tomb. We tried, but failed, to utter a word of sympathy to the *Mater Dolorosa* (Mother of Sorrows). As we came down the hillside, we resolved that henceforth we should know but Christ and Him crucified. O, my brethren, in the glowing enthusiasm of youth, free from care and unsullied by selfishness, we would gladly have given all that life holds dear for the privilege of passing over the gulf of time and space that divides us from the land and time of Christ, of meeting our Saviour, of receiving Him into our homes and shielding Him from want and insult, of securing for Him the honour that befits the Word made flesh. Such were our desires, and we sighed that life could not afford us this glorious opportunity—this exquisite pleasure. V.—In this we were mistaken. In the Catholic Church the chief features of our Lord's life are reproduced. Here does history repeat itself. Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, the Man of Sorrows, the victim of Calvary, the conqueror of death, Who rose from the grave, ascended into heaven the future Judge of the living and the dead, the co-eternal Son of the eternal Father, the Figure of His Father's substance, and the splendour of His glory, is still in the midst of us. He is present in His church as the head of that mystic Body; as the Spirit that animates and enlivens it with a heavenly vigour, guiding it with a heavenly wisdom; sanctioning its teaching; supporting its authority; and demanding the respect and homage of all the nations of the earth. "I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world. He that hears you hears Me: he that despises you despises Me." Thus, indirectly at least, Catholics are brought in contact with Christ, and presented with the same opportunity of good or evil that Christ's coming offered to the Jewish people. "He that will not hear the Church," says Christ, "let him be to thee as an heathen or the publican. He that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me." VI.—But there is a still more close and personal connection between us and our Divine Redeemer. Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, is ever in the midst of us in the adorable Sacrament of the altar. He Who in days of old emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, has emptied still more, stripping Himself of the form of a man, and assuming the appearance of inanimate matter; and, as of old Jesus went about doing good, so now love of mankind is the motive and occupation of His sacramental life. Here, from the tabernacle, the grave of His glory, the prison where love detains Him, the throne of His mercy, He pours forth on man the treasures of His grace: here the weak are strengthened, the strong confirmed, those that hunger and thirst are refreshed, and the afflicted have the balm of heavenly consolation poured upon their aching hearts. Jesus is still in the midst of us not only with the same divine perfection and benevolence, but moreover with the selfsame humility and poverty of spirit. The words He spoke of Himself 1,900 years ago are still applicable to Him. "The foxes have holes, birds have their nests, but the Son of Man hath not whereon to lay His head." True! greatest trophies of human genius have been raised to mark the presence of Christ in the blessed sacrament. The fine arts have bowed themselves down before the Tabernacle and received there a superhuman grandeur of conception which they, in turn, have dedicated to Him Who gave it: true, earth's richest and fairest treasures are employed in the service of the altar. Still, my brethren, Christ abides in our midst, poor, lowly, and insignificant as when the Jews knew Him not. He hath not of His own whereon to lay His head. This holy dwelling and all that it contains are the gifts of generous hearts. From the boundless wealth of heaven He has brought nothing but Himself, and Himself He has lowered and abased. Songs of angels, adoration of shepherds, gifts of magi, could not bridge over the space that divides the finite from the infinite, the creature from his God, human nature, frail and feeble, from the Divine perfection. The magnificent proportions and the exquisite finish of the fairest shrine in Christendom cannot diminish the self-imposed poverty of Christ in the Tabernacle. Pile up the wealth of the world on that altar! Still the poverty of Christ, and His confiding dependence on His creatures are greater than when He appealed to men's love from the straw at Bethlehem. Then though the world knew Him not: though His own received Him not He had the protecting tenderness of a mother who adored Him as her God, as she loved Him as her son. In manhood His natural faculties as Man sufficed to supply His wants and interests, but in the blessed sacrament He depends entirely upon us for the decency that befits His presence, for the roof that shelters Him, and for protection against His enemies. To us, in this our day, more truly than to Zion of old, may be applied the words, "Behold thy King cometh to thee, lowly." VII.—With overflowing heart and streaming eyes, Simeon pressed the infant Jesus to his heart. It was a moment of supreme joy, when the hopes of years were realised, and the promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. In inspired accents the aged saint proclaimed his farewell to earth. *Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine* (Now dost Thou dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, in peace). But, alas! darkness was mingled with His light, and sorrow's wail broke through the gladsome cry. "This child is set for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted." So in our day the malice of man turns to his ruin God's gracious mercy. The history of Christ is perpetually repeating itself. Without a home of His own, He asks us for some place wherein He may lay His head. "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man shall open to Me the door and hear My voice, I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with Me." What happens? Alas that I must say it, the opportunity so coveted in childhood is lost and wasted: Jesus is refused the shelter of a home and consigned to the stable. Vice is gaily decked, sumptuously lodged, and counts her revenue by the million; but Christ has no refuge, in many cases but the stable, no bed but the manger, and no dress but swaddling bands. How many missions have no better accommodation for the Blessed Sacrament than a miserable school-chapel or a poor church without an organ or pulpit, or the beauty that should mark the earthly dwelling of Jesus in the midst of His people? The enormous amounts of money spent in mortal sin prove beyond all doubt that it is not money but love and gratitude that are wanting. VIII.—Be not annoyed if I ask whether these words apply to your mission or not? Whether you have shown for our Lord that homage and respect that His presence demands? To-day you have inaugurated a great and a good work. You are adding splendour to the solemn services of the Church and rendering this house less and less like a stable, and more and more like the kingdom of heaven, where angels on harps of gold accompany the hymns of the Seraphim and Cherubim—"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth, the heavens and the earth are filled with Thy glory." Here is no opportunity of displaying heroic virtue: here is not visible, I grant you, the appealing tenderness of Bethlehem, or the pathos of Calvary; but here is unquestionably an opportunity of testing your sense of Christ's presence in your midst. And as all are the recipients of God's mercy and the objects of His tender love to all without exception, are bound to honour Christ's presence according to their means—the rich in proportion to the blessing God has given him, the poor as far as his humble resources will allow. Oh! when life is fleeting and death is coming and the light of eternity with its dreadful judgments comes flashing upon the soul, who is so happy as he who on occasions like the present has responded to the calls of the Church? He is losing all he has inherited all he has acquired, but he has laid up treasure for himself in heaven, where thieves do not break through and steal; where neither rust nor moth consumeth. He has provided for the Son of Man whereon He may lay His head; and now He hopes to be received into one of the many mansions of the Father's home. And, alas! who so sad as those who have neglected their duties in this respect? To them the organ's notes sound like archangels' trumpets summoning their dead consciences to arise and come to the judgment. Of them the recording angel may write that John the Baptist spoke of the Jewish heart. There hath stood One in the midst of you. Whom you know not. Nay, worse, when the truth of Christ's presence was impressed upon your minds deep as the foundations of earth and moved before your eyes clear as the noonday sun, you wished not to have Christ in your knowledge; you have not glorified Him as God or given Him thoughts as God. You had money and time for all things save Christ and home on earth; you have acted as if you had succeeded in what Satan failed to accomplish, as if you had deprived God of his supreme right to the homage of His creatures; you have acted in the haughty spirit of Dives, who deemed Lazarus importunate when he asked even for the crumbs that fell to the dogs; you refused to drink Christ's bitter with him; but you wished to share His glory. You went to Calvary, and self-interest was all that Calvary suggested to take thence all that God could give, but to leave nothing in return; to cast your burdens on the pale victim of the Cross, but never to take up your cross and follow Him. IX.—Do you ask me, my brethren, why amidst the melody of your happy hearts my voice utters these jarring notes? Do you ask and wonder "Does this young priest, who knows us not, suppose that we, of The Felling, are backward in our sense of duty to Christ who is in the midst of us? Why does he come to assume the *role* and the tone of Daniel come to judgment?—I have heard that you were a generous people, yet here, as in every portion of the field of God "the cockle (tares) grows amidst the corn." I may safely assume that, as elsewhere, so here in the Felling, there are some, at least, who are conscious of Christ's presence, sensible of all the blessings which that presence brings with it, but who cast from them the burden it imposes, who refuse to perform the sacrifice it demands, and, like traitors, yield in the conflict with the world, the flesh, and the devil in which it involves consistent Catholics. To the Greek and to the Barbarian, to the wise and to the unwise, to those that are absent as to those who are present, the priest is a debtor. He must provide for the one as well as for the other—he must kindle and sustain the fire of charity in those that are here, and rouse into activity the searching flame of public opinion that alone can reach the sinner in his home. My hopes and my aims are that what is said here to-day may, through you, on to-morrow may reach those to whom it applies. My ambition soars higher still. I look to something beyond this, the wants of this day's good works. I would send forth each one of you as an apostle to the whole world of your daily life. I will commission each one of you, by word and work, the doctrine of generosity to the Church as a practical recognition of Christ's presence in our midst. I would make each one of you a centre of light, not flashing meteor-like, for a moment, but a calm and constant light enabling men to see that the wants of the Church are many, and her revenue small, that the priests of England are still swelling the martyrs' band, taking upon themselves, for God's sake, burdens beyond their strength, labours that are not included in the idea of the priesthood, but arising from the position of Catholicity in England to-day. I would have each one of you proclaim and establish the truth that when men have done their duty to the Church they have given, not to man, but to God, that their action is strict justice, not exalted benevolence, that their duty of supporting the Church is the business of the people. X.—How, O my soul! how can I accomplish this? How can I intensify the kindly spirit of those who are before me to-day? How can I, as far as lies in my power, help to inaugurate a new era of greater generosity on the part of the people, of more ambitious efforts of the part of the Church? What memories shall I recall? What motives shall I employ? What example shall I propose as the model which I would fain see followed? Shall I tell of the common glories of the Church of God—the Church of all times, of all truths, of all nations; or shall I, for the additional power that contrast supplies, select the conduct of the women of Israel, who gave their jewels and rich fabrics to deck the tabernacle in the wilderness? Shall I demand splendour for our tabernacle by telling of the precious woods and golden plates of which the Ark of the Covenant was composed? I shall try to describe that realised dream of oriental splendour, the temple of King Solomon? There are, in truth, glorious examples of the practical reverence that men should show to the presence of God in their midst. But there are motives more powerful still, memories more touching, that speak to our spirits in tones of entreaty, but with a power of irresistible might. XI.—Stand with me in spirit on the shores of "Old Erin" to-day. A wild wail of sorrow has floated upon the gale. The genius of our native land is lamenting that her people are famishing in a country which nature has blest with fertile soil and genial climate. She is moaning for the sorrows of the many and the degradation of not a few; lamenting that her sacred interests are ignored, that her name is made a bye word and a reproach amongst the nations, that the sympathy and the scorn have been turned into wrong channels. But loud above all else is heard the voice of an angel, clear, strong and sweet, bidding Erin remember the days of old. From scenes that wring our hearts with anguish and maddening despair, we turn to where the heavenly voice leads us, and lo! we are now in the grave-yards of our heroes. Save Bethlehem and Calvary, what spots on earth are there so sacred to us as the ruined Churches of our native land? Beneath their shadows, in the dust sleep the bones of our fathers awaiting the summons of the archangel. Those ruined shrines are links by which the exile of Erin is bound in ever strengthening love to his native land where'er he roams. O ye ruined shrines! you are harps whence the wild winds of heaven send forth a requiem for the dead, sweetly blended with a promise of hope of the glory that shall be revealed in the resurrection of our national life, bidding Erin remember the days of old when Patrick, and Malachi and Bridget and Columbkill prayed and preached on her sacred soil when the seed was sown, which yet shall bear its hundred-fold return, showing that prosperity is not dead, but slumbereth, and that joy, though dead, shall rise again. You are torches of faith which the saints of our race have kindled, which the tears and the blood of centuries could not extinguish, and which still brightly cast your light upon the paths of duty! The hand of persecution has dispelled your beauty, and plundered your wealth. Gone, gone, is mass and sacrament, and congregation bowed down in welcome to Jesus. Lost to each outward grace be gone, though dignity has fled before the hand of desecration, though dismal blasts howl o'er the ivy clad walls, through open door and fallen arch, the gates of hell have not prevailed against you. You still contain the Ark of the Covenant, the propitiatory from which God sends forth mercy to His people: you still discharge the sacred function to which you are dedicated by the saints of our race. You are witnesses telling of a noble ideal, nobly realised, of faith without doubt, of charity without grudge, of a generosity which dedicated all things to God, that though nothing too good for Him Who for us became obedient to the death of the Cross. You are monitors that whisper to us amidst the bush of reverence and unspeakable emotion, "Go, do you likewise," "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Who is in heaven." In this age of cold neglect and scepticism, if you would pride in the past, perpetuate its principles in your own lives. Let it never be said of you children of the Irish martyrs, children of the munificent founders of the sacred Irish Churches that "There hath stood One in the midst of you Whom you know not," "That the foxes have their holes, the birds their nests, but the Son of Man hath not whereon to lay His head." Such is the lesson the dead speak to us this day. I have great hopes of a liberal response to this appeal: hopes not merely for the present, but moreover for all the good works that zeal may hereafter suggest and plan. The seed is now cast from the sower's hand, and the soil is neither rock nor road, nor thorny ground. Your local history proves how keenly you appreciate what is noble and good. For preserving the "Sigillum" of the confessional of the old priest who baptised most of you was cast into prison. With a joy like that of the babes of Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday, you made the streets of your town ring with glad cries when the faithful priest came back in triumph from his dungeon. But a few days ago, and our hearts were all thrilled with the story of the Felling heroes. When so noble an appreciation of duty exists here, why should I fear that man or angel should say of the Felling people, "There hath stood One in the midst of you Whom you know not."

CHRISTMAS FAT STOCK SALES.

BENFIELDSIDE.

On Monday, Messrs Nicholson and Murray held their annual Christmas show and sale of fat stock at their Royal Auction Mart at Benfieldside. The following numbers were forward:—42 fat cattle, 7 calving cows, 205 fat sheep, 4 veal calves, 63 pork and store pigs, 200 turkeys, geese, chickens, &c., 1 horse, and a quantity of harness, &c. The show of farm stock was exceptionally good, and the prizes were awarded as follows:—

Best Bullock, Mr Oswald, Low Waskerley, 1st; Messrs Anderson, Black Hedley, 2nd; Mr Oswald, Low Waskerley, highly commended. Best heifer, Messrs Anderson, Black Hedley, 1st; Mr William Archer, Eddis Bridge, 2nd; Mr Hunter, Medomsley, highly commended. Best cow, Messrs Anderson 1st; Mr Minto, Medomsley, 2nd. Grey-faced hoggs, Mr Oswald, High Waskerley, 1st; Mr Joseph Atkinson, Cornsay, 2nd. Half-bred hoggs, Mr Dolphin, Delves Farm, 1st; Mr Stokoe, Hedley Wood Field, 2nd. Grey-faced shearlings, Mr J. Potts, Shotley Field, 1st; Mr Oswald, Low Waskerley, 2nd. Ewes, Mr Wm. Aynsley, Consett Park, 1st; Mr Wood, Field House, 2nd. Black-faced wethers, Mr Teasdale, The Ridding, 1st; Mr J. Robson, Fox Holes, near Castleside, 2nd.

The following officiated as judges:—Messrs W. Wheatley, Shotley Bridge; John Parker, Leadgate; and A. Towns, Consett, for cattle; and Messrs Henry Lister, Newcastle; James Shearer, Iveston; and Hedley Nicholson, Consett, for sheep. The awards of the judges gave every satisfaction. The sale was afterwards proceeded with, there being a very large attendance of butchers, farmers, cattle dealers, &c., present. Good prices were realized all round, the following being the top figures:—Fat cattle, £23 5s; calving cows, £15; fat sheep, 50s; veal calves, 36s; pork and store pigs, £3; turkeys, 8s; geese, 9s. beef to 8s. per stone, sheep to 8d per lb. The principal buyers comprised Messrs Parker, Leadgate; Lockey, Consett; Shearer, Iveston; H. Nicholson, Consett; Schellenberg, Consett; Leadgate and Consett Co-operative Stores, and many others.

Before the stock had been successfully disposed of, the auctioneers entertained their numerous customers to a luncheon, which was served up in the Royal Hotel.

In the evening, a large company again assembled in the Hotel, when a very pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent, under the presidency of Mr Wm. Wheatley, Shotley Bridge, Mr John Parker, Leadgate, occupying the vice-chair.

The CHAIRMAN gave the toasts of "The Queen," also "The Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," which were enthusiastically and loyally drunk with musical honours.

The next toast was "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," and was suitably acknowledged by Messrs SMITH and J. SIDDLE.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN followed with "The successful competitors," with which was coupled the names of Messrs John Hunter and William Anderson, who suitably acknowledged the compliment.

"The unsuccessful competitors" was next proffered, and was replied to by Mr HERDMAN and others.

The CHAIRMAN also favoured with "The Judges," and the toast was responded to by the CHAIRMAN and Messrs J. PARKER, H. LISTER, and J. SHEARER.

"The health of the Committee" was responded to by Mr J. LOVATT.

Mr J. S. MURRAY subsequently submitted "The buyers at the Mart," the speakers in response being the CHAIRMAN and VICE-CHAIRMAN, Messrs J. SHEARER, H. LISTER, J. THOMPSON, and J. LOVATT. All agreed in expressing satisfaction with the purchases they had made at the mart during the six years in had been in existence.

The CHAIRMAN gave another toast—"The farmers of the district"—whom he regarded as an important factor in carrying on with success these marts.

Messrs ANDERSON, DIXON, ARMSTRONG, OSWALD, HERDMAN, and W. NICHOLSON spoke in response, Messrs DIXON and OSWALD mentioning the fact that they never placed a reserve upon any stock they forwarded to the mart, and they had always been satisfied with the returns. (Applause.)

The other toasts included "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman," and "The hostess," the proceedings being brought to a close about eight o'clock.

TOW LAW.

The third annual Christmas prize show and sale of fat cattle and sheep at Tow Law auction mart was held on Monday. The results were very successful, and reflected credit on the management and the worthy auctioneer, Mr Jos. Vickers. About 70 head of fat cattle and 350 sheep were brought under the hammer, and good prices were realised. There was a capital attendance of farmers and butchers. The champion prize for the best fat beast, and given by the licensed victuallers of the town, was secured by Mr T. Hall, jun., of Tow Law, with a magnificent animal weighing close upon 80 stones. The best fat bull in the open class, belonging to Messrs Pease and Partners, was a splendid animal, and was estimated to weigh nearly 100 stones. The judges were:—For fat cattle, Mr W. J. Scott, Middridge, and Mr Geo. Harrison, Consett; for fat sheep, Mr W. Gregory, Bishop Auckland, and Mr J. Wilkin, Crook.—A luncheon, held at the Cattle Mart Hotel, was presided over by Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., of Broadwood Park.—The loyal toast were honoured, and the Chairman proposed "Success to the Tow Law Mart," observing that he knew of no northern mart which, in the same time, had achieved such success. (Applause.)—Mr Vickers, replying, said that when that mart was established six years ago as a monthly mart he had no conception that it would be attended with such success. The large increase in the entries of stock caused him to hold sales fortnightly, and in the course of time weekly sales had to be commenced, and sometimes were held twice a week. He had gone through the figures recently, and in every class of stock there was a very large increase in the entries this year compared with the corresponding weeks of last year.—Mr Gregory spoke for the "Judges," and other toasts were honoured.—The following is the prize list, also the names of the buyers of the prize stock, together with the prices paid:—Fat heifer—1, Anderson and Sons, Black Hedley, Blackhill, sold to Geo. Harrison, Consett, £20; 2, Pease and Partners, Limited, Billy Hall Farm, Crook, sold to Mr Rushford, Escomb, £20 15s. Do. steer—1 and 2, W. J. Oswell, Derwent Flour Mill Farm, Shotley Bridge, sold to Mr Collingwood, Howdon, £26 each. Do. cow—1, W. J. Oswell, Derwent Flour Mill Farm, Shotley Bridge, sold to G. Harrison, Consett, £23; 2, G. Collinson, Leazes, Wolsingham, sold to J. Palmer, Howdon, £24 5s. Do. bull—1, Pease and Partners, Limited, Billy Hall Farm, Crook, sold to W. Holburn, Swainby, £27; 2, S. Harrison, Stobbilee, Satley, sold to W. J. Oswell for £18 10s. Champion prize—Fat beast, any class—1, T. Hall, jun., Tow Law, sold to W. Holburn, Swainby, £31; 2, W. J. Oswell, Derwent Flour Mill Farm, Shotley Bridge, sold to Jonathan Hall, East Hedleyhope, £29 10s. Pen of five fat sheep, Leicester or cross breds—1, F. Sanderson, Hill House, Brancepeth, W. Gregory, Bishop Auckland, 47s each; 2, W. J. Oswell, Derwent Flour Mill Farm, do., 50s each. Do. shearlings, Leicester or cross-breds—1, F. Sanderson, Littlewhite, Brancepeth, sold to W. Gregory, Bishop Auckland, 48s each; 2, F. Sanderson, Hill House, Brancepeth, sold to J. Humble, Cowshill, 48s each. Do. hogs, Leicester or cross-breds—1 and 2, J. Liddle, The Garth, Witton-le-Wear, sold to Goddy, Witton-le-Wear, 44s each; 2nd, do, for 40s each. Do. black-faced wethers—1, J. Emerson, Willow Green, Frosterley, sold to J. Elliott, Westgate, 46s each; 2, J. Robson, Healeyfield, Castleside, sold to J. Ellis, Waterhouses, 44s each. Do. ewes—1, J. Murray, Blackhill, sold to J. J. Elliott, Durham, 36s each; 2, J. Reed, Intake, Frosterley, sold to T. Hodgson, Sunniside, 37s each.—Other stock was entered for sale, but not for prize competition, by Mr Van Haansbergen, J.P., The Woodlands, Consett; Mr G. L. L. Bleukinsop, J.P., Canon Wilkinson, and from well-known farms all over Weardale and Tow Law districts; Mr T. R. Dolphin, Consett; Mr Suddes, Cornsay; Mrs J. Harrison, Frosterley; Mr J. W. Watson, Shorthorns, Weardale; Mr J. Holroyd, Hedleyhope; Mr Wearmouth, Broadwood; Mr T. Newton, Wolsingham; Mr R. Herbert, Bradley Hall; Mr J. Robson, Healeyfield; Mr J. Oliver, Burnhill; Dr Wild, Tow Law; Mr R. Hull, Brancepeth; Mr T. Longstaff, Willington. The chief buyers of stock, in addition to those already mentioned, were:—Sheep—Messrs Oliver, Shildon; J. R. Hodgson, Crook; C. Hall, Tow Law; Crook Co-operative Society; Brass Bishop Auckland; J. Lodge, Shildon; E. G. Pattison, Tow Law; and Greenbank, Willington. Cattle—Messrs R. Ward, Stanhope; R. Currah, Stanhope; C. Hall, Tow Law; T. Sanderson, Stanhope; B. Hodgson, Crook; J. Gould, Page Bank; T. Rutherford, Stanhope; Dixon, Escomb; Vester, Tudhoe Colliery; G. Moralee, Crook; Brass, Bishop Auckland; and Bainbridge, Shildon.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

The sixth annual Christmas Prize show and sale, held in connection with the Chester-le-Street Mart, took place on Monday, and was in every respect a success. Though only recently established, the Christmas sale at the Chester-le-Street market has attained a position in the first rank of similar gatherings, and Mr J. Turnbull, auctioneer, to whose energy and enterprise the sales owe their establishment, is to be congratulated on the success which has attended every one of the series, and placed them on a permanent basis. The stock penned consisted of 110 fat cattle, 324 fat sheep, and 28 pigs, consigned mainly from the Earl of Durham, the Birtley Iron Company, and the principal gentlemen and farmers in the neighbourhood. The attendance at the sale was a big one, and included buyers from every part of the county of Durham, and from Northumberland and Yorkshire. The stock was in quality all that could be desired, and far before that exhibited at any previous show at this mart. A substantial sum was given in prizes, the placing of the awards being in the hands of the following gentlemen:—Cattle—Messrs W. Hand, Chester-le-Street; E. Traumer, Bishop Middleham; and E. H. Whittaker, jun., York. Sheep—Messrs S. Monkhouse, jun., Durham; T. Nixon, Redcar; and J. Stephenson, Sunderland. At the completion of the judging the sale commenced, the cattle being first disposed of. These realised good figures, the top price being paid by Mr M. Adamson, Burnopfield, who gave £36 5s for a handsome bullock, which took the champion prize. The best fat bullock, which secured prizes in the open and tenant farmers' classes was puchased for £32 by Mr W. Smith, Durham. The best heifer in the open class, a splendid animal whose good points were visible at every turn, was secured by Mr Charlton, Sunderland, for £26 15s, whilst Mr J. W. Whittaker, York, purchased the best fat cow in the show for £30. From the top price of £36 5s, the cattle ranged down to £9 12s 0d, the majority bringing from £20 to £30. The sheep were a numerous, excellent, and all-round lot, and elicited some very keen bidding, the prices paid ranging from 19s to as much as 64s per head. A number of pigs were also sold. The following were the principal purchasers at the sales:—W. Smith, Durham; Darling, Sacriston; Adamson, Burnopfield; Mrs Henderson, Chester; Chester-le-Street Stores; Suddes, Browney; J. Kirkup, Pelton; S. Monkhouse, jun., Durham; West Stanley Co-operative Society; Adamson, Pit Hill; H. White, West Pelton; Atkinson, Marley Hill; Dickinson, Washington; Hunter, Sacriston; Reid, Kimblesworth; Newbottle Co-operative Society; J. Walton, Durham; A. Swinburne, Stanley; Birtley Co-operative Society; Garbutt, Gateshead; Hunter, Langley Park; Swainson, Sacriston; Rutter, Sacriston; Kirkup, Urpeth; Hope, Newbottle; and Lawson, Witton Gilbert.

A NEW SOCIETY FOR TEACHERS.—A meeting of teachers was held in the Church Close Board School, Hartlepool, for the purpose of establishing a Public Elementary Teachers' Society for the assistance of schoolmasters and their assistants when out of employment. Mr W. McDonald was president, and Mr H. C. Marston secretary, the officers giving their services gratuitously. It was decided to invite 50 teachers to join, and in order to make the society financially a success, the subscription for £1 per week benefit was fixed at 7s 6d per quarter per member. This subscription, although only 1d per day, allows of 30s per week being distributed to those in need. At the suggestion of Mr Wheatley, West Hartlepool, a clause was inserted in the rules to the effect that teachers, before joining the society, must have held their present situations at least two years, and be under 50 years of age. The society also adopted a suggestion to limit full benefit to 40 weeks, and give half benefit for other 20 weeks, with not more than 60 weeks' benefit in any five years. Many letters were read from teachers at a distance, sympathising with the objects of the society, and the general opinion expressed was that, even though a teacher never required benefit from the society, it was his moral duty to assist those less fortunate than himself, when by combination such a paltry sum as 1d per day could give so much beneficial assistance.—The Durham County Certificated Teachers' Mutual Association, established by the Hartlepool teachers 18 months ago, for the purpose of subscribing 2s 6d per member at the death of a teacher, now numbers 245 members, and has given assistance in four cases.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Sudden transitions from heat and cold, or from raw inclement weather to oppressive climates, favour the development of manifold diseases, which may in most instances be checked and rendered abortive by an early resort to these purifying, regulating, and strengthening Pills. This well-known and highly esteemed medicine affords a safe and easy remedy for almost every constitutional wrong which unhealthy climates, rapid changes, or dietetic errors, can engender, and effectually removes any weakness self-indulgent habits may have induced. In all conditions of the system bordering on disease such as are indicated by apathy, listlessness, and restlessness, Holloway's Pills will prove especially serviceable in begetting the vivacity of mind and body appreciated by both sound and sick.

BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting was held on Wednesday evening—Mr Jas. Annandale, J.P. in the chair. Present: Messrs T. Siddell, J. Eltringham, W. Wheatley, H. Carss, the Clerk (Mr J. Booth), and Mr W. Dixon (Surveyor.)

THE PARK DISPUTE.

Several letters were read with regard to the disagreement about the Park; similar letters having been sent to, and published in the report of the Consett Local Board. The letter from the Consett Iron Company made reference to the bye-laws for the Park, &c., and stated that the directors were of opinion that there was some internal disputes, and that if a satisfactory agreement was not come to, they considered it would be best for them to again take possession of the ground.

The Clerk expressed an opinion that the Consett Iron Company appeared to think that there was some internal dispute going on. This was not the case.

Mr Carss: The Consett Iron Company must know that the arrangement between the two Boards would not interfere with any agreement between them.

Mr Siddell: The Consett Iron Company are not fools, Mr Carss.

Mr Eltringham: Some one is evidently acting very foolishly on this occasion.

Mr Carss: According to that letter from the Local Government Board, the combination between the two Boards is illegal.

Mr Siddell: No, no.

The Chairman: The letter certainly treats the matter in that light.

Mr Eltringham: According to the position in which we now are, we cannot prosecute anyone who may commit a misdemeanour in the Park. The combination, according to the Local Government Board, is illegal.

Mr Wheatley: I don't see how the Consett Iron Company can object to the proposal of the Board, Mr Chairman; and I likewise fail to see how they have a right to interfere.

Mr Siddell: They have a perfect right to interfere. They are the proprietors.

Mr Eltringham: As far as I am concerned, the Consett Iron Company may take the land back for altogether.

Mr Siddell: I haven't the least doubt about that.

Mr Eltringham said that more than one of the Consett Local Board members were of opinion that the arrangement was the best that could be desired.

Mr Siddell: I don't believe it. I was at the meeting, and did not hear such an opinion expressed.

Mr Eltringham: It is nevertheless a fact, for I have had a talk with some of them on the subject. The arrangements come to at the Park's Committee meeting was that it would be best for the two Boards to separate and work the Park independent of each other.

The Clerk: Did the Consett Board object to the recommendations of the Park Committee?

Mr Siddell: The majority were against the recommendations.

Mr Wheatley: Was there a great majority, Mr Siddell?

Mr Carss: It was carried by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Mr Eltringham: There are a number of them in favour of the dissolution.

Mr Carss thought they stood in a position that they could move no further until they received a more satisfactory reply from the Consett Iron Company.

Mr Siddell: You'll get no further reply from them.

The Clerk considered they could not reasonably expect any other reply than that which they had already received. If the Consett Company objected to separate the bye-laws, then the Park would be without bye-laws.

Mr Siddell: They will not object to the bye-laws.

The Clerk: That is the question, Mr Siddell. He then proceeded to read that part of the letter from the Company which referred to the bye-laws. He said the Board could not frame any bye-laws without the consent of the Consett Iron Company. It appeared to him that the letter from the Company had been written under a misapprehension.

Mr Eltringham: None of the things mentioned in the letter are correct. There had been no intention of fencing the portion.

Mr Siddell: You want to stop the people from going from one portion to another, but you have no power to do so. Besides you do not wish to spend money in having the place put right.

The Chairman: We have already contributed much above our share according to the rateable value of the district, Mr Siddell.

Mr Eltringham: It is only an opinion of Mr Siddell's.

Mr Siddell: You said you would do it.

Mr Eltringham: No! no! Mr Siddell.

Mr Carss: No majority of this Board expressed such an opinion as that stated by Mr Siddell.

Mr Eltringham stated that it was a matter of great inconvenience for members of that Board to have to go to Consett once a month. Besides that, the park-keeper was watched by two authorities, and he could not be expected to serve two masters. A great deal of assistance might be given by the Board's men when they were slack of work in their regular employment. He maintained that some of the Consett people held an opinion that the work would go on better if they separated.

Mr Siddell wished to know if the Surveyor had too many men employed? It was very wrong of him if such was the case.

Mr Eltringham: You put a wrong construction upon my remarks, Mr Siddell. The men have not always a great quantity of work to do.

Mr Siddell: There is enough work to give them constant employment, and they will have no time to spare for the Park.

Mr Carss: May I ask where we are, Mr Chairman? I think this matter has gone quite far enough.

Mr Siddell: Drop it, then! drop it! (Loud laughter.)

Mr Carss proposed that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Consett Iron Company, and ask them to consent to the separate bye-laws for the Park, as pointed out by the Local Government Board, without reference to the separate maintenance of the Park.

Mr Siddell considered that that consent had already been given.

The Chairman: There has been no acquiescence, however.

Mr Eltringham objected to the insertion of the latter clause. If that was taken out he would second the motion.

Mr Siddell objected to seconding the motion, because it only covered the question of bye-laws.

Mr Wheatley declared that he would have nothing to do with it, saying that the letter received from the Consett Iron Company was not an answer to the communication sent to them by that Board.

On the latter clause of the motion being amended, Mr Siddell agreed to second the proposition, which was carried.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Highway Committee recommended the following accounts, amounting to a total of £183 3s 6d, to be paid.

This was agreed to.

BUILDING AND SANITARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Medical Officer's report received the attention of the Committee, who were glad to report that the death-rate was lower this quarter than it has been for many years; and also that there is an improvement in the birth-rate from last quarter. There was no place reported as requiring the attention of the Sanitary Committee. A plan, in pencil, for a small greenhouse at Snows Green House, Snows Green, received attention, but cannot recommend the Board to pass it, but to receive it and allow it to be built, as it is a small place and not objectionable.

THE BLUE BRIDGE.

Mr Carss wished to know if any communication had been received with regard to the Blue Bridge?

The Clerk said that counsel had been consulted, and the opinion was that the bridge ought to be maintained by the parish of Shotley Bridge. He also stated that the cost incurred by obtaining the opinion was £3 5s 6d.

Mr Siddell proposed that a cheque be signed for the amount.

The motion was carried, being seconded by Mr Carss.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

Gentlemen,—Your workmen have been employed on your several highways and streets scraping and laying-on materials. About 500 tons of metal have been laid on to the following roads:—Durham, Lobley Hill, Benfieldside, and Cemetery Road; also 50 tons on Derwent Street. These roads have had strict attention. The most of your footpaths have been covered with coke ashes. I hope the Board will consider the question of cementing these footpaths as soon as funds will allow.

As instructed, I had the posts and rails put up at the entrance to the Blue Bridge.

I am requested by the sergeant of police at Blackhill to ask the Board to allow the Bray's lamp at Mr Hodgson's corner to burn a few hours longer at nights. He will undertake to put it out.

I have collected and paid to the treasurer during the month the following sum:—General District Rate, £37 19s.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN DIXON.

Shotley Bridge, Dec. 21st, 1887.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr Dixon submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

Gentlemen,—I have inspected your district several times this month and find the ashpits well cleaned out. Your main drains are all in working order, and I consider your district is in a good sanitary condition.

As directed, I stamped the plans (with written instructions thereon) belonging to the Consett Iron Company for alterations to Dale Street. I have also ascertained that they are going to commence with the work as soon as the weather will allow. A plan for a small greenhouse has been laid before your Building Committee.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN DIXON.

Shotley Bridge, Dec. 21st, 1887.

MORE LIGHT FOR THE POLICE.

A request was made by the police authorities that the Bray's lamp at the foot of Derwent Street be allowed to burn a little longer than midnight, as it was very inconvenient for the police during the dark nights when it was extinguished. They would undertake to put the light out.

It was agreed, on the motion of Mr Carss, and seconded by Mr Wheatley, to allow the lamp to burn until two o'clock in the morning during the winter season.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS ACT.

A short discussion arose with regard to the appointment of the Surveyor as inspector of dairies, cowsheds, &c., and it was resolved that the matter be brought forward at the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the Board.

CONSERVATISM IN WEARDALE.

TOW LAW.

In connection with the Conservative Association of the Barnard Castle Division of the county of Durham, an address on "Ireland and Fair Trade," was given in the Mechanics' Institute, Tow Law, on Thursday se'nnight, by Mr L. H. Hayter, of the National Union. The hall was densely crowded, a large number of Radicals being present. Mr J. T. Mills, organising secretary, occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr L. H. Hayter, Rev Mr Arnett, Rev T. C. Hughes, Messrs Wilson, Hull, Atkinson, Jackson, and others.

The Chairman, in opening, reminded workingmen that their class were practically the governors of the country, and that, that being the case it behoved them to carefully consider the political questions they had to decide at elections. (Cheers.) With reference to Fair Trade, he thought that ere long it would be the question of the hour, as profits were diminishing, wages coming down, and the employment of the people becoming scarcer. (Cheers.) A policy which was good in 1846 might be very unsuitable in 1887. During the last four years England's foreign trade had fallen off to the extent of over £100,000,000 in value, which was a very serious consideration. He declined to believe that transferring the duties from tea, coffee, dried fruits, and forth to silks, satins, fans, feathers, gloves, and other fripperies, would ruin England. (Cheers.) However, this was a question for themselves to consider, and he hoped what they would hear that night would tend to enable them to come to sound conclusions.

Mr L. H Hayter, who was cheered on rising, dealt at length with the speech of Mr Campbell Bannerman, delivered at Darlington on the previous night, comparing his utterances to-day with his declaration in the election of 1885, that Home Rule would not be consistent with the maintenance of the Empire, or our duty to the Crown. He said that Mr Bannerman had endeavoured to mislead the people of Darlington. (Interruption.) He had tried to persuade them that the cause of Home Rule had advanced during the year—(Radical cheers)—when, as a matter of fact, 81 042 votes had been recorded for the Union in the contested elections against only 70,076 recorded for Home Rule. (Cheers.) Then Mr Bannerman had done a most extraordinary thing. (Laughter.) He had defined what Home Rule meant. (Renewed laughter.) But really it was ridiculous for Mr Bannerman to set himself up as an authority against Mr Gladstone, the leader of the Separatists—(interruption)—who had declined to walk into a trap by telling them his proposals. Now, Mr Bannerman intended Home Rule to effect that which was impossible—viz., to maintain the unimpaired unity of the Empire and the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament. (Cheers and interruption.) It was impossible—(renewed interruption)—because the unity of the Empire would be imperilled by the establishment of a hostile state within her area, and within 21 miles of the coast of her heart—Great Britain; it was impossible because the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament could not exist if a co-ordinate legislative authority was established within this realm with powers such as the Nationalists sought. (Cheers.) Turning, after further remarks on the Irish question, to the depression in trade, Mr Hayter discussed the merits and demerits of our fiscal system, condemning one-sided Free Trade, and advocating a revision of that system on the basis of Fair Trade, proving by statistics, amidst applause, that in no way would the price of the poor man's loaf be raised.

Questions having been invited, some six or seven gentlemen availed themselves of the invitation, amongst them three local Wesleyan preachers, and for about an hour there were repeated and lively sallies between them on the one side and Mr Hayter and Mr Mills on the other.—Eventually the usual votes were unanimously passed, and a Conservative Association formed.

ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, St. John's Chapel, on Friday night, under the auspices of the Barnard Castle Division Conservative Association, to hear addresses from Messrs Hayter and Mills. Mr J. Ruchton presided over a large attendance, despite the severity of the weather. The addresses of both gentlemen were heartily applauded, and at the close questions were invited, but none were asked.—On the motion of the Chairman, a unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to the speakers. A similar vote to the Chairman brought a pleasant meeting to a close.

A CONSETT LAW SUIT.

On Saturday, upon the case of the Consett Water Works Company v. Ritson coming on, the Attorney-General said that Sir Henry James (who was engaged in the case) had so sprained his ankle that it was impossible for him to leave the house. He would not perhaps be able to stand on Monday or Tuesday, and therefore it would be as well that the case should go over to the next sittings. Mr Justice Willis said that the Court heard with great regret of Sir Henry James's accident, and hoped that the consequences would not prove serious. The case was adjourned until the next sittings.

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

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS

The fortnightly meeting was held at Lanchester on Thursday in last week, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. There were present:—Rev Canon Kearney, Messrs W. Logan, W. H. Hedley, T. Siddell, Geo. Hobson, J. Lax, John Collinson, J. A. Curry, W. Rutherford, J. Buckham, V. Channing, T. Nichol, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

TOWNSHIPS IN ARREARS.

The Chairman said there were townships—Conside and Knitsley, and Cornsay—still in arrears in payment of their precepts. This was becoming a serious matter to the Board, as they had several heavy payments to meet. There was a very large [illegible] amounting to about £1,600, on behalf of the county rate. If the Guardians paid all their outstanding liabilities, there would be a deficit in their balance. He suggested that the Clerk should be requested to inform the defaulting Overseers that if the calls, which were due in October last, were not paid at once, legal proceedings would be instituted against them.

The Clerk stated that the County Authorities demanded from the Board this year £1,540, as against £1,284 in the preceding year. The Highway Board were indebted to the Guardians in the sum of £150, and as they had a substantial balance on hand, they might pay this sum forthwith, and then the Guardians would be able to pay their liabilities.

The Chairman: That is very satisfactory.

Mr Hedley enquired how defaulting Overseers had been dealt with on previous occasions?

The Clerk stated that he had written to the Assistant-Overseers that if the precepts were not paid at once, they would be summoned before the magistrates. He had already written one or two formal notices to the Assistant-Overseers of Consett and Cornsay.

Mr Collinson did not see the necessity of their Clerk communicating with the Assistant-Overseers or the Overseers. These officials ought to know it was their duty to pay the calls due from them within a specified period.

The Chairman: I quite agree with you. But there can be no harm in our Clerk informing these Overseers that if the arrears are not forthcoming at once, legal steps will be taken for the recovery of the money.

Mr Siddell: I think we ought to press the Chairman to summons those parties.

Eventually, the Chairman was authorised, in the event of the calls not been paid up on the following day, to take out summonses on the following Thursday against the Overseers of Conside and Cornsay.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE INMATES.

The Guardians decided to provide the inmates with their usual Christmas dinner on Monday, 26th December, Mr Reed, Lanchester, being asked to supply the necessary provisions.

The Clerk announced that Mr W. M. Annandale, of Lintz Ford, had sent 20s to be distributed amongst the children, and the Board passed a vote of thanks to the donor.

OVERCROWDED POORHOUSES.

The Auckland Guardians made application to the Board asking them to accept a number of women and girls from their Workhouse.

Mr Logan was afraid the Guardians could not entertain the application till they had settled with the Hartlepool Guardians, who are negotiating with the Board for to take in a number of paupers of all classes in order to relieve the overcrowded condition of their Workhouse.

MR SIDDELL AND THE OFFICIALS.

A LIVELY SCENE.

Mr Siddell called attention to the fact that a month ago, a widow, named Mary Luke, of Blackhill, made application to the Guardians for assistance to take herself and three of her children to her relatives in Philadelphia, America. The Guardians offered to give her £3 in payment of her passage to Liverpool, her aunt having found the remainder of the money to pay her fare to her destination. The woman had obtained her passes, and on showing the same to the relieving officer for the Western district (Mr J. Moon), it was understood that the money should be handed over to her. Mr Moon had seen the passes, but the money was not paid; and the result was that the poor woman missed her ship, and would have lost her passes had it not been for the interposition of an influential gentleman. What was the reason the money was not paid?

The Clerk: There has not been time.

Mr Siddell: Oh yes, there has.

The Clerk: We have not received a reply from the Local Government Board yet.

Mr Siddell: You distinctly told us that it was such a small sum that it was not necessary to obtain the sanction of the Local Government Board.

The Clerk: Excuse me, I said nothing of the sort. What I said was that I did not think there would be any difficulty in securing the sanction of the Local Government Board.

Mr Siddell: It is not necessary to apply to the Local Government Board. I also asked the chairman if it made any difference the woman changing her name, and I was told it did not matter.

The Chairman stated that he remembered Mr Siddell putting the question to him, but the Clerk would be absent from the room at the time.

The Clerk explained that he produced letters from the Local Government Board, because he was under the impression that the Imperial Authority would not agree to a widow going to America, but he ascertained that the Local Government Board would allow widows to go, providing they intended to join their relations. Mrs Luke did not show the passes to Mr Moon till the 2nd December, and he did not know till the 5th inst., when he wrote to the Local Government Board. He had not received any reply thereto.

Mr Siddell continued to make charges against the clerk and relieving-officer, alleging that they had both conspired together to prevent the woman from going abroad, but the Chairman called him to order, on the ground that his statements were full of misrepresentations.

The Clerk (warmly): Mr Siddell is telling downright untruths. It is not fair that Mr Siddell should bring these charges against Mr Moon and myself without us having an opportunity of refuting the allegations. Here's the reporter present taking down notes, and he'll only be in a position to lay a one-sided statement before the public.

The Chairman: Certainly we must allow the officers to vindicate themselves.

Mr Lax: Mr Siddell has made grave charges against the officers, and they ought to have an opportunity of defending their position.

Mr Siddell (emphatically): Bring Mr Moon in, and I'll face him on the matter.

That official was called into the room, but Mr Siddell said he had nothing more to add. He, however, asked Mr Moon why this money had not been paid to Mrs Luke?

Mr Moon: Because I had no orders to pay it.

Mr Siddell: You got orders a month ago.

The Chairman: Upon condition that you saw the passes and that we received the sanction of the Local Government Board.

Mr Siddell: I never heard anything about that.

The Chairman: I think you should prove your charges, Mr Siddell, or withdraw them. You are labouring under misapprehension.

Mr Siddell: I have nothing to apologise about. I say that the relieving-officer has not paid this money, as directed by the Board a month ago. I was told there was no necessity to apply for the sanction of the Local Government Board for such a small grant as £3.

The Chairman: It is false. My opinion is that we must ask the approval of the Local Goverment Board every time we pay money for this purpose.

Mr Siddell: I understood that the woman would not have any bother in getting her money after receiving the passes.

The Clerk said that the Board never paid a single penny out of the Union without first seeking the permission of the Local Government Board.

Mr Siddell reiterated the statements he had already made, when the Chairman said: I suppose you have made these allegations upon the *ipse dixit* of another person?

Mr Siddell: Certainly not. I make the statements upon my own knowledge.

Mr Moon explained that when the woman first made application to the Guardians at Consett, she stated that she had got the passes, but they were in pawn.

Mr Siddell: That has nothing to do with the case.

Mr Moon: Undoubtedly it has. When the woman showed me the passes on the subsequent pay-day, I told her that these were not the passes we had been speaking about. She replied, "I only got them to-day." That happened on the 2nd Dec. I asked her if these were the passes that had been in pawn, and she answered "No. These were sent back to America." She obtained the original pass in the name of Mrs Luke, but the woman managed to get other passes for herself and three children in the name of Keelan, which was her aunt's name. I understand that the woman was under the impression that the American authorities would not allow her to land in Philadelphia if they knew that her husband was dead. I did not see these passes till December 2nd, and I accordingly communicated with Mr Ritson, who wrote to the Local Government Board. I purposely omitted to state that the woman had obtained the passes in another name, or that the passes were all right; but I came down to Lanchester and saw the Clerk about the matter.

Mr Siddell said that the woman by some means got the ticket out of pawn for 4s. Mrs Luke had communicated with her aunt, who sent her passes for herself and three children to leave here by a certain ship. She applied to the Guardians for some money and they agreed to pay her fare to Liverpool.

The Chairman: Conditionally upon receiving the assent of the Local Government Board, and our relieving officer being satisfied with the passes.

Mr Collinson held that their officers were not in the least to blame for the delay in payment of the money.

Canon Kearney was under the impression that their clerk had told them that for a sum of £3 and under they need not have the sanction of the Local Government Board.

The Clerk denied ever making use of any such expression.

Mr Moon said, in answer to the Chairman, that Mrs Luke's husband died some months ago. She was going to her relatives, but the difficulty was that the woman did not know in what position these people were in.

The Chairman: It is a very grave question, and I'm afraid that, after all, we will have an adverse decision from the Local Government Board.

Mr Siddell pointed out that Mrs Luke intended to go out as nurse, and that her aunt had promised to take charge of her children.

The Clerk read the correspondence which passed between the Local Government Board and himself relating to the matter; and this, Mr Siddell admitted, was straightforward and satisfactory.

The Chairman: I am afraid the Local Government Board will not assent to the payment of £3.

Mr Siddell said that the Chairman distinctly told him that it did not make any difference under what name the woman went out, or what ship she travelled in.

The Chairman: Perhaps so. It did not matter to us, but it might affect the Local Government Board. Is it not a fact that the American authorities will not allow widows to land on their shores?

Mr Moon: Mrs Luke does not know what position her relations are in.

Mr Siddell: You had no business to enquire into the matter. We are not paying her expenses to America; we are only paying her railway fare to Liverpool.

The Clerk said that in every instance where they granted money in this way, they always obtained the sanction of the Local Government Board.

Mr Siddell was proceeding to argue the question, but the Chairman requested him to let the matter drop.

Mr Moon: Do I understand the charges are withdrawn?

The Chairman: Yes; Mr Siddell has not been able to prove his allegations.

Mr Lax: Then I think Mr Siddell ought to apologise.

Mr Siddell: I never made any charges.

Mr Lax: Excuse me, but you did.

The Chairman: Most certainly you did.

Mr Siddell: It was you who brought the relieving-officer into the room to bring charges against me, but he failed. (Laughter.)

The Chairman hoped the reporter would take a note of Mr Siddell's admission that he never preferred any charges against the officers.

The discussion thereupon ceased.

INMATES OF THE HOUSE.

Week ending Dec. 7th	171
Corresponding week of last year	195
Week ending Dec. 14th	164
Corresponding week of last year	194
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	10
Corresponding fortnight of last year	9

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

This Authority afterwards met, with Mr W. Logan in the chair.

THE CRAGHEAD AND WAGTAIL SEWERAGE SCHEME.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board, pointing out with reference to the decision of the Lanchester Authority to pay their proportion (£750) of the cost of carrying out this scheme jointly with the Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary Authority, instead of borrowing the money for that purpose, that it seemed to be a breach of certain clauses of the agreement entered into between the two Authorities. They asked for the observation of the members upon the point.

After a lengthened discussion, the Clerk was directed to reply to the Imperial Authority to the effect that the Authority preferred that the cost should be defrayed out of the rates; but they were quite willing to borrow the money if they were obliged to do so.

THE CAUSEY WATER SUPPLY.

The special committee appointed to consider this matter stated that Mr Cuthbert Berkley, colliery manager, Marley Hill, was quite agreeable to defray the expense of laying the water into their houses; but was not willing to bear the cost of laying the main from the North-Eastern Company's pipe to the village. Their Inspector (Mr Rounthwaite) estimated the whole cost at about £30. The Building Committee, however, had had the subject before them, and came to the conclusion that as the matter was not pressing in winter time, they had deferred it till the members of the committee had had a further opportunity of consulting Mr Berkley, and reporting to a future meeting.

This was agreed upon.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

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

Gentlemen,—At Catchgate a nuisance arises from the position of a pigstye, belonging to Richard Pearson, which is built close to the door of an adjoining dwelling-house.

The County Analyst has forwarded his reports on the three samples of water submitted to him from Cornsay, from which it appears that the two wells in use—viz., "Petty Well" and "Low Well" are perfectly safe; but that the water in the "Draw Well" is, in its present state, unfit for domestic use.

The following new buildings are completed and fit for occupation, and certificates are required for the same viz:—

709. Vestry to Wesleyan Methodist Chapel for the Trustees, at Kip Hill.
710. Additions to the Railway Inn at Annfield Plain, for William Taylor.
747. House at Medomsley, for Matt. T. Milburn.

Monthly Summary:

Nuisance notices served during the month	7
Letters written with regard to nuisances, &c.	59
Habitation certificates issued	0
Plans received and examined	13
Plan approval notices sent out	3
Villages and hamlets inspected	31
New buildings in progress inspected	40

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. W. ROUNTHWAITE.

Lanchester, Dec. 15th, 1887.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

December 15th, 1887.

Your Committee recommend that the following plans be approved, subject to the matters marked on each plan being attended to, viz:—

791. Conversion of church into two houses at Shield Row, for T. D. Eden.
795. Amended plan for alterations to Railway Inn at Annfield Plain, for Wm. Taylor.
796. Addition to house at Westwood, for the Consett Iron Company.
797. Shop at West Stanley, for A. B. Dodds.
798. Additions to house at Flass, for Edward Cook.
800. Additions to Bird Inn at White-le-Head, for Richard Murray.
801. Three privies and covered ashpits to Throstle Nest, Hole House, and Colepike Mill Farms, for Edward Taylor Smith.

That the following plan be received, being a wood building, viz:—

799. Barber's shop at Burnopfield, for Thomas Davidson.

That the consideration of the following plans be adjourned, viz:—

774. Business premises at Low Westwood, for Blaydon District Industrial, and Provident Society.
792. Twenty houses at Malton Colliery, for S. A. Sadler.
793 Store buildings at Colliery Dykes, for Annfield Plain Co-operative Society.
794. Additions to house near Quebec, for George Love.
770. That the Authority assent to the position of two double tenemented houses at West Stanley, for Jonathan Green, being altered, on the understanding that no space is left between the gables of the said houses, and the existing adjoining houses.

THE THREATENED PROCEEDINGS AGAINST A COLLIERY OWNER.

Mr Logan explained with reference to the proceedings instituted by the Authority against the owner of Malton Colliery for commencing to build a block of cottages without submitting plans for the Authority's approval, that the plans were forthcoming immediately after the last meeting, and they had accordingly withdrawn any further proceedings in the matter. They could, however, still compel the builder to take down the portion already constructed, if it failed to meet with their requirements.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT.

The Medical Officers submitted the following reports:—

Eastern District.

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

Gentlemen,—The following cases of zymotic disease were notified to me during the month, viz:—Eight of scarlatina and 4 of enteric fever. The cases of scarlatina were confined to the villages of Tanfield Lea and Tantobie, and resulted in all probability from others that occurred recently in the immediate neighbourhood. The disease is of a mild type, and shows no epidemic character. With regard to enteric fever, 2 cases ocurred at Dipton, and 2 at Oxhill. The latter in the house where other members of the family have recently had the disease. As to the former, I can assign no cause to the outbreak.

There needs some improvement in the sewage arrangements in connection with the premises at Oxhill, occupied by the enteric fever cases. Your Surveyor will specify those improvements that are required, and it would be advantageous to have them carried out as quickly as possible.

The mortality for the month is about the average; 25 deaths were registered, being equal to an annual ratio of 17·5 per 1,000. The only fatal case of zymotic disease was due to enteric fever.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

T. Benson, Medical Officer.

Dec. 13th, 1887.

Medomsley District.

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

Gentlemen,—I have only to report one fresh case of fever in the village of Medomsley. The sanitary condition of the district continues good.

The Ebchester district is free from infectious disease.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. T. Bolton.

Dec. 19th, 1887.

The Inspector estimated the cost of the bedding, &c., infected with disease, ordered to be destroyed at Allendale Cottages, at about £2, and after some conversation, the Authority agreed to pay the value.

OUTBREAKS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Inspector having stated that Dr Benson's report was the first intimation he had of infectious disease being prevalent at Oxhill, Mr Hedley thought that in the case of such outbreaks, their Medical Officer should immediately acquaint the Inspector thereof.

The other business was unimportant.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

Bishop Ryan, rector of Stanhope, is still very ill.

The Wesleyans of Stanhope are to be congratulated on their good fortune in securing so estimable a minister as Rev G. B. Glover. To hear him is to enjoy an intellectual treat, and not only is he well up intellectually speaking, but he is also an earnest, laborious, and useful worker in the Master's cause.

Since the advent of Rev J. W. Rees to Stanhope the prospects of the Church party have considerably improved. The congregations are much better, and the lively interest he takes in the welfare of the young have drawn to his bible class and debating society a number of the youths of the place. So far, he is well liked, and has improved the prospects of the Church party in Stanhope, which were below zero before his arrival.

The members of the Quadrille Party at St. John's Chapel have declined to accept the recent refusal of the trustees to grant them the hire of the Town Hall according to rule, and will demand an explanation or reason for their action, failing which forcible entrance will be made, and the matter tested. The police have no power to interfere.

Considerable feeling is prevalent respecting the rumoured removal of the post-office from Cowshill. The master *pro tem.*—Mr Percy Hall—is discharging the duties with the utmost ability and public satisfaction in the old premises, which are specially adapted to the utility of a post-office, being situated at the junction of the four converging district roads. A petition in favour of Mr Hall's appointment is contemplated by the inhabitants.

Reference was recently made in these columns to a claim which Mr Wm. Watson, then of White House Farm, Weardale, was making against his landlord, Mr J. R. W. Hildyard, J.P. Mr Watson's claim was for £51, and Mr Hildyard then made a counter claim of £37. Mr Samuel Rowlandson, to whom the matter was referred, has now made his award, under which he gives to Mr Watson £20 12s 2d, and at the same time allows £13 13s 6d on the counter-claim, thus reducing the tenant's claim to £6 18s 8d. The costs, amounting to £14, are to be paid by the parties equally.

WESLEYAN QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

Shotley Bridge Circuit.—The quarterly meetings of the Shotley Bridge and Consett circuit were held on Tuesday at Shotley Bridge, under the presidency of Rev. Henry Parkes. Two young men were accepted as fully accredited local preachers, and several others received on trial. The number of members reported was 1,555, showing a decrease of 56 on the quarter, with 91 on trial. The financial statement showed a balance of £4 15s 7d in favour of the circuit. Mr Lax was elected senior steward, together with Mr John Routledge as his colleague, for the ensuing year. Mr M. Noble was appointed circuit chapel secretary. The superintendent will have completed his three years' service at the next conference, and Rev Thos. Broadbent, Barnard Castle, has accepted an invitation to succeed him.

Weardale Circuit.—The quarterly meeting of the quarterly meeting of the officials of the Weardale Wesleyan Circuit was held at St. John's Chapel on Saturday.—Rev H. Beeson (superintendent) presiding. The numerical statement showed the number of members to be 642, being a decrease of one on the quarter. The financial report was considered satisfactory, showing a decrease in the balance against the stewards.

GOVERNMENT LOANS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

The following figures have been compiled from the returns made by the Public Works Loan Board just issued, showing the amount advanced by them out of moneys provided by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to the under-mentioned local Authorities, together with the balance of principal outstanding on the 31st March, 1887, and the rate of interest payable thereon:—

SCHOOL BOARD LOANS.

Benfieldside, amount advanced, £5,688; balance, £4,623 0s 6d, at 3½. Collierley, £6,271; balance, £4,465 8s, at 3½. Crook and Billy Row, £11,741; balance, £5,518 3s, at 3½. Edmondbyers, £612; balance, £549 3s 3d, at 3½. Greencroft, 2,064; balance, £1,513 12s, at 3½. Healeyfield and Rowley, £1,620; balance, £926 4s 9d. at 3½, and £449 15s at 3½. Kyo, £7,721; balance, £5,561 0s 4d, at 3½. Medomsley, £3,224; balance, £2,675 17s 10d, at 3½. Stanhope, £9,920; balance, £8,765 1s, at 3½. Winlaton, £5,000; balance, £4,538 7s 5d, at 3½d.

SANITARY LOANS.

Blaydon Local Board, £13,370; balance, £1,740 0s 8d, at 3½d, and £9,388 14s 8d, at 3½. Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary, £9,950; balance, £5,916 13s 4d, at 3½, and £764 14s 10d, at 3½. Ryton Local Board, £9,500; balance, £1,008 5s 1d, at 3½, and £5,243, at 3½. Stanhope Local Board, £220; balance, £169 3s 9d, at 3½. Weardale Rural Sanitary, £1,800; balance, £1,293 6s 8d, at 3½. Whickham Local Board, £1,500; balance, £881 7s 11d, at 3½.

BURIAL BOARD LOAN.

St. Cuthbert, Benfieldside, £6,500; balance, £1,916 13s 4d, at 5 per cent.

LOCAL BOARD LOANS.

Stanhope Local Board, £180; balance, £100, at 5. Stanhope Sewer Authority, £1,200; balance, £120, at 5.

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

ALLEGED DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT OF TWO CONSETT MEN IN AMERICA.

The *Pittsburg Leader* of August 8th, 1887, publishes the following apology for the insertion of a scandal alleged to have been enacted in America, as reported in our columns recently. "It appears that Mr Daniel Granger left home to seek employment at Wheeling, and Mrs Wilson had also left at the same time to go to live with George Listy, of Riverside, Woods-run. It must have been supposed that from the fact of them both leaving about the same time that they had eloped together."

We therefore hasten to contradict the statement made in the *Guardian* recently, and copied by us from the *Pittsburg Leader*. We have seen the newspaper containing the contradiction, and also letters which convince us that the statements were incorrect.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT AT TANFIELD LEA.

On Tuesday afternoon, an inquest was held at the Colliery Offices, Tanfield Lea, before Mr A. T. Shepherd, deputy-coroner, concerning the death of Elizabeth Smith, aged 51, living at No. 7, William Street, who met with a somewhat peculiar accident on Saturday. It appears that about 10·30 a.m., a greengrocer's cart hailing from West Stanley was standing in front of the rows. Mrs Smith, who is near sighted, came out of her house for the purpose of dusting some mats. In crossing the road, she failed to perceive the horse and cart. The result was that the animal moved onward, and the unfortunate woman was caught by one of the shafts on the back and knocked down. The horse trampled upon her with its feet, and one of the wheels of the conveyance passed over her body. Mrs Smith was picked up in a senseless state by Mary Neville, and she had sustained such serious injuries that she expired in half-an-hour, before a doctor could be summoned to her aid.—The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was accidentally killed by a runaway horse.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A WEARDALE MINISTER.

Telegrams have just reached Mr Aaron Nattrass, St. John's Weardale, of the death of, his brother, Rev Thomas Nattrass, with appalling suddenness, while preaching on Sunday night in the Wesleyan Chapel, Bowden, Altrincham, Cheshire, of which he was the superintendent minister. The deceased was one of Weardale's brightest sons. He was born at Hole, Ireshopeburn, and, with Featherstone Kellett, entered the ministry from the High House Society thirty years ago. He last preached before the last-named when on a visit in 1885. Mr Nattrass was 58 years of age. He leaves a widow and four children. Beloved by all who knew him, and widley known, the sad new has cast a gloom over the valley and many parts of the North. Much sympathy is felt for his brother at St. John's. Mr Nattrass was recommended as a candidate for the Wesleyan ministry by the Newcastle-on-Tyne district meeting. After spending three years in the Theological College, he commenced his ministerial labours at the Conference of 1853, and subsequently travelled in the following circuits:—Blackburn, Nottingham (Wesleyan), Ulverston, Bristol (Langton Street), York, London (City Road), Sheffield (Norfolk Street), Bradford (Kirkgate), Hull (George Yard), Leicester (Bishop Street), Croydon Stockport (Tiviotdale), and Altrincham. His labours were much appreciated by the Connexion, and his loss will be keenly felt.

Weldon's Ladies' Journal for January, 1888, contains, in addition to the fashions for the month, a coloured plate of novelties for the year, a paper pattern for lady's evening bodice, also a variety of engravings with descriptive notes on articles of dress. The work is admirably adapted for ladies who make or superintend the manufacture of their own clothing.

Weldon's Practical Knitter.—The January part of this useful work contains instructions for knitting 39 useful garments for ladies, gentlemen, and children, many of which are suitable for wear at the present season. It is a useful publication, and worth considerably more than the price charged.

"Night and Day."—This is the title of Dr Barnardo's publication in which he pleads so successfully for the little orphan and destitute children under his care. Dr Barnardo's homes for destitute children has now been established for many years, and since their establishment thousands of children who otherwise would have perished or have grown up to be pests to society, have been reclaimed, taught useful trades, and become useful and honourable members of society. Dr Barnardo has the largest family of orphans and destitute children in the world under his care, and depends entirely upon free-will offerings for their support. Any of our readers who can assist this philanthropist in his work of mercy are desired to communicate to him at 18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, London, E.

The first number for the New Year of "*Cassell's Saturday Journal*" will contain special features of interest, including a complete story by Theo. Gift, illustrated; and the first of a series of humorous full-page illustrations from original drawings by Jas. F. Sullivan.

We learn that, beginning with the January number, "*Little Forks*" Magazine is to be permanently enlarged by the issue of additional pages in each monthly part. It will also in future be published with uncut edges. To the January number Mr Walter Crane will contribute a serie of humorous drawings under the title of "Laucelot's Levitics," whilst Mrs Molesworth has written a complete story entitled "'His 'Right of Way.'" The Editor has also arranged with L. T. Meade, Tablot Baines Reed, Edward S. Ellis, and other writers to furnish stories, whilst the artists who will supply the illustrations include Dorothy Tennant, Gordon Browne, W. S. Stacey, Walter Paget, J. Finnimore, Jane N. Dealy, M. E. Edwards, J. W. Clark, Paul Hardy, and many others. Two Serial Stories will be commenced in the January issue.—*Academy.*

"How to Debate."—This is a handy little work containing the rules of debate, hints on public speaking, and other useful information for members of debating societies. The work, which is published at the small price of fourpence, may be had at Robert Jackson's bookseller, 9, Newmarket Consett.

"Buchu Pabia."—Complete cure of all kidney and kindred complaints, stinging, irritation, inflammation. At Chemists. F. Newbery and Sons, Agents, 1 King Edward Street London.

"How to do Business," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 New market Street, Consett.

Printing of every Description at the *lowest* possible prices by Robert Jackson "Guardian" Office, Consett. Estimates furnished.

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

Man's Noblest Work.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful, and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fever Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pills will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d and 2s. 9d Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 35 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists, Manchester.

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

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

Business Announcements.

FIFTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

MR. H. MARKHAM,

SURGEON DENTIST,

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

ATTENDS CONSETT EVERY MONDAY, from 1 p.m., to 3 p.m., at Mrs LAWSON'S, 22, MOUNT PLEASANT. ARTIFICIAL TEETH, to suit Youth or Age, inserted with all the latest and Best English and American Improvements, at Moderate Charges. A Perfect Fit Guaranteed.

ADJOINING CONSERVATIVE CLUB, MOUNT PLEASANT. ESTABLISHED 1830.

THE COVENTRY CYCLE CO., LIMITED,

WHITEFRIAR LANE, COVENTRY.

SOLE MAKERS OF THE COVENTRY IMPERIAL BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES, SAFETIES, and TANDEMS.

ALL GUARANTEED MACHINES BEAR THE REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF THE COMPANY.

PRICE LISTS, 3 STAMPS. 876v

WATCHES! WATCHES!! WATCHES!!!

MARSHALL & SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

CONSETT AND BLACKHILL,

BEG to announce that they have opened a BRANCH SHOP in the NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, where they are now showing a fine assortment of CLOCKS, WATCHES, & JEWELLERY Splendid Silver Patent Lever Watches from 70s. and upwards. Ladies and Gentlemen's Silver Geneva Watches from 20s. and upwards. Timepieces from 5s. All kinds of Repairs will be executed at Moderate Charges, combined with Good Workmanship.

KINDLY NOTE ADDRESS:—

MARSHALL AND SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

NEW TOWN HALL, FRONT STREET, CONSETT, & HIGHGATE, BLACKHILL. 311x.

JOSEPH MARSHALL

Begs to call attention to his Large and CHOICE STOCK of

CLOCKS, WATCHES & JEWELLERY,

All of which are of the Newest Designs, and will be found, in point of Quality, Price, and Completeness, to be unequalled by any similar Establishment in Town.

WATCHES: Ladies' and Gentlemen's Silver Lever, Geneva, Chronograph, Keyless, &c. Nickel Silver, from 11s. 6d.

JEWELLERY: Gold and Silver Dress Rings, Keepers, Bracelets, Bangles, Necklets, Scarf Pins, Solitaires, Brooches, &c., &c., in Great Variety, at the Consett Jewellery Emporium.

CLOCKS: American, English, Swiss, French, &c., in Wood and Nickel Silver Cases. Alarums, &c.

Watches and Jewellery of every Description Repaired. Clocks Cleaned in Town or Country.

PRESENT of Half-Dozen Nickel Silver Tea Spoons given to purchasers of a Gold Wedding Ring.

PLATED ALUMINIUM AND STEEL JEWELLERY. Articles for Presentation at Reduced Rates.

JOSEPH MARSHALL,
Watchmaker, Jeweller, &c.,
15, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT,
and LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD.

BIRTHDAY AND WEDDING PRESENTS. Aneroid Barometers, &c.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

GEORGE RICHARDSON,

WHOLESALE DRAPER AND GENERAL OUTFITTER,

Begs to announce to his Customers and the Public the Arrival of NEW GOODS for the WINTER SEASON.

New Dress Materials, New Mantles, New Jackets, Fur Boas, Fur Capes, Wool Shirtings, White and Scarlet Flannels, Wool Blankets, in Witney and Cloth, AT SPECIAL PRICES.

GENT'S SUITINGS AND OVERCOATINGS.

DRESSMAKING AND TAILORING CARRIED ON IN THE PREMISES by Experienced Workpeople.

NOVEMBER, 1887. 685y

SKATES! SKATES!! SKATES!!! LARGE ARRIVAL, FROM 6D. EACH, AT

J. W. DAVISON AND SONS,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

FRONT STREET, CONSETT

DEPARTMENTS.

FURNITURE. HARDWARE. GLASS. CHINA.
PAPER HANGINGS. FLOOR CLOTH AND LINOLEUM.
SPORTING POWDER. BLASTING POWDER. OILS AND CANDLES.
PAINTS

Fireproof Safes at 20 per cent below Market Prices.

GOODS DELIVERED TO ANY PART OF THE DISTRICT FREE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS!
CHRISTMAS CARDS!!
CHRISTMAS CARDS!!!

Wonderful Value in CHRISTMAS CARDS to be obtained at

ROBERT JACKSON'S,

GUARDIAN OFFICE, and 9 and 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

The PENNY PACKET contains 6 Cards of Beautiful Design.
The TWOPENNY PACKET contains 9 Superior Cards.
The THREEPENNY PACKET contains 12 Assorted Cards of Excellent Quality.
The SIXPENNY PACKET (our price 4½d) contains 18 Choice Cards of Superior Quality.
The SHILLING PACKET (our Price 8d) contains 24 very Superior Cards, many of which are worth 3d. and 4d. each, post free, 3d. extra.

THE MONSTRE SHILLING PACKET!

Containing 50 Beautiful Cards, for 8d.

THE MONSTRE SIXPENNY PACKET!

Containing 25 Beautiful Cards, for 4d.

A Large Assortment of CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S CARDS TO CHOOSE FROM, From 1d. upwards.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—

GUARDIAN OFFICE, AND 9 AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN.

GEORGE HOBSON,

WHOLESALE MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,

HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF

PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.

INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.

OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description

THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED

Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

HOBSON'S IMPROVED CONDIMENT FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, STACKING, &c., Cheapest and Best in the Market.

HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD, REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.

This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for Milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save Calves from that Inflammatory Fever commonly called Quarter-ill or Black Leg.

G. H.'S MIXTURE OF PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been attested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years.

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 427

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST IN NEWCASTLE

MRS. GRAVES, late of Bedale, Yorkshire, will be pleased to see her Friends at her YORKSHIRE DINING ROOMS, 43, Bigg Market, (just above Town Hall.) Good Beds. Don't forget to call.

E. J. SLOANE,

PRACTICAL PIANOFORTE TUNER,

POST OFFICE, BLACKHILL, Co. DURHAM.

ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

O JOE! O JOE!! O JOE THE SWEEP!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

Clean the flues, clean the flues,
Let it be your end and aim
The same to ever keep clear;
For should they get into a flame,
At Court they'll cost you dear.
—Faithfully yours,
HARRISON, Sweep, Shotley Bridge.

PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS. 360x

Mayor's Chambers, Shotley Bridge.

EDUCATIONAL.

JON. C. WYLIE, PRIVATE TEACHER IN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS.

☞ PUPILS ATTENDED AT THEIR OWN HOMES.

Evening School, from 6d. to 1s. per week. Commence on Monday, 18th October. 854w

THOMAS HENRY KIRKUP,

FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

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

HONEY! HONEY!!
BEE HIVES! BEE HIVES!!
STANDARD SIZE.

J. J. SINTON, of Lanchester, IS MAKER OF THE BEST BAR FRAME HIVES IN ENGLAND, now ready for Sale at the following prices complete:—Telescope, 6s. 6d.; Association, 7s. 6d.; Sinton, 8s. 6d. Burgess, 10s; Dixon, 10s. HONEY, Finest Sections, 1s. 308y

Business Announcements.

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

CHAS. F. SANDS,

GAS LIGHTING ENGINEER, AND MAKER OF THE DEXTER LIGHT, AND LAMPS FOR SHOPS.

Chandeliers, from 16s; Hall Lamps, 5s. 6d.

42, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE.

WORKSHOP—50, HIGH FRIAR STREET.

H. GUTTERIDGE,

SCALE, BEAM, AND WEIGHING MACHINE MANUFACTURER,

BUTCHERS' STEELYARDS, MINCING MACHINES, &c.

REPAIRS DONE ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

NOTE ADDRESS:—33, WESTGATE ROAD (near Central Railway Station), NEWCASTLE. 450

WHITER THAN SNOW.

What! Why Clothes, Linen, Floors, &c., when Washed with

HARRISON'S

MAGIC ARIZONIC SOAP,

Which does twice the Work of any Soap with half the labour. It also Cures Scurvy, Ringworm, Corns, and Sores, and when used with FURNIVAL'S MAGIC WASHING FLUID, Robs Washing Day of half its troubles.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL OF

J. W. BERRY,

NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

TEETH!

MR. SUTCLIFFE,

DENTAL SURGEON.

Dentistry in all its branches. ARTIFICIAL TEETH at all prices, made so as to attain the natural functions in each case, at 2s 6d, 5s, 7s 6d, and 10s per Tooth. All work guaranteed. Misfits by other Dentists adjusted. Nitrous Oxide Gas for painless operations.

Note the Address: } 4. NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE.

JUST ARRIVED.

200,000 CHESTS OF THE FAMOUS

HAPPY VALLEY INDIAN TEA,

Noted for Splendid Strength and Quality.

SOLD IN ORIGINAL CHESTS ONLY.
One Pound Chests.
Half-pound Chests.
Quarter-pound Chests.

RETAIL PRICE 3s. PER POUND.

ASK YOUR GROCER FOR THE HAPPY VALLEY TEA,

And *observe* that it is Sold *only* in Original Chests

WATCHMAKER TO THE TRADE.

D. GRADON,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER, JEWELLER, SILVERSMITH, AND OPTICIAN.

DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

D. GRADON takes this opportunity of thanking his numerous and ever increasing number of Customers for the large share of patronage given to him during the time he has been in Business, and hopes by prompt attention and skilful workmanship to maintain the favourable position which he already holds.

WATCHES.—Splendid English Patent Levers, at 55/ and 60/-. D. G. can specially recommend these Watches, as they are exceptionally good value. Warranted, superior, and best finish, 80/- and 90/- Other Lever Watches, from 30/-.

LADIES' GOLD KEYLESS WATCHES, 14c., 43/-; 18c. 65/-; Fancy Porcelain Dial, 72/-; others from 35/-.

LADIES' SILVER GENEVA WATCHES, from 15/-. Superior and Hall-marked, made by Mathey (best maker), 36/6.

NICKEL WATCHES, jewelled in four holes, from 6/6.

WATERBURY WATCHES, 10/6. These Watches are the best Timekeepers in cheap Watches. All the parts kept in Stock by D. G. Cost of repairs for these Watches is exceedingly small.

CLOCKS—Marble—Suitable for Presentation, from 25/-.

AMERICAN Eight-days' Striking Clocks, from 15/6; Timepieces, from 3/6.

JEWELLERY.—Half-dozen Nickel-Silver Teaspoons and Gold Wedding Ring, from 7/-. A large and choice stock of Jewellery, Whitby Jet, Electro-Plate, &c.

SPECTACLES AND EYEGLASSES.—Steelworkers' Spectacles, at -/9 and 1/6, with case. D. G. *supplies the best Steelworks in the United Kingdom with these Specs*, and can specially recommend them for durability. A variety of shades kept. Frames 1/-, eye or leg -/3. Foremen's Eyeglasses 1/6 and 2/-. Cork 2/6, with Superior Nickel Frames, 3/-. D. G. has also a large Stock and great variety of other Spectacles from -/6; Eyeglasses from 1/-; Spectacles and Eyeglasses Glazed and Repaired on the Premises.

WATCHMAKER TO THE TRADE.—Verge Watches made into Levers. Estimates given. Verge Escapements done up equal to new, by D. Gradon's improved machine. All other Escapements renewed and repaired. Wheels topped and made true; Staffs, Cylinders, Verges, Pinions, Wheels, Jewels, &c., replaced equal to new.

Watches and Clocks Cleaned and Repaired by D. G. are upheld for one year, unless over-wound or damaged by accident.

ARTICLES MAY BE PURCHASED BY INSTALMENTS. CLUBS SUPPLIED.

D. GRADON, MANUFACTURER, BLACKHILL. 726y

CONTINUED AND INCREASING SUCCESS OF

LAMONT'S MAGNETIC BELTS.

BELTS for Rheumatism, Lumbago, and Sciatica.
BELTS for Liver and Kidney Complaints.
INVIGORATORS for Bronchitis and Asthma.
INVIGORATORS for Weak Lungs and Debility.
CHEST PROTECTORS for Colds, Coughs.
THROAT PROTECTORS for Sore Throats, &c.
KNEE CAPS for Sore and Weak Knees.
SOLES for Pains and Cold Feet.
Shoulder, Arm, Leg, Ankle, and Wrist Appliances.

THOUSANDS of Sufferers have been cured, and others more or less substantially benefited by LAMONT'S APPLIANCES after all ordinary remedies had failed. They require no attention, are re-magnetised FREE EVERY YEAR, and are POSITIVELY EFFICACIOUS.

ALL IN SEARCH OF HEALTH are invited to at once communicate with Mr. LAMONT as to their particular ailment. Consultations Personal or by Letter, FREE.

LAMONT'S SPECIAL MAGNETIC BELT at 21s, and LUNG INVIGORATOR at 21s, continue to give unbounded satisfaction. In sending for Belt, please state WAIST MEASURE OVER FIRST GARMENT. Sent free on receipt of 21s.

☞ CALL OR WRITE FOR DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET GRATIS AND POST FREE.

D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT

(Permanent and only Address

8, BLACKETT ST., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

CONSETT AGENT —

MR. MILNER, CHEMIST

Business Announcements

MUSIC!

MUSIC LESSONS given—Pianos, Harmoniums, and American Organs Tuned and Repaired. Dealer in Harmoniums, &c.—T. JONES, 4, Gibson Street, near Co-operative Store, Consett 927w

EVENING CLASSES.

MR. J. W. MULCASTER, Principal of the HIGH SCHOOL, CONSETT, begs to announce that he has arranged for the holding of EVENING CLASSES for Young Men, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., in the Primitive Methodist School-Room, Consett, commencing on Monday Evening next, the 2nd May.

Mr. MULCASTER's long experience and success in the Public Examinations of the day, enables him to guarantee thorough Preparation for Civil Service and other Examinations, as well as for General Commercial Life, and the higher branches of a sound English Education.

FEES, according to requirements, in all cases payable in advance.

Consett, April 27th, 1887. 804x

THOMAS MILNER,

DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,

☞ THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT

SHEEP DIPS. SHEEP DIPS.

T.M. respectfully draws the attention of Farmers to the

TAR ELIXER PRIZE MEDAL SHEEP DIP

Prepared by Messrs NESS & Co., Darlington, for which he is sole Agent.

PRICE 7s. 6d. PER 100 SHEEP.

☞ T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S, McDOUGALL'S, LITTLE & Co.'S, JEYE'S, COOPER'S, and WILSON and KITCHEN'S Sheep Dips.

ALTERATIVE CONDITION POWDERS AND PURGING BALLS FOR HORSES.

FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.

MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON ARMY MIXTURES

For the speedy production of a Delicious Temperance Cordial. Ginger, Pine Apple, &c. 6d. per Bottle.

MILNER'S DANDELION AND PODOPHYLLN STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.

The excellent qualities of these Pills are too well known to be enumerated here, while the increasing demand under the Popular Name of Milner's Own Pills, is the best Proof of their efficacy. In Boxes 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d.

MILNER'S AFRICAN INSECT POWDER, IN TINS, AT 6d., 1s., AND PACKETS.

BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.

An excellent Remedy for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, &c. and all Diseases of the Chest and Stomach. 1s. per Bottle.

HAIR RESTORERS PERFUMES, POMADES.

TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.

MILNER'S FINEST NEW SEASON'S COD LIVER OIL.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, AND CLEANSING REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

Agent for Mr LAMONT's Magnetic Belts, Chest Protectors, Knee Caps, &c. &c.

MILNER CHEMIST
OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE, CONSETT.

AUTUMN CLOTHING

AT

HEPWORTH'S

PILES OF CLOTHING AT HEPWORTH'S.

LARGE DELIVERIES AT HEPWORTH'S.

DIRECT FROM THEIR OWN FACTORY TO THE PEOPLE AT HEPWORTH'S.

WHOLESALE PRICES AT HEPWORTH'S.

NO SECOND PROFITS AT HEPWORTH'S.

SEE WINDOWS AT HEPWORTH'S.

ADDRESS:—

J. HEPWORTH AND SON

12, SHAKESPEARE STREET,

CONSETT

Public Notices.

NOTICE.

HAVE YOU SEEN these WONDERFUL WATCHES price 12s. 6d., Good Timekeepers, at T. McCOMATY's, Watchmaker, Newmarket Street, Consett, and only Practical Spectacle Maker in the County of Durham. 679x

MRS. A. SHIPLEY is prepared to supply a Choice Lot of NEW GOODS for the Season, with a New Stock of Perforated, x Stitch, and other things. BABY LINEN and UNDERCLOTHING kept always in stock, with a really good choice of LADIES' MOB and DRESS CAPS, SERVANTS' CAPS, and a Choice Selection of WOOLS. 614y

ROOFING PANTILES.

DRAINING PIPES, all sizes. PRESSED and COMMON BRICKS.—Good quality; Low Prices.

DEARNESS BRICK CO.,
7, WADDINGTON STREET, DURHAM. 635y

LOOK OUT FOR RICHARDSON'S CASH DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT, BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL.

"Ken when to spend, and when to spare,
When and where to buy, and thou shalt never be bare."

W. R. begs to inform the inhabitants of Blackhill and District that he will OPEN in a few days the above PLACE OF BUSINESS (lately occupied by Mr J. Gibson as a Boot and Shoe Shop) with an entire New Stock of Winter Goods of the Newest Style, and having bought in the best Markets for Cash enables him to sell at the very lowest possible prices.

By strict attention to Business, W. R. hopes to gain a fair share of public patronage. 626y

Public Notices.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

AN EVENING CONCERT will be held in the Board Schools, Hare Law, on Monday, January 9th, 1888. Particulars later. 849y

ALMANACK SHOW.

MR. ROBERT FEWSTER, Black Horse Inn, Burnopfield, will give 15s. for First Prize, and 5s for Second, to the Persons who present him with the BEST ALMANACKS for the Year 1888. To be judged on January 28th, 1888. 845y

PIGEON SHOOTING.
MANOR HOUSE, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

J. ELLIOTT will add £1 to a 3s. SWEEP to be shot for at Pigeons, at Manor House, on Saturday, January 7th, 1888. First bird trapped at 1·30; usual conditions. Other Sweeps to follow.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT (741st) STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE OFFICES of the above Society will be CLOSED on Mondays Dec. 26th and Jan 2nd, but will be OPEN on Tuesday, January 3rd.

GEO. CAREY, Chairman.
854y WM. ELLIOTT, Secretary.

CONSETT RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the above Club will be held at the Club-room on Tuesday night first, the 22nd inst., at 7 30 p.m. prompt.

All members and intending members are particularly requested to attend. Important business to discuss.

832y THOS. H. KIRKUP, Hon. Secretary.

A FOOTBALL COMPETITION will be held at Birtley, on January 2nd; when ELEVEN STERLING SILVER MEDALS will be given for Competition, and a FOOTBALL for 2nd Prize, if a fair number of entries are forthcoming. Entries close on December 26th. 2s. 6d. each team.—R. HOBSON, Secretary, Birtley Football Club. 819y

CONSIDE AND KNITSLEY TOWNSHIP.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that on Monday, January 2nd, 1888, I will apply for a Summons against all Persons whose Rates are not paid up to date.

WILLIAM ELLIOTT, Assistant Overseer.
New Town Hall, Consett.
Dec. 14th, 1887. 805y

MUSICAL TUITION.

JOHN SURTEES, Organist of Christ Church Consett, gives thorough instruction in Piano Harmonium, Organ Playing, Harmony, &c. Special preparation for examinations. Lessons given at pupil's or his own residence. Orders for Tuning promptly attended to. Terms moderate.—Address, 2, Cemetery Road, Blackhill. 644y

THE ROAST BEEF OF OLD ENGLAND.

JOHN LOVAT, BUTCHER, BLACKHILL, again tenders his thanks to his numerous patrons for their support during another year and begs to inform them that he has secured a seasonable supply of BEEF, MUTTON, and DAIRY-FED PORK of the primest quality, which he intends to sell at the lowest remunerative prices. Prime home-made PORK SAUSAGES, 6d and 10d per lb. 834y

SHOTLEY BRIDGE FLOWER SHOW AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 1888.

833y W. RAMSAY, Secretary.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

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

M. RICHLEY, Secretary.

CHRISTMAS!

LEADGATE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHOIR.

THE above Choir will give a SERVICE OF PRAISE in the Wesleyan Chapel, Leadgate, on Monday Evening, December 26th, 1887. Organist, Mr J. W. HEDLEY. Conductor, Mr GEO. HEDLEY.

Mr E. B. FOSTER will preside. For particulars see Programmes.

Doors open at 7 o'clock; to commence at 7·30. Admission—Reserved Seats, 1s.; Unreserved Seats, 6d. Tickets may be obtained from any Member of the Choir, or at the Door. Proceeds in aid of Poor Fund. 844y

MANCHESTER CORPORATION

CONCENTRATED MANURE,

MADE FROM HUMAN EXCREMENT,

BLOOD, BONES, FISH, &c.,

ANALYSING ABOUT

38·66 per Cent. of ORGANIC MATTER, containing
3·60 ,, of AMMONIA.
5·08 ,, of ALKALINE SALTS, containing
1·26 ,, of POTASH.
8·57 ,, of TRIBASIC PHOSPHATE.
2·50 ,, of SULPHATE OF LIME.

Delivered in Bags at any Railway Station within 150 miles of Manchester in not less than Four Ton Lots, and within 50 miles in not less than Two Ton Lots, at £3 PER TON.

Will be sold by Analysis if written application be made.

HY. WHILEY, Superintendent,
Health Department, Town Hall, Manchester; or to
W. WOOD, Field Head, Shotley Bridge;
JOHN FATHERLEY, Washington. 799y

THE NOTED TAILORING AND MILLINERY ESTABLISHMENT.

A. E. TURNER, 41, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL, begs to thank his numerous Friends for their esteemed Patronage during the 36 years that he has been in business, and respectfully informs them that by his new arrangements he hopes to give continued satisfaction in all Branches of his Establishment, including TAILORING, DRAPERY, and MILLINERY.

N.B.—A. E. T. has always a good Stock of Black and Fancy SUITINGS and OVERCOATINGS on hand; best quality, at lowest prices; fit guaranteed.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

MRS. FRANCES CHRISTOPHER begs to return her sincere thanks to the Public for the liberal patronage she has received since the death of her husband; and respectfully intimates that she has removed from Delves Lane to the Old-Established Hacking Yard in Front Street, where business will be carried on as usual. HEARSES, MOURNING COACHES, CARRIAGES FOR WEDDINGS and POSTING in all its branches, on most reasonable terms.

Note the Address—
CONSETT LIVERY, HEARSE, AND MOURNING COACH ESTABLISHMENT,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
FRANCES CHRISTOPHER, PROPRIETRESS.

XMAS! XMAS!!

GO and SEE H. CORNFORTH'S BABY SHOW! Thousands of DOLLS, from 1d. to 10s. 6d. TOYS of every description. The largest Stock and greatest Variety in Consett, at remarkably low prices.

A large assortment of Fancy Goods, Albums, Photo Frames, Vases, Brooches, Bracelets, Purses, Pipes and Pouches, Scents and Fancy Soaps, &c., &c., suitable for Christmas Presents.

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S CARDS.—We have this year some of the Choicest and Latest Novelties in the market.

SKATES and FOOTBALLS—a Seasonable Present

Note the Address—
H. CORNFORTH, 21, MIDDLE ST., CONSETT

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

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

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

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

Public Notices.

A BALL will be held in New Town Hall, Consett, by the members of Mr McMauns' String Band. Dancing to commence at 6 o'clock.

IVESTON SCHOOL.

A BALL will be held on Wednesday, December 28th, 1887, to commence at 9 p.m. prompt. Musician, Mr MAKEPEACE, Leadgate. Gentlemen, 1s.; Ladies, 6d. Proceeds to go for School Furniture.

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. A. & R. J. Brodie.

ADAM BRODIE and ROBERT J. BRODIE, Members of the Institute of Auctioneers and Surveyors, and of the Institute of Estate Agents, Town Hall, Consett, undertake the Management and Collection of Rents of every description of real Property, and are prepared also to conduct Sales of Farming Stock and Produce, Houses and Land, Household Furniture, Merchandise, and Effects of every description, in the best manner, and on the most Reasonable Terms. Their well-known Sale Rooms in Victoria Street, Consett, are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale, where removal is considered necessary by the owners; and, as a rule, Sales are held there Fortnightly. Instructions by letter or otherwise receive prompt attention.

☞ Sole Agents in Consett for the principal Lines of Steamers to the United States, Canada, and Australia; and also for the Queensland Government.

ADDRESS:—Victoria Sale Rooms. Office: Town Hall, Consett. 662y

Saturday December 24th, 1887.—Reading and Recreation Rooms, Consett.—Sale of Magazines and Newspapers for the Half-year ending June 30th, 1888.

MR. ADAM BRODIE will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Reading and Recreation Rooms, Consett, on Saturday, December 24th, 1887, the MAGAZINES and NEWSPAPERS for the Half-year ending June 30th, 1888. 837y

Sale to commence at Six o'clock in the Evening.

Saturday, January 7th, 1888.—Victoria Sale Rooms, Consett.—Sale of Superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture, including—Mahogany Drawers and Bookcase; Mahogany Centre Table; Mahogany Couch, in Hair-Seating; 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair; Mahogany Easy Chair, in Hair; Easy Chair, in Leather; 2 Brass-Mounted Bedsteads and Mattresses; Feather and Down Beds, and Sundry Effects. Also, Superior Fine-toned Full-compass Pianoforte, in perfect order; good Domestic Sewing Machine, by Howe, nearly new, &c.

MESSRS. A. & R. J. BRODIE are instructed by the Representatives of a person deceased to remove and SELL Household FURNITURE, &c., as above, at the Victoria Sale Room, Consett, on Saturday, January 7th, at Half-past Two o'clock in the Afternoon. 837y

FOR SALE, ONE HUNDRED SHARES in the CONSETT WATER COMPANY.—Apply to ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 838y

FOR SALE, by Private Treaty, the Property of a Gentleman, under pressure—Superior Fine-Toned Iron-Framed Cottage PIANOFORTE, in splendid order: 2 Oil Paintings, by Dawson, deceased; 2 Oil Paintings, by Fairbairn; 2 Valuable Old Engravings, &c.—Apply, ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 836y

By Mr. William Raw.

Durham Road, Leadgate.

MR. WILLIAM RAW, instructed by Mr. THOMAS SMITH, who is declining housekeeping, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, his Household FURNITURE, on Saturday, December 24th, 1887, comprising—Mahogany Telescope Dining Table; Mahogany Couch, in Hair Seating; 4 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating; Aquarium and Fernery, combined; Gipsy Table; Black Oak Music Canterbury; a quantity of Music; Good Harmonium, in Oak Case; 16 Yards of Good Brussels Carpet; Polished Ash Washstand and Dressing Table; Swing Dressing Glass; Mahogany Night Commode; Painted Table; 20 Yards of Carpet; 2 Kitchen Presses; Double Chest of Mahogany Drawers; Painted Washstand and Dressing Table; Oak Folding Table; Book Case; Large Kitchen Table; Painted Table; an excellent Eight-days' Clock, in beautiful High Case; Tudor Iron and Brass Bedstead, with Damask Hangings; French Iron and Brass Bedstead; 2 good Feather Beds; 3 Bolsters and 5 Pillows; 10 Cane-bottomed Chairs; 4 Kitchen Chairs; Arm Chair; Folding Arm Chair; 3 Fenders; 3 Sets of Fireirons; Tidies and Ash Pans; Sets of Chamber Ware; Hearthrugs and Door Mats; Towel Rails; Stair Carpet and Brass Rods; 2 Enamelled Preserving Pans; Metal Pans, and Cooking Utensils; Glass and Ware; Set of China; Baking Board; Strong and Good Wringing and Mangling Machine; Clothes Horse; Poss-tub and Staff; 5 Oil Lamps; Pictures, Ornaments, and several other useful lots.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock prompt.

Sale Office, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 800y

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26th, 1887.

THE USUAL WEEKLY MART will be held on Monday, when there are expected forward:—

10 Fat Cattle.
60 Fat Sheep.
A number of Cows, Calves, Pigs, Poultry, &c.
25 Fat Turkeys.
A large Bacon-curing Tank, and Sundries as usual.

Sale at One o'clock.

853y NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,

AUCTIONEER,

AGRICULTURAL VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

A WEEKLY SALE every Monday for Fat and Store Cattle and Sheep, Dairy Cows, Horses, Conveyances, Farm Produce, &c., commencing at 12 o'clock with Cows, Fat and Store Stock to follow. Entries should be sent on Wednesday each week.

JOSEPH VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Grove Villa, Tow Law. 454x

By Mr. John Lowes.

STANLEY AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH, 1887.

Present Entries.
8 Fat Cattle.
6 Store Cattle.
22 Fat Sheep.
Also, a quantity of Poultry.

Entries respectfully invited.

Sale at One o'clock.

855y JOHN LOWES, Auctioneer.

JOHN LOWES,

AUCTIONEER & VALUER, STANLEY, R.S.O.

Auction Sales of every description undertaken on the most reasonable terms. Prompt settlement.

VALUATIONS EFFECTED FOR PROBATE, ETC. 658y

☞ JOSEPH FOLEY,

THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,

10, WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE.

ASSISTED PASSAGES TO CANADA. Cheap Rates to America by the WHITE STAR, AMERICAN, and other popular Lines. Also Lowest Possible Fares to the AUSTRALIAN COLONIES, SOUTH AFRICA, and other parts of the World. Auction Sales carried on efficiently and upon the very Best Terms.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

JOHN CRAWFORD,

AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,

25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT

Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

Business Announcements.

GEORGE R. HOBSON,
AUCTIONEER & VALUER.
OFFICES:—
CATSHGATE VIA LINTZ GREEN

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT
PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY
Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed periods.
ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.
42a

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.
MR. T. C. CAMPBELL
SURGEON DENTIST,
9, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH AT REASONABLE PRICES
COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET
From 30s. to £4 10s.
PARTIAL SETS OR SINGLE TEETH
From 3s. to 10s. per Tooth.

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

Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas.

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

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

"The weary find new strength in generous wine."
Homer.

No wine is so generous, so full of nutriment, as good Port Wine. It seems, indeed, as if Nature, aided by man's skill, had done its best to produce a wine far above all other wines in richness of body, lovely colour, and elegant flavour.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT
36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle.

WILLIAM GLENDINNING draws attention to this Wine, which is specially imported and sold by him as the Wine most suited for those who are sick or recovering from sickness. Its characteristics are, freedom from acidity and heat, light fruity flavour, age in wood and richness of body without being heavy and sweet. Carriage paid upon half-a-dozen and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,
WINE MERCHANT,
9, GRAINGER STREET (between Nun Street and Newgate Street) NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

GIFTS!
GIFTS!!
GIFTS!!!

ROBERT JACKSON, Bookseller and Stationer, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett, has just received a Choice Selection of Goods suitable for Gifts. Among these will be found the following—
ALBUMS,
PHOTO FRAMES,
PURSES,
POCKET KNIVES
STATIONERY CASES,
MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS,
CHURCH PRAYER BOOKS,
HYMN BOOKS,
BIBLES, &c., &c.,
A LARGE STOCK OF GOODALL'S
PLAYING CARDS.
The Largest Stock in Consett to choose from.

Those contemplating making Presents should visit the Establishment of
ROBERT JACKSON,
BOOKSELLER & STATIONER,
GUARDIAN OFFICE, AND
9 AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET,
CONSETT.

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
Established 1730.
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET)
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold & Silver GUARDS ALBERTS &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.
SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.
OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW. 739y

ROBERT JACKSON'S
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY
ESTABLISHMENTS,
30, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
AGENT FOR DIPTON:—MR. THOMAS CLARK
SOUTH MEDOMSLEY COTTAGES.

TO OUR READERS.

THE 11TH & 12TH CHAPTERS
OF A
NEW AND THRILLING STORY
ENTITLED
CRŒSUS' WIDOW
By Miss DORA RUSSELL,
Authoress of "The Silent Watchers,"
APPEARS IN THIS ISSUE.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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

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

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

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

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

WILSON BROS. FOR XMAS CAKES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS are requested to omit from their communications any intimation of events which have not transpired. Such notices are advertisements and must be paid for.

OWING to pressure of space, reports of Consett County Court, Lanchester Petty Sessions, Liberal meeting at Shotley Bridge, &c., are unavoidably held over.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 1887.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas will have come and gone before I will have the pleasure of again meeting my readers in the broad domain of thought. According to Dr Brown, of Edinburgh, the latest writer of note on the manners and customs of the human race, it is the fashion among the natives of the Sandwich Islands to rub noses by way of greeting, but as the *Consett Guardian* circulates over an immense area, it would be pretty near Christmas of next year before one had gone the round of so interesting a ceremony. Christmas is one of the few standard observances, which, although old, is always new. One of our sixteenth century poets makes use of the couplet:

"At Christmas play and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

And the same spirit has come down to us through the ages, for humble indeed is the home in which there is not an effort made to dine as sumptuously as circumstances will permit. The children usually look for special favours at Christmas time, and what between the efforts of parents and the customs of social institutions, comparatively few of them are neglected. Indeed, so open is the broad hand of charity that it is felt at this particular season of the year, not only within the cheerless walls of the Workhouse, but in the still more dismal prison cell. The coming Christmas brings with it more hopeful anticipations than did any one of its four predecessors. In saying this I refer exclusively to the Consett district, and more particularly still to the golden pillars by which it is supported. It would have been strange indeed if a huge industrial concern, with a name and fame such as the Consett Iron Company boasts, had not shared in the first fruits of the recent improvement in the shipbuilding trade. I have good reasons for believing that the Company has been exceptionally successful in this respect so that in the early months of the ensuing year there will be no lack of employment in the Consett district—beyond that I am not prepared to go, for I have precious little trust to put in scribes who arrogate to themselves the right to play the prophet. So far as our worldly concerns are involved, we do well if we utilize the present aright, hoping for the best, it may be; but not deceiving ourselves with fallacious day-dreams of prospective good or evil. Better times are coming, of a truth, and I have therefore good reason to wish my numerous readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"GOT RELIGION."

A rather odd form of expression certainly, but it will be seen that I have taken the trouble to append quotation marks by way of giving honour to whom honour is due. I have no wish to bask in borrowed plumage. The term, as it now stands, was applied last week to certain members of the famous Tanfield Lea Brass Band, who recently seceded from that talented group of musicians by reason of their having "got religion." I question the truth of the statement. The paragraph reads as if only half the truth were told, and how much to add in the form of interpolation it is by no means easy to conjecture. The mere fact of having "got religion" is not sufficient in itself to induce men to sever social relationships, unless they may chance to have been of a very questionable character. In such a case, the man who determines to lead a life more worthy of the race acts wisely by cutting asunder every carnal cord to impede his progress in the higher life. How far these last observations apply to the case under notice I am not in a position to judge; but my sympathies naturally lean to the side of the men who had the moral courage to forego present pleasures for the sake of prospective enjoyment. I say present pleasures, because men so skilled in the use of their instruments as the members of the Tanfield Lea Band proved themselves to be, must have had great delight in the duties, otherwise they were not likely to have attained to such an advanced stage of proficiency. Men who prove by acts that they have the fortitude to strike out on a new and a better path, irrespective of the seductive allurements of the old one, well deserve a passing word of commendation. If more men "got religion," and having got it, practised the spirit which it inculcates, the world would be much better than it is to-day.

A WRONG IMPRESSION.

Apropos of the above note is a kindred theme which the subject matter embodied therein may tend to some extent to foster. It was hinted that the reason why the bandsmen referred to had severed their connection with the band was due to the currency of the impression that it was not seemly for professing Christians to beat drums and play on brazen instruments. Few hold such an opinion, but one sometimes comes in contact with people who labour to propound more erroneous ideas than that mistaken one. Music is certainly one of the most elevating of the fine arts, and if antiquity can lend value to a custom, the use of instumental music by Christian nations is one that can be well recommended. We are told among the first pages of Holy Writ, that Jubal was the father of all such as handle the harp and the organ. We know that there were no organs in those early days when the world was young, but the gentleman might have been a very good musician all the same. Then we read that it was during the Jewish captivity that they mournfully hung their harps on the willows overhanging the rivers of Babylon. It was not because they had "got religion" that they so acted; it was because they had got too little of it. Their hearts were out of touch, and their harps were out of tune, the natural result of extrenuating circumstances. Great indeed is the power of music. It will be remembered that it was music emanating from an instrument touched by the hand of the youthful David that drove away the wicked spirit of Saul. It therefore follows that a power so productive of good results is a thing to be desired rather than eschewed.

WILSON BROS. FOR NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

IMPROVEMENTS AT LEADGATE.

The gentlemen who guide the current of affairs in the Leadgate district are to be congratulated on the spirit of enterprise which characterises the majority of their mundane concerns. There are dissenting spirits in the council chamber, it is true, but the good seems far to outweigh the evil. The Park on the prosaic summit of the Rodwell Hill bids fair to soon become a thing of beauty, if not a joy for ever. In fact, the grounds are already invested with the chief features which, artistically blended, form the glory of a landscape—wood and water. Every successive year will add to the beauty and development of the trees, and by and by swans and other denizens of lake and streams will no doubt be seen enjoying themselves on the placid bosom of the lake. This last adjunct has been introduced very adroitly. To form a veritable lake, and then ask powers—not to carry out the scheme, but to make a beginning, was a neat little bit of manuvreing. Nobody seemed, however, to be offended, hence it is the old story of "All's well that ends well." In short, the members of the Board seem to quite understand one another, and to proceed accordingly. No little skill is sometimes desirable in order to carry a favourite project to a successful issue, and in such cases as the Leadgate Park transaction the end may be said to justify the means. Then there is the Iveston lighting business, which will doubtless be dealt with in a broad and generous spirit. The Board will, no doubt, aim at a high ideal. To light the place with oil would be unworthy of a modern Local Board. That the same thing is done at Lanchester is a weak argument. To cast about for beaten tracks is an easy course to follow? but men of spirit will find a worthy path or make it.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

The Banks at Consett and Shotley Bridge will be closed all day on Monday, and close at twelve o'clock on Tuesday.

The Consett County Court Office will be closed on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, 24th, 26th, and 27th.

Mr W. E. Balleny, of Little Greencroft, has made a substantial return to the tenants on his estate for this half year.

DEATH OF MR GEORGE TEMPERLEY.—The death of Mr George Temperley, of Mains Farm, Ebchester, took place on the 21st inst. Mr Temperley for about 40 years farmed Consett Park, from which he removed to Ebchester a few years ago. Deceased was 66 years of age.

HIS CHRISTMAS DINNER IN PRISON.—At the Consett Police Court on Monday, before Mr James Annandale, J.P., *James Riley*, a tramp, was committed for fourteen days' hard labour for begging at Blackhill, on Saturday night.—Prisoner pleaded hard to get off.

CHRISTMASTIDE.—The various shops in Consett, now that we are verging on Christmas Eve, are most artistically adorned with holly and evergreens, and temptingly display an extensive stock of Christmas provisions and seasonable commodities. To-night (Friday), the different establishments will be seen to the greatest advantage.

THE POLICEMAN AND THE BULLOCK.—On Tuesday, a ferocious bullock, belonging to Mr Morpeth, butcher, Front Street, Consett, was galloping along Medomsley Road, when P.C. Million undeavoured to stop its progress. The beast made a charge at the officer, and sent him flying through the air. The policeman has been found, but the animal has not been heard of since!

CONSETT HIGH SCHOOL.—At a meeting of the London Mathematical Society held on the 8th inst., under the presidency of Sir James Cockle, Knt., F.R.S., &c., Mr John Wallis Mulcaster, Principal of the High School, Consett, was elected a Fellow of the Society, in recognition of his mathematical attainments. Mr Mulcaster was proposed by the Rev James White, M.A., head master of the Royal Naval College, and seconded by Mr W. S. B. Woodhouse, F.R.A.S., &c., the eminent mathematician.

THEATRE ROYAL.—As anticipated, the Consett Theatre has been closed this week.—On Tuesday evening, a social gathering was held at Miss Medici's, Alexandra Hotel, to bid farewell to Mr Henry Sale, who has been acting-manager for Mr T. B. Appleby (lessee of the Theatre) for several weeks past, on the occasion of his leaving to fill an important engagement under Mr C. Mangan, of *The Law of the Land* Company. About a dozen gentlemen were present, and amongst other toasts the health of Mr Sale was drunk with enthusiasm. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

WESLEYAN BAND OF HOPE.—This body gave another of their monthly entertainments in the Gibson Street School-room, Consett, on Wednesday evening. Rev H. Parkes (superintendent) presided, and there was a good attendance, despite the counter-attractions. The programme was opened by devotional exercise, after which the choir gave a glee in a very creditable manner, followed by a reading by Master H. Goudie, who was congratulated upon the style in which he gave it. A duet, by Misses Harwood and Smith, was well given, and received the approbation of the audience. The Chairman gave an address upon "Temperance," explaining that he was heartily in favour of the work, and brought before his hearers the curse done by the drink traffic in this and other countries, and urged upon those who had not signed the pledge to do so at once. Mr Thos. Foster followed with a reading, causing much laughter, and was well received. The choir rendered another glee in excellent form, followed by a dialogue, entitled "Wanted, young men," by six young men. The following were the characters:—"Stephen Fitzosbore," a gentleman, W. Smith; "William Lush," a drunkard, Wm. Dodd; "Henry T. H. Dendecombe," a masher, J. W. Lowden; "John Tufton," a gambler, J. W. Stobbe; "Jamie Scrubbs," a country lad, Jos. Siddle; "Fred Mansell," a lawyer's clerk, R. Granger. The above dialogue was well given, and the characters were frequently applauded. This ending the programme, the meeting closed. Mr N. Fawell presided at the harmonium.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM.—During the past fortnight, Mr J. Nairn, the Scottish Evangelist, has been conducting a series of special revival services in Consett Primitive Methodist Chapel, the week-night services being interspersed with lectures.—On Sunday, he gave two excellent discourses, afternoon and evening, to large audiences.—On Monday night, Mr Nairn delivered an instructive lecture on "A night with J. B. Gough, the temperance orator." Mr Robert Brown occupied the chair, and there was a very good company present. The lecturer handled his subject in an able manner, describing very graphically the life and travels of Mr Gough in England and America, and introduced, as usual, some very amusing illustrations. Mr Nairn was loudly cheered at the close, and votes of thanks to the chairman and lecturer terminated the evening's proceedings.—On Tuesday night, Mr Nairn preached to a tolerably large audience.—Mr Nairn again lectured on Wednesday evening, taking as his subject "Peter Cartwright; or, life in the Backwoods of America." Mr Adam Brodie efficiently filled the chair, being ably supported by Rev J. Moffatt (resident minister), who opened the proceedings with prayer. The chairman having proffered a few well-chosen remarks, introduced the lecturer, who proceeded to describe the early life and associations of Peter Cartwright. Having depicted his youthful worldly career, the lecturer went on to tell of his conversion and subsequent entry into the ministry, his manner being of the most eccentric character. After labouring successfully in different parts of America, he died, leaving foot-prints in the sands of time of his earnest and devoted work. The lecturer was enthusiastically applauded during its delivery, Mr Nairn giving vent to some very witty observations. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the chairman and lecturer, and the proceedings were brought to a close, all being highly delighted.—The last of these very successful services was held last (Thursday) night, when Mr Nairn delivered a most impressive address, based on II. Corinthians, xiii., 11th verse. At the conclusion, many friends bade the evangelist God-speed, and hoped soon to have the privilege of again having his help at Consett.—We understand Mr Nairn will conduct services in April on behalf of the Colportage Society.

WILSON BROS. FOR CAKES.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ILLUMINATED SCRIPTURE TEXTS in endless variety and at moderate prices at Robert Jackson's, *Guardian* Office, and 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett.

BLACKHILL.

ACCIDENT AT THE TINMILL PIT.—On Wednesday morning, a young man named Wm. Jackson was injured by a quantity of stone falling on his back, whilst following his employment as a hewer in the Tinmill Drift, Blackhill. He was removed to the Infirmary at Consett, where he is rapidly recovering.

FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 370TH STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.—The 46th appropriation of this society was held on Monday evening in the office, Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill. Mr G. Matthews presided, and Messrs R. Smailes and J. Whitehead were appointed scrutineers, whilst the boy, Joel, drew the balls. The number drawn was 185, held by Mr Joseph Whitehead, miller, Consett, who was declared entitled to £300, free of interest, for 12½ years.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—The Blackhill Wesleyan Choir, assisted by a few friends from Shotley Bridge and Consett, gave a service of song on Monday night, of old Methodist tunes, part of which were taken from the Wesleyan Mission Hymn Book, and were much appreciated by the audience. The programme also consisted of anthems by various composers, and were rendered in a very efficient manner, reflecting much credit upon the conductor (Mr S. Gradon) in having the parts so well balanced. The principal anthems were:—"Achieved is the glorious work" (Haydn) and "Fixed in His everlasting seat" (Handel). Miss Smith sang in her usual sweet style, "Consider the lilies." Miss Harwood (contralto) sang "Four anchors," which received a well-merited *encore*, to which she responded by singing "Rock of Ages" in a very effective style. Mr C. Stelling very ably sang "Dear liberty," in which he was so much appreciated by the audience that he responded by singing "I will arise." Mr R. B. Johnson (bass) favoured with a solo entitled "It is enough," (from "Elijah"), which gave satisfaction, and received a hearty *encore*. He sang, in response, "Nazareth." The performers were all in good trim, and the service throughout was very satisfactory. There was but a small attendance, which shows how little music of this class is appreciated by the members of the congregation. Mr J. T. Gradon ably presided at the organ, and the chair was taken by Rev J. W. Keyworth.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

At the Shotley Bridge Occasional Court this (Friday) morning, before James Annandale, Esq., J.P., *James Smith* (28), labourer, Belfast, was brought up by P.C. Newton for begging alms at Blackhill last (Thursday) night.—Committed for 14 days' hard labour.

A NOVEL LECTURE.—Mr Joseph Audi (son of the Sheik of Ramallah, near Jerusalem) is announced to lecture in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Thursday evening. The lecture is instructive and entertaining, and we trust will be well-attended.

FLORAL, HORTICULTURAL, AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY.—The 39th annual meeting was held last Monday night, in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge—Mr A. Houliston presiding. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Mr John Booth, president (re-elected); the vice-presidents of last year re-elected, to whom were added Mr J. Oley; treasurer, Mr J. Lax (re-elected); secretary, Mr W. Ramsay, 6, St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside (re-elected); auditors, Messrs W. Wilson and J. Collinson (re-elected). The retiring members of the committee—Messrs R. Charlton, J. R. Taylor, W. Nicholson, J. Potts, D. Ormerod, C. Stephenson, and J. Clark—were re-elected, and the names of Messrs G. Brown, J. O. Fairlamb, and V. Thirlwell were added thereto. In the revision of the rules an alteration was made in rule I, after which the date of the next annual show was proceeded with, and by a large majority it was decided for Saturday, August 18th, 1888.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS M. MCADAMS.—It is our mournful duty this week to record the death of Mr Thomas M. McAdams, at his residence in Canon City, Colorado, United States of America. Deceased was for some years in business as a builder at Shotley Bridge, and during that time won the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. He made up his mind, however, to try his fortune in the far west, and sold off his stock and furniture and, with his wife and family, removed to Canon City, United States, where he was well known as a good workman, and an honest and industrious citizen. In July last, while at work at the Presbyterian Church, he fell, and received injuries which, although severe, were not considered dangerous. After his recovery he took the contract for the Methodist Episcopal Church at Florence, but owing to his health failing he relinquished that contract. Under an impression that he was considerably improved in health, he was arranging for his return to work when a relapse set in, and for more than a week he was unconscious and suffered severely, death terminating his sufferings in the evening of November 29th, in the 45th year of his age. The funeral services were held in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and his remains were followed to the grave by a large number of sorrowing neighbours and friends who had known and respected him for years. His aged mother, who resides at Mishawaka, Indiana, was notified of his sickness, and by telegraph of his death. She, with the sorrowing wife and six fatherless children have the sympathy of many friends in this time of their great affliction.

LEADGATE.

MISSIONARY MEETING.—A meeting was held in the School-room, Church Square, Leadgate, on Thursday se'nnight, to support the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. After the Litany of Intercession for missionary work had been read, the vicar (Rev J. W. Mitchell) introduced the Rev Mr Norman, from the Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, reminding the audience how much it invigorated the work at home to hear about the Church in other lands.—Mr Norman, after referring to the stigma on the Church of England—that she had not been a missionary church, pointed to her daughter in the United States of America, and then spoke of the great empire of India. He illustrated by some interesting pictures the superstitions of the natives (the Hindoos); their worship of serpents, hideous idols, and of the river Ganges; their degrading rites of self-torture and suicide, considered as religious acts. He then spoke of Newfoundland, of which he had personal experience. He contrasted the comfort of home with the hardships of a severe climate, where the only means of subsistence was fishing, and where the means of grace were not so readily at hand to cheer on life's wayfarers to their home beyond the grave. He begged his hearers to spare what they could in these hard times to help others who were worse off than themselves.—Mr Bousfield briefly returned thanks to the lecturer and to the Society for their good work.—£1 6s 0½d was afterwards collected in the room.

WEARDALE.

COFFEE SUPPER AT EASTGATE.—A coffee supper was held at Eastgate last week, which was preceded by a public ball the week previous, as inaugurating the commencement of the festive season. It is a spirited little place, and much more so than many villages and country towns of larger pretensions. The sequal to the coffee supper indicated propensities for larking carried too far, as everyone who partook of the supper found the coffee a not very mild aperient, but rather a somewhat laxative beveridge. Eastgate always had its name up for a good lark, but many of the good folks of the usually quiet hamlet think a joke can be carried too far.

WILSON BROS. FOR CONFECTIONERY.

STANHOPE.

We understand that the Rev Jas. Cosbey, so recently preferred from the curacy of Stanhope to the benefice of Ings, was last week offered the [illegible]ership of the Bentry Hospital, by His Grace, the Archbishop of York, which he was under the circumstances unable to accept.

LATE FLOWERS.—Mr Wm. Tweddle, gardener, pulled a bunch of beautiful wallflowers in bloom in his garden at Stanhope on Saturday. It does not often occur in our severe climate that we have wallflowers in bloom at Christmas, but it accounts for the fine mild autumn, and the absence of continued frost and snow hitherto.

LECTURE AT FROSTERLEY.—On Wednesday evening an interesting lecture was delivered in the Wesleyan school-room, Frosterley, on temperance, by Mrs J. A. Cail, Scarborough (late Miss J. A. Emmerson, Frosterley) well known in Primitive Methodist circles in that place. There was a good company present to hear the talented local lady lecturer.

WEARDALE DISTRICT HIGHWAY BOARD.—Mr Chapman presided on Friday.—It was reported that Dr Hewitson, at St. John's Chapel, had covered in a watercourse, the result being that water flowed across the road, and the doctor will be desired to take steps to remove the obstruction.—Metal mile-marks are to be put down on the various main highways.—Messrs Vickers (Westgate) and Featherstone had a wordy encounter over, and conflicted in their opinions as to the state of, the road between St. John's and Rowntree, and the Surveyor was desired to give the road due oversight.—The road contractor between Westgate and Wearhead is to be urged to keep that road, over which there is heavy ironstone traffic, in a more satisfactory condition, the complaints about it being very severe.

CONCERT AT STANHOPE.—A grand concert and entertainment took place on Saturday evening at the Town Hall, Stanhope, under the auspices of the Church Bible Class. Dr Arnison J.P., presided. The most of the elite of the place were present. The large room was crowded to excess. The concert was a success both as regards the performance and financially. Mrs Roddam presided at the piano, and from the applause which her excellent performances elicited, she evidently was thoroughly appreciated. Among the artistes present were Messrs T. Hughes, Tow Law; B. Lest, Witton-le-Wear; Wm. Fenwick, jun., Stanhope; C. F. Tinkler, leader of Stanhope Band; and A. McCallum; Mrs Roddam, Miss Moore, and the Misses Hogarths. The children of the Barrington Church Schools, under the supervision of Mr Maton, also entertained the audience by going through a number of calisthenic exercises, to the no small delight of the large company. Among those on the platform were Dr Arnison, Mrs and Miss Arnison, Dr Best, Mr J. W. and Mrs Roddam, Rev J. W. Rees, and Mrs Wm. Fenwick. Much of the success of the concert is due to Mrs Roddam, who is ever ready to proffer her services whenever occasion requires, and her high class and efficient performances are always appreciated. Great credit is also due to Rev J. W. Rees, who has worked zealously and indefatigably to promote it, and last, but not least, to the genial old doctor who graced the platform with his welcome presence as chairman of the meeting.

A SCHOOL BOARD IN A FIX.—At Friday's meeting of Stanhope School Board, it was stated that there was only some £50 available to pay salary cheques amounting to £98. The Loan Commissioners have allowed an extension of time in the payment of over due instalments; but the Commissioners point out that this delay will entail extra interest charges, which Mr Vickers said was a hardship to the dalespeople, who thus suffered because the rates had not been promptly collected. The situation, Mr Vickers added, was serious. Some of the masters wished to go away for their holidays, and could not do so because their salaries were not to hand.—On the question which masters could best afford to "wait for their salaries," a resolution was passed to withhold the cheques due to the unmarried gentlemen.—Mr Watson, however, saw injustice to subordinates in this arrangement, and, with Mr Featherstone as seconder, he carried a motion that Messrs Blackhouse, bankers, be asked to honour cheques for £98, on the ground that the difficulty is caused by the delay in the Local Government Board's intimation of assent to the appointment of a new rate collector and assistant overseer.—Cheques were then signed, but will be withheld pending the assent of the treasurers to the course proposed.

WHITTONSTALL.

CONCERT AND SUPPER.—On Saturday evening a very successful concert was given in the National School Room Whittonstall (kindly granted by the Rev J. Lowe) on behalf of the funds of the Wesleyan Chapel. An interesting and varied programme consisting of solos, duets, part songs &c., was efficiently rendered by the Misses Dodd and party, Whittonstall, assisted by Miss Reed, and Messrs Lister and L. Urwin, Shotley Bridge, Mr. H. Ridley, Benfieldside, ably acted as accompanist. Mr R. Frankland, Blackhill, also contributed to the success of the entertainment, by reading and reciting in his usual style. The whole being presided over by Mr J. L. Walton, Blackhill.—At the close of the concert a goodly number partook of an excellent ham and coffee supper, provided by the ladies belonging to the Wesleyan Society. We are glad to be able to state that notwithstanding the unfavourable weather prevailing, both the concert and supper were well patronised, and proved quite a success.

OXHILL.

It will be remembered that Mr Jno. Green, schoolmaster, Oxhil died very suddenly a few months since. We are pleased to announce that through the untiring energies of his colleagues—the members of the Vale of Derwent Teachers' Association—one of his four girls was last June elected to a 'Home Allowance' and now a second has headed the poll for a similar grant from the Teachers' Orphanage fund. "Friends in need are friends indeed."

TOW LAW

ACCIDENTS.—On Monday, at Tow Law, a boy named Watson, fell on one of the numerous slides on Castle Bank, and broke his arm.—The same day a man fell also near the same place, and, with the exception of setting fire to a box of matches in his pocket and burning his coat, was none the worse. The many slides made by boys and girls renders travelling along the streets somewhat dangerous.

TEMPERANCE.—At a meeting attended by a number of prominent temperance workers, held in the Mission-room, Tow Law, on Tuesday, it was decided to form a temperance band or society for the purpose of helping forward any temperance work in the town, by missioning the streets, or organising popular entertainments as counter attractions to the public-house, and generally to strengthen the hands of the existing societies. A free and easy entertainment was arranged for. Mr E. Dixon presided, Mr G. H. Pattison being appointed secretary to the band, in whose ranks it is hoped to enlist a large number of temperance men who are not at present members of any society.

A HORSE CASE—LAUGHABLE EVIDENCE.—At the County Court, Wolsingham, Joseph Chambers, of Crook, was sued by L. G. Johnson, of Tow Law, in respect of a horse case.—The parties "swapped" horses, defendant receiving 15s to boot. Plaintiff, however, who admitted closing the bargain in the dark, and when he could not see defendant's horse, disapproved of his new possession, and took it back.—His Honour (Judge Meynell): Have you heard of buying a pig in a poke?—Plaintiff said he certainly did not see the horse, and defendant afterwards offered him another 15s to stay the action plaintiff threatened. He "exercised" the horse by leading stone—(laughter)—or he should have charged more than £1 for its keep. On one occasion his new horse could not land a load of coal, and they had to "lowse out." (Laughter.)—John Parker, a witness, said he heard defendant offer to take the mare back.—Defendant denied the alleged agreement that the horses were to be returned if found unsuitable, or that he offered a second 15s.—John Wilson and Joseph Wilson (the latter a horse dealer) gave evidence for defendant, and the Judge decided against the plaintiff, for whom Mr Devey was counsel.—Mr Teale defended.

WILSON BROS. SHOTLEY BRIDGE. 815y

WATERHOUSES.

The members of the Newhouses and District Benefit Society, held at Mr G. French's, Stag's Head, Waterhouses, had their annual breaking-up night, on Dec. 10th. The balance-sheet showed a surplus of 8s 4d per member, 44 being financial. The new members were then enrolled to make up their limited number (50) for commencing another year. The after proceedings were of a social and convivial character. Songs and recitations were rendered, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

WOLSINGHAM.

The quarterly meeting of the Wolsingham Wesleyan Methodist Circuit was held at Tow Law on Saturday—Rev S. Miles in the chair, supported by Rev. H. J. Sodgen and a large attendance of representatives. The senior steward (Mr T. E. Fenwick) reported that £62 had been generously subscribed during the quarter by friends in the circuit towards previous deficiency of £64. Rev J. Miles reported an increase of members. The following circuit officers were appointed:—Messrs Fenwick (Wolsingham) and T. Hull (Tow Law), stewards; T. Batty (Wolsingham), secretary; A. W. Emerson (Tow Law), chapel secretary; W. Steel (Wolsingham), Sunday-school schedule secretary.

CHURCH INSTITUTE.—The annual meeting of the Church Institute at Wolsingham was held on Wednesday week, when Chancellor Espin, D.D., rector, was re-elected president; Rev M. R. Sharp, vice-president; Mr Deighton, treasurer; Rev T. E. Espin, secretary; and Messrs Devey, Gage, and Landreth, as committee.—Mr Yeates moved "That the churchwardens be requested to place a notice in the church that all seats are free," and dwelt strongly upon the danger to the church from appropriation of seats. After Mr Churchwarden Devey, Mr A. Wooler, and Rev M. R. Sharp had spoken, the motion was carried by a majority of seven, many members abstaining from voting.—Messrs Burns and McLeod were re-appointed librarians.—Several gentlemen were elected members of the Institute.

SPEN COLLIERY.

MISSION CHURCH.—On Saturday, the annual tea and bazaar in connection with St. Paul's Mission, was held in the Spen School-room. Their was only a moderate attendance, compared with the previous years. All were well provided for under the superintendence of Rev. Wm. Wykes, curate. In the evening a concert was held, which gave satisfaction to all present.

BURNOPFIELD.

THE FATALITY AT BYER MOOR COLLIERY.—On Thursday se'nnight, an inquest was held by Mr J. Graham, at the house of Mr Wm. Stone, Burnopfield, respecting the death of Thomas Wilson (20), a putter, employed at Byer Moor Colliery, who was killed under circumstances stated in last week's issue.—The jury returned a verdict that he had been accidentally killed.

LANCHESTER.

CONCERT.—On Monday evening, a very successful concert was given in the National School, Lanchester, in aid of the funds of the Reading-room and Institute. There was a large audience.

SALE OF HOUSE PROPERTY.—On Tuesday night, Mr W. Nicholson, auctioneer, offered for sale at the Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester, a copy-hold house and garden situate in Front Street, Lanchester. The opening bid was made by Mr Wm. Thompson, £90; Mr Brotherhood, £100; Mr Wilson, £105; Mr Humble, £110; Mr Brotherhood, £130; Mr Humble, £135—£145 (the above of Lanchester); Mr Johnson, Linwood Farm, £115—£125; Mr John Nicholson, Quebec, £120—£120—£150, at which price the property was sold. Mr J. T. Proud, Bishop Auckland, was the solicitor for the vendor. There was a very large attendance of buyers, the dining room being filled to excess. The sale only lasted five minutes.

SEASONABLE GENEROSITY.—We are pleased to be enabled to announce that Mr Wm. Hedley, J.P., of Burnhopeside Hall, has with his customary and characteristic generosity, had slaughtered a prime fat heifer, weighing about 65 stones, and three fat Southdown sheep, all of his own rearing and breeding, and yesterday (Thursday) the same were distributed amongst the poor folks and the friends and neighbours of the donor in the vicinity of Lanchester. This gift will doubtless prove most acceptable to the recipients, and Mr Hedley deserves to be warmly praised for his liberality and generosity, having set an exemple which it would be highly satisfactory if other wealthy residents would only follow.

TANFIELD.

CHURCH MISSION.—The musical part of the congregation of Tanfield Church enjoyed a treat on Sunday evening last. After the service the organist Mr Hinckley, gave a short recital from "The Messiah." The pieces played were "Comfort ye, my people," and "He shall feed His flock," and the "Hallelujah Chorus." The auditory included a number of visitors from neighbouring parishes, and all seemed to appreciate the music. We understand that voluntaries will be given monthly, and we have no doubt, that they will become, as they ought to be —popular.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

FUNERAL OF A WELL-KNOWN MINER.—On Sunday afternoon the funeral took place at Lumley churchyard of Mr John Smith, aged 76, an old resident of Lumley Thicks, and known throughout the district as "Baron Rothschild." Deceased retired from active work about three years ago, at which time he was overman at the Earl of Durham's 6th pit. Although in a humble sphere of life, deceased had managed to amass a considerable amount of wealth, and was always foremost in helping on any good work in the neighbourhood.

CASTLESIDE.

EXCESSIVE DEATH RATE.—We hear that 29 interments have taken place at Castleside during the present year. In former years the mortality has always been under 12, and the inhabitants are therefore concerned at the excessive death-rate.

THE LATE MR. JOHN BOWEY.—The interment of Mr John Bowey, of Rowley Cottage, took place at Castleside on Monday last, when a large number of friends of the deceased assembled to accompany his remains to their last resting-place. The service was most impressively read by the Rev Mr Walker, curate-in-charge.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

AN INGENIOUS MINER.—We understand that Mr James Russell, a miner, who has resided at Annfield Plain for many years, is about to remove to the Ouston Coal Company, near Chester-le-Street. Mr Russell has been in the employment of Messrs Dickinson and Co. for a considerable period. During his spare time he has employed himself in clock making, and has almost completed a magnificent clock, the case of which is composed of white holly, mahogany, and walnut. There is a considerable amount of fret-work in the case, there being no less than 1,355 holes, which took 13½ days to cut. On the front of the door there is a figure of Time with a scythe in one hand, while the other hand points to the dial. The case is beautifully ornamented with figures of angels, &c. The clock is to chime the half-hour and hour, and will go for eight days. It is intended to be shown at the Glasgow Exhibition in 1888, and is said to be worth from £5 to £10. Mr Russell is going to take charge of the coal-cutting machine at the five-quarter seam at Ouston Colliery, and carries with him the best wishes of his fellow-workmen.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

Medomsley protest against Bede College with regard to the ground on which the match was played at Durham on Saturday was not sustained.

At a meeting of the Challenge Cup Committee at Durham, last (Thursday) night, Leadgate was drawn against St. Paul's (Spennymoor) and Birtley against Byers Green or Hebburn.

LEADGATE EXILES V. DARLINGTON ST. AUGUSTINE'S.—The latter team is expected to arrive at Leadgate to play the Exiles. A real good game will doubtless result. The following are the names of the Saints:—Goal, P. Cain; backs, T. Ryan and R. Kay; half-backs, J. Irwin, W. Nellis, and J. Mulloy; forwards, T. Kelvin, J. O'Hare, N. O'Hare, J. Horland, and J. Sheridan. Umpire, Mr J. Matthews. Kick off at 2.15. Admission, 3d.

CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE AT CONSETT.

OPENING OF NEW PREMISES.

On Saturday afternoon, the magnificent and extensive buildings, which have recently been raised in Newmarket Street by the Consett Industrial and Provident Society (Limited), at a cost, in round numbers, of about £3[illegible], were duly opened out for business purposes, and it is needless to say that the whole of the inaugural proceedings were an overwhelming success.—A full description of the structure appeared in last week's *Guardian*.—In the afternoon a public tea was served up in the National Schools (kindly granted by Rev F. Steggall), and also in the spacious cellar connected with the new premises. About 1,000 adults and several hundred children partook of a most substantial repast. The following is a list of the waitresses at the several tables:—Misses Steel Bailey, Page, Proud, Allendale Cottages; Misses Charlton and Wigham, Westwood; Misses Scoular (2), Blackhill; Misses Davis, P. and J. Hall, Consett; Miss Summerville, Blackhill; Misses Elliott and M. Elliott, Consett; Miss E. Bainbridge, Delves Lane; Misses J. A. Carr, R. Smith, Oldfield, Morgan, Mrs J. Surtees, Mrs C. Routledge, Consett; Mrs Swindle, Blackhill; Mrs Milburn, Consett; Mrs Bird, Templetown; Mrs A. Lowes, Consett; Misses Mason and Appleton, Templetown; Miss Dodds, Consett; Mrs A. Richardson, Blackhill; Mrs McClean, Leadgate; Mrs H. Thompson, Delves Lane; Miss E. Harrison, Consett; and Miss Scott, Delves Lane.

A public gathering and entertainment was held in the evening in the New Co-operative Hall, the building being crowded to excess on the occasion. Although the room is estimated to seat about 800 persons, fully 1,000 persons crammed themselves into the hall, and at least one-half of that number were unable to gain admission. On the platform were Messrs J. T. W. Mitchell, Manchester (Chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society); J. Atkinson, Wallsend; W. Crookes, Blaydon; W. Robinson (President of the Shotley Bridge Co-operative Society); W. Telford (manager of the Derwent Flour Mill); Geo. *Lowe* (President of the Consett Co-operative Society); J. L. Surtees, Arthur Lowes, and other prominent co-operators.

Mr G. Lowes, in introducing Mr Priestman, as chairman, stated that it was 22½ years ago since that gentleman laid the foundation-stone of the old store building across the way. He was exceedingly glad that Mr Priestman was in a position to preside over the first meeting ever held in that hall. (Applause.) During that period, many changes had taken place in Consett, and hundreds knew the amount of good achieved by the Co-operative Society. (Applause.) The speaker was also glad to see the meeting so largely packed, and the proceedings that day, he hoped, would be the forerunner of still greater prosperity and success for the Consett Stores. (Applause.)

The Chairman, who met with a cordial reception, stated that he had some recollection of laying the foundation-stone of the old building in the summer of 1865, and he also remembered Mr Ratcliffe then saying something at the time regarding their right to vote. That was not a political meeting, however, but he might venture to glance at the changes which had taken place in the interim. Shortly afterwards, the franchise was extended to the boroughs, and about three years ago it was granted to the counties. That was really as great a change as a revolution; but it was gratifying to know that they could carry out these measures of reform by means of sound argument and reasoning, without having recourse, as in former times, to war and bloodshed. (Applause.) It was fully understood that both political parties had continued to bring about that comprehensive measure. During the past 20 years there had been a great spread of co-operation, and their societies had generally been well and efficiently managed. There was no denying the amount of good which had been accomplished by these societies, and they had no means of telling how far the Consett Society, as one amongst many, had exercised an influence in founding their present political position. The Chairman proceeded to speak at length upon the lowness of wages, dullness of trade, restriction of labour, and other cognate subjects, his remarks being well received.

Mr Atkinson was next called upon, and met with a hearty reception. He expressed his pleasure of meeting the Co-operators of Consett under their "own roof-tree." He felt sure that the opening of that splendid building would ever be remembered as a red-letter day in their history. (Applause.) He would give them a little advice as to the best method of using that beautiful hall, and thus making it a blessing to themselves, and a momento of the energy and enterprise displayed by the Consett Society. (Applause.) He strongly urged upon the females—for Co-operation without the aid of the ladies would not be able to achieve very much—in order to make their movement a thorough success, to carry their market-basket to nobody's shop except their own. (Applause.) Even if they just wanted a trifling article or so, they ought to get it at the Stores. He knew that Co-operation had done a good deal for Consett. He was acquainted with many working men who had invested their £200—which was the maximum amount they were allowed by law—in the Stores, and now they had put money into the societies in the names of their "better halves." Such instances of thriftiness on the part of the poorer classes were extremely gratifying. A good dividend was also of great assistance to the members, and they had made provision for themselves in case of sickness or lack of employment. He knew there were some "good men and true" in their society at Consett, and he believed they would be able to accomplish a noble work in that district. He would like to see 100 young men join Mr C. O. McColvin's class, and then they would become fully conversant with the benefits and advantages of Co-operation. A certain section of agitators were going about telling the people that the Government ought to do this and that for them; but he counselled his hearers never to depend upon any Government for assistance in cases of emergency. Let them provide for themselves by joining the Co-operative Society. (Applause.) There was one thing, however, the Government could do for them—they might relieve co-operators of many of their disabilities. All they wanted was "a fair field and no favour shown." (Applause.)

Mr Mitchell was the principal speaker, and his rising was the signal for a loud outburst of cheering. At this stage there was some little disturbance, which was occasioned by the uncomfortable overcrowding of the place. Mr Mitchell supposed that he was addressing co-operators—at least, those present who had not yet joined the Stores, intended to do so; and those who were already associated with it, intended to be better members in the future. (Applause.) He might say to the Consett Society: "Doubt not; stand firm like men." Let them adopt the advice of their respected chairman—"Face the future with a firm and manly heart. (Applause.) He (speaker) did not believe there could exist any difficulties which co-operators, with thorough determination and a stout heart, were not able to surmount. (Applause.) Experience was a good teacher. He would just refer to one period in the history of the Consett Society, which was very striking. During the first thirteen years of their Society's existence, they paid away in dividends about £31,000, or £10,000 more than they originally put into the Society. They had at that time £21,000 standing to the credit of the members of the Society. Because there happened to be a prospect of their losing £3 30[illegible], then their troubles began and many people said that the Society was "going to the dogs." (Laughter.) In such a case however they ought to have faced the future with a manly heart. (Applause.) This was a world of difficulties, but co-operators should boldly look at and strive to overcome all obstacles. (Applause.) The people had just as much right to be traders upon their own account—just as much right to trade in their combined capacity—as any other person had a right to trade in his private or individual capacity. Co-operators were content with the profits which were realised upon their own consumption, whilst private traders wanted the profits on their own and other people's consumption as well. They were therefore better and nobler-minded traders than any other class of traders. (Applause.) What was it that made this country so great and noble? It was the possession of three elements, viz: a cultivated, prosperous, and contented people. (Loud cheers.) In order to possess these qualifications, they must divide the wealth of the country amongst as many persons as they possibly could. He did not advocate spoilation or confiscation, but rather to maintain for themselves the rights of property. They wanted no man's property. What they desired was the free opportunity of acquiring property for themselves. (Applause.) And for why? A purer and nobler influence, in any locality, in any nation, in any part of the world, usually followed the possession of the money or property. He firmly believed that through the instrumentality of Co-operation, a wide-spread feeling of confidence had been created in the minds of the people, which had been the means of securing for them an extension of the suffrage. (Applause.) And this feeling would grow stronger and stronger, and develop daily. He trusted the co-operators of the district would make the magnificent building their home. He hoped the ladies would never be found wandering to the shops to purchase certain groceries on the strength of a gift of currants or a farthing candle. (Laughter.) The system of trade, as conducted at the present period, he could not commend as being of the highest kind of morality. He was sorry for it. The whole system seemed to go in the direction of throwing dust in people's eyes for the sake of securing their custom. The shopkeeper told them that they would make them a small present if they would only purchase certain articles. The private traders could not do that, as they would not pay their debts honestly. Therefore, if these deluded people did not pay directly for the value of the gifts, they must do so indirectly. The speaker instanced the case of a wholesale grocer, who had failed, commencing some 18 years ago in a line of business by giving presents to every purchaser. His business multiplied rapidly, he lived in a grand house, kept a carriage and pair, and after the lapse of a few years retired with a fortune of £40,000 on the strength that his goods were given away. (Laughter.) There ought to be in every man's life a system of morality which he could hold up as a pattern and an example for others to follow. Co-operators aimed at raising the standard of morality, and desired to maintain a high integrity, honesty, and upright courses amongst all classes. (Applause.) Heaven never intended that men should deceive their fellows, in order to live in comfort for the few short years they existed in this earthly sphere. It was never contemplated that men should die and leave a record of their bad deeds behind them. Heaven blessed those who departed this life leaving a noble record of honesty of purpose, justice, and truth. (Applause.) Co-operators had no interest in deceiving any one else; they purchased their goods as cheaply as possible; and sold them to their customers at a reasonable rate of profit. If there was any surplus left, after paying all working expenses, then this amount was divided amongst the members according to the proportion of their purchases. They held that, inasmuch as the consumer paid all the cost of the production and manufacture of the articles, the same ought to be distributed at a reasonable price. They were endeavouring to abolish the middlemen—the merchants, the exporters and importers, manufacturers agents, &c.—and sought to make the industrial classes their own landowners, producers, [illegible], exporters, and importers. To accomplish this, it was absolutely necessary that the working classes should combine together. (Applause.) They should never find fault with capital, but endeavour to rake together as much cash as they possibly could. (Laughter.) If co-operators were wise in their day and generation, they would have control over the railways of the land. Their motto was "All for each and each for all." During the career of the Consett Society, the members had invested in it £34,864, and had drawn out £102,0[illegible], or nearly £70,0[illegible] more than they put into it; and they had less in the Society that day by about £14,000. There was no means of ascertaining the amount of good this £70,0[illegible] had done in assisting the poorer classes of the district. Was it not far better than the whole sum going into the pockets of a select few? A person had written to a trade journal, to the effect that co-operators had no right to exist, and suggested that the clergy should set apart a Sunday for special sermons to be preached throughout the country in the interests of the shopkeepers who had been deprived of their means of livelihood! This was utter nonsense; co-operators had as much right to exist as any other class. Than the consumers there was no body who had more right to trade for themselves, and to bind themselves together for that purpose, so long as they acted in accordance with the law of the land. It was also urged if co-operation became universal the churches and chapels would suffer from lack of funds; but he might tell them that co-operators were the warmest and most liberal supporters of religious sects. Furthermore, it was argued that if co-operation became generally adopted, the community would be broken up, and the charitable institutions would not be maintained. If everybody became co-operators, there would hardly be any need for charitable institutions, as every person would have made provision for himself or herself in cases of exigency. Another argument against universal co-operation was what would become of the local rates and taxes paid by the shopkeepers? Who provided the private traders with money to pay these taxes? Why, the working classes; and they would still have to bear the burden of the rates. He (Mr Mitchell) believed co-operation was a fertile field, and when fully developed it would become a veritable gold mine. Adverting to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the speaker said the Consett Society originally paid in £1,021 10s, and had drawn therefrom £2,910; or nearly three times as much as they had invested in the Wholesale. They had still a balance standing to their credit of about £1,430. He proceeded to dwell upon the advantages and benefits to be denied from their transactions with the Wholesale. There were individual shareholders, who had received dividend upon their capital invested for the past 20 years at the rate of 30 per cent. They took a £5 share for every 10 members in the society, and every person in the land could become members through the societies. They never paid more than 5 per cent. for shares, and £4 per cent. upon loans. The interest upon the shares was absolutely limited to the amount of goods consumed. There were something like £[illegible] of share capital; and £600,000 on loan capital; or nearly £1,[illegible]00,000. They had expended in property, £493,6[illegible]; part being in Newcastle, part in London, Manchester, Leicester, Heckmondwicke, Durham, Ireland, New York, and Hamburg. The society possessed five ships, three of them plying between Hamburg and Goole (Yorkshire); one between Goole and Rouen; and the other to Garston. Their shipping enterprise had not been so successful as they would have liked to see it; but they expected it would prove more remunerative in the future. The total profits of the Wholesale amounted to £493,000; the depreciation of property represented £120,000; and they had spent upon docks £362,0[illegible]. That was not bad work on a capital of £493,0[illegible]. They had reserves and insurance funds amounting to over £100,000; so that their reserved and depreciation funds were almost equal to their subscribed capital. They did business at the rate of £6,000,000 per annum. They bought the produce in the best markets, so as to have as much control as possible over their speculations, and they wished to have direction over the whole merchandise of the world. (Applause). The Wholesale Society was exerting its utmost in the interests of the consuming classes, and did not wish the wealthy persons to become more wealthier still at the expense of the great body of people. Their business was growing enormously, and their society was the greatest and most gigantic enterprise that had ever been known. (Prolonged cheering.)

At this stage, the Chairman read a letter from Mr Atherley-Jones, M.P., one of the gentlemen announced to speak expressing sincere regret at his inability to attend that gathering, but signifying his hearty sympathy with the great Co-operative movement. He trusted that the day's proceedings would be highly successful, and was glad to observe that they were to have the advantage of Mr Mitchell's presence. (Applause.)

On the motion of Mr W. Robinson, seconded by Mr Lowes, a cordial vote of thanks was tendered to the speakers and musicians, and Messrs Mitchell and Atkinson suitably responded thereto.

Mr J. L. Surtees also moved, and Mr G. Lowes seconded, a similar expression of thanks to the Chairman.

The proposal was carried by acclamation, and after the Chairman had briefly spoken in acknowledgment of the compliment, the day's proceedings were brought to a most satisfactory termination.

The addresses were interspersed with selections of music by an efficient orchestral band, under the leadership of Mr C. Stelling; Miss Harwood sang "Home sweet home," and received an *encore*; Mr Stelling was also warmly applauded for his song, and a humorous sketch recitation by Mr Inglis, provoked considerable amusement. A violin duet was skilfully performed by Messrs Nixon and Hoe, jun. The building was entirely cleared in four minutes.

In giving the contractors and parties supplying material for the new buildings, we have unfortunately omitted the names of Mr Jos. Siddle and Mr Henry Amos, both of Consett. The former has executed the contract for painting and glazing, and the latter has supplied all the iron work.

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CRŒSUS' WIDOW.

BY DORA RUSSELL,

Author of "Footprints in the Snow," "The Vicar's Governess," &c., &c., &c.

CHAPTER XII.—In which Nora Forgets Herself.

He went the next day to Roseland. He went in the evening, and to his great annoyance found "that wicked old woman," as he had mentally called Lady Stainbrooke so many times the night before, sitting admiring the sunset in the rose garden with her husband and Nora.

Lady Stainbrooke was in good humour, for she had just enjoyed a good dinner, and she held out her yellow claw-like hand, glittering with the diamonds she had contrived to pick up during her long sojourn in India, to welcome the painter as he approached them.

But Vyner did not take it. He shook hands with Nora and Sir Thomas, but bowed coldly enough to her ladyship, who however only gave a little laugh.

"What!" she said, "have I offended you?"

"We never were very good friends, Lady Stainbrooke," answered Vyner.

"No, no" said Lady Stainbrooke, nodding her head, "All the same, in your inmost heart I believe you must feel very much obliged to me." And again Lady Stainbrooke laughed, this time with rather a wicked ring in it, for she believed that Vyner came courting Nora for the money that John Trelawn had left behind.

Vyner quite understood her little insinuation. He stood there grim, pale, and handsome, looking at this "miserable old woman," as he was mentally designating her, and wishing her—well, the painter was angry, so we need not follow all his thoughts.

But Nora tried to be a peace-maker.

"Even Lady Stainbrooke is charmed with my roses, Mr. Vyner," she said, smiling.

"Of course I am, my dear," said that lady. "I am charmed with your roses because they are pretty, and are cared for by a good gardener, for whom you can afford to pay. And I am charmed also with your cows and your ducks and chickens, because they, too, have every thing they require. But I would not be charmed with any of them if they were not merely a whim of a rich woman—ruralizing for amusement, and ruralizing for life, are two very different things."

"Mr. Vyner has not seen my cows, nor my ducks and chickens, aunt, which you despise," said Nora. "Shall we show them to him now?"

"I am very well where I am, my dear," answered her aunt dryly.

"I should like of all things to see them," said Vyner eagerly.

"Come with me, then, said Nora, and as the painter followed her, Lady Stainbrooke rose and screamed her opinion into her deaf General's ear.

"My opinion is," she said, "that Nora will make a fool of herself and marry that man! It is a thousand pities, when Lord Seaforth would, I am sure, be only too glad to have her."

"What folly!" said the General testily in reply. "What makes you think, madam, she will take this painter fellow?"

"Because," answered Lady Stainbrooke grimly, "she is insane enough, I believe, to be in love."

The General grunted. This couple were not in love with each other—had not been in love for thirty years. They snarled at each other, and were very clear-eyed about each other's faults, but they went on living with each other—in all probability would so live on until two of their bleared and worldly eyes were closed for evermore. That these would be the General's eyes Lady Stainbrooke was very happily persuaded. She frequently talked of "when I'm a widow," but the old man was in no hurry to place her in that position.

Meanwhile let us follow Nora and Vyner. Nora went bareheaded, with a rosy flush on her soft cheeks, and with her eyes cast down so that she never noticed how pale Vyner was, or how gloomy, as he walked by her side.

Nora's cows lived in a little field at one side of the rose-garden, separated from it by a highly ornamental paling which was thickly trained with rose trees. A rustic gateway led through this paling to the field beyond, but as Nora laid her hand on the gate to open it Vyner prevented her.

"I do not really care about seeing your cows, Nora," he said, with rather a painful smile. "Will you put on your hat and walk down by the river with me? I—I—have something to say to you."

Nora looked up surprised. Then she saw how pale and agitated Vyner really was, and she at once did what he asked.

"Wait here for me a moment then," she said and she went into the house for her hat, while Vyner, leaning on the paling, was nerving himself for the bitter task before him.

He looked round when he heard her return, and then, without a word, the two together quitted the grounds of Roseland.

They went down by the darkening river, for the sun had set now, and dusky shadows were falling on the water. Still in silence. Nora was nervous, and Vyner trying to frame his cruel news in gentle words. Then with sudden passion and abruptness he spoke, feeling that gentle words were vain.

"Nora," he said, "I have come to tell you something to-night that I would rather tear my tongue from my mouth than utter."

What is it, Walter?" asked Nora, trembling.

"Let me go back," said Vyner, still in the same agitated and passion-broken voice, "to the days long ago—to the days when you were a young girl, and—— and I loved you then, Nora."

Nora did not speak. She put her hand softly on the painter's arm.

"I went back to Warbrooke," continued Vyner, "to ask you to be my wife. I was poor then—a man who had a struggle to live—but something in your face had told me that you were a good woman—that you would marry a man because you loved him, and not because he was rich."

"You know how it was," said Nora, in a low tone.

"I am coming to that. I went back to Warbrooke then, and found that you were gone. I was received coldly enough at your father's house, but I learned in the little town that you had gone to live with your father's sister, Lady Stainbrooke, in London, and that you were expected by your family to make a good marriage there."

"You did not believe *that*?"

"No, I did not. I told myself the little girl I love will do nothing of the kind—she will wait for me—wait till I can make a home for her."

Vyner's voice broke here, and Nora clasped his arm closer.

"Hush," she said, "do not talk of these painful things. They are all over now. My poor husband is dead now."

"Yes," said Vyner bitterly, "and you are free! The cursed lie that Lady Stainbrooke invented to part us, was not true as you know then, Nora, but now——"

"There is no lie to part us now, Walter," said Nora, firmly. "I am free and you are free——"

"No," interrupted Vyner hoarsely, "that wicked, miserable old woman's work is not yet done. Nora, months and months ago—when you were Mr. Trelawn's wife—there crossed my path a woman—I believe a good woman——"

But Nora stopped him with a sudden cry.

"You are not married!" she said. "Walter, tell me (and she clung with trembling hands to his arm), "surely you are not married?"

"No," he answered, averting his eyes from her frightened, appealing face, "not married, but bound by a promise that I cannot break."

Nora grew faint and cold.

"It cannot be," she said, still clinging to his arm. "Walter, it cannot be!"

What can I say, Nora?" answered Vyner, clasping her cold and nerveless hand. "You know how it is—I cared for you long ago—I care for you now—but we are parted. In a moment of madness I think—feeling sad, lonely, and dissatisfied with my lot, I asked Margaret Blythe to be my wife. She is a good woman—I have nothing to say against her—but when I saw you again I knew I had made a fatal mistake."

Nora could not now control the bitter emotion of her heart. Her eyes filled with tears, and she trembled so violently, that Vyner asked her to sit down on the river bank.

It was a very lonely spot where they were, and as they sat down, with a sort of moan Nora covered her face with her hand.

"I have suffered so much," she said, "no one knows how much, in those long years—and now—now——"

There was a weary hopelessness in her tone, which thrilled Vyner to the quick.

"If I could do anything, Nora," he said, earnestly, "anything, anything, I would do it. But Margaret Blythe is poor—I got to know her through a friend

"Still, perhaps, if she knew," said Nora, looking up, "knew that long ago we cared for each other so much, and that we were only parted by a wicked, wicked invention——"

Vyner was silent. He was a proud man—with a rough and honest pride in bearing a good name among his fellows—and he was thinking even if Margaret consented to their engagement being broken off, what would the world say? To throw over a poor girl for a very rich woman! Yes, he knew what it would say; for Nora's sake he would have borne much—but Margaret——

"You think it would be cruel to ask her," faltered Nora.

"I do not know what to say. Her father spoke to me the other night about fixing the time for our marriage. This determined me to tell you—I should never have come near you, Nora—never—but I was weak——"

They sat there together, after this, almost in silence. The great broad river kept rolling on before them, the twilight crept around them, but still they scarcely spoke. Nora felt miserably unhappy. She had loved Vyner so deeply all the long years of her wedded life, and she had never forgotten him. The handsome face that had been the beau-ideal of her girlhood was her beau-ideal still. And now when she had dreamed, nay, been sure of happiness—to have it all snatched away—all, and nothing left!

At last she rose.

"Are you going now," said Vyner, turning his head towards her; and looking at him she saw how haggard his face was, how worn and grief-lined.

There was a great struggle in his heart. Honour or dishonour! To forsake Margaret—dishonour; to leave Nora—a long, weary, loveless life.

"Perhaps you will write?" said Nora, in a low tone, as they walked on by the river edge towards Roseland.

"Yes," answered Vyner, speaking as with an effort. "I will see Margaret—I will let you know what she says."

"You will tell her—the truth?"

"Yes," again answered Vyner, and without any further words on the subject of absorbing interest in both their hearts, they parted at the gate of Roseland.

As Nora walked through the garden a feeling of great and bitter anger rose in her heart against her aunt, Lady Stainbrooke.

"She has caused all this," she thought; "all the misery of my life. I might have been a happy woman but for her false and lying tongue."

Full of her wrongs she entered the house. She could see as she crossed under the verandah her aunt sitting in the pretty and luxurious drawing-room beyond. Lady Stainbrooke was lying back in an easy chair, with her feet very comfortably cushioned on a low chair before her, reading some very piquant novel, for Lady Stainbrooke loved properly veiled immorality well. She was therefore thoroughly enjoying her novel, by the aid of the double glasses which before her family she now generally wore.

Then flushed, passionate, angry, Nora entered the room, and Lady Stainbrooke looked up and peered at her curiously through her glasses.

"Well, my dear," she said, "and what have you done with your painter?"

"You are a wicked woman Aunt Stainbrooke!" answered Nora to the great astonishment of that lady, "a bad, wicked woman, and I wish I had never seen your face!"

Lady Stainbrooke put down her ugly little feet, and removed her double glasses with a jerk.

"You forget yourself Nora, my dear," she said, "utterly forget yourself."

"Not so utterly as you forgot yourself," retorted Nora, "when you invented that wicked falsehood long ago about Mr. Vyner."

"Oh! that old story!" said Lady Stainbrooke, shrugging her shoulders. "Bah! my dear do not be so absurd. What do you want? If you want this Vyner he's ready to go down on his knees to you—yes, a deal faster than he went when you were a penniless girl."

"That is all you know," said Nora, standing before her aunt pale and trembling, "but you believe in nothing good or nothing true—you have spoilt my life!" And Nora having said this, turned and left the room.

Then Lady Stainbrooke rose and approached her General, who had not heard a single word that had passed between the two ladies.

"Did you hear what Nora said, General?" shouted Lady Stainbrooke in her husband's ear. "She has utterly forgotten herself—utterly forgotten what is due to me, and I shall leave the house at once, and you must come with me."

But Sir Thomas had no idea of turning out of such comfortable quarters on so short a notice.

"What do you say, madam?" he said. "Leave the house at once for some foolish woman's quarrel? Not I. What on earth have you and Nora been rowing about?"

"I was not rowing," shouted Lady Stainbrooke, with an attempt at dignity. "Nora has forgotten herself—she has had some quarrel with this Vyner, and so she chose to attack me. But she may marry him—I give her up, after all I have done for her—I wash my hands of her, and I will order the carriage, and return to town, and certainly you will not refuse to go with me!"

"But I certainly shall," answered the General, who was not going to expose his aching bones to the damp air by the river at this time of night. "I shall encourage no such folly. If you choose to go, *go*—but don't expect me to be such a fool as to go with you."

"You are contemptible!" hissed Lady Stainbrooke, and then in a towering rage she walked out of the room, and very shortly afterwards out of the house.

CHAPTER XIII.—Nellie's Temptation.

Margaret Blythe expected Vyner to call on the night that his unhappy interview with Nora took place at Roseland, but he never came. She felt a little uneasy and nervous about this, but on reflection re-assured herself.

"He has had some work to finish—I shall see him to-morrow," she decided in her calm way.

Then her eyes happened to fall on the fair face of her sister Nellie.

"Why Nellie how flushed you are!" said Margaret. "Has anything annoyed you?"

Nellie's blooming face turned a deeper pink at these words.

"No Margaret, dear," she said, and she went up and took her sister's hand.

"You are trembling too," said the practical Margaret "I am afraid you are going to be ill. Do you think you have got a chill anywhere?"

"Oh, no," laughed Nellie with an uneasy laugh, and Margaret, re-assured on this point also, took up her housekeeper's books, and began to enter (as was her wont) every penny of their expenditure during the day.

But careful housekeeper as Margaret was, could she have looked into Nellie's heart, she would have neglected her accounts. During the day a very trying interview had occurred to Nellie; an interview, which had Margaret known of, she would have been really unhappy about her young sister.

When lowering clouds gather, we seldom escape a storm. Lowering clouds had been gathering long round the head of Murray, Viscount Seaforth, but the reckless young man made no effort to evade them. Nay in his love, or his selfishness (he called it love) he had made up his somewhat unstable mind, to endeavour to persuade Nellie to share his uncertain future. Yes, he loved her too dearly to give her up, he had decided during one of their recent interviews, and during their meeting this day (the day Vyner had told Nora of his engagement to Margaret), Lord Seaforth had urged Nellie to marry him secretly, "for to do it any other way," he told her, "would only bring irremediable ruin on us both."

"But I cannot—I cannot marry," the girl answered in tremulous accents, holding both his hands, "I cannot for my father's sake."

"Then 'father' is more to you than I am!" said Lord Seaforth, half-tenderly, half-mockingly.

"He is blind," said Nellie, and her lips quivered.

"I wish I was blind!" said Lord Seaforth, with a little laugh.

"He would feel it so deeply," continued Nellie, pleadingly. "If I could but tell him, Murray——"

"And ruin me, my little girl!"

"I will never do that; never."

"Under no temptation, eh!"

"No, never," repeated Nellie, and the day was yet to come when he asked her to keep this promise.

They were standing together, these two young people, under one of the great spreading trees in Regent's Park, when Nellie made it. Overhead the white-flecked summer sky, and around them the summer air, and the white butterflies on the wing. Only [illegible] stands [illegible] of well-dressed children [illegible] commonplace enough, and [illegible] and Lord Seaforth, as com[illegible] [illegible] a good-looking young man, [illegible]" thought or said the good-[illegible] and the illnatured ones smiled scornfully, their day for such pastime being over, or ended in disappointment, or perhaps not come.

A pretty girl in a white dress, and a black cape, and with a fair, sweet, winning face. So fair that Lord Seaforth standing there, looking at her lilies and roses, was moved to a depth of deeper feeling than had ever before had passed through his early-worn heart.

"You are very lovely, Nellie," he said, "very lovely and lovable." And he held both her hands tightly in his.

"If you love me really, I care for nothing more," answered Nellie, in her sweet, modest way. "Why should we think of being married yet? I do not care how long I wait—for years and years."

"Years, my dear child! Where shall I be in years? No, Nellie, we must be married now, or we shall have to part."

"We cannot part," said the girl, speaking very earnestly, and turning pale.

"No, we cannot part," repeated Lord Seaforth. "Now listen to me, my darling. What I propose is—well, I think it would be best to be married in Scotland, and we could live there on the quiet till things blow over a bit. Don't speak for a minute, Nellie. It isn't from any pride or any folly of that kind I wish to keep things quiet. It is simply that if some troublesome acquaintances of mine knew I had married a penniless lassie, they would be down upon me at once, and I would have to bolt—to become, in fact, a ruined, disgraced man—a bankrupt, or worse. If the little woman loves me as she says she does, would she like to bring all this about my ears?"

"Oh, Murray!" And Nellie's eyes filled with tears.

"Don't!" said Lord Seaforth. "Don't look at me like that, child. Perhaps it would be the best thing for you, Nellie, to say good-bye to me if you can?"

"But I can't—how could I?" answered Nellie, the tears now rolling down the smooth, pink cheeks.

"I'm a selfish brute, I dare say," said Seaforth. "All men are selfish, you know, Nell. I ought, of course, to say 'Good-bye, sweetheart,' go and be happy with someone else—some happy dog with more pence than debts. Shouldn't I now, instead of saying—well, all the romantic things I have been saying, eh, Nellie!" And Lord Seaforth laughed.

"I don't think you have been saying anything very romantic," retorted Nellie, rather indignantly, now drying her tears.

"Haven't I? Well, don't look angry. I meant them at least. Nellie, all my life I've had no romance till I met you. That's truth at least—if I'm selfish it's because I love you well."

What did the girl answer? A loving, innocent girl, who knew very little or nothing of the world? Margaret, with her proprieties, and her art studies, and (recently) her warm affection for Vyner, had left Nellie very much to herself. This true and tender heart therefore naturally endowed the man she loved with every perfection. Seaforth was not only good-looking in Nellie's eyes, but noble, high-minded, and true. The wiser Margaret could see errors even where she loved. But Nellie saw none, and there was no one to point them out to her over-partial eyes.

Still "for father's sake" she would give no positive answer to her lover's proposal. But she did not refuse it. How could she—"I who love him so dearly"—she thought, glancing at the good-looking face which somehow looked more sad than cynical, there beneath the trees on the summer day with sweet Nellie Blythe.

CHAPTER XIV.—Margaret's Decision.

Another day passed, and still Vyner did not call on his betrothed Margaret. His betrothed Margaret, after mentally deciding that it was quite time that he should do so, wrote him a note to remind him, in her clear, firm, handwriting, of his duty, "as I feel a little anxious, dear Walter, that things should be settled now."

Vyner read these words, and then went and stood pale and deeply moved before the picture of his Eve. He truly loved Nora Trelawn! It was no brief fancy—not one of those light attractions which come and go, leaving no mark on many a human heart. No, he loved her—dearly loved her—but his honour bound him in galling chains to Margaret, and he felt only that Margaret could set him free.

He had made up his mind to tell Margaret the story of his early love. Even this had cost a hard struggle in his heart. A man knows well enough when a woman loves him and Vyner knew that the usually placid, composed Margaret loved him well. He had been her only lover, for one thing; for another, Margaret was proud of his position as an artist; and last, not least, his handsome face had won her heart.

But Margaret did not worship Vyner with unreasonable worship. She knew his faults; speculating in her calm, self-confident way how it would be best to cure them; feeling quite sure she would cure them, and that the day would come when Vyner would be every thing that she wished him to be.

Vyner, of course, did not know all the good that was in store for him. He only knew that Margaret Blythe was a handsome young woman to whom he was engaged, but whose nature was not akin to his own. But in spite of this want of kinship the idea of giving her pain was very bitter to him. Besides, she might mistake his motive. Nora's great wealth and her great poverty made the position doubly trying. Still for Nora's sake—yes, for Nora's sake, the man whispered to his heart, trying to take courage, as his trembling hand rung that night at the house door of his betrothed Margaret.

Margaret received him very affectionately. Vyner looked pale, almost grim. He had been hardening his heart as he came along the streets to undergo a scene. He felt that he was going to say a most galling thing to a woman who was a good woman, and worthy of better treatment from his hands. When Margaret kissed his cold cheek he felt like Judas. When she put her little caressing hand in his, and sat down by his side, he felt he was acting like a scoundrel!

How to begin such a story! Easy is it to say I will do this or that—I will tell this painful truth or the other, but it is not easy to commence words that we know will inflict a stab. Vyner sat silent, pale, biting his lips, trying in vain to speak the words he wanted to say. Margaret herself at last approached the subject of their marriage with smiling confidence.

"Well, Walter dear," she said, "have you settled anything yet? I have felt a little anxious to know, naturally, during the last two days."

Then Vyner rose from his seat, so visibly agitated that Margaret could not help noticing it.

"Is there anything the matter?" she asked rather nervously.

"I have something to tell you" answered Vyner, not looking at her; "something that I think it is right you should know Margaret—mind I don't wish to influence you—I leave it in your hands—still I will tell you——"

"Is there any reason I should know?" said Margaret, her usually calm voice not a little disturbed. "If—if it is anything that happened Walter before I knew you, I would rather not hear it, if it is anything painful?"

"It is painful—most painful—it happened before I knew you," said Vyner forcing himself to speak the unpalatable words. "It happened years ago, Margaret—six years ago—when I was a younger man——"

"I do not wish to hear it," again interrupted Margaret, and her face flushed, for she mistook Vyner's words.

"I would not have told you," continued Vyner, still with averted eyes, "if the happiness of another person was not concerned. For myself—for the sake of my own feelings I would not have told you. But Margaret, six years ago—I—I cared very deeply for a young girl I then wished to make my wife."

"Walter, what motive can you have for saying this to me?" said Margaret with some sharpness of tone. "You are bound to me now, why bring up this old story?"

"Still it is right you should know. Well, six years ago then, Nora Sudley, now Mrs. Trelawn, was very dear to me——"

"She is very rich is she not?" said Margaret yet more coldly, as Vyner paused.

"Yes, she is very rich," said Vyner, and his pale face flushed for a moment, "but her riches or her poverty have nothing to do with it. She was not rich six years ago, when I met her as a young girl at Warbrooke. I was a poor man then, too, Margaret," and Vyner tried to smile, "and in no position to marry—but I cared for Nora, and I believe my regard was returned, and after she went to live with her aunt, Lady Stainbrooke, I sought her out for the purpose of asking her to wait for me. But her aunt, Lady Stainbrooke—a wicked, worldly, lying Anglo-Indian—invented a vile story to part u[illegible] told N[illegible] married to another girl, and N[illegible] to be married Mr. Trelawn."

"He left her a great fortune, [illegible] lately?" said Margaret, whose voice [illegible] quite calm, but a little hard.

"Yes, I believe so—but you will do me the justice, I suppose, to believe that I am not thinking of her money?"

"Yes, Walter, I quite do you that justice. I think it honourable also of you to tell me all this—though I do not quite see your motive for doing so. I honour and respect you too much for a moment to believe that you would think of forsaking the girl to whom you are engaged—to whom you are so soon to be married, for the sake of a rich widow, though you may have had an early liking for this Mrs. Trelawn. Even—if my feelings were nothing—" and again Margaret slid her hand in Vyner's cold quivering one.

"Then—you wish our engagement to continue?" he asked in a strange, forced voice.

"Walter! how can you ask such a thing!" answered Margaret, and she hid her face upon his breast.

The manliness, perhaps the tenderness, of his heart made him only feel pity for Margaret at this moment. What right had he, indeed, to feel anything else? Believing Nora was lost to him for ever, he had asked Margaret to be his wife. Because Mr. Trelawn had happened to die, had he any right to play fast and loose with Margaret's affection? He knew that he had none, and he admitted this to himself while Margaret's head lay pillowed on his breast.

Then he moved slightly, and Margaret lifted her head.

"I thought," she said, "instead of telling me this—this painful story—that to-night, Walter, you would have fixed something definite about the time of our marriage? It is so wearing to a girl—and——"

"Settle it when you like," said Vyner, the grim, cold look once more returning to his face, and Margaret smiled, and still held his hand.

"Shall I?" she said. "Very well, Walter—then we must think of a house you know!"

. . . .

When Vyner returned to his rooms that night, he sat down and wrote a few words to Nora Trelawn. Nora, down at Roseland, living among her flowers had grown during the last two days to hate their brightness. The mocking sun fell on the river, the mocking sun fell on the roses, but there was no light in Nora's heart, only silent desolate suspense, sometimes despair.

No letter from Vyner! So three days passed, and she could bear it no longer. Then she proposed to her uncle Sir Thomas, to return to town, and that ancient warrior (heartily sick of the place, too, by this time) eagerly acceded to her wishes.

"By Jove, the old woman was right, after all," he said. One would get moss-grown living in a place like this too long!"

So Nora and Sir Thomas returned together to Nora's house at South Kensington. Here they found Lady Stainbrooke, who had been entertaining her friends, courting her neighbour, Lady Seaforth, and altogether enjoying herself.

She received Nora exactly as if no little unpleasantness had ever occurred between them. She had indeed taken herself to task for getting out of temper with "the foolish child," as she called Nora at Roseland.

"So," thought the worldly-wise old woman, "our handsome painter has got himself into some trouble, I suppose, during the five years of Nora's married life, and he has been forced to tell her this, and I was called a wicked lying old woman in consequence."

Here Lady Stainbrooke chuckled to herself, for, as we have seen, she had got over her little temper.

"A good thing," she thought, "a very good thing. Absurd with Nora's fortune to think of marrying a painter."

But to her ladyship's surprise and discomfort Nora did not seem to have got over her little temper. She spoke indeed so coldly to her aunt, that Lady Stainbrooke thought that her dignity required her to remove for the present at least, from Nora's house.

Nora made no objection to this plan when her aunt (at first) rather faintly hinted her intention.

Then her ladyship got a little warm again.

"I do not know what has happened to you, Nora?" she said. "If you have quarrelled with Mr. Vyner, I certainly have had nothing to do with your quarrel—yet you treat me with rudeness—absolute rudeness."

"I have not quarrelled with Mr. Vyner," answered Nora, her pale face flushing as she spoke. "I never quarrelled with him, aunt—as you well know."

"Then why my dear child do you make yourself unpleasant to me?"

Nora made no answer. She was not going to bandy any further words with Lady Stainbrooke, but she did not ask her to stay any longer under her roof. Lady Stainbrooke accordingly removed herself to Buckstone for a time, and took her rheumatic General with her.

"Never again," she screamed in her General's ear, as they drove together from Nora's house, "shall I endeavour to do any good to anyone! Look how Nora has treated me! I who *made* her—absolutely *made* her—to be insulted for the sake of a painter!"

"You shouldn't have interfered, madam," answered the General. "Men do not care to be interfered with—I don't."

Lady Stainbrooke shrugged her shoulders with an expressive shrug, and then relapsed into silence, brooding as she proceeded on her journey, on the general ingratitude of the human race, and the particular ingratitude of Nora Trelawn.

Nora Trelawn felt more low spirited and miserable than ever after her aunt and uncle had left her. Vyner's letter had followed her to Roseland on the very day of her return to town, and thus was delayed another day before it reached her.

Her neighbour, Lady Seaforth, called upon her, and the clever woman of the world instantly perceived that something unusual was oppressing Nora. These days of suspense had made her look years older than she had done before she went to Roseland.

At last, when four days had elapsed since her painful interview with Vyner, the letter that he had written on his return home after he had told Margaret Blythe the story of his old love, was placed in Nora's hands.

Ah, poor Nora! Only a few cold sad words:—

"I have seen M. B. and told her how it was with us long ago, but she does not wish to break off her engagement, and I cannot. Nora, what more can I write? I would like to see you, but what could I say? I should never have gone near you. Will you forgive me for having done so, and may God bless and keep you always, and in this (to me) most bitter hour.

"W. D. V."

Nora read the painter's miserable words, and then literally and truly in the emphatic language of old, she "turned her face to the wall." What had she to live for now, she thought, when all the love and light of her life had suddenly passed away into utter darkness?

(To be continued).

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"Well, I could try," said the young man confidently, leaning towards her in the moonlight.

And she acknowledged to her dearest friend the next day that she did experience a sort of queer tingling sensation about her lips, something like a mesmeric shock.

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A gentleman called on a lady one day, and was told by the servant that she was not at home. As he turned to go out he caught a glimpse of her head in a mirror through a half-opened door. An hour after he called on another friend, and found the lady there. "I have just been to your house," said he, "but had not the pleasure of seeing you." "Indeed, I'm so sorry. But I went out in great haste on business." "In such haste, I presume, that you left your head behind you, for I saw it in the glass." "Did you? It's very possible, I am so absent-minded."

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All applications for Shares in this Trust, or proposals for the sale of, or advances on, Steamship Property, to be addressed to 23, Michael's Alley, Cornhill, London, E.C. R. B. ELSEY, Secy.

ILFRACOMBE, Devonshire, as a desirable WINTER RESORT, occupies first place for mild, equable, and dry climate. (See Royal Meteorological Society's Record.)
Mean Temperature for Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. [illegible]
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Lowest recorded Temperature for ditto [illegible] (once only).
At Nice, South of France, for same period [illegible]

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White's [illegible] S,
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Is the most [illegible] ly,
It has not [illegible] [illegible]
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THE DIRECTORS OF THE SAN CEBRIAN RAILWAY AND COLLIERIES COMPANY, LIMITED, are prepared to receive applications for Debenture Bonds for £20,000 in sums of £100, £50, and £25, for 5 or 7 years, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on presentation of Coupon at Messrs. Backhouse and Co., Middlesbrough; or Messrs. Barclay, Bevan and Co., Lombard Street, London. The money is required to complete the Railway and Rolling Stock, and will be a first charge upon the Company's Property, consisting of Main Line of Railway (about 11 miles) and about 2200 Acres of Coal Mines, with Inclines and working gear, the whole valued at £200,000. Payment, one-fifth on Allotment, one-fifth one month after Allotment, and one-fifth at intervals of two months, or if paid in full on Allotment, a discount of 2 per cent. will be allowed. Principal and Interest guaranteed by the Company. For particulars apply to the Secretary, Mr. A. Hallam, 7, Exchange Place, Middlesbrough; or Brokers, Messrs. Tomkinson and Price, 3, Copthall Buildings, London, E.C.

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RHEUMATISM, GOUT, BRONCHIAL & CHEST DISEASES. A complete & effectual system of Pine Baths and Inhalations for the cure of these maladies—same as adopted in Homburg, Reichenhall, & Ischl, will shortly be open to the public at the *Hydro-Therapeutic Establishment, Queen's Hotel, Farnboro', Hants.* STERN'S PINE PRODUCTS will be used.

SCHOOLS' PRIZE DISTRIBUTIONS AND ENTERTAINMENTS.

CONSETT BRITISH.

About twelve months ago, Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., conceived the idea of offering a number of monetary prizes to the children attending the several elementary schools in Consett, for a somewhat interesting and novel competition, viz: Those who acquired knowledge and proficiency in the physical geography of Canada. The subject was submitted to the managers of the schools, with the result that the heads of three of them—the National, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic, and the British—heartily agreed to co-operate with Mr Geo. T. Hyden in the promotion of the object. The management of the Wesleyan Schools, however declined to participate in the competition. By mutual arrangement, the masters and teachers were privileged to devote for the space of six months a certain percentage of their time and labour in instructing their pupils in this branch of study, and a large proportion of the scholars availed themselves of this favourable opportunity of interesting themselves in the geographical history of Canada and her dominions. In November last, the boys and girls of the several schools were examined by Mr W. I. McKay, head-master of the Kyo Board Schools, the *modus operandi* at each school being almost identical, and his report, after testing their knowledge on the subject, and scrutinizing their exercises, was of a highly encouraging and satisfactory nature. On Wednesday afternoon, in the British Schools, prizes in money ranging from £2 to 5s each, were presented to the successful scholars by Mrs and Miss Jenkins, the total amount thus awarded representing over £20. Amongst the company present were Rev D. Power (St Patrick's Schools), Mr Dawson (National Schools), Mr Hyden (British Schools), Mr MacKay (examiner), in addition to several ladies.

Mr JENKINS, addressing the scholars assembled, explained at length the nature and object of the competition. He told them that the Dominion of Canada covered an area larger than the whole of Europe, and did not possess a population of much more than one-sixth of the whole of England. His aim was to interest the young in, and make them thoroughly conversant with, the customs, the peculiarities, and the manners of the people, describing climatic and atmospheric conditions, and pointing out its endless resources of undeveloped wealth and its productive and manufacturing capabilities. The idea first occurred to him of holding such a competition upon reading some excellent articles in the *Times*, from a reliable and able correspondent, in relation to this wonderful and marvellous part of Her Majesty's empire. He believed that Canada would some day become a very important colony. Whatever its future may be, however, its past association with England he hoped would never be changed, either by federation or otherwise; for he trusted that Canada would continue to remain one of our colonies, and be attached to the British Empire. A great many English people were emigrating to Canada, in order to seek a more fertile and remunerative field of labour. Great Britain was merely a small speck as compared with Canada, Australia, India, and other parts of the Indian Empire. To Canada flocked a large population of English-speaking races, and it was probable that the English tongue would be spread all over the globe. After adverting to the facilities for travelling, means of instant communication, and the benefits claimed by a free system of trading, during the past half-century, Mr Jenkins stated that he did not advise emigration from this country, but his object was to make them thoroughly conversant with the geographical aspect and commercial advantages of our colonies, Canada in particular, so that any of them could ascertain for themselves whether they could improve their position in life by going there. The population of Great Britain was gradually increasing—he hoped it would continue to grow, as he was convinced it was productive of greater wealth to the nation—and some of them must necessarily travel to fresh fields of labour to earn a comfortable livelihood. He was pleased to see that Mr McKay's report of the examination was extremely satisfactory, and it was alike creditable to themselves and their instructors. He hoped it would be the means of encouraging them to study the subject more thoroughly, and to interest themselves in the welfare of our colonies. He announced his intention of holding similar competitions every year, and of repeating the prizes. (Loud applause.) He advised the boys and girls to let their parents invest their prizes for them, and not waste the money. He would also distribute a number of pamphlets descriptive of Canada amongst them, and he also intended to present the successful competitors with an illuminated card as soon as they were out of the printer's hands. He concluded by expressing his thanks to Mr McKay and the masters, who had been so diligent in training their pupils. (Applause.)

The prizes were then distributed to the following:—

British Schools.—1, J. W. Bryant, £2; 2, E. Carlile, 3, Joe Allison, £1 2s 2d; 4, R. Bradley, 5, G. Brand, 6, H. Farnsworth, 7, G. Cockburn, 8, G. Smith, 9, W. Reed, 10s; 10, J. Wylam, 11, T. Wood, 12, C. Piggins, 13, T. Brown, 14, W. Richards, 15, J. Topham, 16, J. White, 17, J. Dixon, 18, J. G. Grant, 19, W. Dormer, 20, G. Anderson, 21, T. Elsdon, 5s.

Roman Catholic School.—1, T. Forkin, £2; 2, J. Kelly, £1 2s 6d; 3, Hugh Devin, 4, Kate Cairns, 16s 3d; 5, Jos. Quigley, 6, Mary McNally, 7, Tessa McDonald, 8, Ann Haggan, 9, M. Lambe, 10s; 10, M. McKenna, 11, R. McGeoghegan, 12, T. Lambe, 13, C. Dogherty, 14, A. Donnolly, 15, Owen Cassidy, 16, J. Ford, 17, P. McAnaney, 18, T. McAlister, 19, Geo. McArdle, 20, Mary A. Ward, 5s.

National School.—G. Richardson, £2; 2, A. Surtees, 3, R. Muir, £1 2s 6d; 4, J. Hamilton, 5, J. Robinson, 6, W. Monaghan, 7, S. Johnson, 8, J. Hodgson, 9, J. Aynsley, 10s; 10, A. Taylor, 11, F. Kempster, 12, J. Bell, 13, G. Stokoe, 14, H. Bell, 15, G. Arnott, 16, J. Whaley, 17, J. Ellis, 18, J. Wright, 19, G. Hetherington, 20, E. Smith, 5s.

Father POWER said: I regret very much that Father Foran left home yesterday morning without knowing that this distribution of prizes was to come off to-day. As Rector of our mission, as manager of our schools, as a man of travel, his words here would have more weight, and secure more interest than mine. I know, however, his sentiments on the event of the afternoon, and in his name, and that of all concerned in the schools, I offer Mr Jenkins thanks and congratulation on the successful accomplishment of his scheme for promoting a deep and widespread knowledge of colonial geography. If I were to say how highly I value this scheme, you might think I had kissed the blarney stone, and received its gifts of insidious flattery, and of eloquence surpassing that of Homer's Nestor. But as a matter of fact there is no room for flattery here. From the moment the scheme was made known I conceived the highest admiration for the munificence and practical wisdom that it exhibited. It is hard to say which deserves most praise. Many a method was adopted to mark the Jubilee of Her Majesty; many a local want was supplied during this auspicious year. The boys and girls have pleasant memories of feast and frolic in the Vicarage Field on the memorable 21st of June; but I doubt very much if a wiser and more reproductive method of celebrating the Jubilee was devised throughout the United Kingdom, than that which culminates in the distribution of prizes to-day. It tends to forestall the aims and the work of the Imperial Institute, by bringing accurate knowledge of the colonies to the hearths and homes of the people of this district. Each of the children who contended for the prizes may be looked on as a centre of light to the circle in which they live. The information these boys and girls have received, and which they are capable of imparting, is of a most important character. The labour market is congested, want and restlessness drive many men from our shores to seek "fresh fields and pastures new;" but I fear that want of proper knowledge, energy, and talent, are diverted into wrong channels, and much misery ensues therefrom. Need I say then that great credit is due to Mr Jenkins for the practical manner in which he sought to prevent what must be called a national loss—yes, a national calamity. It may be said that Mr Jenkins's work was very simple—giving freely from a well-stocked purse for a specified purpose. The discovery of America seemed a very simple thing to those who were not magnanimous enough to give "Honour where honour was due." Navigators would scarcely avoid knocking against so great a Continent. Yes, it was easy when it had become an accomplished fact. Yes, and when Columbus knocked in one end of an egg, and then made it stand on the table, he showed how simple a thing had puzzled his detractors. It is the prerogative, and the mark of exalted genuis to achieve success by simplicity of means and expression. If this intellectual movement initiated by Mr Jenkins were universally adopted, it would be hard to realise, and much harder to predict, what beneficial results might accrue to the community at large. How many a heart would be relieved of its crushing burden of care. How many a market would be opened, or rather created. It was a happy accident that sent Mr Jenkins to our district. The world has lost a traveller if you like; but Consett has gained in its manager. It is no exaggeration to say that its prosperity was begun and developed since Mr Jenkins assumed the reins of government at the Consett Iron Company's Works. I hope God may spare him many years to advance the interests of the district directly and indirectly by such works as the present, and by the high standing and commercial prosperity of the great Company that has called our town into being. I felt very much when Mr Jenkins expressed his scorn of the man who had no pleasant memories of, nor love for, the scenes and friends of his youth. Such a one richly deserves to go down to his grave "Unhonoured, unwept, and unsung." I hope that amidst the pleasant recollections which future prosperous colonists in Canada from Consett may cherish, that a large place will be reserved for the wise and beneficient gentleman, who, amidst the crushing burden of his official duties, thought of all, and helped others so effectually, to help themselves to a life of honourable independence. (Applause.)

Mr MCKAY (examiner) expressed his great pleasure on being present that day. He said the work of the examination had been to him a labour of love, and he was certain the study of the geography of Canada by the children had not been other than an unmixed pleasure. He was particularly pleased with the love the children showed for the subject, their intelligent knowledge of the physical feature of the country, habits of its people, means of communication, and suitability of the various provinces of the Dominion of emigration. From the manner the subject had been treated by the teachers, the children had not only gained a necessary knowledge of one of the most important of our colonies, but the desire for further information of that and other countries had been granted into them, and would no doubt stimulate them to the further study of geography. He considered that in the course of a few years the emigration of our surplus population would become an important question, and no finer country than Canada could be found for it. To get away into the open country, free from the dirt, misery, and temptations of our large towns with such ease, ought to be considered an infinite blessing, and not a curse, as sometimes is the case. He concluded by again expressing his admiration for the splendid way in which the subject had been handled by the respective teachers concerned, and believed that in no part of the country could the work have been more excellently prepared.

Mr DAWSON, on behalf of the respective teachers, very warmly thanked Mr Jenkins for his presence, and for his munificence in giving such valuable prizes. Test had been given to the study of geography, which would prove of lasting good. Referring to the remark of Mr Jenkins that he himself was but an emigrant from Wales, Mr Dawson trusted that he would always remain so.

Mr JENKINS, in reply, stated that much of the success was due to the enthusiastic manner in which Mr Hyden had formulated and carried out the scheme. If the teachers would suggest a scheme, he would be glad to offer similar prizes for the coming year, and to provide a tea for the prize-winners at the next distribution. He wished all a Happy Christmas.

Hearty cheers were given for Mr Jenkins and family, the managers, examiner, and teachers, and the meeting then terminated.

BURNOPFIELD.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with the Church Schools took place on Friday evening, at the Temperance Hall. The Vicar presided, and there was a fair muster of children and their friends. A long programme was well rendered by the pupils, which was as follows:—Opening hymn, "There is a green hill far away;" recitation, "Timothy Hardver;" song, "O, hush thee, my babe," children; recitations, "Two little girls," Lilly Tweddell; psalm xxxiv., Lizzie Ann Telford; "Papa's letter," H. Appleby; glee, "The open air," children; recitations, Earnest Appleby; "The old, old story," T. Green; "Love your enemies," S. E. Pringle; song, "Gently gliding o'er the stream," children; recitations, "The child's first gift," Alice Cruddace; "We are seven," Ellen Cruddace; violin solo, Ellen Smailes who received, quite deservedly, an *encore*; recitations, "The complaints of the poor," Mary L. Thompson; "The land of my birth," Joseph Wilson; carol (sung in the class-room in imitation of out-door singing, and with very pleasing effect); "Good King Wenceslas" and "O, Christus Natusest," children; recitations, "Lodgings for single gentlemen," Wm. Hood; "A little child," Sarah J. Thompson; glee, "Fairy voices," children; dialogue, "I'll be a gentleman," J. R. Biggs, J. Wilkinson, Wm. Rogerson, W. Hindhaugh; recitation, "The graves of a household," Margt. Pringle; glee, "Farewell to the forest," children; recitations, "Kindness to God's creatures," Martha Wren; psalm xxiv., Nellie Jackson; "An ideal of the market place," J. I. Morgan; hymn, "Rock of ages," children; recitations, "To an infant," M. A. Ivy; "Katie's home," Chas. H. Barker; Polly Bailey; song, "Across the lake," children; *finale*, "God save the Queen." Just before the conclusion of the programme, the Vicar called upon Miss Maud Watson, Burnopfield House, to present the prizes to the many joyful recipients—a task she very ably performed, heartily congratulating those who had done well, and gently encouraging to greater efforts those who were less fortunate. The meeting was very enthusiastic throughout, and closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Miss Watson and the singing of the National Anthem.

EBCHESTER.

Ebchester is assuredly coming to the front in matters musical. This is plainly evidenced by the really excellent entertainment entitled "Kinderspiel," given in the National Schools, on Friday evening. The performers were the children of the village school, and both they and their teacher, Mr J. Middleton, deserve the highest praise for their excellent musical production. Our old friends, the characters of the nursery rhymes of our baby-hood, which still indeed have charms for others than babes, were introduced to us afresh, living, moving, breathing, and, above all, singing, on the platform in the school-room. "Boy Blue" was there with his horn. "Jack and Jill," and the unfortunate pail of water stood there before our very eyes. "Little Red Riding Hood," "Contrary Mary," "Bo-peep," "Humpty Dumpty," "Little Jack Horner," "Old Mother Hubbard," and others, each figured upon the platform, and went through their parts marvellously well in their quaint costumes. The music of the choruses, in which all the children joined, was remarkable for its correctness and precision of time. Throughout this able performance, the laughter and cheers of the large audience evinced their pleasure, surprise, and great gratification. During an interval, Mr Palliser gave a humorous reading, entitled "Technical education." Mr F. Priestman kindly acted as Chairman, and Miss Linthwaite charmingly presided at the piano. Among those present were the Hon. Mrs Vereker and Miss Surtees, Hamsterley Hall; and Miss Carr, Ebchester Hall. The proceeds were in aid of the school funds.

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

"DON'T DIE IN THE HOUSE."—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed-bugs, flies, ants, moles skunks, gophers. 7½d. and 1s. boxes at Chemists.

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

Late Advertisement.

TEMPERANCE HALL, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

ON THURSDAY, December 29th, 1887, Mr. JOSEPH AUDI (son of the Sheik of Ramallah, near Jerusalem), a real Native Palestine Arab, will deliver a LECTURE upon the "Manners and Customs of the People of the East," in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge. Rev H. ROSS-LEWIN, Vicar, in the Chair.

Tickets, 6d. and 3d. each, may be had at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. Doors open at 7; Lecture to commence at 7:30.

BURIAL SCANDAL AT CONSETT.

A CORPSE EXPOSED FOR SIX DAYS.

An incident of a most extraordinary character has transpired in Consett this week, and reveals a peculiar state of affairs either with regard to the Poor Law administration or the functions of sanitary officers. On Monday, Mrs Agnew, of No. 2, Albert Row, Consett, made a statement to Mr James Annandale, J.P., sitting on the Consett Bench, to the following effect:—Her mother, Mrs McConnon, died on Thursday, and had not then been buried, nor was there any prospect of getting the body interred, as she had no means of defraying the funeral expenses. Her mother was a pauper in receipt of 4s per week, and Mrs Agnew had repeatedly made application to Mr J. Moon, relieving-officer, for money to pay the cost of the funeral, but he declined on the ground that some insurance policies were existing. Mrs Agnew stated that if her mother was insured, it was a fact quite unknown to herself, and the only insurance money she received was 21s, which was spent in preliminary expenses—liquor, candles, &c.—The magistrate told Mrs Agnew that she ought to have taken the money she had received to the relieving-officer, and asked him to advance the requisite sum for giving the old woman a decent burial. Under the circumstances, he advised the police authorities to see Mr Moon, and endeavour to have the body interred as speedily as possible, and if the Poor Law authorities felt that they had been defrauded by any person, they could institute legal proceedings against the defaulters in the same way as they had previously done. He was perfectly sure the relieving-officer had justifiable grounds for his course of action; but still they could not have the corpse lying in the house, and thus allow it to become a nuisance to the district. Mr Annandale explained that he was expressing his opinion merely as a private individual, and not in his judicial capacity.—The statement of Mrs Agnew, as far as it goes, appears to be substantially correct. She lived with her mother in a house of two rooms, and was surrounded by a family of nine or ten children. The body laid on the bed from Thursday to a late hour on Monday night, without any steps being taken to bury it—in fact, a coffin had been made by Mr J. Bales, Medomsley Road, but he refused to convey it to the house till somebody guaranteed payment for it. The sanitary inspector (Mr W. Rippon) took steps on Saturday to have the body interred, but without success. He had been advised not to accept the responsibility of burying the body himself, although it subsequently became a nuisance. Supt. Oliver visited the house on Monday night, and was confronted by an abominable stench, the body then being in an advanced stage of decomposition. Rather than have the town the centre of a fever epidemic, he ordered a coffin and offered to bear the cost out of his own pocket. Indeed, two of Agnew's children were suffering from illness. The body was accordingly coffined on Tuesday morning, and the same afternoon the remains of Mrs McConnon were interred in Benfieldside Cemetery. It seems there are one or two insurance policies in favour of the deceased, a man named Dempsey having received several pounds on account of the old woman's death, but refused to give anything towards procuring for her a decent burial. Mr Moon objected on principle to pay the money, being firmly convinced that the Guardians and the ratepayers were being imposed upon. We understand that the relieving-officer has borne out of his own purse the cost incurred by the funeral, and has not deemed it fit, under the circumstances, to issue the usual orders given by the Guardians until further enquiries have been made.

STANHOPE PETTY SESSIONS.

FRIDAY, Dec. 16th.—Before C. J. BACKHOUSE, Esq. (in the chair), Dr ARNISON, and the Rev G. P. WILKINSON.

DRUNKENNESS.

The following persons were fined for being drunk:—*Anthony Robinson*, on Nov. 18th, at Stanhope, 7s 6d; *Joseph Pattison*, on Nov. 18th, at Stanhope, 7s 6d; *Joseph Best*, on Nov. 18th, at Stanhope, 10s; *George Priestman*, on Dec. 3rd, at Stanhope, 6s; *Isaac Alderson*, on Dec. 4th, at Frosterley, 12s.

ASSAULT.

John Bell, of Bolts Burn, Rookhope, was charged by Thomas Lee, farmer, at the new church building, Eastgate, with assaulting him between Eastgate and Stanhope, on Dec. 3rd.—Fined £1 and costs.

OBSTRUCTING THE POLICE.

Burnhope Johnson, Frosterley, was charged with obstructing P.C. Johnson while in the execution of his duty, on Dec. 4th, at Frosterley.—Fined 12s.

HAWKING WITHOUT A LICENSE.

Margaret Harrison, of Alston, was charged with hawking without a license, at Wearhead, on Nov. 24th.—Case dismissed on defendant promising to take out a certificate.

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

A meeting was held at the Board-room, Stanhope, on Friday—Dr Livingstone presiding.—The Clerk reported the gross rental of the Union was £89,816, being a decrease of £3,990 on last year. The total rateable value was £78,085, a decrease of £3,261.—The Local Government Board at last consent to pay Dr Hood, Tow Law, a gratuity of £5 5s for performing a difficult operation on a pauper.—Dr Montgomery was re-elected medical officer for Derwent district.—A communication was read from the Home Office, asking for the observations of the Guardians on a letter from Mr T. Phillipson, Stanhope, a candidate for Stanhope rate collectorship. The following is the extract referred to:—"I am informed that the Government auditor states that the candidate who receives a majority of votes in the first or any round of voting is duly elected. In the two contests which have just take place I stood first each time, with a clear majority in the first round of voting; in the first contest with 13 votes out of 19 Guardians present. I submit that this was a much better test of the opinion of the Guardians as to suitability than the votes cast in the last round for the person declared elected, as it indicated a general confidence, whereas in the last vote they must select of two the one they deem the most suitable. This I simply submit for your consideration, and trust to be favoured with your opinion."—Mr Curry: That is my opinion, too.—The Clerk had drafted a reply to the Imperial Authority. In it the Clerk pointed out that 12 votes were cast for Mr Phillipson in the first round, but only 8 in the second, when, according to the arrangement, his name was struck off the list. On the authority of cases decided in the Court of Queen's Bench the Guardians maintain that the course pursued by them was both legal and equitable, and a more strict test than the one submitted by Mr Phillipson.—The Guardians were of opinion that such an answer should be sent.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

At Friday's meeting, the Inspector reported that with the exception of a few lingering cases of measles the district was clear of infectious disease. The Inspector further reported that there was a house at Wolsingham in a dangerous state.—The Inspector has to see the agent and report at the next meeting.—The Eastgate villagers memorialised the Authority for a supply of water.—Mr Hildyard, J.P., writes, per his agent, that he has but little property in Eastgate, but is willing to give a small contribution. Bainbridge's trustees assent to the utilisation of a water supply from their property at 1s per annum, for, say, ten years, subject to the usual conditions respecting pipes, &c.—The Authority did not consider this aspect of affairs as encouraging, and the scheme was laid upon the table.

A SEVERE SNOWFALL.

During Tuesday night, there was a very heavy fall of snow in Consett and district and the upper regions of Western Durham, the ground being covered on Wednesday morning to a depth of about a foot—in some places even more. The snow-ploughs had to be brought into use to clear the public streets for ordinary traffic. None of the roads are actually blocked up. At Shotley Bridge, Lanchester, and immediate localities, snow lies about four inches thick on the ground.

A correspondent writes yesterday (Thursday):—Snow has fallen in Weardale with little intermission since Sunday, and is still coming down. The sheep are now being fed on the hills, and the bye-roads are blocked; but the main track is being kept open for the mails. The weather is intensely severe.

SAD SUICIDE IN WEARDALE.

On Wednesday, an inquest was held by Coroner Dean at the Workhouse, Stanhope, on the body of Mary Ann Wallace (29), wife of Thomas Walton Wallace, of Quarry House, near St John's Chapel. The evidence showed that the husband had left his wife on the morning of Nov. 22nd, going to his work, to stay a few days in Rookhope. Next day Mrs Wallace went to visit an aunt, a Mrs Wilkinson, living at Harthope Burn, St. John's. She had retired to rest with a cousin, and next morning had got up about seven, stating that she had occasion to go to outside. She had taken a large bread-knife out with her, also a sharp pocket knife, with which she had cut her throat in several places, one of the cuts having penetrated the windpipe. She was found by a boy named John Wm. Jackson, laying in a field behind the garden of the King's Arms Inn. Dr Bourne ordered her removal to the Workhouse, where she died on the 18th inst. She had been in a very weak and nervous state from the date of the birth of her last child in May, and had been subject to delusions, stating that she had poisoned her child.—The Coroner, in summing up, stated that the evidence clearly showed that she had died from inflammation of the lungs, caused by some of the matter running down the windpipe on to the lung and chest, this being the result of self-inflicted wounds, and that she was in a state of temporary insanity at the time when the wounds were inflicted.—A verdict was given in accordance.

ALARMING ACCIDENT AT STANLEY.

An accident, which might have been attended with very serious results, occurred at West Stanley on Saturday. It appears that a boy named Metcalf found what he took to be a stick of candy, and on meeting two other lads named Snaith and Pattinson, offered them a share of his find. Metcalf then proceeded to break the article with his teeth, but failing to do so by this means picked up a stone, on striking it with which it at once exploded, injuring the three boys, all of whom are now confined to bed. The supposed stick of candy has since proved to be a cartridge containing a dangerous compound, only a part of which, however, exploded; otherwise nothing could have saved the boys from being killed. The explosive is used in the pit close to where the accident occurred, and the circumstance of its being found in the manner above indicated is under investigation by the officials of the colliery.

MR G. W. WESTGARTH'S PATENT WIRE ROPES: A LOCAL LAW CASE.—Since we last had occasion to make reference to the above, a case of considerable importance to the wire rope trade has just been decided in favour of Mr Westgath's invention. His application for Letters Patent No 2,701 of 1887 having been opposed by Mr John Lang, the patentee of the well-known Lang Rope, Mr Birbeck (Messrs Tongue and Birbeck, London) supported the applicant (Mr G. W. Westgarth), and Mr Crossley (Messrs Task and Crossley, Halifax), appeared for the opponent, Lang, who objected to the grant of Letters Patent to Westgarth on the ground that the invention of the latter was covered by his (Lang's) previous patent. The objection was not sustained, and Letters Patent were ordered to be granted to Mr Westgarth, and a patent has been sealed and granted accordingly. The principle of the invention being applicable to all stranded ropes, and as the applicant has specified it as being applicable to the opponent's rope, it was also ordered that a reference by name and number of the opponent's patent should be inserted in Westgarth's specification. The invention is strictly on a scientific principle, having its basis in the fact of the uptake of length of the separate strands when they are twisted into the rope. By Mr Westgarth's patent method of twisting, any individual wire is made to appear in certain fixed positions most suitably adapted for the various kinds of friction which occurs on the rope. Further, a noticeable feature in his No 2 rope (the patent being for three different ropes) is that when the rope is bending over drums and pulleys the individual wires always bend in the direction of a straight line, thus the great stretching strain on the top side of the rope is relieved, and as this strain in many cases causes the wires to break before they are worn, the placing of the wires in the twisting of the rope, anticipating this strain, will very greatly reduce the possibility of broken wires. Another general feature is that no matter whether the rope may be 500 or 1,000 yards long, the appearances for friction of any single wire ever varies in its position on the exterior of the rope. Mr Westgarth has been obliged, we understand, to make certain alterations in the rope-making machines to enable him to carry out the objects of his invention; as it was impossible to construct such ropes (as his patent covers) with the ordinary machines as previously constructed, and his patent is being worked by Messrs Jos. Crawhall and Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne. These ropes are now working satisfactorily in the English and Scottish coalfields.

THE VEIL OF THE LADY OF MEIXOTLE.—The Church of Meixotle, Mexico, contains a remarkable veil of great value. For nearly three centuries Spaniards were in the habit of vowing a jewel to the veil of Our Lady of Meixotle if they returned safely from a voyage to Spain, until in Maximilian's time the veil was bejewelled to the value of about £40,000. Three German adventurers, after Maximilian's execution, determined to carry away this veil as booty. They made their plans with great care and caution, and secured the veil, but in some way they were discovered, and a party of pursuers overtook them in a narrow pass, where two of them were killed, the other escaping under cover of darkness, leaving behind him, however, the precious veil, which was regained and restored to the altar, where it is more vigilantly guarded than ever.

THE QUEEN OF SCOTS' HAIR.—The colour of Mary Stuart's hair has quite as much to do with the history of the world as the length of Cleopatra's nose. Yet it is quite uncertain what the hue of the Queen of Scots' tresses really was. In Heidelberg Castle are two quite authentic portraits, one with red hair, the other black. They represent the Queen of the same age. At the tercentenary exhibition at Peterborough there are portraits representing Queen Mary as of all shades of hair and complexion. The popular impression (see the works of Mr. Swinburne) is that her eyes were blue and her hair dark brown; but there is a lock of her hair in the possession of the Queen which is considered genuine, and this is light. It is, however, suggested that the Queen of Scots may have dyed. According to the Dean of Peterborough, Mary is quite "plain" in some of her portraits. Most women will envy that sort of plainness.

"LAMMAS."—The origin of the word "Lammas" is generally supposed to be derived from the Saxon Hlaf Masse—*i.e.*, Loaf of Bread Masse, the name of a feast or public thanksgiving to God, for the first fruit of the soil, in which it appears that bread made of a new wheat was brought as an offering of thanks; and it is still the custom in some places for tenants to be bound to bring in new wheat to the lord of the manor on the 1st of August. Others derive the name from a Druidic festival called La-ith-mas, in which the people made offerings of part of the produce of their fields in return for an abundant harvest. The word *ith* signified all sort of grain, but particularly wheat, and *mas* was used for fruit of all kinds, but especially acorns, whence our *mast*.

PRESENTATION AT CONSETT.

On Tuesday night, a handsome illuminated address was presented to Mr James Noble, formerly manager of the Consett Steelworks, who left here about six weeks ago, to fill a similar office at Messrs Dorman, Long, and Co.'s Britannia Steel Works at Middlesbrough. Mr Noble was at the same time entertained to a complimentary dinner. The proceedings took place at the house of Mr Whittaker, Wheat Sheaf Inn, Consett.

At the presentation, Mr J. CALVERT was voted to the chair, and opened the proceedings by stating that he had lived in Consett a great many years, and this was the first occasion he had ever submitted to take the chair at any gathering. (Hear.) He certainly would not have done so now had it not been the presentation to one of the most worthy gentlemen who had been in Consett for some years. It was not so long ago that he became acquainted with Mr Noble, but he soon discovered him to be a man who really deserved to be appreciated. (Applause.) Mr Noble was straightforward in all his dealings, and was beloved by those employed under him. (Hear.) That spoke volumes for his character. With these few remarks, the Chairman called upon

Mr GEO. T. HYDEN to present the testimonial, which consisted of an elegant illuminated address, beautifully designed and artistically embellished, and was encased in a superb gilt frame. The address, which was executed and supplied by the North of England School Furnishing Company, Newcastle, bore the subjoined inscription:—

TO MR JAMES NOBLE.

DEAR SIR.—We have pleasure in presenting you with this address in the name of your friends and neighbours at Consett, as a mark of their esteem on your removing therefrom after holding the important position as Steel Works manager for the Consett Iron Company (Limited), for a period of seven years, to enter upon a similar position at Middlesbrough. During your stay amongst us you have earned the respect of those with whom you have been brought into contact, by your manly and straightforward conduct, to whom also the kindness of your disposition and the urbanity of your demeanour, has endeared you.

And whilst you have shown a desire to assist in every movement for the general good, we feel satisfied that those placed under you have always esteemed you for the fair treatment they have received at your hands, as well as for the friendly assistance which you have always shown yourself ready to accord to them. We have further to thank you for the benefits which the district has derived commercially through your sojourn here, as we are of opinion that the success which has resulted from the introduction of steel manufacture has been due, to a considerable extent, to your skill as manager. In conclusion, we trust that in your new sphere your health may be speedily restored, and you may be spared to enjoy a long, happy, and useful life.

(Signed on behalf of the Committee)

N. ELSDON | THOS. W. WELFORD, jun.
GEO. T. HYDEN | C. W. ALMOND.
DANIEL SMITH | J. GOODFELLOW.
ADAM BRODIE, Secretary.

Mr HYDEN remarked that the words on that address embodied sentiments everyone should bear towards each other. He thought the theme a most appropriate one—Noble in name and noble in nature—as he had always shown a noble disposition, and in response to calls from his purse he had come forward in a most ready and willing manner. (Applause.) Mr Noble was a man who possessed a heart and felt for another, and he rendered all the assistance to the needy that he possibly could. They were sorry that the state of his health had been so uncertain of late, but he was pleased to notice that he was in the way towards recovery. (Hear.) One of our best writers has said "Be just and fear not." Mr Noble had faithfully carried that out in his every-day life. No doubt, there had been times when he found it difficult to combine justice with the general routine of business, but he had always striven to do his duty. The same writer had said "Do wrong to no man." He felt that Mr Noble had not consciously harmed or injured a single individual, but always aimed at doing what was right and just. He therefore begged of Mr Noble to accept that small present as a slight token of their esteem and admiration of him, and also pointed out that the feeling they had towards him was not limited to the company present that evening. The attendance in no way represented the number of gentlemen who had subscribed towards the testimonial. He tendered to Mr Noble their best wishes for his success and good health in the future. (Applause.)

Mr NOBLE, in acknowledging the presentation, said he scarcely knew how to adequately express his thanks to them for the elaborate and valuable present they had given him. He assured them that he valued it more than anything that might be given to him of more intrinsic merit, because the address bore on the face of it genuine sentiments. He knew he had been a good deal thought of in Consett, and he tried to make himself one with the people as much as possible. In fact, he intended to settle down at Consett, and become a native, and this induced him to accustom himself as much as possible to the ways of the people of Consett, and he was proud to know that he had succeeded. (Hear.) He was glad that he had been instrumental in inaugurating in the district a new industry with which he had been connected for the last 18 years, and every place he had been to he had never been attached to any so much as he had been to Consett—not only to the town and district, but the workmen he had had to contend with. He had left behind him at Consett the most skilful and best trained lot of men, who were second to none in the trade. (Applause.) He would have liked to have taken some of them along with him, but of course that would not have been doing justice to the Consett Iron Company. He was now training a few more men into his ways, and there was a possibility of his being as successful at Middlesborough as he had been at Consett. (Hear.) He hoped the steel trade would keep on improving, as there was every indication of its doing so, and with it the town and trade of Consett must necessarily prosper. (Hear.) He should continue to visit the place at Consett once or twice a month, as he regarded Consett as a sort of house he had left. (Hear.) He thanked them most sincerely for their handsome testimonial, and could tell them that if he possessed one of Sir Noel Paton's famous pictures he would not value it half so much as that beautiful address. (Applause.) He trusted, in conclusion, now that his health was improving, he would always be able to see the old faces which had become so familiar to him whilst at Consett. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN mentioned there was one individual who deserved their heartfelt thanks, having interested himself, and used his best endeavours in the promotion of that testimonial. There was no telling how much the town was indebted to Mr Brodie for his invaluable services, and he hoped the company would drink his health, wishing him long life, and might long be spared to continue the good work which he had hitherto done in Consett. (Loud applause.)

Mr BRODIE returned thanks, stating that he was always ready and willing to assist in any movement for the benefit of the town and its inhabitants. In fact, in a secluded community like that, it was the duty of every man to make his neighbours as comfortable as possible in all the varied circumstances of life. He regarded this work as a labour of love, and with respect to the present address, their thanks were really due to Messrs Smith, Almond, and Elsdon. (Loud applause.)

The company then adjourned upstairs, where a most substantial and excellent dinner was set before them by the host and hostess (Mr and Mrs Whittaker.) After the *post prandial* proceedings, the CHAIRMAN gave the toast of "The Queen and the Royal Family," followed with the "Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," making special reference to the constabulary and their recent action in London.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN, who was called upon to respond, observed that the police force had on frequent occasions difficult tasks to perform; and it was very rarely, even under trying circumstances, that they exceeded their duty. In 19 cases out of 20, it was generally the people themselves who were at fault, for they commenced the disturbances which the police were called upon to subdue. He (the speaker) had had as far as 150 officers under his charge, and he had taken part in quelling many riots which had taken place in the county, and only in one instance had he been taken to task for being a little too severe, and it was then that the police only acted in self-defence, as their lives were at stake. They were kept for the purpose of protecting respectable people's lives and property, and it was only by the lower orders that the police were looked upon with any degree of suspicion and disfavour. However, in these days of enlightment and progress, we believe that the antipathy to the police would ere long become buried in oblivion. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN next submitted "The Bishop and Clergy and Ministers of all Denominations," to which Mr T. W. WELFORD responded.

The toast of the evening—"Our Guest," Mr Noble—was given by the CHAIRMAN, who spoke of him as a gentleman. In their business relationships, Mr Noble and himself had always worked harmoniously and pleasantly together, and whatever he undertook to accomplish, he always carried it to a successful issue. (Applause.) Inasmuch as Mr Noble had introduced a new industry into the district, which would prove beneficial to the town at large, he was deserving of their sincere thanks.

The toast was pledged in a bumper, with musical honours, and Mr NOBLE briefly expressed his obligations to the company.

The CHAIRMAN subsequently proposed "The Town and Trade of Consett."

Mr CALVERT, responding, said that as one of the oldest tradesmen in Consett, he had pleasure in speaking to the toast, more especially as the depression which had prevailed for sometime past seemed to be now disappearing, and he had, no doubt, that Consett, through the introduction of the steel manufacture, would be able to hold the same successful position as hitherto. (Loud applause.)

The VICE-CHAIRMAN, in a pithy speech, next gave "The Iron and Steel Trades of Consett," and remarked that he was satisfied that the Consett Iron Company, under the present able management, and with the large means at their command, would always be able to compete with the strong competition of the English and Foreign markets. (Applause.)

Mr NOBLE responded, and in the course of his remarks stated that at present the prospect of trade was good. (Hear.) It might be a disadvantage for sometime to come to Consett, and to the whole of the Cleveland district, that the iron trade had been, to a great extent, superseded by the steel trade; but there was this consolation—that from recent experiments it had been found that the Cleveland ore can be made into as good steel as that produced from the hæmatite of either Whitehaven or Spain. (Applause.) With respect to the Consett Company he was not afraid to say they had the largest and finest Martin-Siemens steel plant in the country, and were able to turn out an article not excelled by that produced by any other firm in the world. The successful carrying out of this great undertaking was due principally to the great administrative ability of Mr Jenkins, who, by his cautious management and enterprising spirit, had placed the productions of his company in their present high position in the market.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of health and prosperity to Mr Adam Brodie, who had acted as secretary in the presentation, said this gentleman deserved their thanks for the willing manner in which he always came forward to assist in any good cause, and also for the able manner in which he carried out the work which he undertook to do.

Mr BRODIE having suitably responded, the toasts of "The Ladies," "The Chairman," "Vice-Chairman," "The Host and Hostess," and "Our Next Merry meeting," were given and, after enjoying a very pleasant evening, the company adjourned at an early hour.

The proceedings were enlivened with songs by Messrs N. Elsdon, G. T. Hyden, D. Smith, J. Goodfellow, E. Sievewright, and others.

At an ordination service held in Durham Cathedral, on Sunday, the Bishop of the Diocese ordained, amongst others, Rev Sydney Denton, of Sidney-Sussex College, Cambridge, B.A., and afterwards licensed him to the curacy of Tanfield, in succession to the Rev F. Newman.

CONSETT LIVERY STABLES.

T. C. RAWES & CO.,
PROPRIETORS.
Have Removed to their New Premises, opposite New Town Hall, Consett.
Horses and Carriages of every description for Hire.
HEARSES & MOURNING COACHES.
UNDERTAKERS AND FUNERAL FURNISHERS. 711y

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

CONSETT.—Constance Street, on the 22nd inst., the wife of Edward Whittaker, of twins, boys.

Mount Pleasant, on the 18th inst., the wife of P.C. G. Raine, of a daughter.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—17th inst., the wife of Mr Jos. Brown, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

WOLSINGHAM.—At the Register Office, 17th inst., Mr Dobson Gardener, Frosterley, to Miss Agnes Indian, of the same place.

DEATHS

CONSETT.—No. 12, Constance Street, on the 23rd inst., Hannah, the beloved wife of the late Wm. Stephenson, of Consett, late of Castleside. To be interred at Castleside, on Sunday, Dec. 25th. Friends please accept this (the only) intimation.

LEADGATE.—Quarry Street, on the 17th inst., aged 3 years and 6 months, George, eldest son of John and Jane Bell. Deeply lamented.

Commercial Inn, on the 16th inst., aged 60, John Kirk.

EBCHESTER.—At the Mains Farm, on the 21st inst., aged 66 years, George Temperley, formerly of Consett Park. Interment at Ebchester, on Sunday, 25th inst., at Three o'clock. Friends please accept this intimation.

CASTLESIDE.—19th inst., aged 15 years, Margaret Harriet Dent.

OXHILL.—14th inst., aged 72, Martha, wife of Ralph Gray.

BLANCHLAND.—22nd inst., aged 81, Mary, widow of Joseph Oliver, grocer.

ROUGHSIDE, near Blanchland.—aged 75, Richard Hogg, formerly of Allendale.

WINLATON.—18th inst., aged 83, William Marshall, mason.

PELTON FELL.—19th inst., aged 65, Ann, wife of John Hepplewaite.

ANDREW'S HOUSE.—18th inst., in her 70th year, Hannah, wife of Thos. Pyle.

HAMILTON ROW, near Waterhouses.—19th inst., Peter, infant son of Peter Freak.

LUMLEY THICKS.—16th inst., aged 76 years, John Smith.

LANGLEY COTTAGES.—19th inst., aged 65, Ann, wife John Bradley.

PELTON VILLAGE.—Hylton Terrace, 13th inst., aged 78, Henry Knox.

RYTON.—Barmoor, 21st inst., aged 75 years, Robert Murray.

COLORADO, U.S.A.—On November 29th, in his 45th year, Thomas M. McAdams, formerly of Shotley Bridge.

MOURNING GOODS.—HUGH MORTON and CO., 55, Grainger Street, Newcastle, directs attention to their Immense Stock for Men, Youths and Boys, ready for immediate wear, in all the Newest Materials and Latest Styles. Men's Black Worsted Suits, from 21s. to 49s. 6d.; Youths' Suits from 16s. 11d.; Boys' Suits, from 6s. 11d. Single Garments at proportionate prices. Suits made to order in a few hours.

GEORGE AND J. HOPE,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS IN MARBLE STONE, AND GRANITE,
CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL, AND BURNOPFIELD.
INSCRIPTION neatly executed in Town or Country. Special Designs and Estimates on application.

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