NORTH-WEST DURHAM EMIGRATION AGENCY.

PERSONS wishing to EMIGRATE can be Booked by the Best Lines to America, Australia, and all Parts of the World, at the LOWEST RATES, on application to ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, the only Authorised Agent for the Queensland Government in the District; or to Mr. JOHN CHAYTOR, Grocer, West Stanley.

☞ TO PARTIES REMOVING OR LEAVING THE COUNTRY AND OTHERS.

ADAM BRODIE, assisted by his Son, ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, undertakes the SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, FARMING STOCK, HOUSE PROPERTY, and other EFFECTS, in the most approved manner, and on reasonable terms. Instructions by Post punctually attended to.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

No. 1,325.

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

FRIDAY EVENING, December 25th, 1885.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

ADAM BRODIE,
SHARE AND INSURANCE BROKER,
TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
LOCAL GAS, WATER, AND OTHER SHARES BOUGHT AND SOLD.
☞ DEALER IN STEAMSHIP SHARES. ☜
FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, AND PLATE GLASS INSURANCE AGENCY.

ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, wishes to draw the attention of the public to the fact that Insurance of every description can be effected through his Agency, and that the Offices he represents are noted for prompt Settlement of Claims.

NOTE.—The Oldest Insurance Agency and the only Share Broker in the District.

ADAM BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

Contracts.

SANITARY PIPES.—TENDERS given for SANITARY PIPES, BRICKS, and FIRE CLAY GOODS of all kinds.—Apply to R. CURRY & Co., Delves Lane, Consett.

TO LET, by Tender, the CLEANING of about 8 Acres of Land, for Planting, at Holmside.—Tenders received by W. CHARLTON, Medomsley, Lintz Green, until 2nd day of January, 1886. The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted. 503v

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the several WORKS required in ADDITIONS to Co-operative Society's Buildings at Annfield Plain.

Drawings and Specifications may be seen, and Forms of Tender obtained, at our Offices, Rose Cottage, Shotley Bridge.

Tenders, Sealed and Endorsed, will be received by us till Four p.m. on Wednesday, 30th inst.

The Proprietors do not pledge themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

JOHN SMITH & SON, Architects.

December 9th, 1885. 446v

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE CONSETT LOCAL BOARD invite SEPARATE TENDERS for the execution of the following WORKS for one year:—

1st.—TEAM WORK, at a price per day for each Horse, Cart, and Man, and at a price per ton for Carting Rough Limestone from Blackhill and Carrhouse Depots to the Stone Yard and different Roads within the Consett Local Board District.

2nd.—The BREAKING of the above-named Rough Limestone at a price per ton.

Conditions, Specifications, &c., may be seen at the Offices of the Board, on and after Monday, December 7th inst.

Tenders marked "Carting," and Tenders marked "Breaking," addressed to the Consett Local Board, Consett, will be received up to Thursday, December 31st, 1885.

N.B.—Contractors must Tender on the Form supplied by the Board, which can be had on application at the Board Room, Parliament Street, Consett.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.—By Order of the Board.

T. W. WELFORD, Jun., Clerk.

Local Board Offices, Consett,
Dec. 4th, 1885. 425v

Wanted.

WANTED, AGENTS to push first-class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission.—Box 22, Post Office, Liverpool. 771u

WANTED, a GENERAL SERVANT; one that can Wash and Bake.—Apply to Mrs. G. ELTRINGHAM, 1, Walton Street, Blackhill. 500v

WANTED, a Strong BOY, as Apprentice to Blacksmithing; one who has been at the trade preferred.—Apply to E. WARDHAUGH, Shotley Bridge. 507v

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

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.

LADIES requiring Servants; also, Servants wanting Situations.—Apply to Miss COCKBURN, at the S. R. O., 13, Front Street, Consett. 828s

To Let.

HOUSE TO LET, in Watling Street, Leadgate. Apply to Mr. T. D. DRYDEN, Leadgate. 474v

TO LET, a HOUSE and GARDEN.—Apply to G. DRUMMOND, Hole House Farm, Allansford.

TO LET, a BUTCHER'S SHOP, at Kyo.—Apply to WILLIAM WILKINSON, Ironmonger, Catchgate. 368v

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP, No. 16, Front Street, Shotley Bridge.—For rent and particulars apply to HODGKIN, BARNETT, & Co., Bankers, Shotley Bridge. 353v

TO LET, a convenient HOUSE with Six Rooms, situated in Wood Street, Shotley Bridge. No Rates; Rent moderate.—Apply to WILLIAM WILSON, Joiner, Shotley Bridge. 437v

TO LET, TWO-ROOMED HOUSE, situate in Watling Street, Leadgate. Rent, 2s. 9d. a-week, including everything.—Apply, M. ROBSON, Builder, Leadgate. 513v

TO LET, at Medomsley Road, Consett, a warm and comfortable WORKSHOP, with Garden or Yard, suitable for a Joiner, Shoemaker, Tailor, &c.—Apply to W. JOHNSON, Delves Lane Crossing, Consett. 460v

TO LET, at Shotley Bridge, ONE-HALF OF A SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE RESIDENCE, containing Six Rooms and Kitchen, good Pantry, W.C., and necessary Conveniences, also a small Garden or Lawn on the South Side, with access from the Terrace.—Apply, T. B. SAWBRIDGE Guildhall Chambers, Newcastle. 54v

TO LET, at Catchgate, a HOUSE and SHOP, lately in the occupation of Mr. J. W. Davison, Furniture Broker. These Premises were originally built for a first-class Butcher's Shop, having an excellent Slaughter House, fine dry Cellar (cemented, well-aired, and adapted to keep meat in warm weather. There is also a good Two-Stalled STABLE and all necessary Conveniences. The Shop is well situated, and suitable for any business. A Capital opening for a Pawnbroker or Auction Mart.—Apply to GEORGE HOBSON, Harperley Mills, Lintz Green.

TO BE LET, with Entry at May-Day, 1886, WOODBURN FARM, situated one mile from Burnhill Junction, on the Stockton and Darlington Railway, containing 230 Acres more or less, of which 200 Acres are Pasture and Meadow Land, and the remainder in Tillage. The Farm is well watered, sheltered, and Fenced, with excellent Farm House and Outbuildings. An industrious Tenant will meet with every encouragement.—The present Tenant, GEORGE DAVISON, will show the Farm, and for further particulars apply to W. and J. PORTER, Boundary House, Lintz Green, Station. 435v

For Sale.

WASTE PAPER FOR SALE, at 1d. per lb.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett.

INCALVING HEIFERS FOR SALE.—Apply to Mr. BULMAN, Woodlands, Consett. 404v

TURNIPS FOR SALE, or TO BE LET.—Apply to Mr. BULMAN, Woodlands, Consett.

BULL CALVES, by Pedigree Bull, FOR SALE.—Apply to Mr. BULMAN, Woodlands, Consett.

DIARIES for 1886, at ROBERT JACKSON'S, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett. 420v

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

FOR SALE, Two Excellent HARMONIUMS and COTTAGE PIANO; will be sold cheap.—Apply to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 434v

HOUSE FOR SALE or TO LET, with immediate possession, situate at Iveston Bank.—For particulars apply to JOHN J. HETHERINGTON, 26, Market Place, Durham. 346v

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

FOR SALE, a New, Well-built HOUSE, with W.C. and every Convenience. No. 14, Mount Pleasant, Consett.—Apply to Mr. WM. ELLIOTT, New Town Hall, Consett. 465v

FOR SALE, a Bay PONY, about 14 h.h.; quiet to ride or drive; would Exchange for a Flat Cart, must be in perfect condition.—Apply to GEO. NICHOLSON, Dipton. 505v

FOR SALE, Strong SPRING CART, with Seat, little worse than new; very suitable for Grocer, Fruiterer, or Butcher; will take a reasonable price as Owner has no use for it.—Apply to M. ADAMSON, The Leazes, Burnopfield. 508v

For Sale.

AN IMPORTANT FACT.

£10 AND UPWARDS CAREFULLY INVESTED in Options on Stocks and Shares is the safest and most popular way of rapidly making money on the Stock Exchange, by the non-liability system. Explanatory Book (fifth edition), giving full details, *gratis and Post Free*.—Address, GEORGE EVANS & Co., Stockbrokers, Gresham House, London, E.C. 808v

TO BUSINESS MEN AND OTHERS.

TO BE SOLD, by Private Contract, that FREEHOLD HOUSE, No. 51, Edith Street, Consett. This Property covers a Frontage of 24 feet, and contains Six Spacious Apartments so arranged that two or more could be added. All the large Yard is well Cemented, and has the necessary Out-houses attached. The Front has a fine entrance, with a beautiful inside door; the Passage being more than Five feet wide, and laid in Encaustic Tiles. The principal apartments have very costly Crystal Chandeliers, beautiful in daytime, but doubly so when the cut glass is illuminated at night. From the situation, being adjacent to the Courts and Business Centre, the Property is likely to advance much in value.—Apply on the premises to the Owner, THOMAS McILROY, who is going abroad. 479v

Business Announcements.

MESSRS. G. T. TINN & SONS,

SURGEON DENTISTS,

42, NEW BRIDGE STREET,

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted on the latest and most improved system, without causing the slightest pain, of the Purest and Best Materials.

All operations performed with the greatest care, and on the most reasonable terms.

MINERAL TEETH FROM 5s. PER TOOTH.

UPPER OR LOWER SETS FROM £2 10s.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

DAWSON and CO.'S Old-established Pianoforte Business is REMOVED from 1 and 1a, Saville Row, to SPACIOUS PREMISES at
142, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

☞ Largest Stock in the North. Pianos from 15 Guineas. Violins, Brass, and all Small Instruments.

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

JOHN FREEK,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
23, VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.

HOT DINNERS, TEAS, and other REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice and most Reasonable Terms.

N.B.—As J. F. has a REGISTRY OFFICE in connection with his Business, Ladies wanting Servants would do well to give him a call. 384o

WILLIAM RAW.
AUCTIONEER.
VALUER, AND COMMISSION AGENT,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL,
CO. DURHAM.

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.

Agent for the SALE of BUILDING SITES at the following places:—Benfieldside Estate, Broomhill Estate, Ebchester, Low Finings Estate, Langley Park, Consett, Leadgate, and Blackhill.

☞ All business properly and carefully attended to.

AUSTRIAN FLOUR.

UHL AND CO.'S VIENNA FLOUR.

PURVEYORS TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

THE BEST FLOUR FOR HOUSEHOLD USE IS

UHL'S VIENNA FLOUR

NUTRITIOUS. DIGESTIVE. WARRANTED PURE.

Yielding an unusual quantity of Bread, and unequalled in quality by any other Flour known. Delivered to all parts of the United Kingdom, in 5 or 20 stone Bags.

For samples and quotations for single or more Bags, apply to
EDWARD FRYD, Sole Agent,
WHITE HART YARD,
(Entrance opposite North-Eastern Bank, Grey Street),
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
THE TRADE ALSO SUPPLIED.

UHL'S VIENNA FLOUR

NOW ALSO SOLD BY ALL LEADING GROCERS AND FLOUR DEALERS IN 6LB. COTTON BAGS.

Retailers not yet supplied, please apply to
EDWARD FRYD, SOLE AGENT,
WHITE HART YARD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

HUGHES & CO.'S

PHARMACY,

OPPOSITE THE NEW TOWN HALL,

CURRY'S Invaluable STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.

CURRY'S TOOTHACHE DROPS.

HUGHES' Cough, Rheumatic, and Neuralgic Pills. The IXL Blood Purifying Mixture and Pills. Rheumatic and Gout Mixture, Hop, Dandelion, and Mandrake Bitters. Concentrated Sweet Essence of Senna. Compound Decoction of the finest Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla. Tonga, the new Specific for Neuralgia. Raspberry Beer Powder.

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

DR. SCOTT'S ELECTRIC APPLIANCES.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

☞ SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, AND VARNISHES.

HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES.

ALTERATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES

SHEEP DIPS—COOPER'S, BELL & RIDDLE'S McDOUGALL'S, AND OTHER KINDS.

HUGHES & CO.,
54, FRONT 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,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 23, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

W. [illegible]ITH,
[illegible]TIST,
OF 22, NEW BRIDGE STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

WILL VISIT CONSETT EVERY MONDAY from 11 a.m. to 5·30 p.m., at No. 3, MOUNT PLEASANT, where he will be happy to see his old and new patients.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted from 3s. 6d. per TOOTH, with all the Latest and Best ENGLISH and AMERICAN IMPROVEMENTS.

No CHARGE until a PERFECT FIT IS MADE, and ENTIRE SATISFACTION GIVEN.

Mr. SMITH will, with pleasure, call at the Residence of Patients to suit their convenience.

REMEMBER THE HOUSE:—
No. 3, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 390v

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.

BRICKS! SANITARY PIPES!

FIRE BRICKS, 2½in. and 3in., QUARLS, various sizes, GROUND FIRE CLAY, COMMON RED BRICKS, RIDGE TILES, FIRE BACKS for Glendinning Ovens, FLUE BRICKS, CHIMNEY TOPS, KITCHEN SINKS, GULLIES, JUNCTIONS, BENDS, ELBOWS, TAPERS, GARDEN EDGING, CEMENT, PLASTER, LATHS, HAIR, LIME, TACKS, SAND, COALS COKE, &c., &c., can be Supplied in Large or Small Quantities by applying to

R. CURRY AND CO.,
☞ DELVES LANE, CONSETT. ☜

STOCK OF BRICKS, PIPES, &c., AT DELVES LANE DEPOT.

824t CEMENT, PLASTER, &c., AT WAREHOUSE, GIBSON STREET.

☞ CHRISTMMAS. 1885-6. NEW YEAR.

THE ANNUAL

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL, XMAS CARNIVAL AND FANCY FAIR,

WILL BE OPENED AT

THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS!

9, 9A, AND 22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, WHEN WILL BE OFFERED

Thousands of all kinds of Toys, from 1d. each upwards.
Dolls, all sizes, Dressed and Undressed, from 1d. to 3s. 11d. each.
Christmas Tree Fittings.
Toys, Flags, Balloons, Reflectors, Candles, &c.
Special Prices for Local Bazaars.
Fancy Goods for Presentation at most moderate prices.
Needle Cases, Thimble Cases, Vases, Brackets.
Perfumes, Fans, Ornaments, Pen Knives, Scissors, Purses, &c.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MOTTOES

THE LARGEST AND MOST VARIED ASSORTMENT OF

XMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS,

PACKETS, at 1d., 3d., 4½d., 6d., 1s. FRINGED, 2d., 4d., 6d., 1s. EACH.

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR, 386v

PERSONS WISHING TO MAKE UP THEIR HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW, SHOULD USE THE

"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.

IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.

PREPARED ONLY BY

JOHN HUME AND SONS,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
BRANCH—MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 583r

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

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

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

JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN 289t

Business Announcements.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

THE 2 W.'S PRIZE ALMANACK!

GIVEN AWAY
TO
EVERY PURCHASER OF OUR
☞ HATS AND SHIRTS, FROM 2s. 6d. UPWARDS.
AT

THE 2 W.'S HAT SHOP,

NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, AND NEWCASTLE. 449v

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!!

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,

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

WHO, after an experience of Twenty-three Years' Competition in the District, has been acknowledged by his Annually-increasing Business, to have gained the high reputation of always keeping a very Superior Class of Goods (which are not generally kept in Stock), at prices which not only compare with any other House, but defy competition in the North of England, as he buys direct from the principal and best Markets for Cash, which places him in the position to make the above assertion.

LIST OF GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE FLOUR DEPARTMENT.

Splendid Household, 1s. 4d. per st., or 25s. per Sack.
Superior Fines, } Patent Roller.
Best Superfines, }
Finest Hungarian Flour, 10st. Bags, 17s. 6d.
Wheat Meal, Whole Meal, Granulated Meal, best Scotch Oatmeal, 2s. per st.
Crushed Oats and Beans, 12st. for 18s. 6d.
Indian Meal, 1s. per st., or 18s. per Sack of 20st.
Hen Corn, Rough Barley, Maize,
(All equally low in Price.)
Boxings, 9s. 6d. per Bag of 12st.
Bran, 5s. per Sack of 8st.

GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE PROVISION DEPARTMENT.

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

LIST OF GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE GROCERY DEPARTMENT.

Excellent Sugar	1½d.	per lb.
First-class Sugar	2d.	,,
Granulated Sugar	2¼d.	,,
Crystalised Sugar	2½d.	,,
Finest Loaf Sugar	2½d.	,,
Raisins	5d.	,,
Splendid Currants	3d.	,,
Sultanas	4d.	,,
Lemon Peel	4½d. and 6d.	,,
USE SINCLAIR'S BROWN TWIST.		
Best Pale Soap (White Windsor	3d.	,,
Best Grey Mottled Soap	3d.	,,
Brown Almond Soap	2d.	,,
[illegible] Soap	2d.	,,
[illegible]	5½d. and 6d.	per tin.
USE SINCLAIR'S IRISH ROLL.		
[illegible]	2½d.	per lb.
[illegible]	4d. per lb., or 3s. 6d.	per doz. lbs.
[illegible]	2lb. packets, 1s. 3d.	
2lb. [illegible] Beef	9d.	per tin.
Tins Ra[illegible]	1s. 1d.	,,
Tins Milk	4½d.	,,
Tins Sardines	4½d. and 9d.	,,
Phillipe and Canand Sardines	1s. 2d.	,,
Relish	2½d.	per bottle.
Ketchup	[illegible]	,,
Pickles and Onions	[illegible]	,,
Ground Rice	[illegible]	
White Whole Rice	2d.	per lb.

Finest Patna Rice	2d.	per lb.
Large and Small Sago	3d.	,,
USE SINCLAIR'S ROUGH-CUT SHAG.		
Matches (Bryant & Mays)	2d.	per doz.
Square Blue	5d.	per lb.
Corned Beef, best	7d.	,,
Brawn	6d.	,,
6d. Tins Mustard	3½d.	each.
Black Bullets	5d.	per lb.
USE COPE'S MIXTURE, 4D. PER OZ.		
Tea Biscuits	3d. per lb., or 10d.	qr. st.
Mixed Biscuits	4d.	per lb.
Ginger Snaps	4d.	,,
Arrowroot	6d.	,,
Yeast	6d.	,,
Huntley and Palmer's Biscuits of every description.		
Best Coloured Sweets, all kinds (in Bottles)	4d.	per lb.
Pure York Mixtures	5d.	,,
BRISTOL BIRD'S EYE, 4D. PER OZ.		

A large Consignment of splendid Jam, which will be Sold at 3d. per lb.
2lb. Bottles Plum Jam, 6d. each.
Vinegar, 3d. quart, or 10d. gallon.
Spiced Vinegar. Pure Cassia, 1d. per oz: Nutmegs, 2½d. [illegible]. Pickles, Sauces, and all classes of Tinned Goods in great variety of Packages at a very small discount from cost price.
USE SINCLAIR'S SEALED SHAG.
USE SINCLAIR'S [illegible]

TEA AND COFFEE DEPARTMENT.

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

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF.
HUNTLEY & PALMER'S FANCY BISCUITS OF ALL KINDS AND QUALITIES.
ALSO, A LARGE STOCK OF CHRISTMAS LOAVES, FROM 1LB. TO 4LB.
A SPLENDID STOCK OF CHEESE, INCLUDING ROCHEFORT, GORGONZOLA, STILTON, CHESHIRE, GLO'STER, DERBY, AMERICAN, AND EDAMS.
HOME-FED HAMS AND BACON. WILTSHIRE SMOKED HAM.

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

WINES & SPIRITS FOR THE PRESENT SEASON

Selected from W & A Gilbey's List of 255 varieties, representing the largest finest and best matured Stock in the world.

No better guarantee of QUALITY and VALUE can be given than the fact that about every eighteenth bottle of Wine, and every forty-fourth bottle of Spirits, consumed in the United Kingdom is supplied from W & A Gilbey's Stock This statement is based upon the Government Returns.

WINES	Bottle	Dozen
PORT Castle A *from Portugal* An excellent fruity Wine with good body and flavour	2/	24/
PORT Castle B *from Portugal* A very good full-flavoured fruity Wine, well matured	2/4	28/
PORT Castle D *from Portugal* An excellent dry Wine of choice character, thoroughly matured	2/10	34/
SPANISH PORT Castle 1 A fruity Wine from districts in the North-East of Spain	1/3	15/
SPANISH PORT Castle 4 *from Spain* The finest old Red Wine produced in the Tarragona district	1/10	22/
SHERRY Castle SPANISH *from Spain* A pure Spanish Sherry, suitable for luncheon or dinner	1/3	15/
SHERRY Castle 3A *Brown from Spain* A pure Spanish Wine of excellent character	1/6	18/
SHERRY Castle C *Pale from Spain* An excellent type of nutty Spanish Sherry, moderately dry	2/4	28/
MARSALA Castle VP *Pale from Sicily* A delicate-flavoured luncheon or dinner Wine	1/4	16/
MARSALA Castle AA *Gold from Sicily* A well-matured Wine of excellent quality	1/6	18/
MARSALA Castle C *Pale from Sicily* The finest Sicilian Wine imported, and of excellent value	1/8	20/
CLARET Castle A *from France* A pure light Wine, an excellent beverage at all meals	1/	12/
CLARET Castle C *from France* A well-matured Dinner Wine of excellent value, from the Médoc district	1/6	18/
CLARET Castle D *from France* A fine-flavoured, well-matured Médoc Wine, possessing bottle character	2/	24/
SAUMUR Castle *Silver Foil* A sparkling Saumur Champagne	2/1	25/
SAUMUR Castle *Gold Foil* A sparkling dry Saumur Champagne	2/6	30/
SAUMUR ACKERMAN-LAURANCE'S "Dry Royal"	3/	36/

SPIRITS	Bottle	Dozen
GIN Castle UP malted corn Distilled from the best un- 33 per cent. under proof	2/	24/
GIN Castle OE malted corn Distilled from the best un- 17 per cent. under proof	2/5	29/
GIN Castle PROOF unmalted corn Distilled from the best Proof strength	2/10	34/
IRISH WHISKY Castle HALF-PROOF Pure Dublin Whisky 50 per cent. under proof	1/8	20/
IRISH WHISKY Castle UV Pure Dublin Whisky 17 per cent. under proof	2/8	32/
IRISH WHISKY Castle GRAND Finest Dublin Whisky 10 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle HALF-PROOF Pure Malt Whisky 50 per cent. under proof	1/8	20/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle UV Pure Malt Whisky 17 per cent. under proof	2/8	32/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle GRAND Finest Scotch Whisky 10 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/
BRANDY Castle UP For domestic use 33 per cent. under proof	2/6	30/
BRANDY Castle E Fine Brandy 17 per cent. under proof	4/	48/
BRANDY Castle GRAND Finest Champagne Brandy 10 per cent. under proof	5/3	63/
JAMAICA RUM Castle HALF-PROOF A well-matured Rum 50 per cent. under proof	1/8	20/
JAMAICA RUM Castle UV A well-matured Rum 17 per cent. under proof	2/8	32/
JAMAICA RUM Castle GRAND Finest Jamaica Rum 10 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/

All Bottles are charged 1d. each extra, which is allowed when returned.

AGENT—

W. AYNSLEY, *Grocer*, CONSETT & LEADGATE

ECONOMY IN ALES. OCTOBER BREWINGS.

NINE GALLON CASKS.—CASH PRICES.

	NINE GALLONS.
Mild Ales	10s. 6d., 12s., 13s. 6d.
Bitter Ales	10s. 6d., 13s. 6d.

	EIGHTEEN GALLONS.
Indian Pale Ale	18 Gallons for 24s., 27s.
Mild Burton	18 Gallons for 21s., 24s.

BOTTLED ALES AND STOUT.—PER DOZEN.

	HALF PINTS.	PINTS.
Bass & Co.'s Indian Pale Ale	2s. 0d.	3s. 6d.
Bass & Co.'s Sparkling Mild Ale	1s. 9d.	2s. 8d.
Maunders' Invalids' Stout	2s. 0d.	3s. 0d.
Nourishing Stout	1s. 9d.	2s. 9d.

Fine Old.	HALF GALLONS.	GALLONS.
Glenlivet Whiskey	9s., 8s., 6s. 9d.	18s., 16s., 13s. 6d.
Fine Old Jamaica Rums	9s, 8s, 6s 9d	18s, 16s, 13s 6d.
Old Tom Gins	From 6s. 0d.	From 12s. 0d.
Brandies	From 6s. 9d.	From 13s. 6d.

BRITISH WINES.—PER BOTTLE.

Port Wine	1s. 2d.
Sherry	1s. 2d.
Tent	1s. 2d.
Orange	1s. 2d.
Raisin	1s. 2d
Raspberry	1s. 2d
Ginger	1s. 2d.

GOODS DELIVERED DAILY TO ANY PART OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 1885.

CHRISTMAS.

IT is marvellous what an intense vitality is possessed by Christmas. Through "the ringing groves of change" empires rise and fall; nations slaughter each other in cruel wars; young and feeble settlements become powerful countries; savage tribes are swept away by the rising and advancing tide of civilization; but Christmas survives. True that in the progress of time it has lost many of its old associations; but in all Christian countries the keeping of Christmas, as we call it, is observed, and is still regarded as "the joyfullest time of all the year," though the fashion of "keeping" Christmas may have considerably changed. SHAKSPEARE wrote a few memorable lines [illegible] we doubt not [illegible]rned popular belief in his time:

> "Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
> Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated
> The bird of dawning singeth all night long,
> No spirits stir abroad, no witch hath power to charm,
> So holy and so gracious is the time."

But we live in a very different age from that of SHAKSPEARE. Our's is an intensely practical age. If the bird of dawning now sang all night long, whatever sentimentality might influence him, we should note him an intolerable nuisance, and feel inclined to wring his neck in the morning. We are not afraid of spirits stirring abroad, and are more likely to be annoyed at Christmastide by rollicking roysterers abroad under the influence of spirits. We know that no witch hath power to charm at this or any other time, and the people who believe in the existence of witches at all must be a pitiful little minority. But though we live, as we have said, in an intensely practical age, this is not at all in compatible with the observance of Christmas. That observance may have changed, as all our institutions have changed; it has been adapted to the times in which we live; but, with all its modifications, Christmas is a potent reality; it is as generally observed perhaps as ever it was, and we believe will continue to be observed as long as the world stands. We have, moreover, good reason to congratulate ourselves that some features in its observance have decidedly altered for the better. In the days of our forefathers Christmas used to be a time of feasting and revelry with a vengeance. Gluttony and drunkenness were among all classes characteristics of the time, and amongst the masses of the people Christmas was hardly thought to be Christmas without rioting and excess, revels and buffoonery, of a degrading character. In nothing perhaps is our advance in civilization and refinement more marked than in the observance of Christmas. Those who can, with observant minds and good memories, compare the external features of Christmastide in the present day with what they were half a century ago, will readily testify to the amelioration of our manners. But if we could obtain "a full, true, and particular account" of how Christmas was observed three or four centuries ago—which we never can have, for the chroniclers of the time did not go very deeply into such matters and compare that account with what nowadays we see at this season, the contrast would be marvellous and greatly to our advantage. There is too much mere animal enjoyment, and too much intoxication even now; but they are as nothing compared with what even middle-aged people can remember. And we certainly have greatly advanced in the systematizing of benevolence and charity; and this, after all, is the most pleasing feature of a modern Christmas. No tongue can tell, no pen can write, the vast amount of charity that is dispensed at this season of peace and goodwill. In our workhouses, our "homes" and refuges, nay, even in our prisons, the melting hand of charity dispenses its bounteous gifts; the poor dragging out a miserable existence in narrow, unwholesome tenements are gladdened by the angel visits of the benevolent; homeless and otherwise friendless outcasts are gathered together, and their lives are made brighter for a short time at least; and in a hundred ways the widow and the orphan, the unemployed bread-winner, the sick and suffering, are made to sing for joy. This is the best possible way for the rich to enable the poor to enjoy, what we heartily wish our readers,—

A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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.

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.

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

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.

Correspondence

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

THE TEMPERANCE PARTY IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I find there is an impression current that the temperance party have been worsted in the late General Election. Will you permit me to say that the very opposite is the case, and that more than one-half of the new members will support an efficient measure of Local Option.

So far as the four northern counties are concerned, with Cleveland and Middlesbrough, out of 34 members returned 29 will support Local Option, and most of these the direct veto. I believe the same may be said in regard to Sunday Closing. The 29 include [illegible] Liberals and two Conservatives. We [illegible] deeply deplore the loss of Sir Wilfrid L[illegible]awson, but we have the satisfaction of knowing [illegible] that he was beaten by a life-long teetotaler and [illegible] prohibitionist.—Yours, &c.,

THOMAS CARRICK.

Bank House, Appleby, Dec. 14th, 1885.

DOMINOES IN PUBLIC-HOUSES.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I was surprised to read in your last issue, a letter, signed "Ratepayer," referring to a disgraceful scene on licensed premises on the night of the 12th inst. Now, I was at Medomsley all that night, and I may say there was nothing disgraceful went on that I either saw or heard of. I fancy "Ratepayer" must have drawn very largely upon his imagination when he mentions the dozen men and the hand-over-hand fight. I did see two men have a slight squabble, not worth mentioning, but never a blow struck. So where the fastidious "Ratepayer" and company saw anything to be shocked at, I cannot possibly make out. Now, Mr Editor, I have lived in the village of Medomsley a long time now, but not nearly so long as "Ratepayer," yet I have often remarked that I never was in such a quiet little place in my life. There is nothing whatever to break the monotony, and as for any disgraceful scenes on licensed premises, that is what I have never seen once yet, since I became a resident of Medomsley. I think that "Ratepayer's" trade must have been slack on that Saturday night, and he left the block and wandered forth to where more business was being done, and not being in a very amiable mood, sat down and vented his spleen on the police, licensed victuallers, gamblers, &c. And, Mr Editor, as for the "Giant of fines," he is not a ratepayer, but he has more bombast than the very largest of ratepayers; but being bombastical and trying to raise a moustache does not make a "Ratepayer" in my opinion. Trusting this will find them both in a better frame of mind by this, and hoping they will excuse

AN ONLOOKER.

Medomsley, Dec. 22nd, 1885.

TITHES AND THE POOR.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian

SIR,—It was stated more than once by Mr Atherley Jones that one-third of the tithes of a parish used to belong to the poor. This is an additional instance of the utter recklessness of statements indulged in by our member, If he were as reckless in his own profession, he would soon lose his reputation as a barrister. Why should he not be as careful in his statements to his constituents as in his statements before a judge? It must be either because he thinks they wish him to make statements void of truth, or that they do not know any better and will believe whatever he says.

Acts of Parliament were passed respecting the relief of the poor in the years 1388, 1495, 1503, 1535, 1547, and 1601, but not a word is contained in any of these Acts about a claim on any portion of the tithes.

Monasteries were founded in the country for, among other things, the maintenance of "sick and feeble men, almsgiving, and other charitable deeds." At time to time the monasteries had the tithes of various parishes conveyed to them. Then when there was no endowment left for a clergyman to minister to the parishoners, and relieve the poor out of Christian charity, it was seen that in future some provision must be made for these objects when tithes were transferred, so an Act was passed by the heads of Church and State, ordaining that in any future transfer of tithes from a parish to a monastery "a convenient sum of money" should be paid by the monastery to the poor of the parish, and also that "a vicar be well and sufficiently endowed."

Thus it was only when tithes were taken from a parish and transferred to a monastery which rendered no service in return for the money, that a convenient sum had to be yearly paid to the poor.

Wherever the clergyman of a parish is a "Vicar," the tithes formerly belonging to that parish have been taken from it. There may be a portion left—but only a small one—for the vicar.

What has become of the portion to be set apart for the poor by Act of Parliament? The lands and tithes held by the monasteries were seized by Henry VIII, and most of them given to favourites for no services whatever. Tithes to the amount of nearly one million pounds yearly, and lands producing some millions of pounds in rent yearly, are now in the hands of laymen. And some of these men are clamouring for a fresh raid on Church property. For very shame they should hold their peace at least.

In Ireland, the landowners will receive a gift of the tithes about the year 1922. Thus, even in the nineteenth century, when the Church is despoiled, those who are richest already are to profit most. This will not benefit tenants, as the landowners pay the tithes themselves directly in Ireland.

How can working men be led to lend themselves to such a course? At least, why do they not insist on the plain facts being put before them, and not statements void of foundation in fact?—Yours, &c.,

A LOVER OF TRUTH.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Please allow me a little space in your paper to say a few words, about the "Young Conservative's" letter on the Church, in your last issue. He says, in the beginning of his letter, that the Church has received a large amount of money from old people who have died and willed it to the Church; these he calls "Endowments." Now, I don't think anyone will deny that, but, he must remember that there is a law that compels a man to pay tithes to the Church, whether he is willing or not. Now I think no man ought to be compelled to pay to a Church against his will; for the Word of God says—"Let every man give freely and willingly to his Church." If a man is a Dissenter, and wishes to pay to a Dissenting minister, he ought not to be compelled to contribute to another sect. It is to do away with such laws, and free the Church from the State, that Mr Jones favours Disestablishment—not to destroy the Church, as the parsons are saying. That shows that the State upholds the Church, for if it does not, why do they go about saying such things; and, further, why do they fear one party more than another if the State does uphold it? If it is not State-paid, why then is there such a law as compulsory tithes? It is religious equality we want. "Young Conservative" says further on the clergy are human beings, and must have daily food and money to get it with. Who does not know that? But he must remember that they are well paid, some have almost a £1,000 a-year, while many men are starving day by day; the most workmen get is between £50 and £100. I think that if the clergy had £200 a-year, it is sufficient for doing very little. I don't mean to say there are not any good men among them, and generous too, for there are; but there is on the other hand some who would not give anything that would educate and enrich the poor, nor are they fit to fill the pulpit. Mr Jones does not want to take from the Church that which really belongs to them, but it is the money that has been got by tithes, that he wishes to take and give it to the country at large, which would be far better than giving it to the clergy and Bishops, some of whom receive as far as £15,000 and £10,000; but I think £1,000 is quite enough for them. I can't tell what they do with it all. "Young Conservative" says: Mr Wilbraham was the most fit for Parliament. I couldn't see what he really was going to do when he got there but just to make gloves and silk dresses dear, as if a pitman's wife was not fit to wear them. I think Mr Jones is the right man in the proper place, and hope if he puts up again, he may be sent again by a larger majority.—Yours, &c.,

A YOUNG LIBERAL.

Cornsay Colliery, Dec. 21st, 1885.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—In answer to "Religious Liberty's" insidious, scurrilous letter, I beg most respectfully to thank him for his complimentary remarks, and I must add that he is a prodigy, and, I perceive by his letter, an omicient. He reminds me of "Simon Bore," who had been at college, and stripped the tree of knowledge. Therefore, it is an impossibility for anyone else but "Religious Liberty" to be possessed of knowledge. What an amazing being "Religious Liberty" must be. Prodigious! I think, with a little more skill and perseverance, he'll make a first-class quack or a Peace Association lecturer. For, I fancy, he hasn't enough brains in his cranium for the handicraft of watch machination. It is not about politics alone that this creamfaced monster, "Religious Liberty," would like to censure or criticise my opinions. But I must say he shows his envy, hatred, and malice in making mention of my humble occupation in my spare time as a jibe. This is all done by "Religious Liberty," who dare not attach his name to his scoffing, sneering memento, but substitutes a *nom de plume*. He is a coward or a mean contemptible cur. When did I say that Mr Gladstone and Mr Chamberlain had not done marvellous things politically in the past? If "Religious Liberty" will only make reference to the Soudan policy, the Coercion Act for Ireland, the destruction and the renewal of the Candahar Railway, I think, sir, he will agree with me that those and many more inexplicable wonders, too numerous to mention, are the works of a very inferior management, and they have cost our nation millions of pounds and thousands of most precious lives. And for what? Mr Gladstone says for fighting for their homes and hearths, and surely such are not ended yet, and we have to pay the leader of such ill-management five thousand pounds per year. Politically marvellous, indeed. Let us now see what Mr Gladstone has had to say about Protestantism. The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, in order to justify his iniquitious legislation and Popish leanings, this atrocious sentiment was uttered by him in Lancashire: that the Protestant Church was one branch of the Upas-tree of Protestant ascendancy, which, with its deadly blight and poison, paralysed the natural life. I wonder what sort of a meaning "Religious Liberty" will have for this? Now for Mr John Morley's opinion about religion. His book on "Compromise" says that a Christian is a highly superstitious individual, and that Christianity is itself positively pernicious to society, for he says he "positively, absolutely, and without reserve rejects as false the whole system of objective propositions which make up the popular belief of the day in one and all of its theological expressions;" and that he "looks upon that system as mischievous in its consequences to society for many reasons." Now, as those are the men and suchlike that "Religious Liberty" upholds, I should like him to study their sentiments, and not bother me with his insignificant accusation.—Yours, &c.,

JOHN G. ARMSTRONG.

Medomsley, Dec 22nd, 1885.

LANCHESTER RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The monthly meeting took place at Lanchester Workhouse, on Thursday afternoon in last week. Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., presided. The following members were present:—Messrs Wm. Logan, G. Hobson, T. Siddell, R. W. Shaw, Wm. Shell, W. Brown, T. J. Muse, J. Eltringham, John Buckham, Robt. Clark, J. Humble, Hy. Hornsby, J. Lax, N. Clark, J. A. Curry, W. Johnson, the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson), and the Surveyor (Mr J. W. Rounthwaite).

A DANGEROUS QUARRY AT CATCHGATE.

A communication was read from Mr J. Graham, coroner, drawing the attention of the Authority to the exceedingly dangerous condition of an old quarry, at Catchgate, the place being filled with water at the bottom, and a boy was drowned there some time ago.

Mr HOBSON said he had called attention to the dangerous condition of the quarry time after time, and he suggested that the stagnant water be drained away, and the quarry be filled up to the level with the drain.

After some discussion, the recommendation of Mr Hobson was adopted, and the Inspector was instructed to erect fencing, and to carry out the work as cheaply as possible.

THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

Mr SHAW enquired how it was proposed to drain the new hospital near Leadgate? but

The CHAIRMAN ruled that such a question could not be entertained, except at the meeting of the Joint Hospital Board a fortnight hence. He informed Mr Shaw, however, that the Board intended to introduce the irrigation system.

Mr SHAW strongly protested against cesspools being constructed, and considered that irrigation would be equally as bad. He hoped that neither the Hospital Board nor the Sanitary Autority would be parties to committing a nuisance. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN: I hope not.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr Rounthwaite) submitted the following report:—

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

GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with your instructions I have made a survey of the Quarry Field at Dipton, in which the sewer outfall is situated, and have ascertained the contents to be 3ac. 3ro. 19po.

In response to advertisement, four tenders have been received for the execution of the first section of the Burnopfield Sewerage Works. The Sanitary Committee have not made any selection, but refer the whole of the estimates to the full Board for their decision.

Some improvement having been made in the scavenging at Hamsterley Colliery, and the nuisances complained of at last meeting abated (so far as they can be abated until the village is sewered), the service of notices on the owners of the colliery and school managers have been delayed pending your further instructions.

Similarly, the notice ordered to be served on the Kyo Laws School Board has been held over, the Board having definitely undertaken to remedy the defects in the outbuildings at the Kyo School during the Christmas holidays.

Nuisance notices served during the month	10
Letters written with respect to nuisances, &c	26
Plan approval notices sent out	4
Plans received and examined	6
Habitation certificates issued	1
Villages and hamlets inspected	33

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. WM. ROUNTHWAITE.

Lanchester, 17th December, 1885.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

17th December, 1885.

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

633.—James Urwin, conveniences to houses, Hill Top, Dipton.

634.—Joseph Whalley, conveniences to house, West Stanley.

635.—Trustees of Crook Wesleyan Methodist Society Chapel, Esh Colliery.

636.—J. W. Kilner, conveniences to house, West Stanley.

637.—E. Taylor Smith, alteration of drainage to villa, Lanchester.

And that the following plan be referred to the whole Board for their consideration, viz:—

638.—Misses Surtees, conversion of one house into two houses at Low Ewehurst Paper Mill.

The Committee also recommend that a branch sewer be put in from the main hole near the King's Head, Lanchester, for the purpose of draining the houses between that point and the Nook; and that the Surveyor be instructed to prepare plans and specification for the same.

The recommendations embodied in the foregoing report were adopted.

Respecting the infringement of the bye-laws by converting one house into two at Low Ewehurst, near Dipton, the subject was warmly discussed, the result being that it was agreed to take no further notice, seeing that the outward appearance of the houses had been improved thereby.

BURNOPFIELD SEWERAGE SCHEME.

Four tenders were received for the construction of the first section of the Burnopfield sewerage scheme, and, on the proposal of Mr LOGAN, the tender of Mr George Robson, of Newcastle, was accepted, subject to the contractor furnishing satisfactory references that he will complete the work.

THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

The reports of the Union Medical Officers—Dr Wilson (Lanchester), Dr Benson (Tanfield), and Dr Bolton (Ebchester)—were read; but with the exception of continued infection in Langley Park and Esh district, the Union appears to be in a satisfactory condition.

There was no other business.

AUCKLAND ARCHDEACONRY: ELECTION OF PROCTORS.—On Tuesday, a meeting of the clergy, convened by the Archdeacon of Auckland, took place at Darlington, the leading business being the election of Proctors for the Archdeaconry to the Convocation at York. The Rev Canon Falconar, Rector of Sedgefield, and the Rev— Erskine, Rector of Wolsingham, were chosen.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d. tins, 1s. 1½d., labelled "JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent." While Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all fo ms of throat disease."

CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE AT CONSETT.

THE FARMING ENTERPRISE.

On Saturday evening, a Conference of delegates from the several societies in the West Durham and South Northumberland District (Northern Section) of the Central Co-operative Board took place in the Lecture Hall of the Co-operative Store, Consett, the principal business being the consideration of the question of "Co-operative Farming." The chair was occupied by Mr Philip Reay, of Annfield Plain, and upwards of 30 delegates were in attendance.—The Chairman dwelt upon the importance of co-operative farming to the members of their various societies, and considered that such a scheme, properly managed, would prove a remunerative undertaking.—Mr Jesse Hall (secretary of the Consett Co-operative Society), then read a paper on "Co-operative Farming," being in substance precisely similar to a paper read by Mr James Howard, M.P., the well-known agriculturist, at a meeting of the Farmers' Alliance at the Holburn Restaurant, London, on Thursday, October 22nd, 1885. The paper was classified under four heads, embracing the following subjects:—1. A review of the former periods of farming depression. 2. The causes of the present depression. 3. Changes and remedies suggested. 4. Advantages possessed by the British farmer, and the impediments of his success which may be removed. The first clause—a review of the former periods of depression—was omitted, the remainder of the paper being as follows:—

CAUSES OF THE PRESENT DEPRESSION.

These might be briefly summarised as over-production, low prices, and unpropitious seasons. To say that the wants of the world are very uniform may sound paradoxical, but the statement is, nevertheless, true. The demand for the produce of the earth, as well as the works of man, do not upon the average vary much, one year with another. Particular countries are surrounded by circumstances which enable the people of that country to produce certain commodities at a lower rate than the natural circumstances existing in other countries admit of. It follows, therefore, that the people of the most favoured countries have the power of influencing or regulating the price of their particular commodities in all markets of the world. As an illustration, the farmers of that great continent across the Atlantic, both in the States and Canada, have a vast extent of virgin soil, which has, hitherto, enabled them to raise wheat in great abundance, and at a very low cost. The cost of production, under these circumstances, has, plus the cost of carriage, regulated the price in our own market. So long as there is an abundance in the market for the supply of the world's wants, the countries which can produce grain at the lowest cost will be in a position to determine the price in our own—the chief maket of the world. Having, however, referred to two laws which determine the price of commodities—the action of supply and demand, and the cost of production—I will call attention to the occult influence of the currency question. A disturbance in the currency of different nations is held by one school of economists to have exercised during the past few years a considerable, if not the most powerful, influence in depressing the prices of commodities throughout the world. I am aware that to the majority of country people, the currency question is an enigma. The effect of the discoveries of gold in California and Australia some 30 to 40 years ago will still be fresh in the remembrance of many present. A sudden increase in the supply of the precious metal had the effect of stimulating prices and the demand for commodities throughout the world; the result was a long and general run of prosperity in trade, commerce, and agriculture. Although the effect of these discoveries was so marked and has been so generally recognised, it is surprising that so little heed has been taken of an opposite condition in the annual output of gold, which has been on the decline for years past. I am aware that another school of economists hold that the recent depression in prices has not, to any extent, been brought about by the diminution in the supply of precious metal. They allege that the use of gold in the purchase of commodities has long been superseded by bank notes, cheques, bills &c., and that gold is now used more as a standard of value than as a real medium of value. It appears to me to be evident that as cheques, bank notes, and bills are of no value, except as tokens of credit, we are thrown back upon the amount of money represented by these substitutes for coined money, inasmuch as tokens must bear a more or less near proportion to what they symbolise. On these grounds, I am not disposed to abandon my faith in the simple doctrine enunciated by Stuart Mill 40 years ago—viz., "Among other causes of fluctuation, one we have found to be the quantity of money in circulation. Other things being the same, an increase of the money in circulation raises prices, a dimunition lowers them."

CHANGES AND REMEDIES SUGGESTED.

The crisis through which British agriculture is passing, and its prostrate condition, have naturally led to a host of suggestions. Apart from the question of more propitious seasons which are beyond our control, I find that all the remedies naturally range themselves under four heads:—(1). Questions with which the legislature can deal. Under this head are (*a*) A reduction of local taxation; (*b*) The re-adjustment of tithe rent-charge, and the extinction of ordinary tithes; (*c*) Representative County Government; (*d*) Better security and greater liberty to the tenant farmer; (*e*) Relief from high and unfair railway charges; (*f*) A Board of Agriculture and support towards experimental stations; (*g*) Better security against the spread of cattle disease; (*h*) Facilities for the creation of a peasant or yeoman propriety; (*i*) A simpler and cheaper system of land transfer; (*j*) Abolition of the law of primogeniture, and curtailment of the system of entail and settlements; (*k*) The nationalisation of the land; and lastly (*l*) Protection. (2). Changes within the power of landowners. Under this head comes a (*a*) Sub-division of holdings with a view to the creation of a system of *petite culture*; (*b*) The proposal of the late Mr Bence Jones for abolition of the present system of landlord and tenant, and the farming of estates by landowners themselves; (*c*) Improvements in the existing system of landlord and tenant by giving greater freedom or management, and a revision of rents in proportion to the low prices of farm produce which have prevailed for so long a period. (3). Changes within the power of tenants:—(*a*) Fruit and vegetable farming; (*b*) An extension of dairying and poultry rearing; (*c*) More scientific and economical methods of management; (*d*) Co-operation among farmers in establishing stores for the supply of farm produce direct to consumers. (4). Co-operation of landowners, capitalists, and occupiers:—(*a*) The purchase of estates, and their sub-division into small holdings among tenants or purchasers. (*b*) The letting of land to a number of occupiers to be manged on the co-operative system. (*c*) The founding of industrial villages. (*d*) Joint-Stock Companies for the farming of land upon a large scale. It might be interesting to discuss the effect of what is popularly termed the reform of the land laws, which, like some of the other proposals, is of great national importance, and, if carried into effect, would exert a more or less powerful influence upon agriculture in the course of a generation, but it does not bear immediately upon the subject before us, at all events, upon the immediate interests of the present race of farmers. Local Taxation:—At the head of the list of group (1) stands this question. As to the demand for the nationalisation of the land which is going up from some of our great centres of industry, I would observe that if even such a course were desirable or possible, no immediate effect would be produced by this mere transfer of the ownership. Having carefully considered the subject, I have come to the conclusion that land nationalisation would be an unmitigated evil, as well as an act of gross injustice to the owners of land. Parliament, of course, has a right to interfere in all questions which affect the occupation and ownership of land, if it can be shown that such interference will subserve the public interest. But it is on this ground alone that interference in the ownership, occupation, and usages of land are justifiable. Parliament interferes in the management of ships out of regard to humanity; and in railways out of consideration for the safety and interests of the public; but I believe it is impossible to show how the abolition of private ownership in land would subserve the interests of the community. In the first place it would put an enormous amount of patronage into the hands of Government. I hold that the less there is in the hands of Government the purer that Government is likely to be; and that opinion has been strengthened by experience in the House of Commons. I also believe that the few bribes Government has to offer members of Parliament the purer and more honest representatives in Parliament will be. Again, the lands which are already in the possession of the Crown are not remarkable for the skill and success or the liberality with which they have been managed. Therefore, on these grounds, I decidedly object to any scheme for the nationalisation of the land. Protection:—In glancing at former times of depression, I have shown that the tenantry of the Kingdom under protective duties were strangers to anything akin to prosperity, except of the briefest kind. I have seldom met with more melancholy reading than a record of the condition of rural England during the first half of the present century. Until the recent depression of trade and agriculture set in, all classes in this country had come to regard the question of protection as dead as Queen Anne, but a certain party availing themselves of the circumstances of the country and the depression, have, under the guise of a Fair Trade League, raised the question of Protection to native manufacturers, and they have bid for the support of the farmer by holding out a hope of the re-imposition of the Corn Laws. I would remark that it must be obvious to every farmer who thinks upon the subject that it is one thing to take off a duty, but a very different thing to put it on. It took the best part of 20 years, backed by the most powerful and the richest League which has ever existed in this country, to remove the Corn Laws. How many years will it take to re-impose them? For the sake of argument, suppose that, in the interest of the English farmer, a duty of 5s or 8s a quarter were levied upon foreign wheat: if the agricultural returns are referred to, it will be seen that neither in Scotland nor Ireland is wheat more than a mere fraction of the cereal crops; the proportion in Scotland is only 5 per cent. of the cultivated area, and in Ireland 4 per cent.; whereas in England it is 38 per cent. Is it to be supposed for one moment that if the staple crop of the English farmer is to be protected by an import duty, the Scotchman with his 76 per cent., or the Irishman with his 84 per cent. of oats will be content that his produce shall be exposed to the rigours of Free Trade; whilst at the same time he is compelled himself to pay an increased price for all the wheat and flour he is obliged to buy? By such a course, we should not only have the hostility of the hard-headed Scotch to contend against, but we should be manufacturing on this side another Irish grievance. If any Government should be adventurous enough to make the attempt to revive a Corn Law, the farmers of England may rely upon it that all imported grain as well as flour will be included. An immediate effect of a tax upon all imported grain would be that the large and increasing class of graziers and dairy farmers, who grow little or no grain, but buy great quantities for their animals, would have to pay an enhanced price for the feeding stuffs wherewith they produce the various descriptions of human food raised upon their holdings. Nor would graziers be the only class injuriously affected; every farmer in the kingdom, however situated, would have to pay increased prices on all the feeding stuffs he purchases, for inasmuch as one feeding stuff competes with the other, any rise in the price of grain would have an effect upon the price of oil-cake and similar feeding stuffs. Another immediate effect of the imposition of a duty on corn, would be to check the downward tendency of rents, and ultimately, as in the past, to raise them above their natural level. The present prevailing distress is far greater in the poor clayland arable districts than in any other, and a large portion of the distress is attributable to the former Corn Law. Wheat, under Protection, was occasionally forced up to extraordinary prices; during these periods much old pasture land was broken up, especially the poorer pastures, high rents being paid for the privilege; and these are the very farmers which at this day yield no rent, but which if they had been left in pasture, would probably at present have done so. Turning to the public aspect of a return to Protective duties upon the food of the people, I hold the proposal to be outside the range of practical politics. The unexampled prosperity for 30 years, and the progress made in the condition of the working classes are too fresh in the memories of people to admit a doubt upon the point. If the demand be raised on behalf of the tenantry, the people will not be slow to discern that the British farmer has been handicapped in the race with the foreign producer; and this both by the landowner and the State; and before Protection would even be considered, a demand would be made that the farmer should be freed from the restrictions imposed upon him, and a fair chance giving him of competing with his foreign rivals. If raised in the interests of owners, it requires no prophet to foretell the fate of an appeal for Protection on behalf of the most opulent class of the community, the annual rental of whose lands advanced upwards of ten millions in less than 20 years. I believe it to be idle for any section of the community to imagine the population of the United Kingdom will ever again submit to have its food taxed for the advantage of a class. Whilst entertaining these views, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that a host of farmers indulge in a hankering after Protection. For the sake of argument, I would say to these farmers, suppose you join these Fair Trade manufacturers; that a reversion of the national policy is the result; and Protection is once again set up. Should not you ask yourselves, how long are the Fair Trade manufacturers likely to stand by us? The ancestors of these Fair Trade manufacturers are the men who made a Jonah of the English farmer during the former gale in which the ship of State found itself, and he would assuredly be made the Jonah again. I have had advantages which fall to the lot of few practical farmers in becoming acquainted with the agriculture of many foreign countries as well as most parts of my own, including Scotland and Ireland. Whilst fully recognising the desirability of facilitating the acquirement of land by a larger proportion of the population through purchase; whilst an advocate for placing within the reach of the labourer a greater number of ste[illegible], in the shape of small holdings, whereby he may [illegible] rise to the position of a farmer, whilst believing it [illegible] to be the duty of the State to set the land as free as p[illegible]ossible, so that small owners and large ones, little farm[illegible]ers and big ones, shall all have the same fair chance i[illegible] the struggle for existence; I am satisfied that the sy[illegible]tem of landlord and tenant, which has so long prevailed, will continue, an[illegible] small farms and large o[illegible] survive for generations after most of the amiab[illegible] and patriotic schemes recently put forward have pa[illegible]ed from remembrance. I ground my opinion upon [illegible] the impossibility of changing the agricultural sys[illegible]m of any country, except by very slow degrees. Take for example, France. Of what avail would it b[illegible] to urge upon the landlords and agriculturists the de[illegible]irability (and in many districts it is greatly needed) o[illegible] consolidating their holdings with a view to the a[illegible]option of the larger farm schemes of England? Neithe[illegible] the tenants nor the homesteads available are adapt[illegible]ed to the [illegible]tedly into change. A friend of mine came unexpe[illegible] possession of a good-sized estate. Having spe[illegible]nt many years of his life on the continent he had [illegible] an advocate of the small farm system, and determi[illegible]ed to introduce it upon his own estate. He soon disco[illegible]ered that to build a suitable house and homestead for his 12 or 20 acre farms, cost almost as much as the la[illegible] itself was worth. I don't mention this by way of discouraging small farms, for I think they are both necessary and desirable; I mention it simply to illustrate the difficulty attending a change of system. I wish to show therefrom the necessity for both landlords and tenants recognising the durability of our own system. We cannot change them, even if it were desirable; at all events except by slow degrees. I have long held that if the relations of landlord and tenant were made as perfect as wise laws are capable of rendering them, our English and Scotch system would become the best in the world. I am persuaded if Mr Gladstone had consented to embody in the Agricultural Holdings Act, proposals for securing the tenantry against arbitrary eviction, and against a rise of rent upon their own improvements; if he had listened to these and other suggestions of the Farmers' Alliance, instead of being led by Mr Dodson and Mr Shaw-Lefevre, the result would have been the establishment of as perfect and just relations between landlord and tenant as any existing in the world. I maintain that if the tenant be rendered as secure in his occupation, as secure in his outlay, as the law could readily make him, there would be little or no advantage, beyond the social one, in his becoming the owner of the land he cultivates. In a well-adjusted system of landlord and tenant, the advantage is presented of a union between a greater and a smaller capitalist; the greater finding money for the purchase of the broad acres and the necessary buildings; and the smaller finding money for the equipment and cultivation of the holding.

OUR ENGLISH ADVANTAGES.

Notwithstanding the difficulties with which British agriculture is at present surrounded, I cannot close without passing in review the several permanent advantages, which, as a country, we possess:—(1). Notwithstanding the fitfulness of our climate for arable and pastoral suits combined—corn, roots, and grass—it is equal if not superior to any in the world. (2). Although much of the land of the kingdom is poor or of medium quality and difficult to till, as a whole it is highly productive, as is shown by the high average yield as compared with other countries. (3). An abundance of labour of a more skilful kind is available at much less cost than is within reach of the farmers of America, or most other of our competing countries—India excepted. (4). With probably the exception of Belgium, we have greater facilities for carriage by railway than any other country. (5). Our breeds of cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses are the best and most profitable in the world. All other countries resort to us for blood wherewith to improve and renovate their own stock. (6). No other country possesses a class equal either in capital or skill to the tenant farmers of England and Scotland. (7). In no other country is there, as in this, a demand at home, not only for all that the land will produce, but more than it is capable of yielding. Having thus summarised our advantages, I would remark that I have often heard people enlarge upon the advantages possessed by the American cultivator, and who have appeared to forget that neither wheat nor any other crop is produced by magic. Wherever wheat is grown, the same processes have to be gone through—ploughing, sowing, harrowing, rolling, cutting, harvesting, thrashing, winnowing, sacking, and conveying to market. Of course, each and all of these operations cost money, and I do not know one of them which can be performed at a cheaper, if at so cheap a rate, in America as in England. So again in respect of a bullock or sheep; neither can be brought to market in America except by the consumption of an equal amount of food required by similar animals in England. Both subjects, wheat-growing and cattle-raising, resolve themselves mainly into the questions of what is the total relative cost to the farmers of the land upon which they are raised, and what is the relative security of the English farmer and his American rival?

The contents of the paper were frequently applauded, and Mr HALL supplemented his remarks by stating that a gentleman (Mr Rowley) had condemned co-operators because they had no ideal before them, but were simply a combination for the purposes of shop-keeping. Although the deductions were correct, historically he was wrong, as one of the first principles of co-operation—according to a resolution adopted in Manchester in 1832—was to attain community in land. Mr Hall maintained that the ideal of co-operation was to enter upon farming enterprise at once.

A long discussion followed the reading of the paper, Messrs J. GALLAGHER (Allendale Cottages) and JAS. COCKBURN (Blaydon) urging that, as the subject of "Co-operative Farming" had been discussed at previous conferences, and as they were apparently making little or no progress, it was high time co-operators were taking action in matter and formulating some definite scheme, feeling assured that if they embarked in the farming enterprise they would be enabled to make it a remunerative undertaking, seeing that they had a ready market for their produce.

Mr W. CROOKES (Blaydon) suggested that they should go largely into dairy farming, and thus supply pure and genuine milk. Co-operators possessed something like £3,000,000 practically lying dormant, and this movement would find an outlet for their money. This would prove that co-operators had an ideal before them; and if farming did not return them 5 per cent. for their invested capital, they would be conferring a benefit upon the community at large. Mr Neil (a prominent co-operator) had suggested that they should establish reserve funds in connection with their societies to launch into this undertaking, and Mr Crookes favoured this idea.

Mr T. SHOTTON (Consett) had not the slightest fear that co-operative farming would not be successful; a few small farms had been commenced on this system, and the last report he heard of one established in the North was most encouraging.

The discussion was continued by Messrs P. CARLING, Lintz; G. BINNEY, Durham; TURNER, Blaydon; T. CARR, Consett; R. RIDLEY, Shotley Bridge; G. LOWES, Consett, and the CHAIRMAN, all the speakers speaking strongly in favour of the scheme, and affirming that the paper read was a most excellent one, and the points therein beyond criticism.

Mr HALL replied, pointing out the enormous profits derived from retailing milk, and suggested that co-operators should have a central, hilly farm kept solely for breeding purposes, and transfer the stock to lowland farms.

Mr TINDALL (Annfield Plain), in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Hall for the paper, expressed his doubts whether co-operative farming would prove remunerative, believing that single individuals could work much more successfully than corporate bodies. If they entered upon this enterprise, he advised them to proceed with the utmost caution.

The motion having been seconded by Mr CROOKES, and carried, Mr HALL, in acknowledging the compliment, adversely criticised Mr Tindall's observations, believing that if individualism could accomplish more than unionism, then Co-operation must be altogether wrong. (Applause.) But the results of Co-operation in the past disproved this theory.

Mr GALLAGHER, in order that the scheme should assum a definite aspect, proposed that they embark into Co-operative farming forthwith; and suggested that some body—the Committee of the Derwent Flour Mill at Shotley Bridge—should be empowered to take steps to carry out the idea, so that at the next conference they would have some definite plan prepared, and then Co-operators and individual societies would evince some interest in the matter.

Mr CROOKES remarked that a couple of years ago, the Committee of the Derwent Flour Mill Society were deputed to take the requisite steps for the purchase of a small farm, for the purpose of trying the experiment, and he believed that negotiations were pending at present. He proposed that a committee be appointed to collect statistics and other information as to the probable cost of Co-operative dairy-farming, and lay the same before the next conference, so that the different societies would have some substantial data to guide them.

Mr T. CARR seconded this proposition, which was carried *nem. con.*

It was resolved that the Sub-Section Committee, with the addition of Mr Hall, should be appointed to carry out this work.

MEETING OF NEXT CONFERENCE.

For the next conference, the invitation of the Derwent Flour Mill Society at Shotley Bridge was accepted.

WHOLESALE v. FEDERAL CORN-MILLING.

It was understood that Mr Rule (Gateshead) would have read his paper in support of the wholesale society establishing a corn mill on the banks of the Tyne, but for some inexplicable reason, it was not forthcoming.

Mr Crookes said that as Mr Rule was advocating the wholesale theory of corn-milling, that conference should depute somebody to prepare a paper showing the advantages of the federal system of corn-milling, so that they would be able to hear arguments in favour of both schemes.

After a long conversation, which was resolving itself into a discussion on the subject, had not the Chairman exercised the *cloture*, Mr William Telford, manager of the Derwent Flour Mill, was instructed to prepare a paper embodying the necessary information.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and to the C[illegible]onsett Society for having entertained the members [illegible]s that day, concluded the proceedings, and the me[illegible]ting separated upon the understanding that anot[illegible]her conference should be convened as soon as the [illegible] papers referred to were ready, so that the quest[illegible]on may be fully discussed—No. 4 district of the Se[illegible]ction being especially interested in the subject o[illegible] Federal Milling, having established the Derwen[illegible]t Flour Mill at Shotley Bridge—before being su[illegible]bmitted to the Central Co-operative Board next Mar[illegible]ch.

Before [illegible] and after the conference, tea was provided for t[illegible]he delegates by the Consett Society.

HOLLOWAY[illegible]'s PILLS.—Changes of temperature and weather [illegible] frequently upset persons who are most careful of thei[illegible]r health, and particular in their diet. These correcti[illegible]ve, purifying, and gentle aperient Pills are the b[illegible]est remedy for all defective actions of the digestive o[illegible]rgans. They augment the appetite, strengthen the s[illegible]tomach, correct biliousness, and carry off all tha[illegible]t is noxious from the system. Holloway's Pills [illegible]are composed of rare balsams, unmixed with base [illegible]r matter, and on that account are peculiarly well a[illegible]dapted for the young, delicate, and aged. As this [illegible] peerless medicine has gained fame in the past, so w[illegible]ill it preserve it in the future by its renovating and [illegible] invigorating qualities, and the impossibility of its [illegible]doing harm.

THE CHRISTMAS CAR[illegible]DS.—About one hundred commissionaries in unifor[illegible]m appeared at Bow Street Police Court, on Monday, [illegible] for the purpose of being made eligible to act as ext[illegible]ra postmen during the Christmas season. The C[illegible]hief Usher read the declaration to the men, who [illegible] repeated the words of it together in a loud voice.

WARNING TO MINERS.—The [illegible] following warning was issued on Tuesday:—An [illegible] of very high barometric readings is now [illegible]aching us from the Atlantic, and will [illegible] spread over the country, accompanied by [illegible] dry atmosphere. During the continuance of [illegible]ditions, miners are specially urged to ado[illegible] precautions as will prevent any danger ari[illegible] accumulations of gas and coal dust.

"ROUGH ON RATS."—Ask Ch[illegible], Gro[illegible]ers, or Oilmen for "Rough on Rats." It clears out rats, [illegible] beetles, flies, bed-bugs, roaches, ants, insects, ground moles, &c. 7½d. and 1s. boxes.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B41 PILLS is wa[illegible]ranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional, Gravel, and [illegible] Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. [illegible] Sold in Boxes, 4s. 6d. each, by all Chemists and [illegible] Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or s[illegible]ent to any address for sixty stamps by the Makers, THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMP[illegible], Lincoln. Wholesale Agents, BARCLAY AND SO[illegible]NS, London, and all the Wholesale Houses.

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 on receipt of 15 or 34 Stamps by the Maker, E. T. TOWLE, Chemist, Nottingham.

Original Poetry.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ELECTION.

I thought the Tories, sir, had all gone under,
But reading in your paper I see with wonder
That one at least still lives. It's quite a mystery,
And ought to be recorded in our local history.

He quite a tale unfolds about their would-be member,
And sings his praise in language sweet and tender,
And then commences in less dulcet tones
To show the failings of our member, Mr Jones.

He grumbles that their Colonel had no father's glorious name,
Why jealous be of them that have, and fought their way to fame?
A Chartist loyal was Ernest Jones—a patriot say rather,
And as we honour Mr Jones, so honour we his father.

Then follows how our member stooped to catch Dissenters' votes,
Is the poor Dissenter then so much below the Church's broach?
No. Thanks to our Leader Gladstone, the poor man has his say,
And the rich and poor stand side by side and vote for whom they may.

There's only one thing, sir, in which J. C. and I combine,
The Colonel was, I will admit, *consistent* all the time;
He told us to begin with, he had no decided view,
And right *bravely*, sir, he proved it *consistent* through and through.

He winds up, sir, with saying that at the next election time
The Consett men are going to return the Colonel fine,
But I would say to him, "My friend, you'd best the pitmen see,
Or else you'll find that once again you've barked up the wrong tree."

Consett. GEORDIE.

NORTH-WEST DIVISION OF DURHAM.

PROPOSED TESTIMONIAN TO COLONEL WILBRAHAM

A large and influential meeting of the leading Conservatives of North-West Durham took place on Monday evening, at the Royal Hotel, Benfieldside, under the presidency of Mr John Booth (chairman of the Divisional Conservative Association), who was supported by about forty gentlemen. Amongst the company present were Messrs C. W. Balleny, Ebchester; W. Dickinson, Shotley Bridge; R. L. Armstrong, Newcastle; W. Shell, Consett; James Fairley, Craghead; Rd. Murray, Benfieldside; J. J. Thompson, Lanchester; George Christopher, Consett; J. Burdon, Lanchester, &c. The meeting was called for the purpose of taking into consideration what steps it is desirable to adopt to promote a testimonial to Lieut.-Col. A. B. Wilbraham, J.P., of Snows Green, Shotley Bridge, in recognition of his services for so gallantly fighting the Conservative cause in North-West Durham during the recent contest. The gathering was of a private character, but we are officially informed that it was unanimously resolved that Col. Wilbraham should be invited to public banquet to be given in his honour at Consett early in February next, at which a suitable address, and probably a piece of plate, will be presented to the Colonel. A committee was formed to carry out the necessary preliminaries.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT WITTON GILBERT.

Shortly after mid-day on Monday, an extensive and serious fire broke out at the Witton Gilbert Farm, the property of the Dean and Chapter of Durham, and occupied by Mr Philip Bell, farmer, who is well-known as a first-class pigeon shooter. Mr Bell and all his men servants had gone from home in the morning, and on one of the servant girls going into the stackyard, she found that the shed with the loft above it and all its contents was in flames. She immediately ran up into the village and gave the alarm that the farm was on fire, a number of the residents of the place at once running down to render what assistance they could, whilst messengers were sent off to Mr Bell and his men, and to Durham, which is about four miles distant, for the fire brigade. The Corporation fire-engine at Durham was speedily got out, and the fire-brigade, under the charge of Mr James Coldwell, surveyor, were soon on their way to Witton Gilbert, and they were quickly followed by the engine and hose belonging to the Dean and Chapter. On reaching the farm it was found that the fire, which had originated in a large straw shed, had got a firm hold of that building and the granary above. As the Browney, a tributary of the Wear, was distant fully 600 yards from the farm, the hose was attached to a pump connected with a small burn that runs parallel with the roadway leading to the Rectory, and which adjoins Mr Bell's farm. For some time there was a fair supply of water, but not sufficient to keep both engines going. The Corporation engine was got into working order, and, with the water at command, put forth every effort to save the stacks of wheat and hay surrounding the burning pile. Fortunately, the weather was damp and foggy, with scarcely a breath of wind blowing, and this greatly facilitated the efforts of the numerous band of volunteers who were assisting the Fire Brigade in checking the spread of the flames. The burning building was centred in a square, and surrounded by other straw sheds, granaries, and stacks of wheat and hay, distant only a few yards from the flames. Within the burning shed were packed straw, a quantity of machinery, and a lot of miscellaneous articles, whilst a granary, at right angles to the main granary, and above the straw shed, contained about 170 bolls of barley and other kinds of grain. Just after the arrival of the fire engines, it was seen that the fire had extended to the main granary, and to save it the roof at one portion was knocked in, and a separation effected between it and where the fire was raging more fiercely. In a very short time the straw shed was gutted, and the granary above it, together with the stock of grain, fell bodily into the centre of the shed, leaving nothing but the bare walls. There was a quantity of timber in the shed in full blaze when the brick and earth work fell in, which kept continually breaking out into a fierce blaze, and causing the utmost vigilance to be exercised on the part of those who were doing their utmost to cool the burning mass of *debris*. Between two and three o'clock, the fire was got fairly under, but as there were constant outbreaks a continuous stream of water was kept pouring on until the burn was almost pumped dry, and before there was a sufficiency gathered again the fire was seen in several places burning fiercely through the *debris*. The slightest wind would have fanned it into a blaze, and the consequences would have been still more serious, as nothing could have saved the surrounding straw sheds, which were all packed with straw. It would even have jeopardised the Rectory, which was only separated from the scene of the fire by a wall covered with ivy. When the fire broke out, Mr Bell was at Plawsworth thrashing, and had with him the thrashing machine, which undoubtedly would have shared the fate of the other machinery had it not been in use at the time. As the news spread, large numbers of people gathered around the farm, watching the progress made by the fire brigade to suppress the frequent outbreaks of fire. There was also a most willing band of workers, Messrs J. Coldwell, Laidler, W. Hunter, and Malcolm, who deserve great praise for the efforts they made to circumscribe the area of the fire. Nothing has been ascertained as to the origin of the fire. The damage is roughly estimated at about £1,000, and this amount is partly covered by insurance. Supt. Dunn and a number of the Durham County Constabulary were on duty.

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

CHRISTMAS FAT STOCK SALES.

BENFIELDSIDE.

On Monday, Messrs Nicholson and Murray held their annual Christmas sale and show of fat stock at the Royal Auction Mart, Benfieldside, when there were forward 29 fat cattle, 20 fat sheep, 3 pork pigs, 1 grazing heifer, 28 fat geese, 13 turkeys, and 27 chickens, besides a variety of other stock. There was a capital show, and the following prizes were offered for competition:—Fat cattle—Best heifer, 1st prize, £1, awarded to the Stella Coal Company, Blaydon; 2nd, 10s, the representatives of the late Mr Joseph Laycock, Whittonstall Hall Farm. Both these prime beasts were purchased by Mr Ewart, of the Leadgate Co-operative Store. Best bullock—1st, £1, Mr J. Potts, Shotley Field; 2nd, Mr Osborne, Eddis Bridge, near Edmondbyers. Best fat cow—1st, £1, Mr Anderson, Black Hedley, Blackhill; 2nd, 10s, Mr Noble, Leadgate. Fat sheep—Best pen of five half-bred or three-parts bred Leicester and Cheviot shearlings, 1st and 2nd prizes, £1 10s, Mr John Nicholson, Manor House, Lanchester. These animals were also bought by Mr Ewart, Leadgate Store. Pen of five grey-faced shearlings—1st, £1, Mr Potts, Shotley Field; 2nd, 10s, Mr J. Hunter, Medomsley Buildings. Best dressed goose—Mrs Rutter, Bounder House, Tow Law, 5s. Best dressed chicken—Miss Nicholson, Manor House, Lanchester, 5s. (These last two competitions were confined to farmers' wives and daughters patronising the mart). There were also a large quantity of fat cattle and sheep from local feeders, which made good prices. There were some splendid shorthorns exhibited, and the show of other stock was above the average. There was a numerous company of farmers, butchers, dealers, &c.) from all parts of the district. The sale was considered to be one of the best held at the mart, beef making up to 10s 3d per stone; mutton, 7d to 9d per lb.; pork, 7s to 9s per stone; geese, 9s to 14s; turkeys, 6s 9d to 10s; chickens, 1s 6d to 3s 3d. Amongst the principal purchasers were Mr Ewart, Mr Parker, and Mr Stoner, Leadgate; Mr Towns, Mr Lockey, and others, Consett; Mr J. Wilson, and Mr J. Lovatt, Blackhill; Mr W. Wheatley and Mr Geo. Siddle, Shotley Bridge; Mr H. Lister, Newcastle; Mr P. Hodgson and Mr Green, Lanchester; Mr Lumley and Mr Barrass, Annfield Plain; Mr A. Robson, Whittonstall; West Stanley Co-operative Store, &c.

In the evening, the auctioneers entertained their friends and customers to a sumptuous dinner, provided in the Agricultural Hall. Between 50 and 60 guests sat down.

Afterwards, an adjournment was made to the Royal Hotel Billiard Room, when Mr J. S. Murray (in the absence of Mr Nicholson) was called upon to preside, while Mr J. Parker, Leadgate, occupied the vice-chair.—The Chairman gave the loyal and patriotic toasts, and afterwards submitted "The Bishop and clergy and the ministers of all Denominations," Messrs R. Murray and Geo. Christopher being selected to respond.—"The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," was acknowledged by Messrs G. Siddle, J. Lovatt, and others.—The next toast was "Success to the Mart," the Vice-Chairman, in proposing the same, dwelling at considerable length on the magnificent show of stock to be witnessed at the Auction Mart that day; and said he felt proud that such a capital display of cattle could be seen in their midst.—In acknowledging the toast of "The Judges," Mr H. Lister (Newcastle), and Mr H. Oliver (Hurbuck), expiated upon the advantages and benefits accruing to farmers by reason of these weekly stock sales.—The Chairman, in proposing "The Successful Competitors," observed that although the mart was in its infancy, it had nevertheless proved a great success, and he felt assured it had conferred a boon upon the farmers and butchers in the immediate locality. Every article of stock entered for sale had been disposed of that day. That was a *bona-fide* sale; the auctioneers did not attempt to get more than fair value for the animals offered in public competition. (Applause.)—Other toasts were given, and the mirthful proceedings were considerably enlivened by songs by various members of the company.—During the evening the prize money was paid to the successful exhibitors, and a handsome subscription was promoted on behalf of Wm. Lynn, the person in charge of the stockyard.

TOW LAW.

The Christmas fat cattle show and sale was held by Mr Joseph Vickers, at the Tow Law Auction Mart, on Monday, when there was a very large attendance of farmers, butchers, and dealers. After the judgment, which commenced at eleven o'clock, an excellent luncheon was held at the Commercial Hotel, adjoining the auction mart. Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., Broadwood Park, presided over a representative gathering.—The Chairman, in proposing "Success to the Mart," made reference to the great success with which it had been attended since its commencement, at the same time mentioning Mr Vickers, the auctioneer, whom he found conducted sales in an honourable manner. He had always sent his stock to the mart, and he considered Mr Vickers worthy of all the patronage bestowed upon him.—Mr Vickers, in responding, said the entries had quite exceeded expectation for the first exhibition. At future shows there was no doubt the prize money would be handsomely increased. There would be shortly erected a covered mart with additional byering and other improvements, which would afford increased facilities to dealers at the mart.—"The Judges," proposed from the chair, was responded to by Mr Simpson, who observed that the quality of the exhibits equalled anything he had previously seen. The class for fat hoggs he found an especially commendable one. The toast of "The Committee" was responded to by Mr J. H. Atkinson, of Greenwell.—Mr Vickers proposed "The Exhibitors," Mr W. P. M. Dods, of MacNeil, Witton-le-Wear responding. The stock he had sent to Mr Vickers for sale, always realised satisfactory prices.

A good number of entries had been secured for the show. The judges were Mr P. Simpson, of Tudhoe Moor House, and Mr W. Gregory, of Bishop Auckland. For the best fat heifer, Messrs Pease and Partners, Billy Hall Farm, Crook, secured first prize. This animal was afterwards sold to Mr James Wilkinson, of Tow Law, for £28; 2, Mr John Nicholson, of Manor House; sold to Mr Crawford, Consett, for £26. Fat stear—1 and 2, Mr John Nicholson, the animals being purchased by Mr Gladstone, of Lanchester, for £33 5s and £33 10s respectively. Pen of five fat sheep (Leicester or cross-breds), 1 and 2, Mr J. Nicholson. The first prize pen was knocked down to Mr Gladstone for 58s a head. Pen of five fat hoggs—1 and 2, Mr W. P. M. Dods, MacNeil, Witton-le-Wear; Mr Gregory, of Bishop Auckland, purchasing the pens at 45s and 44s 6d per head respectively. Pen of five fat black-faced sheep (ewes or wethers)—1, Mr John Reed, Intake, Frosterley; 2, Mr John Dowson, West Newlands. Mr Gregory was the purchaser at 42s and 35s per head in the respective pens. The unsuccessful exhibits also realised capital prices, brisk bidding being the order of the afternoon. A number of fat cattle was also sold from the farm of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, the lowest price being £13 2s 6d as compared with £16, the highest bid. Mr Thos. Bramwell, Gill House; Mr Jos. Walton, Thornley Hall; Mr Thomas Stobbs, Chatterley; Mr J. Murray, Blackhill; Mr J. H. Atkinson, Greenwell; Mr T. Surtees, Consett; Mr M. Stephenson, Esh; Mr J. W. Watson, Ouston, were also exhibitors. The principal prizes besides those already mentioned were Ward, Stanhope; T. Hall, Tow Law; Gould, Page Bank; Edward Taylor, Cornsay; Morallee, Crook; Bond, Coundon; Hird, Shildon; Wilson, Blackhill; and C. Hall, Tow Law. In addition to the show exhibits 17 dairy cows, making up to £20 5s; 20 store cattle, realising £4 10s to £10, and a number of sheep, were brought under the hammer. In every respect the show and sale was a complete success, the attendance being the largest that has ever taken place at the mart, which has now being two years in existence, and at which sales are held weekly.

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THE LATE THOMAS FLEMING, OF LEADGATE

On Sunday night, the Rev Thos. Elliott, circuit minister, preached the funeral sermon of the late Thos. Fleming in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Leadgate. The subject of this memoir was born at Acton, in Hexhamshire, on December 31st, 1815. The rev. gentleman took for his text Psalm xxxvii, 37 verse—"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." In an able, intelligent, clear, practical way he set forth the character of a good man as described by the psalmist David. He showed that it was possible for any person to become changed from nature by the operation of the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead a man in the way of holiness; that it is possible for God's creatures to lead and live such a life as is described in the text, for he had declared that the law of his God was in his heart. The good man is commanded to wait on the Lord and keep His way and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land. It can be said the promises of God have largely been manifested in this good man's case; for, by the grace of God, he endeavoured to live practically to answer this perfect man spoken of here. Although he was born of humble parentage, and grew up a remarkable moral young man, he did not see the need of a change of heart in earlier life, but he left the place of his birth when he was 22 years of age, and came to reside at Blanchland, where he yielded to the strivings of the Spirit of God, and fully embraced Christianity, and identified himself with the church of his choice, viz., the Primitive Methodists. After sojourning there for about four years he removed to Blackhill, where he resided one year; and then removed to Leadgate to live. He was about the first tenant at this place under the Consett Iron Company. As he finally settled down here as a miner, and being a man whose heart God had touched, he soon (as the place began to be peopled) set about getting others to join with him in forming a Primitive Methodist Society. He was the first class-leader in this society, and continued so at this place for his natural life. It is well-known to most Methodists that there is a good deal of hard work to accomplish in getting a cause established in a new village. There is a vast amount of out-door missioning and singing in the streets. It could be truly said that this good man, with many others, wearied not in well doing; it was often a matter of prayer with his God. Having received the assurance of God's promises fulfilled in his behalf, this band of praying men and women laboured on successfully. One very remarkable incident occurred during the early history of Methodism in Leadgate. The Rev John Oxterby was in the habit of coming down out of the dales, and Thomas Fleming and Mr Oxterby became well acquainted, and the latter used to stay to hear and preach, and help them to mission the village. The Primitive Methodists have often been noticed for their lively tunes and singing in the streets. There happened to be a travelling theatrical company who came to Leadgate and set up their tent on the green at the east end of the village. Whether this company became annoyed by these good men singing, or out of curiosity, the rev. gentleman could not tell, but the clown announced on a certain night he would act the Methodist preacher. So, according to promise, the time came, and the Rev John Oxterby and Thos. Fleming and others assembled beside the showmen. They prayed that God would pour out His Spirit and bless the people in the village, and likewise the theatrical performers who were in the act of mocking God's people. It is said that the heavens began to gather blackness and rain commenced to fall in torrents, and the showmen became so alarmed that they durst not stay any longer in the place; and the next day the whole company took their goods and chattels and left Leadgate. Mr Oxterby and the praying host sung them away in the well-known lines "My old companions, fare ye well," &c. They laboured on, and, by this time the Consett Iron Company allowed the infant society to worship in what was and is to this day known as the Bottle Bank School-room, which stands in the centre of this thriving village. After using this building for several years as a place of worship, and the cause prospering so amazingly, the members desired to have a chapel, and being a number of earnest Christian workers, the movement was soon afloat. The ground was secured for the first chapel in what is known as Iveston Road, where a neat sanctuary was erected; there being many willing workers, the top stone was ultimately brought on, as the society was very prosperous. The debt was soon all paid off, and a number of years passed away. All the while there was a large Sunday-school in connection with this society, and many have been the conversions at this place. The Rev Wm. Robson who is now in the Primitive Methodist Connexion as a minister in active work, was trained in this Sabbath-school, and there are several useful local preachers still living and disseminating the principles of the Gospel of Christ here, and in other parts of the world, and likewise filling very responsible positions in the mining and commercial world. Some have been honoured with fitting honourable positions on Local and other Boards that are and have been identified with this society. As time wore on, a more commodious chapel was soon desirable, so that some twelve or fourteen years ago a nice new place of worship, with a school underneath, was erected in Watling Street, on the north-east side of the village. This is a neat stone edifice and an ornament to the place, and at the present has a good healthy working society worshipping in it, and a prosperous Sunday-school with a good staff of teachers to work it. As the result and labours of the many noble-hearted men and woman who have, and are still living in the village, yet in the early history of Primitive Methodism at Leadgate when the late Ralph Herron, John Foster, Ralph Gibson and family, Ralph Hasgill, George Bow, Jonathan Postle, John Dobson, John Watson and family, Timothy Collinson, John Reed, Richard Brown, Thomas Row, George Hawdon, Esther Armstrong and family, and a host of other pious and good people. Old Mrs Margaret Spark, John and Hugh Spark, together with the writer of this article, at the Christmas time used to provide for large numbers of people; as it was the custom on Christmas Day to have a tea party, and on the Sunday to hold the Sunday-school anniversary. There was some times as much as a sack of flour made into bread in order to supply the vast concourse of people who frequented this anniversary tea party. The late John Lowery, of Gateshead Fell, often conducted this school service, and it was frequently a most precious time to hundreds of people who came together from miles round, and many went away rejoicing in the Lord. Many of the Sunday scholars grew up and identified themselves as members of society, but numbers of the old members have passed over to the "great majority," and entered into rest that remains for the people of God after a life of religious toil and warfare. There was another "canny" old Christian, Mrs Smith, of Old Crookhall, who frequently shared in the religious joy add happiness. Possibly there may be some that he (Mr Elliott) had forgotten to name—not intentionally omitted or left out—as he must now bring this sketch to a close and finish this memoir. Thomas Fleming being a steady, industrious man, he acquired some considerable means, building some property over twenty years ago. He commenced as a provision dealer, and the latter part of his life has been comparatively easy and comfortable. He was an earnest supporter of God's cause. He was a trustee for both chapels, and officiated as a class leader the whole of his sojourn here. He became very corpulent, and being much troubled with bronchitis, he suffered in consequence of this complaint. He was confined to his room for some time, but when visited by the members he always expressed that the cause he has espoused afforded him ample consolation for the labour spent in the interests of religion. Altogether he was identified as a member of the Primitive Methodist Connexion for 48 years, and he spent 40 years of his life at Leadgate, having finished a good life, and entered into rest the 29th October, 1885, nearly at the close of his seventieth year. "His end was peace." His remains were interred on the Sunday following at St. Ives Church, Redwell Hills, by the Vicar of the parish. The funeral *cortege* was exceedingly large, deceased being much respected by all classes of society. He leaves a widow and one married daughter to mourn the loss of a kind husband and father.

THE SHOCKING SUICIDE NEAR TOW LAW.

The case of Thomas Edgar (22), of Keiper's Row, Tow Law, who was killed on the railway, under circumstances related in last week's *Guardian*, was investigated by Coroner Dean and a jury on Saturday afternoon.—The evidence showed that deceased had been ill a few weeks, and had become a prey to delusions, one of which was that there was a very heavy weight on his head. On Thursday morning he went to his work at Black Prince Colliery, his "marrow," Joshua Willis, observing deceased to be in a "deep study." He said he was very bad, and should have to go back, and at 6-20 he left the pit by the board, which was against regulation.—Isaac Routledge, a boy of 11 years, said he saw deceased loitering by the railway about eight o'clock, and addressed him by name, but received no reply.—Wm. Robert Anderson, of Darlington, deposed that he was driving the first train from that town to Newcastle, and saw deceased on the rails, and blew his whistle, which seemed to give deceased a "start." The ill-fated young fellow, however, deliberately placed his body across the railway, and despite immediate reversal of steam and the application of the powerful air-brake, the engine bore down on deceased, who was carried 110 yards, and was found, when the train stopped, between the first wheel and the driving wheel. The right hand hung by a shred of skin, and his body, over which the wheel had passed, was flattened.—Deceased's father said his son was temperate, fond of reading, and betrayed no symptoms of insanity.—The Coroner said reading was a very good thing, taken with other things. Keeping the intellect employed was a way to keep it healthy.—The jury found that deceased destroyed himself while suffering from mental derangement.

CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY AT BURNHOPE.

At the Durham County Court, last week—before His Honour Judge Meynell—the action of Pevelley *v.* Brown and Co. was heard. It was an interpleader case in which Mark Pevelley, of Burnhope, was claimant in an action against J. C. Brown and Company, New Herrington, in which he claimed a certain pony and harness taken in execution under a process issuing out of the Court at their instance. Pevelley also claimed £5 from Messrs Brown for damages arising out of the said execution. Mr Oliver, Durham, appeared for the claimant, and Mr H. E. Richardson, Newcastle, for the execution creditor.—Claimant said in the year 1880 he was possessed of a brown pony. He went with it to a fair held at West Auckland, and there exchanged it for the black pony and harness which had been seized by Messrs Brown. The exchange took place in the ordinary course of the fair,—and witness had no knowledge of the man with whom he exchanged, neither could he find him. Claimant lent the pony and harness to his father, William Pevelley, about four years, since in order to enable the latter to obtain a livelihood.—In cross-examination, claimant said he lent the mare and harness to his father, and it had been in the latter's use for the last four years, but in consequence of the seizure claimant had had to keep his father. Claimant's name was "Mark Pevelley," and he had never gone by any other name. He never lived in Raft Yard, Shiney Row, although he had a brother named Nicholas who lived there. Claimant never got any goods either from Mr Warriner or Messrs J. C. Brown and Co. He did not know Mr Brown, neither was he served with the summons in this matter.—Re-examined: In 1880-81 he lived at Burnhope, where he had resided for about seven years. He left Rainton about eleven or twelve years ago, and his father left at the same time.—Claimant's mother said she was the wife of William Pevelley, who lived at Browney, but was at present laid up with a broken leg. The bailiffs of that Court came and took away the black pony and harness, which was in the stable belonging to her husband. She told the bailiffs before they took it away that her husband's name was not the "Michael Pevelley" whom they had come about. She told the bailiffs that as far back as May. She and her husband lived at Middle Rainton about 12 years ago, after which they went to Byers Green, where they lived about a year and a half. They then went to Shildon, from there to Spennymoor, and from the latter place to Browney. Since they left Middle Rainton, about 12 years ago, they had never been back again.—In answer to Mr Richardson, claimant was re-called, and said he was in the box at the last Court.—Mr Richardson: We say, your Honour, that the man put into the box last Court was "Nicholas Pevelley." We certainly have made a mistake somehow or other. According to my instructions, we sent the name of "N. Pevelley," but somehow or other it got altered to "M. Pevelley."—His Honour: But who is your debtor?—Mr Richardson: Nicholas Pevelley.—His Honour: If that is so, how can you justify the seizing of the goods of Mark Pevelley?—Mr Richardson: My witnesses told me that the man put into the box last month was Nicholas Pevelley, the man who got the goods.—His Honour: There is a great confusion of names.—Mr Richardson: There are three or four Pevelley's all dealing with the same people.—In answer to His Honour, Mark Pevelley said his brother Nicholas was not in Court last month, but his mother was present.—Mrs Pevelley was re-called, and said her son Mark was in Court last month, and her son Nicholas was in the town, but not in Court.—Mr Thomas Warriner was called by Mr Richardson. He said he formerly had this business at New Herrington, which was purchased by J. C. Brown and Co. He trusted N. Pevelley, who lived at Shiney Row.—His Honour: What year was that?—Witness: In 1876, I think.—Witness (continuing) said he was present at the last Court. He believed Mrs Pevelley, the old woman, came into the box first, and then Mark was called, and he entered the box, and to the best of witness's belief that was the man who traded with witness as "Nicholas Pevelley," Raft Yard, Shiney Row. Witness had seen "Nicholas Pevelley's" wife, but had not noticed her there that day. The man "Nicholas Pevelley" traded with witness frequently, and he was the person really sued.—His Honour: Who did you supply the goods to?—Witness: They were supplied to the house.—His Honour: Who did you see?—Witness: Both Nicholas Pevelley and his wife.—In answer to Mr Richardson, witness said the accounts due from Nicholas Pevelley to him were paid by Mrs N. Pevelley. At all events, there was a very remarkable resemblance between the persons if "Mark" was not the man.—His Honour: Sometimes there is between brothers (laughter).—Mr Oliver: Then you know nothing about the goods under which this judgment was obtained?—Witness: No.—Mr Richardson: No; I merely put him into the box to show that claimant was the man to whom he supplied former goods as "N. Pevelley."—Mr Oliver: He did not say he was the man, but that to the best of his belief he was the man.—Mr Oliver (to witness): You have heard claimant say that he has lived at Burhope for seven years. Are you prepared to say he is the man whom you supplied with goods as "N. Pevelley?"—Witness: To the best of my belief he is.—Mr J. C. Brown was then called. He said he was acting as manager for Mr T. C. Bell, who was trading as J. C. Brown and Co. He did not know who Mr Bell bought the business from, but Mr Warriner's name was on the sign. The book produced was in witness's handwriting. So was the particular account of "N. Pevelley, Raft Yard, Shiney Row." Witness supplied the goods as manager to a person who gave the name of Nicholas Pevelley, a previous customer of Mr Warriner's. It was a woman who received the goods, and witness had seen her in the Court yard that morning, but she was not at present in Court. That woman was the wife of a man who gave the name of Nicholas Pevelley, but witness had never seen him.—Claimant was asked if his wife was there that day, and he replied in the negative.—Mr Richardson said he did not think he could carry the case any further.—His Honour said it seemed to be a case of complete confusion.—Mr Richardson said the name of "N. Pevelley" was sent to the Court, and somehow it had got changed into "M. Pevelley," and his witnesses told him that the latter was the very man who dealt with them as "N. Pevelley."—His Honour: I must find for the claimant, the execution creditor to pay the costs.—Mr Richardson: Then with regard to damages.—His Honour: There are no damages.

Football.

Dec. 25.—Crookgate 2nd and Juniors v. Tanfield Lea 2nd and Juniors, at Crookgate.
" 26.—Crookgate 2nd v. Worswick Rovers 2nd, at Crookgate.
" 26.—Consett v. Philadelphia, at Philadelphia.
" 26.—Consett 2nd v. Hexham 2nd, at Blackhill.
" 26.—Medomsley v. Westwood Royal Blues, at Medomsley.
" 26.—Tantobie 2nd v. Beamish, at Tantobie.
" 26.—Catchgate v. South Moor, at Catchgate.
" 26.—Beamish and District v. Dudley Rovers, at Dudley.
Jan. 2.—Fenham Rovers v. Shotley Bridge, at Fenham
" 16.—Gosforth Rovers v. Shotley Bridge, at Shotley Spa.
" 30.—Castleside v. Shotley Bridge, at Castleside.

A football club, called "The Black Watch," has been formed at Greencroft. Mr H. Bates is captain, and Mr Samuel Armstrong secretary.

THROCKLEY RANGERS *v.* PRUDHOE ROVERS.—Played at Throckley on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the latter by one goal to nil.

RABY ROVERS JUNIORS *v.* PRUDHOE ROBERS JUNIORS (A).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and ended in a win for Prudhoe by one goal to nil.

MOUNT PLEASANT *v.* RYTON 3RD (A).—Played on the ground of the latter on Saturday, and, after a well-contested and pleasant game, resulted in a draw in favour of Ryton.

CROOK 2ND *v.* TUDHOE 2ND.—Played at Crook on Saturday, and resulted in a win for the home team by one goal, two tries, and eight minor points to nil.

TOW LAW REDSKINS *v.* CROOK.—Played at Crook on Saturday, in two thirties, and resulted in a victory for Tow Law by two goals to nil. The goals were kicked by J. Allison and N. Grinnon.

WYLAM *v.* OVINGHAM.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, when the home team won by one goal to nil. Elliott, Lennox, and Foster played well for Ovingham, who had one short. The Wylam team played a good game throughout.

SWALWELL TRUE BLUES 2ND *v.* S.S. MARY AND JAMES 2ND.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and after a pleasant game, resulted in a win for the visitors by two goals to nil. The goals were kicked by J. Lively and M. Bell.

WEST END JUNIORS *v.* TANFIELD LEA 2ND (A). Played in two thirties on the ground of the former, Newcastle Leazes, on Saturday. After the first half, the score stood at one goal each; but just before the next 15 minutes, the Lea being by far the heavier team, added one more point. Two minutes later, however, the ball burst, leaving the game in favour of Tanfield by two goals to one.

BEAMISH AND DISTRICT *v.* GLOUCESTER STAR (NEWCASTLE).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, in two twenty-fives, and, after a pleasant game, the home team were hailed the victors by three goals and one disputed to nil. The visitors turned up with two men short, but the home club supplied them with two good substitutes.

Sporting Items.

SPARROW SHOOTING AT BLAYDON.—The handicap promoted by Mr Samuel Robson, Terrace Inn, Blaydon, for the benefit of David Pentland, was concluded on Saturday in the presence of a large company of spectators, in a field kindly granted by Mr Thompson. There were 35 competitors. J. Curry shot seven birds, and J. Daglish, J. Hall, and J. Greener six birds each. S. Robson was referee, and R. Pentland trapped the birds.

WRESTLING NEAR PRUDHOE.—Another of the series of competitions for the silver cup given by Mr Tulip, Halfway House, for all-weight wrestling, took place on Saturday night, with the following results:—W. Rutherford threw A. Rutherford, Dukershagg, twice and won. The wrestling for youths, for a prize given by Mr Gregg, was won by J. Ledally, West Wylam; J. Liddle, Low Prudhoe, being second.

BRAES OF DERWENT HOUNDS.

A hunting picture was on Thursday se'nnight formerly presented, on behalf of the members of the Braes of Derwent Hunt, to Mr James Anderson, of Newcastle. The occasion was celebrated by a dinner, held at the house of Mr Wallace, Victoria Hotel, and the gathering was a most successful *reunion*. About 40 gentlemen sat down to a splendidly-served repast. Lieut.-Col. Cowen, Master of the Braes of Derwent Hounds, presided, whilst the vice-chair was occupied by Councillor G. R. Hedley. The guest sat upon the right of the chairman, and both gentlemen sported scarlet, hunting costume being also worn by others in the room. The proceedings were of the most spirited and enthusiastic kind. The usual loyal toasts were given by the chairman, and were received by the company with that warmth which they never fail to elicit in a company of true sportsmen.—The Vice-Chairman proposed the military forces of the kingdom, and the toast was acknowledged in an eloquent address by Surgeon-Major Cook, 1st Newcastle and Durham Engineers.—Mr R. Murray, Benfieldside, gave "The trade and commerce of the Tyne," and Mr Tucker responded in an effective speech.—Mr F. J. Radford (secretary of the testimonial committee) read letters of apology from Mr J. Harvey, past M.F.H., and Mr F. H. Lamb, Master of the Newcastle and Gateshead Harriers, and others.—The Chairman rose to make the formal presentation to Mr Anderson, and remarked that he need scarcely refer, with such a company as he saw before him, to the great interest with which their proceedings were invested. Their guest was a business man, as well as a sportsman, and it was often necessary, if sport was to be thoroughly enjoyed, that its votary should have other matters claiming his attention. (Cheers.) Few men knew more or had seen more of hunting than their friend, Mr Anderson. (Cheers.) Mr Anderson had not only been a devoted foxhunter, but he had given the aid of his whole influence to the benefit and furtherance of the chase. Their guest had also been closely concerned in the "currant jelly" department of sport. The hare afforded good sport when hunted, and when killed it was not to be despised when converted into soup or presented in a pie. These advantages did not attach to the greater sport of foxhunting, which had to be followed for itself alone. And they did enjoy it. There was nothing more healthful or inspiring—nothing which could give a man more courage, nerve, and confidence in himself—than a good gallop across country. Mr Anderson was one of the men who regarded foxhunting in this light, and he (Col. Cowen) spoke from intimate knowledge of him. He had know Mr Anderson from boyhood, and he could say that he was a genuine foxhunter and a thorough-going sportsman. Many of them would know that their guest had done something to benefit the kindred sport of racing, and that he had owned more than one good horse. The best of the animals that had carried his colours was Slap Bang, whom most of them would remember. The idea of the testimonial he was about to present arose from the feeling which prevailed amongst them that so good a sportsman was deserving of appropriate recognition at their hands. A testimonial picture by one of our best artists was painted for presentation to their friend. They had chosen this mode of expressing their esteem because they wished to give Mr Anderson something of which he would have the enjoyment during his lifetime, but which he could hand down to his children hereafter. He would now ask their guest to accept from them the picture hanging upon the ample side-wall of the room, and to regard it as marking the honour and esteem in which he was held by the gentlemen in whose company he had so often enjoyed the sports of the field.—Amidst rounds of cheering and many mellow "who-whoops," the large painting of Mr Anderson and his grey hunter was uncovered to view, and the company were unanimous in praise of Mr Hedley's picture. The painting is a gallery work of high merit, and its dimensions are 5ft. 6in. by 7ft. 6in. Mr Anderson's health was drunk with musical and hunting honours, and at the close of the demonstration that gentleman rose to return thanks for the honour conferred upon him. He thanked Col. Cowen for the flattering terms in which he had mentioned him, and his friends of the hunting field generally for the kindly feeling which had actuated them in regard to this testimonial. Words quite failed him in attempting to express the pleasure he felt at the kindly greeting which had been given him or to convey, as fully as he wished, his thanks. In appreciative terms he depicted the enjoyments of the chase, and declared that his pleasure was equally great whether the fox or the hare was the object of pursuit. The magnificent work of art which it had been their pleasure to present to him would serve to remind him of many happy days spent in the hunting field—of many a good gallop with the Braes of Derwent and the honoured master of the pack. No man could tell how the world would use his descendants, but he (Mr Anderson) hoped that it would go down as a heirloom in his family for many generations, and that so long as an inch of paint remained on the canvass—and the artist told him it would last about 400 years—it would hold the place of honour in the home of his family. (Cheers.)—Mr Thomas Holmes, Jarrow, gave the health of the Chairman, and other toasts on the programme included "The Artist," "The Vice-Chairman," "The Visitors," &c.

THE ELECTION OF PROCTORS AT DURHAM.

The following are the votes recorded by local clergymen in the election of two Proctors to represent them at the York Convocation. There were 59 splits between Grey and Baily, 28 between Tristram and Grey, and 3 between Tristram and Baily. Canon Tristram had no less than 37 plumpers, while the number of plumpers for Baily was only 4, and for Grey only 2. In the subjoined list v. indicates vicar, r. rector, p.c. perpetual curate:—

	Tristram	Grey	Baily
Wilkins, J., p.c. Pelton		1	1
Matheson, J., v. West Pelton		1	1
Snape, R. W., v. Lamesley		1	1
Blunt, W. O., r. Chester-le-Street		1	1
Archdall, T. H., v. Tanfield		1	1
Chester, T.H., r. Ryton...		1	1
Crennell, J., v. Beamish		1	1
Mitchell, J., v. Leadgate			1
Green, M., r. Stella	1		
Linthwaite, H., r. Ebchester	1	1	
Storey, T. J., p.c. Blackhill (St. Aidan's) ...		1	1
Ross-Lewin, G.H., v. St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside		1	1
Brent, R., v. Holmside	1		
Carr, C. J., r. Witton Gilbert	1		
Cockin, W., p.c. Medomsley	1		
Farrar, W., v. Castleside	1		
Reeman, W. S., v. Fatfield	1		
Stirrup, T., v. Burnopfield	1	1	
White, S., v. Marley Hill	1	1	
Wesley, F. G., v. Hamsteels	1		1
Hodge, C. F. D., p.c. Esh		1	1
Barton, C. H., v. Waterhouses		1	1
Tuson, R., p.c. St. John's, Dipton		1	
Guest-Williams, W. S., v. Birtley		1	1
Steggall, F., v. Consett	1	1	
Carr, H. B., r. Whickham	1	1	
The totals were	68	89	66

The following clergymen did not vote at the election of proctors for convocation in Durham Archdeaconry:
Rev F. W. Glyn, vicar of Lanchester.
Rev A. Jones, rector of Winlaton.
Rev John Dodd, vicar of Lumley.

DIVIDED PARISHES IN LANCHESTER AND HEXHAM UNIONS.

Last Thursday and Friday, at the Board Room of the Hexham Union, H. G. Kennedy, Esq., barrister-at-law, one of the inspectors of the Local Government Board, held a public inquiry with reference to a scheme which has been formulated by the Local Government Board for dealing with the detached parts of Townships in the Hexham, Castle Ward, Lanchester, and Bellingham Unions. The inquiry is of an extensive character, as no less than 56 of the 72 townships in the Herham Union, together with the townships in the other unions mentioned, are affected by the scheme. Parts of Mickley township were transferred to Broomley parish, and detached portions of Mickley were transferred to Broomley. Apperley township consisted of two portions; the smaller was transferred to Mickley, and the larger portion amalgamated with Broomley, the Inspector remarking that there were probably too many small townships in the Hexham Union, and it would be both desirable and convenient to absorb them into other townships.—Mr T. J. Armstrong, in the case of Hedley Woodside township, said he objected to the portions of the township on the southern bank of the river Derwent being transferred to Medomsley. These portions included Milkwell Burn cottages. One objection was that in Medomsley they had a School Board which had a debt of about £3,000. It was stated that the School Board rate was 2½d and the poor rate for Medomsley 1s 2d in the £, and the poor rate for Hexham Union 1s 6d in the £. The main portion of Hedley Woodside township will be amalgamated with Hedley township.—Mr Yeats, in the case of Wylam township, objected to the portion of that township on the southern bank of the Tyne being detached from Wylam and transferred to another township, on the ground of the loss of rateable area for highway purposes. The proposal is to form this detached portion of Wylam township, the detached portions of Prudhoe Castle township, and a detached portion of Prudhoe, along with Master's Close township, into one township to be known by the name of the last named. It is proposed to amalgamate Bywell St Andrew's and Bywell St. Peter's into one township. In the case of the other townships taken on Friday, no opposition was made to what was proposed to be done. The most important case taken was that of Corbridge township. Mr T. Blandford, as the representative of that township, objected to that part of it lying on the south side of the Tyne being transferred to Dilston township. He considered that the transfer of so large a piece of the township would involve too serious a loss of rateable value to be practicable. The whole rateable value of the township was £13,211, and the total acreage about 5,000 acres. The portion on the south side of the Tyne had a rateable value of about £6,000, which included some £2,000 for the railway.—The Inspector remarked that it would be well to transfer this portion to Dilston, looking at a possible Local Board being in the future formed for Corbridge.—Mr Blandford said the inhabitants were dead against having any Local Board for the township.—It was stated that Corbridge gas works were on the south side of the river, and that the land on that side was chiefly owned by persons living in Corbridge. Mr Baty, clerk to the Hexham Guardians, was of opinion that the area south of the Tyne should not be detached from Corbridge. A small detached portion on the north side was transferred to Haydon township. Corbridge township had three awarded quarries, and it also contained Stagshawbank, an undivided but stinted common.—At the close of the inquiry a vote of thanks was awarded to Mr Kennedy, for the courtesy and affability he had shown to every one during the inquiry.

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

£100,000,000 IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY.—Cox & Co., 41, Southampton Buildings, Holborn, London, W.C., have just published a list of the heirs to this wealth. Reader, send a postal order for 1s. 6d. and they will forward you this valuable list, and if you find by it that you are entitled to any money or property claim your own. Cox & Co. will show you the way.

THE GUN ACCIDENT.—On Friday last, at the Highlander Inn, Winlaton, Mr J. Graham, coroner for North Durham, held an inquest on the body of Thomas Hope, who, according to the evidence given, accidentally shot himself whilst carrying a loaded gun in his coat pocket, on Sunday, Dec. 6th.—he jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—An ordinary meeting of this Board was held on Friday last, Dr Livingstone presiding.—On the motion of Mr Curry, it was agreed to allow each of the outdoor paupers, over 60 years of age, 2s 6d extra as a Christmas allowance, and also to provide a special dinner for the inmates of the Workhouse on Christmas Day.—The Clerk reported that he had received a statement of the rateable value of the Union from the Assessment Committee, which showed that the gross rental was £97,1[illegible] 15s, and the rateable value £84,639, being a decrease of £4,780 15s, on 1884.—Mr Eggleston reported that he had received an estimate for the construction of a padded room at a cost of £23.—He was ordered to have the work proceeded with.

Public Notices.

REAL XMAS BEEF,
AT
PARKER'S SHOPS,
LEADGATE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, AND TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT,
WHICH CONSISTS OF

One Splendid Polled Ox, computed weight 100 Imperial Stones weight.

Two Pure Short-horned Bullocks, bred and fed by the Earl of Durham, 80 stones each.

Three Good Heifers, specially fed-up for Christmas.

MUTTON and PORK in great abundance, and at the usual prices. Call early. 433v

ST. IVES CHURCH, LEADGATE.
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL AND SOCIAL COFFEE SUPPER.

THIS ANNUAL GATHERING will be held in the Infants' School-room, Church Square, Leadgate, on Wednesday Evening, December 30th, 1885.

There will be an ample supply of HAM, TONGUE, BEEF, MUTTON, GOOSE, &c.

After Supper, a PROMENADE CONCERT will be held, under the direction of Miss MITCHELL, of the Vicarage, who will be assisted by some of the leading Musical and Vocal Artistes in the neighbourhood.

A STALL, for the Sale of Useful and Ornamental Work, will be presided over by Mrs. MITCHELL and Mrs. NICHOLSON.

☞ Charges to Supper, Concert, &c., all included—Adults, 1s.; Children under Twelve, 6d.

Supper on the Tables at Six o'clock. 519v

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. William Raw.

27, Allendale Cottages, near Medomsley.

MR. WILLIAM RAW, instructed by Mr. GEO. HOBBS, who is about to Emigrate to America, will SELL BY AUCTION, the whole of his Household FURNITURE, on Saturday, 26th December, 1885, comprising Dresser, with Drawers; Chest of Drawers; Flour Bin; Kitchen Table; Tea Table; Folding Table; 8 Chairs; Eight-days' Clock; Alarum Clock; Scales and Weights; Iron Bedstead and Mattress; 2 Wood Bedsteads; Flock Bed; Pillows and Bolsters; Cradle; 2 Oil Lamps; 2 good Hand Saws; 2 Clothes Baskets; Bread Mug; Ware; 3 Pails; Fender and Irons; Tidy, &c.; Pans; Kettle; Poss and other Tubs; 4 Pictures; Picks, Axes, Hoes; Steel Forks; Rakes and Shovels; 2 new Hearthrugs; Quilting Frames; Bakeboard; 15 Sacks; Jones & Co.'s Medium Sewing Machine, in good order; Single-barreled Gun. Also, 11 good Hens.

Sale to commence at One o'clock precisely.

Sale Office, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 502v

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1885.
Entries comprise—
14 Dairy Cows and Heifers.
21 Store Cattle, various ages.
7 Fat Cattle.
100 Fat Sheep.
6 Pork Pigs.
Calves, Poultry, 2 Loads Turnips, &c., &c.
Entries to day of Sale.
Sale at 12·30.
Trucks at Station.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Partridge Close, Tow Law. 472v

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1885.
21 Fat Cattle, including several very grand Bullocks up to 55 stones, and some very neat Cutting Heifers.
96 Fat Sheep.
Several Cows expected forward, but numbers not yet to hand.
Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs, Poultry, Hams, &c.
Sale at One o'clock.
520v NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

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

By Mr. George R. Hobson.

CATCHGATE AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1885.
1 Small Superior Black Pole Cow.
2 Superior Short-horn Roaned Cows, new calved.
1 Bay Horse, aged.
1 Coup Cart.
1 Heifer, 7 months old.
1 Heifer, 18 months old.
Bankrupt Stock of Horse Clothing, Brushes, &c.
1 Ton Potatoes.
Consignment of splendid Hams, in first-rate condition.
Sale to commence at 12·30 with Horse Clothing, &c.
☞ Note the change of day—from Wednesday to Monday.
524v GEORGE R. HOBSON, Auctioneer.

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

ADAM BRODIE & ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, Auctioneers, Valuers, and Estate Agents, Consett, undertake the Sale by Public Auction or otherwise of Houses and Land, Farming Stocks, Household Furniture, Merchandise, or other Effects, on reasonable terms. Valuations for Probate Dissolution of Partnership, and Settlement of Claims under Fire Insurances, or in disputes. Fire, Life, and Accident Assurances arranged without delay. Shares of every description Bought and Sold on Commission. The Victoria Sale-Rooms are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale.

Postal address—ADAM BRODIE & ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

CHEAP EMIGRATION.

GREAT REDUCTION IN FARES TO AMERICA, QUEENSLAND, &c.

Liverpool to America, £3 16s. and £4, by the best Lines.

To Australian Colonies at the Lowest Rates.

For reliable information, apply to
209u A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer Dipton.

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

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

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. 891u

Business Announcements.

SAFETY BICYCLES! SAFETY BICYCLES!

THE Latest Novelty in Safety Bicycles is the—"NORTHERN,"

Manufactured by the NORTH OF ENGLAND BICYCLE CO., 44, High Bridge, Newcastle. Send for Price List FREE. Second-hand Bicycles from £2 0s. 0d.

We are Clearing out our present Stock to make room for our New "Northern" Bicycles and Humber Pattern Tandem and Crypto Tricycles. 416v

THE NEW
COAL & STONE BORING MACHINE
From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills.
Also, BURY'S & HARDY'S PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at
THOMAS BOSTON'S,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed periods.
428u ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT
Is now recommended by the Leading Medical Men in the North, as being
THE MOST SUITABLE WINE
FOR
SICK PERSONS AND INVALIDS.
☞ 36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage Paid on 6 Bottles and upwards.
W. GLENDENNING,
WINE MERCHANT,
9, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE.

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
Established 1780.
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET),
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold & Silver GUARDS, ALBERTS, &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.

MR. T. C. CAMPBELL
SURGEON DENTIST,
8, 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.

DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES.
"ROBERTS,"
1, NEW BRIDGE STREET, AND
97, CLAYTON STREET,
NEWCASTLE.
DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES. 373v

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

As the *Guardian* will be published on the Thursday before New Year's Day, we shall feel obliged if correspondent will forward to this office reports of festive gatherings in their districts as early as possible after the event.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"I.C.U."—Next week.

We have received a letter from Medomsley with no signature appended. Our columns cannot be made the channel for people writing under a *nom de plume* to attack the private character of a correspondent who appends his signature to his communications.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 1885.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

I am afraid that the people of Shotley Bridge will not be able to get a very classic-looking fountain for £30. It is to be regretted that the wire pullers, now in authority, should have determined to go to business on the cheap scale. The village itself is so finely situated that it has long been known by the designation, "The Flower of the Derwent," and the outside public would have been pleased to have seen a drinking fountain in keeping with the surroundings of the place. The members of the Board plead poverty; and while that is a very good reason in some cases, it is altogether out of place in the present instance. The fountain will be required to stand the test of storm and sunshine for two or three generations; and to meet the scrutinising gaze of the native and stranger for many years to come; and under these circumstances the decision arrived at the last sitting of the Board was out of harmony, both with the intelligence of the members and the spirit of the times.

Since closing the above note, I have thought on another phase of the subject. Shotley Bridge has long been famed for the part that not a few of its inhabitants have taken in one of the most important problems of our time—the temperance question. They have sung the praise of cold water for more than a quarter of a century; and to see their favourite clothed in so mean a garb is apt, one would think, to damp their fervour. Attraction is a point that is never over-looked by those who set themselves to counteract the allurements of the tavern; and it would have been a good thing had the members of the Benfieldside Local Board kept the same idea in view when dealing with the new fountain. What could anybody expect in the way of building for £30? Nothing very elegant certainly; but people must be content with small mercies in these dull times; and a fountain in form and fashion like a tombstone is no doubt preferable to no fountain at all. The custom of getting one's coffin ready long before it is wanted was not uncommon in ancient times; and the nearest approach to it in these days is the setting-up of a structure in a public thoroughfare reminding one of a monument on the grave of a saint. It will be very suggestive to the passer-by, and a skull and crossbones would complete the picture.

I have yet another idea in reference to this gushing fountain, and then I will leave it to raise its lofty head and dispense its favours to those who need them. Shotley Bridge is surrounded by fine mansions, occupied by a class of gentry who are not only in easy but in affluent circumstances; and I could name half-a-dozen local parties who could present the inhabitants of this charming little town with a respectable drinking fountain without injuring themselves or anyone dependent upon them. A chaste fountain would set off the place immense; and then it is so much more pleasant to approach a handsome erection with the crystal water springing from its sculptured sides than a thing like a huge gatepost, rude enough to set respectable dogs howling. I trust some of my well-to-do readers will think over this and dream upon it; and some fine morning Shotley may boast a public drinking fountain worthy of a popular holiday resort; and the name of some good Christian will be handed down to posterity long after the kindly heart has heaved its latest sigh and the artery has ceased to beat.

Colonel Wilbraham rendered good service to the Conservative Party in North-West Durham; and it is satisfactory to learn that his friends have determined to present him with some tangible memento of the recent campaign. Tennyson says it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all; and I have no doubt but the Colonel, and those who stood by him in the late contest, are of opinion that it is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all. It has been said that—

> "He either fears his fate too much,
> Or his deserts are small,
> That dares not put it to the touch,
> To gain or lose at all."

But neither the Colonel nor his supporters feared their fate. They showed a force of character and a unity of purpose such as the Party seldom get credit for. They lifted the glove and entered the arena late in the day; and although the tide of fortune turned against them, it must be remembered that she is but a fickle jade at best. It was certainly not through any lack of valour on the part of the champion-elect, nor faithlessness among his followers. The road was a purely untrodden one; and, all things considered, the chances of success were at no time very promising. The Division is young, and Conservatism prospers badly where there is a lack of soil. There are lines of thought which in some minds spring up and bear fruit in a twinkling; but Conservatism is a plant of slow growth. Should the turn of events conduce to bring the rival Parties face to face in the years to be, history might tell another tale. Opinion may, however, be divided on that point; but even those who differ from the Colonel on political questions will not be slow to admit that during the late trying political contest his deportment throughout was marked by those commendable traits of character never found wanting in the well-bred English gentleman. The Party have suffered defeat, it is true; but the wisdom acquired by the lesson will not be soon forgotten, whilst of the Colonel himself it may well be said—

> "Never may successes bless
> The man who measures actions by success."

I see by the report in last week's *Guardian* that the Primitive Methodists of Shotley Bridge have set themselves the task of building a new chapel. I'm sure they deserve one, for few know better than I do how faithfully they worked in the old chapel. I occupied the house next door to their place of worship, and never having seen the inside of a Methodist church, it will be understood that I was interested in my next-door neighbours. That will be some fifteen years ago, and the building bore unmistakable indications of the withering finger of time even then. Wherever I meet with Methodists I never fail to measure them by their brethren in Shotley Bridge—so apt are the best of us to be ruled by the influence of first impressions. In this instance, however, the guage is, I believe, a pretty correct one. My old neighbours near the Gas Works were full of fire. I could hear them through the wall nicely; and knowing nothing about Methodists, nor Methodism, truth to tell they sometimes startled me. Indeed, on one occasion the tumult rose to such a pitch that Mrs What-do-you-call-her quite as innocent as myself would give me no rest until I went and peeped through the keyhole of the chapel door to see that they were not destroying one another! I got accustomed to them after that, and bye-and-by learned to respect them.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

On Wednesday night, the members of the Victoria Quadrille party gave a ball in the New Town Hall, Consett.

Mr Nicholas Morgan, the renowned phrenologist, will commence a week's engagement at the Assembly Rooms, Consett, this (Thursday) evening.

CONSETT IRONWORKS REPRESENTATIVE.—The election of representative for Consett Ironworks to the Board of Arbitration for the Manufactured Iron Trade took place at Consett yesterday (Wednesday), when Mr T. Williams was re-elected.

VAGRANCY.—At the Consett Petty Sessions, on Monday—before James Annandale, Esq., J.P.—*Ellen Taylor* (55), a lame tramp, was brought up in custody charged by P.C. Newton with begging alms from door to door at Consett, on the previous Saturday afternoon.—The woman was discharged with a caution.—This was the only case disposed of at the Court.

A DARK DAY.—Monday was one of the darkest days that Consett has seen for some time. At nine o'clock the darkness was so great that all the shops were lit up, and though for a short time about mid-day it appeared as if the fog was going to lift, the change was only temporary, and by three o'clock darkness had practically set in. A dense black fog prevailed between five and seven o'clock. The 21st December is well known as "the shortest day," and Monday was certainly one of the darkest ever known.

PROPOSED PUBLIC ASSEMBLY ROOM.—In consequence of the exorbitant charges demanded by the Directors of the Consett New Town Hall Company, for a certain class of meetings, whilst letting the Hall at an almost nominal rental for balls and similar assemblies, we hear on good authority that a body of gentlemen in the town are endeavouring to promote a scheme, by which a spacious building will be secured in Middle Street, to accommodate between 600 or 800 people, for the purposes of holding public meetings, concerts, entertainments, &c., therein.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS.—On Tuesday, *Peter Conway* (40), scavanger for the Local Board, was charged before Mr Annandale, at Shotley Bridge, with being helplessly drunk at Consett, at eleven o'clock on Monday night. The charge was preferred by P.C. Martin, and the prisoner was fined 5s and costs. Conway was also locked up for a similar offence on Saturday night, and was bailed out to appear at the Police Court next Monday.—On Wednesday, *Mark Thompson* (58), an itinerant hawker of oranges, was charged by the same officer with being guilty of drunkenness and disorderly behaviour in the public streets of Consett, at eleven o'clock on Tuesday evening. He was also mulcted in 5s and expenses.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOLS.—The Consett Catholic School is in this enviable position, that the children have reached the highest standard of efficiency, passing at the Government inspection 100 per cent. It is because of this and other kindred facts that Bishop Bewick and those associated with him speak to the educational authorities after this manner:—"We submit to your rules; we accept your standards; we teach what you say ought to be taught; and, by your own admission, we do all those things in the best possible way. Why, therefore, do you not only refuse us a share of the rates, but make us, after paying for our own children, pay for the children of others.—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*

BLACKHILL.

At the Christmas Stock Sale at Benfieldside, on Monday, in addition to what appears in our inner columns, Mr Swinburn, Stanley; Mr Jas. Shearer, Iveston (who secured the winners of the 1st and 2nd prizes by fat sheep); Mr Haughan, Knitsley; Mr Potts, Ryton; Mr Swainston, Consett; and Mr S. Temperley, Consett, were amongst the list of buyers.

FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 370TH STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.—The twenty-ninth appropriation of this society took place on Monday evening, in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill. Mr Mark Noble having been voted to the chair, Messrs W. Eldon and E. Maddison were elected scrutineers, and a little boy selected to draw the ballot balls. Register number 483 was drawn, owned by Mr John Johnson, Langley Park, who, holding two shares, becomes entitled to an advance of £200, free of interest, for 12½ years.—Votes of thanks to the chairman and scrutineers closed the meeting.

BIBLE STUDENTS' SOCIETY.—As a sequel to the former sitting of this society, to consider Mr Gladstone's reply in the *Nineteenth Century* (November) to Dr Reville's essay on "The Dawn of Creation and of Worship," so the last sitting was to quietly discuss Professor Huxley's presumed refutation of Mr Gladstone, in the same periodical for December. The discussion, though not a very lively one, was perhaps one of the most thoughtful that we have yet held, in bringing forth a great amount of varied biblical, geological, and theological reading and opinion. The central point of the controversy lay in this, admitting that the professor, as a scientist, is perhaps the greatest in our time; admitting that his knowledge of geology in its modern phrase is more complete and more reliable than that of Mr Gladstone, is geology itself, in its record of the succession of life on the globe, so firmly, so finally demonstrated as to render its present teachings unimpeachable and conclusive? In the affirmative it was contended, that inasmuch as all pure scientists (with few exceptions) were now fairly uniform and coherent in their classification of the graduated succession of life on the globe, from the lowest and even most doubtful forms of vitality, up to the human era, such classification might be accepted as final. But if so, the issues were sad to contemplate, as they involved the entire recasting of many points of our historical and traditional faith. They involved the sacrifice on the altar of a cold, cheerless, hopeless science of those beautiful dreams of the golden age of the distant past, and of its restitution and eternal duration in a not very distant future. They involved the extinction of those simple, poetical, elements of faith, linking us with the holy and sacred memories of childhood, and a mother's knee. Such were the issues involved if the present outcome of the professor were the final outcome of science. On the negative side, it was most ably and, we think, most unquestionably and irrefutably shown that the so-called demonstrations of geological professors had changed, and were ever in a condition of transition and uncertainty. In fact the very ground upon which Pro. Huxley bases his supposed refutation of Mr Gladstone demonstrates this utter uncertainty and infinality of geological outcomes and eras. Thus, for instance, the professor twits the G.O.M. with being behind the age in relying upon Cuvier and Sir John Herschell. Exactly so. But if so, why does not Mr Huxley see that if the science (?) has so changed its outcome since the days of Cuvier, of Herschell, and even of Hugh Miller, that outcome may, by the "dawn" of the next century, be equally distant from the present standpoint of the professor himself? This continual flux can therefore be no standard of appeal or fixed canon against the Genesaic record of Moses, so logically championed by Mr Gladstone. And even in Cuvier's day the same incertain and flux were recognised by the great naturalist himself. Thus if any of your scholarly readers overlook his "Discours sur les Revolutions de La Surface du Globe. Page 94, edition Paris, 1828," they will find these words—"Je ne pretends point par cette remarque . . . diminuer le merite des observations de M. M. Camper, Pallas, Blumenbach, Soemmering, Rosenmuller, &c," that is—"I do not pretend by this remark to diminish the merit of the observations of (made by) Messieurs Camper, Pallas, Blumenbach, Rosenmuller, &c." Again, on the same negative side if any of your readers take up the "Vestiges of Creation," and along with it read Hugh Miller's "Footprints of the Creator," they may perhaps find there sufficient disagreement to make them pause before yielding up the "one foundation" upon which the present happiness, the future hopes, and the ultimate destinies of humanity are alone based. *Cloture* was called while the last speaker was indulging in an admirable peroration upon both the professor and the "G.O.M."

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—The bazaar in connection with the above place of worship at Shotley Bridge, which was opened on Wednesday week, in the Temperance Hall, was brought to a very successful termination on Saturday night. The ladies of the congregation have laboured very assiduously for nearly twelve months in anticipation of holding a bazaar, and we are glad to be able to state that their efforts in that direction have been highly successful, the total sum realised being slightly over £160, which is very creditable.—Special sermons were preached on Sunday, in the afternoon by Rev Thomas Elliott, superintendent minister, and in the evening by Rev John Ryan, who took for his text the 47th verse of the 89th Psalm—"Remember how short my tent is, wherefore hast thou made all men in vain." There were large and appreciative congregations at both services. Collections were taken on behalf of new chapel fund.

BURNHOPE.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY.—On Saturday, Dec. 12th, Mr Jonathan Wardle, Gateshead, delivered his popular lecture, entitled "Father Taylor, the Boston Sailor Preacher," in the above chapel to a respectable audience. Mr J. Allison, Holmside Hall, occupied the chair, in the absence of Mr J. T. Forster, Burnhope House. After the lecture, there was a coffee supper, presided over by the following ladies:—Mrs Rollins, Mrs Olier, Miss Teasdale, and Miss Kears; assisted by Mrs Gawman, Mrs M. Kears, and Mrs Spence.—On Sunday, Mr Wardle preached two excellent sermons, in the morning on "Manliness;" and in the evening, upon "The poor are admitted to the riches of the Gospel." Mr M. Frankland, Blackhill, preached in the afternoon from the first epistle of St. John on the assurance of Christ's advent into this world as God manifest in the flesh. Collections were taken in aid of the trust fund after each service.

PELTON.

At an ordination held by the Lord Bishop of Durham, at the parish Church of St. Andrew, Auckland, on Sunday last, the Rev Edward Henry Greenhow, of Charsley's Hall, Oxford, M.A., was ordained a deacon, and afterwards licensed to the curacy of Pelton.

ROWLEY.

Some time on Monday morning, some person or persons, supposed to hail from Consett, entered the plantation of Mr W. J. Scott, of The Sycamores, Rowley, and cut a large quantity of holly and evergreens off the trees. The damage done is estimated at £20.

WOLSINGHAM.

On Sunday, the anniversary services of the Wolsingham Baptist Sunday School were held.

ENTERTAINMENT.—On Friday night, an entertainment was given in the Grammar School, Wolsingham, by the Rev A. F. Eales, master, to the parents of the scholars and friends. Recitations in various languages were given by the scholars, together with a selection of vocal and instrumental music, in which they were assisted by Mrs Eales, Miss P. Shaw, and Mr J. H. Brotherton.

WINLATON.

THE CATAPULT.—At the Gateshead County Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, *John Robinson* and *William Armstrong*, lads, were charged with having thrown stones by means of a catapult at Winlaton, on the 5th inst.—A fine of 6d each, with 7s costs, was imposed.

STANHOPE.

POLICE COURT.—At the Stanhope Petty Sessions, held on Friday, *Jos. Maddison* was charged by Sergt. Hamm with being drunk whilst in charge of two horses and a carriage on the 7th inst., at Westgate. He was fined 10s, including costs.—*George Young*, of Shildon, for exposing pigs for sale at Stanhope, contrary to the order of the Privy Council made under the Contagious Diseases Act, was fined, including costs, £1 8s 8d.

WEARDALE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.—At the usual meeting of the Sanitary Authority, the members authorised a letter calling upon Mr B. Mowbray to provide water for his tenants at White Kirtley, where at present the supply passes through an open gutter, and is thus open to contamination.—On the question of the Frosterley sewer contract, the Surveyor said the contractor would not go into the value of the extras, and he had accordingly prepared a balance-sheet, showing, on his own valuation, a balance of £14 against the contractors, who, however, have not yet seen the balance-sheet.

SPEN COLLIERY.

ABROAD AT MIDNIGHT.—On Tuesday, at the Gateshead County Police Court, two young men, *Joseph Hodgson* and *George Lonsdale*, were charged with having been at midnight in the farm yard of Mr James Lawrence, of Barlow, on the 18th, for an unlawful purpose.—Prisoners pleaded guilty, and they were sent to Durham for 14 days with hard labour.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION.—On Saturday evening, there was a tea and entertainment in the Miners' Hall, Spen, in connexion with this mission. Above 250 people sat down to the tables, presided over by Misses Bewick, Breckons, Grosset, Robson, and Spearman. During tea a sale of work was carried on by Mrs Wykes, and Misses Bewick and Ford, who took £4 18s 3d. At intervals, during the tea, the Misses Avery, Mrs Wykes, and the Rev M. Nason played some of the popular music of the day. At the entertainment which followed, the Rev A. Jones, rector, presided during the first part, and Mr W. Green, of Thornley House, during the second. In the course of the evening, the Rev W. M. Wykes publicly thanked all those who had assisted in rendering the entertainment a success, and the numerous friends who had helped by gifts of money and fancy articles. After paying all expenses, a sum of £19 was cleared to be devoted to the purchase of two harmoniums for use in the Mission Rooms at The Spen and Victoria Garesfield.

EDMONDSLEY.

ORDER OF RECHABITES.—On Saturday, Messrs T. W. Smyth, D.C.R. (Hartlepool), F. W. Witty, D.D.R. (Monkwearmouth), and Thomas Dalziel, D.S. (Jarrow), instituting officers of the Durham County District No. 33 Independent Order of Rechabites, assisted by Bros. Cosgrove and Waggott, sen. and jun., of the "Sure to Win" Tent, Houghton-le-Spring, instituted a Tent at Edmondsley, in the British Schools. It was named "Edmondsley's Star." A public meeting was afterwards held, presided over by Mr Jos. Walker, when Bros. T. W. Smyth, D.C.R., and T. Witty, D.D.R., delivered addresses.

STOCKSFIELD.

CLERICAL PAY *versus* MINERS' GALA PAY.—The Rev Theophilus Bennett, M.A., of Newton Hall, Stocksfield, preaching at the Parish Church, on Sunday morning, read a letter which had appeared in the columns of the *Newcastle Chronicle*, and made thereon some remarks drawing a contrast between the pay given to the clergy and that given by or on behalf of the miners to the speakers at their annual galas. The letter referred to was as follows:—"How the miners' money goes." "Sir,—Would you allow me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to say a few words upon a subject which has recently been introduced to the public concerning the payment of gala speakers by the Durham miners, and of moneys spent, of which, I can safely say, not one-twentieth part of the Durham miners are aware? Probably you will say it is their own neglect in not attending their lodge meetings. I would agree with you there; but, sir, in the general run (and I speak from experience, being one myself) the Durham miners, so long as they are left in peace to labour and toil, and by doing so obtain sufficient to enable them to live honestly and decently, seem to be content with their lot, and place explicit trust in their agents to deal properly with the subscriptions which they assiduously contribute. But, sir, there are some amongst us who watch, with zealous and eager eye, the precedence of those whose tyranny we are united to guard against, determined to have justice for themselves and their fellow miners. But I should (if I may presume so much) advise them and all other miners not only to watch their employers, but also to watch their employés. We had at our last gala four speakers paid £10 each, which in itself is certainly monstrous. To pay £40 for four speakers, who at the longest did not speak more than 40 minutes each, is in itself enough; but there is something more to add to it. There was to pay an hotel bill little short of £29 for entertaining them with a little refreshment, making it practically £69 the cost of the four speakers. Now, sir, I submit, and every rational man will do likewise, that it is simply outrageous. I say to you miners of Durham, awake from your attitude, let the world know you exist, and let your agents know that so long as they remain in your pay they must look after your interest; that they are your servants, and must advocate labour in the future instead of capital, or go.—Yours, &c., TYRO. White-le-Head, Dec. 14th, 1885."—On this, the rev. gentleman said:—"No clergyman who stands up to speak in pulpit, school, cottage, or open-air, can so stand (if he be a University man) without his education having cost him, at the very least, one thousand pounds. Many of us have actually paid, out of pocket, a great deal more, and yet, what proportion does the pay we get for our addresses bear to that of the gala speakers as detailed in this letter?"

TANFIELD.

C.E.T.S.—A most successful entertainment and coffee supper were given in connection with this society on Tuesday night, in the National School-room, Tanfield. The entertainment consisted of a dialogue, songs, recitations, duets, and trios. Valuable assistance was given by six members of the Beamish branch, who took part in the dialogue. Miss Masterman, also of the Beamish branch, contributed two songs, "Thou art so near and yet so far" and "Won't you buy my pretty flowers?" Miss M. A. Hinckley sang two songs, "Happy be thy dreams" and "Killarney," and in response to an *encore* gave "In the gloaming." A duet, "I know a bank," was nicely rendered by Miss Donald and Mr Forster, and Miss Donald contributed another song. An amusing recitation about "An old hat," by Mr Robson, with two trios by three members of the Beamish branch and two songs by the Rev C. H. Newman brought the programme to an end. The audience adjourned, to meet again shortly afterwards for supper in the infant school room. Upon entering the room the eyes of the hungry were delighted by the sight of three long tables prettily and tastefully laid out with tempting viands and beautiful flowers. No. 1 table was presided over by Miss Brewis and Miss Robinson; No. 2, Miss Pringle and Miss Newell; No. 3, Miss Agar and Miss Brown. All vacant places were soon filled, and grace having been said, the consumption of the good things went on merrily. Altogether, over 230 persons sat down to supper, and everything passed off in a most successful manner.

WATERHOUSES.

It is stated that the Rev Philip C. Fortin, of St. Mary's Newhouse, Waterhouses, is going to St. Michael's Catholic Church, Elswick, in place of the late lamented Canon Vanderstichele.

LEADGATE.

PRESENTATION.—On Tuesday evening, a few friends of Mr Thomas Smith, mining engineer, assembled at the house of Mr J. Noble, Commercial Inn, Leadgate, and presented to that gentleman a handsome marble timepiece, subscribed for by about 30 members of the "Bachelor's Club," in celebration of Mr Smith's recent marriage. A splendid repast was prepared by the hostess; and afterwards a jovial evening was spent.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BAND OF HOPE.—A public entertainment in connection with the above was held on Saturday night, in the School-room, Leadgate, under the presidency of Mr Joseph Bell, who in a few appropriate remarks opened out the meeting, after which the following programme was gone through:—Song, "The vacant chair," Miss M. A. Reed; reading, "Little Polly," Miss A. Devlin; recitation, "Rosie's last word," Master C. Jackson; melody, "Temperance Army," Mr W. Weirs; reading (humorous), "Sambo's blessed tings," Mr Rochester; duet, "Sing it from the heart," Master and Miss Jackson; reading, "Widow Simpson's spoons," Mr S. Nicholson; concertina solo, "Pull for the shore," Mr Bunney; reading (humorous) "Thady and the bear," Mr T. Kennedy; melody "Don't try it on," Mr H. Bell; reading (humorous), "Hints to married folks," Mr Rochester.—A vote of thanks, moved by Mr J. Bell, and seconded by Mr Maughin, was accorded to the Chairman and performers, and the meeting was brought to a close in the usual manner.

WITTON GILBERT.

"WHAT BECAME OF THE GEESE."—On Saturday morning, two "Witton lads" bent on enjoying the delicacies of the season, came to Durham Market and purchased two very fine geese, which they handed over to a lad with instructions to take them to the Neville Hotel, on the North Road. On our two worthies making the usual inquiries at the above hostelry a short while after they found that their bargains had never reached their destination. They naturally felt greatly incensed at what they thought was a totally unjustifiable appropriation of their property, but nevertheless they waited patiently for several hours. Eventually, however, visions of an empty board on the morrow disturbed their quietude of mind, and in their distress they gave information to the police, but notwithstanding that our Head-Constable and his men left no stone unturned, they failed to lay their hands on the delinquent who "victimised" the "Witton lads," but the missing geese were on Tuesday found to have been left at another hostelry in the city, and were duly handed over to their owners.

WHICKHAM.

CONCERT.—On Friday evening, an amateur concert was given in the Parochial Schools of the above parish, under the auspices of the Rev J. M. Hick, curate of the parish, in aid of the fund for refitting and cleaning and otherwise improving the mission room at Swalwell. The programme was most attractive, each item being evidently appreciated by a large and enthusiastic audience. The ladies and gentlemen who kindly gave their services were Miss Thompson, who played two solos on the pianoforte with great taste and execution; Mrs G. Ramsay, who sang to her harp accompaniment "The Last Rose of Summer" and "Robin Adair;" and Mrs Green, who sang "A winter's story," "Katie's Letter;" Mrs Hick, "When the thorn is white with blossom" and "Mother's with the angels there;" Miss A. Hunter, "The Quaker's daughter" and "Surely;" Miss C. Carr, "The auld house" and "Jessie's dream;" Rev C. H. Newman (Tanfield), who sang "The boatswain's story" and "Our Jack's come home to-day;" Mr W. D. Hick, who give "The shipwright" and "The four jolly smiths;" Mr A. C. Hick, "The storm fiend" and "The little hero;" and the Rev J. M. Hick, who sang "The bugler" and "The Uhlan." The accompaniments were ably rendered by Mr Holmes and Mrs Corrigan. Among the part-songs which varied the entertainment the one which gave most pleasure was a trio, "Brignal banks," by Mrs Hick, Rev J. M. Hick, and Rev M. Green. Altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent, and the audience separated with three hearty cheers for their entertainers, proposed by the rector, the Rev H. B. Carr. The result in a pecuniary point was most satisfactory to the promoters of the good object for which the concert was given.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

A BRAVE RAILWAY PORTER.—On Tuesday night, a concert and presentation were held in the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Hall. The presentation was made to Mr John Peary, railway porter, of Chester-le-Street Station, and was a purse of gold and a silver watch, for a noble act performed by him in saving a child's life on the railway. There was a good attendance. The Rev Canon Blunt presided, and made the presentation, referring in laudatory terms to the brave action of the porter. The handsome watch bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr John Peary, with a purse of gold, by a few friends, to commemorate his noble act of bravery, in saving a child's life on the railway, at Chester-le-Street, October 15, 1885." Mrs Peary was also presented with a magnificent work-box. Mr Peary briefly acknowledged the gift. The remainder of the evening was spent in an enjoyable manner by the kindness of several local artistes.

TOW LAW.

Scarlatina and a bad form of measles are very rife at Tow Law, and the Wesleyan National Schools have been closed in consequence.

Three geese belonging to R. Milburn and some ducks owned by W. Hodgson, at Tow Law, were stolen a night or two ago. The geese were afterwards found by the police hidden among some ballast.

I.O.G.T.—The Rev J. Roscamp, vicar of Stanley, addressed an open session of the Beacon of Hope Lodge of Good Templars, on Wednesday, Dec. 16th, at Tow Law. There was a numerous attendance of members and visitors, and his telling and thoughtful address was warmly received, and its effect will undoubtedly be to inspire the members with a better idea of the vast importance of their temperance work, and with more earnestness in each doing his share.

CROOK.

PARISH CHURCH.—The members of the Young Men's Bible Class in connection with Crook Church, conducted by the curate (Rev F. Newsome), held their sixth annual gathering on Monday night, in the Temperance Hall. After a sumptuous repast, to which each member invited a young lady friend, a very enjoyable evening was spent, during which speeches, songs, and a variety of games were indulged in.

WESLEYAN METHODISM.—CROOK CIRCUIT.—The local preachers' and quarterly meetings of the Wesleyan Methodist Crook Circuit were held at Crook on Tuesday—Rev S. Adcock presiding. The numerical and financial condition of the circuit was reported to be satisfactory. On the retirement of Mr Bones, as senior circuit steward, Mr Walker, Howden-le-Wear, was appointed to the vacancy, Mr D. Grieves, Willington, being appointed junior steward. Mr Oughton was elected circuit secretary. Rev John Foster, Peel, Isle of Man, was invited as superintendent minister at the next conference to succeed the Rev S. Adcock.

COMMERCIAL ACADEMY AND LADIES' SEMINARY.—The annual entertainment and distribution of prizes took place in the Mechanics' Hall, Crook, on Monday evening—Rev J. King, M.A., rector, in the chair. A classic, varied, but interesting programme was creditably rendered by the pupils, conducted by Mrs Wilson (Ladies' Seminary), and Mr W. Brotherton, Bishop Auckland. The prizes were distributed as follows:—Conduct, Miss M. Hare; first class, Miss M. Fell; second class, Miss M. Hare; general improvement, Miss Bella Morson. Boys—Conduct, A. Hare; medal for general improvement, W. Coates; second class, Charles Pattison; second class (extra), J. Johnson; third class, A. Gowland. Certificates from the College of Preceptors were awarded as follows:—Third class, third division, Miss G. R. Fell; do., second division, W. Coates; do., third division, A. Hare; do., third division, J. G. Gowland.

EDMONDBYERS.

HAREHOPE GILL MINING COMPANY.—A notice appeared in Tuesday night's *London Gazette* calling upon the creditors of the Harehope Gill Mining Company, which is in voluntary liquidation, to send in their claims to Mr Geo. Eugene Macarthy, of 9, Dean Street, Newcastle, the liquidator of the company.

Public Notices.

REAL XMAS BEEF,
AT
PARKER'S SHOPS,
LEADGATE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, AND TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT,

WHICH CONSISTS OF

One Splendid Polled Ox, computed weight 100 Imperial Stones weight.

Two Pure Short-horned Bullocks, bred and fed by the Earl of Durham, 80 stones each.

Three Good Heifers, specially fed-up for Christmas.

MUTTON and PORK in great abundance, and at the usual prices. Call early. 433v

ST. IVES CHURCH, LEADGATE.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL AND SOCIAL COFFEE SUPPER.

THIS ANNUAL GATHERING will be held in the Infants' School-room, Church Square, Leadgate, on Wednesday Evening, December 30th, 1885.

There will be an ample supply of HAM, TONGUE, BEEF, MUTTON, GOOSE, &c.

After Supper, a PROMENADE CONCERT will be held, under the direction of Miss MITCHELL, of the Vicarage, who will be assisted by some of the leading Musical and Vocal Artistes in the neighbourhood.

A STALL, for the Sale of Useful and Ornamental Work, will be presided over by Mrs. MITCHELL and Mrs. NICHOLSON.

☞ Charges to Supper, Concert, &c., all included—Adults, 1s.; Children under Twelve, 6d.

Supper on the Tables at Six o'clock. 519v

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. William Raw.

27, Allendale Cottages, near Medomsley.

MR. WILLIAM RAW, instructed by Mr. GEO. HOBBS, who is about to Emigrate to America, will SELL BY AUCTION, the whole of his Household FURNITURE, on Saturday, 26th December, 1885, comprising Dresser, with Drawers; Chest of Drawers; Flour Bin; Kitchen Table; Tea Table; Folding Table; 8 Chairs; Eight-days' Clock; Alarum Clock; Scales and Weights; Iron Bedstead and Mattress; 2 Wood Bedsteads; Flock Bed; Pillows and Bolsters; Cradle; 2 Oil Lamps; 2 good Hand Saws; 2 Clothes Baskets; Bread Mug; Ware; 3 Pails; Fender and Irons; Tidy, &c.; Pans; Kettle; Poss and other Tubs; 4 Pictures; Picks, Axes, Hoes; Steel Forks; Rakes and Shovels; 2 new Hearthrugs; Quilting Frames; Bakeboard; 15 Sacks; Jones & Co.'s Medium Sewing Machine, in good order; Single-barreled Gun. Also, 11 good Hens.

Sale to commence at One o'clock precisely.

Sale Office, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 502v

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1885.

Entries comprise—

14 Dairy Cows and Heifers.
21 Store Cattle, various ages.
7 Fat Cattle.
103 Fat Sheep.
6 Pork Pigs.
Calves, Poultry, 2 Loads Turnips, &c., &c.
Entries to day of Sale.

Sale at 12·30.

Trucks at Station.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

Partridge Close, Tow Law. 472v

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1885.

21 Fat Cattle, including several very grand Bullocks up to 55 stones, and some very neat Cutting Heifers.
95 Fat Sheep.
Several Cows expected forward, but numbers not yet to hand.
Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs, Poultry, Hams, &c.

Sale at One o'clock.

520v NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

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

By Mr. George R. Hobson.

CATCHGATE AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1885.

1 Small Superior Black Pole Cow.
2 Superior Short-horn Roaned Cows, new calved.
1 Bay Horse, aged.
1 Coup Cart.
1 Heifer, 7 months old.
1 Heifer, 18 months old.
Bankrupt Stock of Horse Clothing, Brushes, &c.
1 Ton Potatoes.
Consignment of splendid Hams, in first-rate condition.

Sale to commence at 12·30 with Horse Clothing, &c.

☞ Note the change of day—from Wednesday to Monday.

524v GEORGE R. HOBSON, Auctioneer.

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

ADAM BRODIE & ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, Auctioneers, Valuers, and Estate Agents, Consett, undertake the Sale by Public Auction or otherwise, of Houses and Land, Farming Stocks, Household Furniture, Merchandise, or other Effects, on reasonable terms. Valuations for Probate, Dissolution of Partnership, and Settlement of Claims under Fire Insurances, or in disputes. Fire, Life, and Accident Assurances arranged without delay. Shares of every Description Bought and Sold on Commission. The Victoria Sale-Rooms are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale.

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GREAT REDUCTION IN FARES TO AMERICA, QUEENSLAND, &c.

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25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

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. 891u

Business Announcements.

SAFETY BICYCLES! SAFETY BICYCLES!

THE Latest Novelty in Safety Bicycles is the—"NORTHERN,"

Manufactured by the NORTH OF ENGLAND BICYCLE CO., 44, High Bridge, Newcastle. Send for Price List FREE. Second-hand Bicycles from £2 0s. 0d.

We are Clearing out our present Stock to make room for our New "Northern" Bicycles and Humber Pattern Tandem and Crypto Tricycles. 416v

THE NEW
COAL & STONE BORING MACHINE
From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills.
Also, BURY'S & HARDY'S PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at
THOMAS BOSTON'S,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed periods.

428u ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT
Is now recommended by the Leading Medical Men in the North, as being
THE MOST SUITABLE WINE
FOR
SICK PERSONS AND INVALIDS.

☞ 36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage Paid on 6 Bottles and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,
WINE MERCHANT,
9, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE.

MOST MONEY LENT

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

J. & E. WILSON'S,

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

12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET),
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DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES. 373v

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

As the *Guardian* will be published on the Thursday before New Year's Day, we shall feel obliged if correspondent will forward to this office reports of festive gatherings in their districts as early as possible after the event.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"I.C.U."—Next week.

We have received a letter from Medomsley with no signature appended. Our columns cannot be made the channel for people writing under a *nom de plume* to attack the private character of a correspondent who appends his signature to his communications.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 1885.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

I am afraid that the people of Shotley Bridge will not be able to get a very classic-looking fountain for £30. It is to be regretted that the wire pullers, now in authority, should have determined to go to business on the cheap scale. The village itself is so finely situated that it has long been known by the designation, "The Flower of the Derwent," and the outside public would have been pleased to have seen a drinking fountain in keeping with the surroundings of the place. The members of the Board plead poverty; and while that is a very good reason in some cases, it is altogether out of place in the present instance. The fountain will be required to stand the test of storm and sunshine for two or three generations; and to meet the scrutinising gaze of the native and stranger for many years to come; and under these circumstances the decision arrived at the last sitting of the Board was out of harmony, both with the intelligence of the members and the spirit of the times.

Since closing the above note, I have thought on another phase of the subject. Shotley Bridge has long been famed for the part that not a few of its inhabitants have taken in one of the most important problems of our time—the temperance question. They have sung the praise of cold water for more than a quarter of a century; and to see their favourite clothed in so mean a garb is apt, one would think, to damp their fervour. Attraction is a point that is never over-looked by those who set themselves to counteract the allurements of the tavern; and it would have been a good thing had the members of the Benfieldside Local Board kept the same idea in view when dealing with the new fountain. What could anybody expect in the way of building for £30? Nothing very elegant certainly; but people must be content with small mercies in these dull times; and a fountain in form and fashion like a tombstone is no doubt preferable to no fountain at all. The custom of getting one's coffin ready long before it is wanted was not uncommon in ancient times; and the nearest approach to it in these days is the setting-up of a structure in a public thoroughfare reminding one of a monument on the grave of a saint. It will be very suggestive to the passer-by, and a skull and crossbones would complete the picture.

I have yet another idea in reference to this gushing fountain, and then I will leave it to raise its lofty head and dispense its favours to those who need them. Shotley Bridge is surrounded by fine mansions, occupied by a class of gentry who are not only in easy but in affluent circumstances; and I could name half-a-dozen local parties who could present the inhabitants of this charming little town with a respectable drinking fountain without injuring themselves or anyone dependent upon them. A chaste fountain would set off the place immense; and then it is so much more pleasant to approach a handsome erection with the crystal water springing from its sculptured sides than a thing like a huge gatepost, rude enough to set respectable dogs howling. I trust some of my well-to-do readers will think over this and dream upon it; and some fine morning Shotley may boast a public drinking fountain worthy of a popular holiday resort; and the name of some good Christian will be handed down to posterity long after the kindly heart has heaved its latest sigh and the artery has ceased to beat.

Colonel Wilbraham rendered good service to the Conservative Party in North-West Durham; and it is satisfactory to learn that his friends have determined to present him with some tangible memento of the recent campaign. Tennyson says it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all; and I have no doubt but the Colonel, and those who stood by him in the late contest, are of opinion that it is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all. It has been said that—

> "He either fears his fate too much,
> Or his deserts are small,
> That dares not put it to the touch,
> To gain or lose at all."

But neither the Colonel nor his supporters feared their fate. They showed a force of character and a unity of purpose such as the Party seldom get credit for. They lifted the glove and entered the arena late in the day; and although the tide of fortune turned against them, it must be remembered that she is but a fickle jade at best. It was certainly not through any lack of valour on the part of the champion-elect, nor faithlessness among his followers. The road was a purely untrodden one; and, all things considered, the chances of success were at no time very promising. The Division is young, and Conservatism prospers ill where there is a lack of soil. There are lines of thought which in some minds spring up and bear fruit in a twinkling; but Conservatism is a plant of slow growth. Should the turn of events conduce to bring the rival Parties face to face in the years to be, history might tell another tale. Opinion may, however, be divided on that point; but even those who differ from the Colonel on political questions will not be slow to admit that during the late trying political contest his deportment throughout was marked by those commendable traits of character never found wanting in the well-bred English gentleman. The Party have suffered defeat, it is true; but the wisdom acquired by the lesson will not be soon forgotten, whilst of the Colonel himself it may well be said—

> "Never may success bless
> The man who measures actions by success."

I see by the report in last week's *Guardian* that the Primitive Methodists of Shotley Bridge have set themselves the task of building a new chapel. I'm sure they deserve one, for few know better than I do how faithfully they worked in the old chapel. I occupied the house next door to their place of worship, and never having seen the inside of a Methodist church, it will be understood that I was interested in my next-door neighbours. That will be some fifteen years ago, and the building bore unmistakable indications of the withering finger of time even then. Wherever I meet with Methodists I never fail to measure them by their brethren in Shotley Bridge—so apt are the best of us to be ruled by the influence of first impressions. In this instance, however, the guage is, I believe, a pretty correct one. My old neighbours near the Gas Works were full of fire. I could hear them through the wall nicely; and knowing nothing about Methodists, nor Methodism, truth to tell they sometimes startled me. Indeed, on one occasion the tumult rose to such a pitch that Mrs What-do-you-call-her quite as innocent as myself would give me no rest until I went and peeped through the keyhole of the chapel door to see that they were not destroying one another! I got accustomed to them after that, and bye-and-by learned to respect them.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

On Wednesday night, the members of the Victoria Quadrille party gave a ball in the New Town Hall, Consett.

Mr Nicholas Morgan, the renowned phrenologist, will commence a week's engagement at the Assembly Rooms, Consett, this (Thursday) evening.

CONSETT IRONWORKS REPRESENTATIVE.—The election of representative for Consett Ironworks to the Board of Arbitration for the Manufactured Iron Trade took place at Consett yesterday (Wednesday), when Mr T. Williams was re-elected.

VAGRANCY.—At the Consett Petty Sessions, on Monday—before James Annandale, Esq., J.P.—*Ellen Taylor* (55), a lame tramp, was brought up in custody charged by P.C. Newton with begging alms from door to door at Consett, on the previous Saturday afternoon.—The woman was discharged with a caution.—This was the only case disposed of at the Court.

A DARK DAY.—Monday was one of the darkest days that Consett has seen for some time. At nine o'clock the darkness was so great that all the shops were lit up, and though for a short time about mid-day it appeared as if the fog was going to lift, the change was only temporary, and by three o'clock darkness had practically set in. A dense black fog prevailed between five and seven o'clock. The 21st December is well known as "the shortest day," and Monday was certainly one of the darkest ever known.

PROPOSED PUBLIC ASSEMBLY ROOM.—In consequence of the exorbitant charges demanded by the Directors of the Consett New Town Hall Company, for a certain class of meetings, whilst letting the Hall at an almost nominal rental for balls and similar assemblies, we hear on good authority that a body of gentlemen in the town are endeavouring to promote a scheme, by which a spacious building will be secured in Middle Street, to accommodate between 600 or 800 people, for the purposes of holding public meetings, concerts, entertainments, &c., therein.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS.—On Tuesday, *Peter Conway* (40), scavanger for the Local Board, was charged before Mr Annandale, at Shotley Bridge, with being helplessly drunk at Consett, at eleven o'clock on Monday night. The charge was preferred by P.C. Martin, and the prisoner was fined 5s and costs. Conway was also locked up for a similar offence on Saturday night, and was bailed out to appear at the Police Court next Monday.—On Wednesday, *Mark Thompson* (58), an itinerant hawker of oranges, was charged by the same officer with being guilty of drunkenness and disorderly behaviour in the public streets of Consett, at eleven o'clock on Tuesday evening. He was also mulcted in 5s and expenses.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOLS.—The Consett Catholic School is in this enviable position, that the children have reached the highest standard of efficiency, passing at the Government inspection 100 per cent. It is because of this and other kindred facts that Bishop Bewick and those associated with him speak to the educational authorities after this manner:—"We submit to your rules; we accept your standards; we teach what you say ought to be taught; and, by your own admission, we do all those things in the best possible way. Why, therefore, do you not only refuse us a share of the rates, but make us, after paying for our own children, pay for the children of others.—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*

BLACKHILL.

At the Christmas Stock Sale at Benfieldside, on Monday, in addition to what appears in our inner columns, Mr Swinburn, Stanley; Mr Jas. Shearer, Iveston (who secured the winners of the 1st and 2nd prizes by fat sheep); Mr Haughan, Knitsley; Mr Potts, Ryton; Mr Swainston, Consett; and Mr S. Temperley, Consett, were amongst the list of buyers.

FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 350TH STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.—The twenty-ninth appropriation of this society took place on Monday evening, in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill. Mr Mark Noble having been voted to the chair, Messrs W. Elsdon and E. Maddison were elected scrutineers, and a little boy selected to draw the ballot balls. Register number 488 was drawn, owned by Mr John Johnson, Langley Park, who, holding two shares, becomes entitled to an advance of £200, free of interest, for 12½ years.—Votes of thanks to the chairman and scrutineers closed the meeting.

BIBLE STUDENTS' SOCIETY.—As a sequel to the former sitting of this society, to consider Mr Gladstone's reply in the *Nineteenth Century* (November) to Dr Reville's essay on "The Dawn of Creation and of Worship," so the last sitting was to quietly discuss Professor Huxley's presumed refutation of Mr Gladstone, in the same periodical for December. The discussion, though not a very lively one, was perhaps one of the most thoughtful that we have yet held, in bringing forth a great amount of varied biblical, geological, and theological reading and opinion. The central point of the controversy lay in this, admitting that the professor, as a scientist, is perhaps the greatest in our time; admitting that his knowledge of geology in its modern phrase is more complete and more reliable than that of Mr Gladstone, is geology itself, in its record of the succession of life on the globe, so firmly, so finally demonstrated as to render its present teachings unimpeachable and conclusive? In the affirmative it was contended, that inasmuch as all pure scientists (with few exceptions) were now fairly uniform and coherent in their classification of the graduated succession of life on the globe, from the lowest and even most doubtful forms of vitality, up to the human era, such classification might be accepted as final. But if so, the issues were sad to contemplate, as they involved the entire recasting of many points of our historical and traditional faith. They involved the sacrifice on the altar of a cold, cheerless, hopeless science of those beautiful dreams of the golden age of the distant past, and of its restitution and eternal duration in a not very distant future. They involved the extinction of those simple, poetical, elements of faith, linking us with the holy and sacred memories of childhood, and a mother's knee. Such were the issues involved if the present outcome of the professor were the final outcome of science. On the negative side, it was most ably and, we think, most unquestionably and irrefutably shown that the so-called demonstrations of geological professors had changed, and were ever in a condition of transition and uncertainty. In fact the very ground upon which Pro. Huxley bases his supposed refutation of Mr Gladstone demonstrates this utter uncertainty and infinality of geological outcomes and eras. Thus, for instance, the professor twits the G.O.M. with being behind the age in relying upon Cuvier and Sir John Herschell. Exactly so. But if so, why does not Mr Huxley see that if the science (?) has so changed its outcome since the days of Cuvier, of Herschell, and even of Hugh Miller, that outcome may, by the "dawn" of the next century, be equally distant from the present standpoint of the professor himself? This continual flux can therefore be no standard of appeal or fixed canon against the Genesaic record of Moses, so logically championed by Mr Gladstone. And even in Cuvier's day the same incertain and flux were recognised by the great naturalist himself. Thus if any of your scholarly readers overlook his "Discours sur les Revolutions de La Surface du Globe. Page 94, edition Paris, 1828," they will find these words—"Je ne pretends point par cette remarque . . . diminuer le merite des observations de M. M. Camper, Pallas, Blumenbach, Soemmering, Rosenmuller, &c," that is—"I do not pretend by this remark to diminish the merit of the observations of (made by) Messieurs Camper, Pallas, Blumenbach, Rosenmuller, &c." Again, on the same negative side if any of your readers take up the "Vestiges of Creation;" and along with it read Hugh Miller's "Footprints of the Creator," they may perhaps find there sufficient disagreement to make them pause before yielding up the "one foundation" upon which the present happiness, the future hopes, and the ultimate destinies of humanity are alone based. *Cloture* was called while the last speaker was indulging in an admirable peroration upon both the professor and the "G.O.M."

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—The bazaar in connection with the above place of worship at Shotley Bridge, which was opened on Wednesday week, in the Temperance Hall, was brought to a very successful termination on Saturday night. The ladies of the congregation have laboured very assiduously for nearly twelve months in anticipation of holding a bazaar, and we are glad to be able to state that their efforts in that direction have been highly successful, the total sum realised being slightly over £160, which is very creditable.—Special sermons were preached on Sunday, in the afternoon by Rev Thomas Elliott, superintendent minister, and in the evening by Rev John Ryan, who took for his text the 47th verse of the 89th Psalm—"Remember how short my tent is, wherefore hast thou made all men in vain." There were large and appreciative congregations at both services. Collections were taken on behalf of new chapel fund.

BURNHOPE.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY.—On Saturday, Dec. 12th, Mr Jonathan Wardle, Gateshead, delivered his popular lecture, entitled "Father Taylor, the Boston Sailor Preacher," in the above chapel to a respectable audience. Mr J. Allison, Holmside Hall, occupied the chair, in the absence of Mr J. T. Forster, Burnhope House. After the lecture, there was a coffee supper, presided over by the following ladies:—Mrs Rollins, Mrs Olier, Miss Teasdale, and Miss Kears; assisted by Mrs Gawman, Mrs M. Kears, and Mrs Spence.—On Sunday, Mr Wardle preached two excellent sermons, in the morning on "Manliness;" and in the evening, upon "The poor are admitted to the riches of the Gospel." Mr M. Frankland, Blackhill, preached in the afternoon from the first epistle of St. John on the assurance of Christ's advent into this world as God manifest in the flesh. Collections were taken in aid of the trust fund after each service.

PELTON.

At an ordination held by the Lord Bishop of Durham, at the parish Church of St. Andrew, Auckland, on Sunday last, the Rev Edward Henry Greenhow, of Charsley's Hall, Oxford, M.A., was ordained a deacon, and afterwards licensed to the curacy of Pelton.

ROWLEY.

Some time on Monday morning, some person or persons, supposed to hail from Consett, entered the plantation of Mr W. J. Scott, of The Sycamores, Rowley, and cut a large quantity of holly and evergreens off the trees. The damage done is estimated at £20.

WOLSINGHAM.

On Sunday, the anniversary services of the Wolsingham Baptist Sunday School were held.

ENTERTAINMENT.—On Friday night, an entertainment was given in the Grammar School, Wolsingham, by the Rev A. F. Eales, master, to the parents of the scholars and friends. Recitations in various languages were given by the scholars, together with a selection of vocal and instrumental music, in which they were assisted by Mrs Eales, Miss F. Shaw, and Mr J. H. Brotherton.

WINLATON.

THE CATAPULT.—At the Gateshead County Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, *John Robinson* and *William Armstrong*, lads, were charged with having thrown stones by means of a catapult at Winlaton, on the 5th inst.—A fine of 6d each, with 7s costs, was imposed.

STANHOPE.

POLICE COURT.—At the Stanhope Petty Sessions, held on Friday, *Jos. Maddison* was charged by Sergt. Hamm with being drunk whilst in charge of two horses and a carriage on the 7th inst., at Westgate. He was fined 10s, including costs.—*George Young*, of Shildon, for exposing pigs for sale at Stanhope, contrary to the order of the Privy Council made under the Contagious Diseases Act, was fined, including costs, £1 8s 8d.

WEARDALE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.—At the usual meeting of the Sanitary Authority, the members authorised a letter calling upon Mr B. Mowbray to provide water for his tenants at White Kirtley, where at present the supply passes through an open gutter, and is thus open to contamination.—On the question of the Frosterley sewer contract, the Surveyor said the contracter would not go into the value of the extras, and he had accordingly prepared a balance-sheet, showing, on his own valuation, a balance of £14 against the contractors, who, however, have not yet seen the balance-sheet.

SPEN COLLIERY.

ABROAD AT MIDNIGHT.—On Tuesday, at the Gateshead County Police Court, two young men, *Joseph Hodgson* and *George Lonsdale*, were charged with having been at midnight in the farm yard of Mr James Lawrence, of Barlow, on the 18th, for an unlawful purpose.—Prisoners pleaded guilty, and they were sent to Durham for 14 days with hard labour.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION.—On Saturday evening, there was a tea and entertainment in the Miners' Hall, Spen, in connexion with this mission. Above 250 people sat down to the tables, presided over by Misses Bewick, Breckons, Grosset, Robson, and Spearman. During tea a sale of work was carried on by Mrs Wykes, and Misses Bewick and Ford, who took £4 18s 3d. At intervals, during the tea, the Misses Avery, Mrs Wykes, and the Rev M. Nason played some of the popular music of the day. At the entertainment which followed, the Rev A. Jones, rector, presided during the first part, and Mr W. Green, of Thornley House, during the second. In the course of the evening, the Rev W. M. Wykes publicly thanked all those who had assisted in rendering the entertainment a success, and the numerous friends who had helped by gifts of money and fancy articles. After paying all expenses, a sum of £19 was cleared to be devoted to the purchase of two harmoniums for use in the Mission Rooms at The Spen and Victoria Garesfield.

EDMONDSLEY.

ORDER OF RECHABITES.—On Saturday, Messrs T. W. Smyth, D.C.R. (Hartlepool), F. W. Witty, D.D.R. (Monkwearmouth), and Thomas Dalziel, D.S. (Jarrow), instituting officers of the Durham County District No. 33 Independent Order of Rechabites, assisted by Bros. Cosgrove and Waggott, sen. and jun., of the "Sure to Win" Tent, Houghton-le-Spring, instituted a Tent at Edmondsley, in the British Schools. It was named "Edmondsley's Star." A public meeting was afterwards held, presided over by Mr Jos. Walker, when Bros. T. W. Smyth, D.C.R., and T. Witty, D.D.R., delivered addresses.

STOCKSFIELD.

CLERICAL PAY *versus* MINERS' GALA PAY.—The Rev Theophilus Bennett, M.A., of Newton Hall, Stocksfield, preaching at the Parish Church, on Sunday morning, read a letter which had appeared in the columns of the *Newcastle Chronicle*, and made thereon some remarks drawing a contrast between the pay given to the clergy and that given by or on behalf of the miners to the speakers at their annual galas. The letter referred to was as follows:—"How the miners' money goes." "Sir,—Would you allow me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to say a few words upon a subject which has recently been introduced to the public concerning the payment of gala speakers by the Durham miners, and of moneys spent, of which, I can safely say, not one-twentieth part of the Durham miners are aware? Probably you will say it is their own neglect in not attending their lodge meetings. I would agree with you there; but, sir, in the general run (and I speak from experience, being one myself) the Durham miners, so long as they are left in peace to labour and toil, and by doing so obtain sufficient to enable them to live honestly and decently, seem to be content with their lot, and place explicit trust in their agents to deal properly with the subscriptions which they assiduously contribute. But, sir, there are some amongst us who watch, with zealous and eager eye, the precedence of those whose tyranny we are united to guard against, determined to have justice for themselves and their fellow miners. But I should (if I may presume so much) advise them and all other miners not only to watch their employers, but also to watch their employés. We had at our last gala four speakers paid £10 each, which in itself is certainly monstrous. To pay £40 for four speakers, who at the longest did not speak more than 40 minutes each, is in itself enough; but there is something more to add to it. There was to pay an hotel bill little short of £29 for entertaining them with a little refreshment, making it practically £69 the cost of the four speakers. Now, sir, I submit, and every rational man will do likewise, that it is simply outrageous. I say to you miners of Durham, awake from your attitude, let the world know you exist, and let your agents know that so long as they remain in your pay they must look after your interest; that they are your servants, and must advocate labour in the future instead of capital, or go.—Yours, &c., TYRO. White-le-Head, Dec. 14th, 1885."—On this, the rev. gentleman said:—"No clergyman who stands up to speak in pulpit, school, cottage, or open-air, can so stand (if he be a University man) without his education having cost him, at the very least, one thousand pounds. Many of us have actually paid, out of pocket, a great deal more, and yet, what proportion does the pay we get for our addresses bear to that of the gala speakers as detailed in this letter?"

TANFIELD.

C.E.T.S.—A most successful entertainment and coffee supper were given in connection with this society on Tuesday night, in the National School-room, Tanfield. The entertainment consisted of a dialogue, songs, recitations, duets, and trios. Valuable assistance was given by six members of the Beamish branch, who took part in the dialogue. Miss Masterman, also of the Beamish branch, contributed two songs, "Thou art so near and yet so far" and "Won't you buy my pretty flowers?" Miss M. A. Hinckley sang two songs, "Happy be thy dreams" and "Killarney," and in response to an *encore* gave "In the gloaming." A duet, "I know a bank," was nicely rendered by Miss Donald and Mr Forster, and Miss Donald contributed another song. An amusing recitation about "An old hat," by Mr Robson, with two trios by three members of the Beamish branch and two songs by the Rev C. H. Newman brought the programme to an end. The audience adjourned, to meet again shortly afterwards for supper in the infant school room. Upon entering the room the eyes of the hungry were delighted by the sight of three long tables prettily and tastefully laid out with tempting viands and beautiful flowers. No. 1 table was presided over by Miss Brewis and Miss Robinson; No. 2, Miss Pringle and Miss Newell; No. 3, Miss Agar and Miss Brown. All vacant places were soon filled, and grace having been said, the consumption of the good things went on merrily. Altogether, over 230 persons sat down to supper, and everything passed off in a most successful manner.

WATERHOUSES.

It is stated that the Rev Philip C. Fortin, of St. Mary's Newhouse, Waterhouses, is going to St. Michael's Catholic Church, Elswick, in place of the late lamented Canon Vanderstichele.

LEADGATE.

PRESENTATION.—On Tuesday evening, a few friends of Mr Thomas Smith, mining engineer, assembled at the house of Mr J. Noble, Commercial Inn, Leadgate, and presented to that gentleman a handsome marble timepiece, subscribed for by about 30 members of the "Bachelor's Club," in celebration of Mr Smith's recent marriage. A splendid repast was prepared by the hostess; and afterwards a jovial evening was spent.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SUNDAY-SCHOOL BAND OF HOPE.—A public entertainment in connection with the above was held on Saturday night, in the School-room, Leadgate, under the presidency of Mr Joseph Bell, who in a few appropriate remarks opened out the meeting, after which the following programme was gone through:—Song, "The vacant chair," Miss M. A. Reed; reading, "Little Polly," Miss A. Devlin; recitation, "Rosie's last word," Master C. Jackson; melody, "Temperance Army," Mr W. Weirs; reading (humorous), "Sambo's blessed tings," Mr Rochester; duet, "Sing it from the heart," Master and Miss Jackson; reading, "Widow Simpson's spoons," Mr S. Nicholson; concertina solo, "Pull for the shore," Mr Bunney; reading (humorous) "Thady and the bear," Mr T. Kennedy; melody "Don't try it on," Mr H. Bell; reading (humorous), "Hints to married folks," Mr Rochester.—A vote of thanks, moved by Mr J. Bell, and seconded by Mr Maughin, was accorded to the Chairman and performers, and the meeting was brought to a close in the usual manner.

WITTON GILBERT.

"WHAT BECAME OF THE GEESE."—On Saturday morning, two "Witton lads" bent on enjoying the delicacies of the season, came to Durham Market and purchased two very fine geese, which they handed over to a lad with instructions to take them to the Neville Hotel, on the North Road. On our two worthies making the usual inquiries at the above hostelry a short while after they found that their bargains had never reached their destination. They naturally felt greatly incensed at what they thought was a totally unjustifiable appropriation of their property, but nevertheless they waited patiently for several hours. Eventually, however, visions of an empty board on the morrow disturbed their quietude of mind, and in their distress they gave information to the police, but notwithstanding that our Head-Constable and his men left no stone unturned, they failed to lay their hands on the delinquent who "victimised" the "Witton lads," but the missing geese were on Tuesday found to have been left at another hostelry in the city, and were duly handed over to their owners.

WHICKHAM.

CONCERT.—On Friday evening, an amateur concert was given in the Parochial Schools of the above parish, under the auspices of the Rev J. M. Hick, curate of the parish, in aid of the fund for refitting and cleaning and otherwise improving the mission room at Swalwell. The programme was most attractive, each item being evidently appreciated by a large and enthusiastic audience. The ladies and gentlemen who kindly gave their services were Miss Thompson, who played two solos on the pianoforte with great taste and execution; Mrs G. Ramsay, who sang to her harp accompaniment "The Last Rose of Summer" and "Robin Adair;" and Mrs Green, who sang "A winter's story," "Katie's Letter;" Mrs Hick, "When the thorn is white with blossom" and "Mother's with the angels there;" Miss A. Hunter, "The Quaker's daughter" and "Surely;" Miss C. Carr, "The auld house" and "Jessie's dream;" Rev C. H. Newman (Tanfield), who sang "The boatswain's story" and "Our Jack's come home to-day;" Mr W. D. Hick, who give "The shipwright" and "The four jolly smiths;" Mr A. C. Hick, "The storm fiend" and "The little hero;" and the Rev J. M. Hick, who sang "The bugler" and "The Uhlan." The accompaniments were ably rendered by Mr Holmes and Mrs Corrigan. Among the part-songs which varied the entertainment the one which gave most pleasure was a trio, "Brignal banks," by Mrs Hick, Rev J. M. Hick, and Rev M. Green. Altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent, and the audience separated with three hearty cheers for their entertainers, proposed by the rector, the Rev H. B. Carr. The result in a pecuniary point was most satisfactory to the promoters of the good object for which the concert was given.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

A BRAVE RAILWAY PORTER.—On Tuesday night, a concert and presentation were held in the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Hall. The presentation was made to Mr John Peary, railway porter, of Chester-le-Street Station, and was a purse of gold and a silver watch, for a noble act performed by him in saving a child's life on the railway. There was a good attendance. The Rev Canon Blunt presided, and made the presentation, referring in laudatory terms to the brave action of the porter. The handsome watch bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr John Peary, with a purse of gold, by a few friends, to commemorate his noble act of bravery, in saving a child's life on the railway, at Chester-le-Street, October 15, 1885." Mrs Peary was also presented with a magnificent work-box. Mr Peary briefly acknowledged the gift. The remainder of the evening was spent in an enjoyable manner by the kindness of several local artistes.

TOW LAW.

Scarlatina and a bad form of measles are very rife at Tow Law, and the Wesleyan National Schools have been closed in consequence.

Three geese belonging to R. Milburn and some ducks owned by W. Hodgson, at Tow Law, were stolen a night or two ago. The geese were afterwards found by the police hidden among some ballast.

I.O.G.T.—The Rev J. Roscamp, vicar of Stanley, addressed an open session of the Beacon of Hope Lodge of Good Templars, on Wednesday, Dec. 16th, at Tow Law. There was a numerous attendance of members and visitors, and his telling and thoughtful address was warmly received, and its effect will undoubtedly be to inspire the members with a better idea of the vast importance of their temperace work, and with more earnestness in each doing his share.

CROOK.

PARISH CHURCH.—The members of the Young Men's Bible Class in connection with Crook Church, conducted by the curate (Rev F. Newsome), held their sixth annual gathering on Monday night, in the Temperance Hall. After a sumptuous repast, to which each member invited a young lady friend, a very enjoyable evening was spent, during which speeches, songs, and a variety of games were indulged in.

WESLEYAN METHODISM.—CROOK CIRCUIT.—The local preachers' and quarterly meetings of the Wesleyan Methodist Crook Circuit were held at Crook on Tuesday—Rev S. Adcock presiding. The numerical and financial condition of the circuit was reported to be satisfactory. On the retirement of Mr Bones, as senior circuit steward, Mr Walker, Howden-le-Wear, was appointed to the vacancy, Mr D. Grieves, Willington, being appointed junior steward. Mr Oughton, was elected circuit secretary. Rev John Foster, Peel, Isle of Man, was invited as superintendent minister at the next conference to succeed the Rev S. Adcock.

COMMERCIAL ACADEMY AND LADIES' SEMINARY.—The annual entertainment and distribution of prizes took place in the Mechanics' Hall, Crook, on Monday evening—Rev J. King, M.A., rector, in the chair. A classic, varied, but interesting programme was creditably rendered by the pupils, conducted by Mrs Wilson (Ladies' Seminary), and Mr W. Brotherton, Bishop Auckland. The prizes were distributed as follows:—Conduct, Miss M. Hare; first class, Miss M. Fell; second class, Miss M. Hare; general improvement, Miss Bella Morson. Boys—Conduct, A. Hare; medal for general improvement, W. Coates; second class, Charles Pattison; second class (extra), J. Johnson; third class, A. Gowland. Certificates from the College of Preceptors were awarded as follows:—Third class, third division, Miss G. R. Fell; do., second division, W. Coates; do., third division, A. Hare; do., third division, J. G. Gowland.

EDMONDBYERS.

HAREHOPE GILL MINING COMPANY.—A notice appeared in Tuesday night's *London Gazette* calling upon the creditors of the Harehope Gill Mining Company, which is in voluntary liquidation, to send in their claims to Mr Geo. Eugene Macarthy, of 9, Dean Street, Newcastle, the liquidator of the company.

HERE AND THERE.

The election has exhibited some strange features, and none more strange than the candidature of a member of the National Liberal Club in the Conservative interest. Dr. Hunter, the newly-elected member for North Aberdeen, on returning to his old seat in the smoking-room of the N.L.C. recounted, as candidates do, the incidents of the campaign. Fighting his battles o'er again, he chanced to mention the name of his opponent who had led a very hard-fought battle. "McGeagh! McGeagh!" said a member of the committee, meditatively, "Methinks I have heard that name before!" A reference to the club list shewed Mr. McGeagh's name, with initials corresponding with those of the Conservative candidate for Aberdeen. Mr. McGeagh was applied to for a solution of this apparent inconsistency, and at once replied that he had been a Liberal and was one no longer, a blessed change having taken place exactly seven weeks ago. The Committee will complete the change in a day or so by removing Mr. McGeagh's name from the books of the N.L.C.

The Indian Association has done badly this campaign, and the native delegates will return to their own country with a poor opinion of English politicians, and possibly with some sad auguries which will not be fulfilled. The Association specifically recommended the following candidates to the electors: Mr. Bright, the Marquis of Hartington, Mr. L. Ghose, Mr. J. S. Keay, Mr. Slagg, Mr. Wilfrid Blunt, Mr. W. Digby, to whom may be added Mr. Firth, on the authority of the Delegates. All these, except the first two, were unsuccessful. On the other hand, the candidates against whom special warnings were issued, as they represented the Anglo-Indian policy most opposed to native ideas, and having its most distinguished representative in Sir Lewis Pelly, were, with one exception elected. These were Sir R. Temple, Sir J. Fergusson, Mr. J. M. Maclean, Sir Lewis Pelly, Sir Roper Lethbridge, and Mr. A. S. Ayrton. As a matter of fact all these elections—with the exception, perhaps, of Mr. Ghose's—were fought out on purely English questions. Indian politics are as yet among the many mysteries which none but a few specialists attempt to penetrate.

I could not tell you all the three-acre-and-cow stories I have heard, but here is one of them. A labourer voted for the Liberal candidate, and meeting the presiding officer next day took him aside, and proceeded to make inquiries concerning his three-acre inheritance, representing that his next-door neighbour had a neat little plot of two-and-a-half acres, which would just suit. The official entered into the joke, and intimated that an application to the rate-collector would have an immediate effect. So he gave Hodge a note to the collector, and this gentleman pretended to examine his books for signs of the required allotment. Suddenly he looked at Hodge, and shook his head sadly. "Dear me," he said, "this is very unfortunate. Those two-and-a-half acres have been given to somebody else, and I am sorry to say that in order to make up the three they threw your half-acre in."

The rural voter will have his little joke. In North Norfolk a labourer walked out of the polling booth with his marked voting-paper in his pocket, declaring that the ballot was secret, and that no power on earth should induce him to surrender it.

I fancy the *Citizen* is right. It gives as the lesson of London pollings the strong preference entertained for local men—not necessarily of the vestry type—over strangers and adventurers from the Land of the Lord-knows-where. This is certainly true of the majority of the constituencies, and the instances in which a distinguished foreigner has managed to oust a native are few and far between, and in nearly every case of the kind the majority has been exceedingly small. The rule is a sound one after all, and the choice of a stranger candidate should never be regarded in any other light than as an exception. There are some men whom any constituency in England would be proud to accept; but they, after all, are in a minority, and even in their case one fails to see why their first choice would not be given to the place with which their life-work is most closely identified.

General Prendergast has his reward for the successful little campaign in Burmah. He becomes a K.C.B. It is not a great guerdon, but it is perhaps fairly well proportioned to the service, and at all events is a far more seemly recognition than the extravagant honours we have of late been accustomed to heap on our successful generals. As a matter of fact, General Prendergast's action seems likely to have added a very substantial possession to the Crown. It appears that to all intents and purposes we have annexed Burmah. The talk about a government by deputy-commissioners can have only one meaning. We have conquered Burmah, and Lord Dufferin has evidently arrived at the conclusion that the only way to keep our work intact is to annex. Be it so. The Viceroy is necessarily the judge of what is best. But we should like to have explanations.

Candid French writers are drawing comparisons between the British success in Burmah and the French disasters in Tonquin. Certainly the two adventures have had widely different results. The French have spent much money and many lives, and have got a most insecure footing in a country which does not seem to be worth having. At a comparatively small cost of treasure and with little bloodshed, the Indian Government has established its authority in a region which will certainly yield a good deal of commercial as well as political advantage. That Upper Burmah will be practically annexed seems almost a foregone conclusion now. It will be surprising if Lord Dufferin does not recommend that course, and it is not likely to meet with much opposition in England.

It is very well to cry for Church reform, but it is not generally realised that to be effectual, reform must go much further than many people imagine. A Churchman puts the essential factor very clearly. "Now, the real fact is that the laity have the power to do what they like with the Church. Whether they will exercise this power or not is another question; but it is surely as well not to lose sight of the fact. If the Church, is to remain the national Church of England by law established, the reforms must go much deeper than those at present proposed, and the power which the laity possess must be fully acknowledged, and not only acknowledged, but put into full force. In other words, it must no longer be the clergy who rule the Church, but the laity." This is bluntly put, but it probably expresses the views of the majority of the laity. They have not very actively asserted their right to control, and have submitted with good humoured tolerance to many things they disapprove. For example, the appointment of clergymen who make no appeal whatever to the intelligence of their flocks, and whose capacity is mutely condemned by the increasing desire of their hearers to escape from church before the sermon, is not very strongly resented, but it cannot be perpetuated.

A friend in the West sends me very pleasant news of the Bishop of Truro, which I, as an old admirer of Dr. Wilkinson, receive with much satisfaction. In past years all London knew and admired the Bishop for his fearless earnestness and his indomitable energy. But it was thought he was "too high," and earnestness, combined with energy, seemed to be substituted for rather than supplemented by what you may call "weight." Dr. Wilkinson, as a diocesan, I rejoice to [illegible] severity is needed he has it. [illegible] my correspondent says is that his style has grown into something nearly approaching grandeur. On the other hand, the doctor's catholicity enables him to strike hard with "all sorts and conditions of men" in the religious world of the West. For myself, having listened to the Bishop when he was at St. Peter's, I am inclined to say that this development is just what London expected in him.

Mr. Herman Merivale gives a satiric sketch of the scientific man who has lately been airing his disdain for politicians:

> "He sits smiling truth in his private
>   Ineffable den;
> And some day, perhaps, he will drive it
>   Home in a dull men,
> When Learning's inferior branches
>   Are all on the shelf,
> And Science can squat on her haunches,
>   And worship herself."

Some can still agonise, regardless of general elections. Here is the latest effusion in the *Standard*: "SARA, sweet and loving girl, I cannot help but love you. You are troubled about nothing. Have patience and don't make me silly!! Move the fates and don't move me, but kindly; for I have a continual and loving regard for you. Time and inclination not mine.—Vide c. 5." If anyone can save this young gentleman from silliness it will be Sara. But it looks a hopeless case.

There is a prophet in the East who is not a party man. He compares himself to Laocoon strangled by serpents, but hopes his country will listen to his dying gasp and be warned in time. For it seems that parties are the curse of the country, and are preparing for us unutterable woes. This must be true, for the prophet has looked into history and found that disasters always come in cycles. For instance, the Crusade began in 1095, and nearly a hundred years later there was an outburst of cruelty against the Jews. Wat Tyler's insurrection in 1380 carries on the argument. Bosworth Field takes up the wondrous tale, and so we pass by easy stages to the destruction of the Bastile and the year of terror, when "Loire fish turned up through eating corpses." What wonder that the prophet tells us that "these solemn facts and dates ought to have their weight with such terrible tendency towards the last sun of this century setting in blood." Prophetic English is a little obscure, but we are evidently in danger of a carnival of corpses for the Thames fish.

ATTEMPT AGAINST THE SULTAN.

A Buda-Pesth paper has received from Constantinople some very doubtful news concerning an alleged attempt upon the Sultan's life. It is said that when Abdul Hamid, after morning prayers was walking in the Yildiz Gardens with three aides-de-camp, a negro slave, Deevad Aga, with a sharp poignard, threw himself upon his Majesty, but only pierced his coat collar. The aides-de-camp seized him, and with their swords literally cut him to pieces. The Sultan received no injury, but was terribly upset. The negro is supposed to have been intoxicated with haschisch.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.—Unpublished page from the life of George Washington. It is the merry summer time. To him, the mother of the father of his country:—"George, dear, where have you been since school was dismissed?" "Hain't been nowhere, ma." "Did you come straight home from school, George?" "Yes, ma." "But school is dismissed at three o'clock, and it is now half-past six, how does that come?" "Got kep in." "What for?" "Missed m' joggrafy lesson." "But your teacher was here only an hour ago, and said you hadn't been at school all day?" "Got kep in yestiddy, then." "George, why were you not at school to-day?" "Forgot. Thought all time it was Saturday." "Don't stand on one side of your foot in that manner. Come here to me, George, you have been swimming." "No'me." "Yes, you have, George. Haven't you?" "N-o-a." "Tell your mother, George." "N-u-o-k." "Then what makes your hair so wet, my son?" "Sweat? I run so fast comin' from school." "But your shirt is wrong side out." "Put it on that way when I got up up this morning for luck. Always wins when you plays for keeps if your shirt's on hinside out." "And you haven't the right sleeve of your shirt on your arm at all, George, and there is a hard knot tied on it. How did that come there?" "Bill Fairfax tied it in when I wasn't lookin'." "But what were you doing with your shirt off?" "Didn't have it off.—He jes took'n tied that knot in there when it was on me." "George!" "That's honest truth, he did." About that time the noble Bushrod came along with a skate-strap, and we draw a veil over the dreadful scene, merely remarking that boys do not seem to change so much as men.

"GONE, NO ADDRESS."—A humorous illustration of the method and precision of our country postmen is reported from Anglia. A letter addressed to a gentleman residing in the village of H., had been posted at U., and was on the following morning given to the rural postman for delivery. This, however, could not be effected, as the addressee had during the night terminated his existence by hanging. The postman, as in duty bound, wrote on the back of the letter—"Addressee hanged himself last night. Present address unknown." With this bit of biting sarcasm the letter was returned to the sender.

THEY USUALLY DO LEARN.—"Are you and your wife going away anywhere this summer?" asked Anderson of Stone. "Don't know," replied Stone cautiously. "You didn't go last year, did you?" "No, but I don't know whether I can work it again this year." "Why, have you got any scheme to circumvent it? If you have for goodness sake let me know it." "Well, it's this way. I have always allowed my wife so much cash for her own use and the use of the house, and she has always spent it. Last year I told her I hadn't the money to spend in a summer trip, unless she could save a little on her allowance to help me out." "And she didn't do it, or you would have gone, of course?" interrupted Anderson. "That's where you're off," continued the wretched husband; "she saved and saved and reported to me every week, and I kept telling her we would go when she had a few more dollars. She kept ahead in her innocent simplicity, and, finally, when I concluded that we had enough to meet the expenses, it was too late to go, and I was ahead just that much." "Great head!" exclaimed Anderson. "You'll work it again that way, of course?" "Don't know," sighed Stone, "she's a year older now, and a young wife learns an awful quantity about her husband in that time."

PATIENCE.—The patience of the lovers of what Izaak Walton calls "The gentle craft," is well known—indeed, none but a patient man could pursue it. In the old days, when the northern suburb of London had still some pretensions to be called the village of Islington, and the New River ran through its roadways like a country stream, an angler, who usually went further afield with his rod and line, used, day after day, week after week, to pass a brother enthusiast perched upon a particular spot on the bank of the stream. He was always there, and, fancying that some particularly good sport was to be had in that favoured nook, and burning with envy, the other, one morning, very early, repaired thither, determined to forestal him. To his delight, he found the place solitary. Trembling with eagerness, he cast his line and sat down full of expectancy. Bye-and-by the lawful possessor of the spot arrived. "Egad," said the poacher, addressing him, "I don't know how you manage it, but I have been sitting here three hours, and I've never caught anything yet." "Three hours!" repeated the other, "la bless you, sir, I've sat here three years and never caught anything."

A LONG VISAGE.—A gentleman, having a remarkably long visage, was one day riding by a school, at the gate of which he overheard young Sheridan say to another lad, "That gentleman's face is longer than his life." Struck by the strangeness of this rude observation, the man turned his horse's head, and requested an explanation. "Sir," said the boy, "I meant no offence in the world; but I have read in the Bible at school that a man's life is but a span, and I am sure your face is double that length." The gentleman could not help laughing, and he threw the lad sixpence for his wit.

BOBBY laboriously lugged a pail into the parlour where the family were assembled, and asked his rich uncle to kick it. "Why should I kick it, Bobby?" "Just to amuse 'pa," said Bobby. "He said he would give £10 any time to see you kick the bucket."

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OLD GUBBY.

BY

CLEMENT W. SCOTT.

CHAPTER I.

THE LITTLE BACK-PARLOUR.

HE had been Old Gubby from time immemorial. It was quite certain that such a person as young Gubby had never been known, no, not even by his worthy old parents, who, years ago, had been put to sleep under the then green turf which flourished in the churchyard of St. Nicholas Staining.

He was a queer, old-fashioned child, Old Gubby; and really, on reflection, it would have been an anomaly if he had turned out young and frisky, for his father and mother had silvery heads when he was born, and being an only child, with no playmate but an antiquated cat, and a dog who had long ago forsaken the gaieties of the famous quarter in the City of London in which he lived; to say nothing of the undoubted fact that a City parish after business hours, and on Sundays, is not now, and was not then, the most lively place in the world—I repeat that, had Old Gubby turned out a frolicsome boy, his parents would no doubt have been as surprised as their neighbours.

His queer, old-fashioned ways, as a child, were translated by his cheery parents into genius of an astounding order; but beyond possessing the additional intelligence which children of old parents undoubtedly possess, and acquiring that dry peculiarity of manner which such children cannot fail to pick up, I cannot account for the eulogistic remarks bestowed upon their offspring by his parents. He made a pigeon-house, for the famous fat City pigeons, somewhat successfully at the age of 10, and a few years later performed extraordinary flourishes on his father's flute; but his after-life proved incontestably that this young-old fellow was not born to be a skilled mechanic or musician.

It was at school that Old Gubby really became Old Gubby. His real name was Nicodemus Gubbs, and although Nick Gubbs was playfully suggested when he first put in an appearance at school, his methodical habits so plainly indicated "Old Gubby," that by common consent he was nicknamed Old Gubby at once.

All this must serve as a kind of prologue. I have told you that the parents Gubbs were long ago hidden under the turf of St. Nicholas Staining. With the death of these kind old parents the sorrows of Old Gubby began. Misery often meets excellent, conscientious, upright fellows in a mysterious way.

The two pole-stars which guided the course of this old-young man were called respectively—a wife and a little back-parlour. Old Gubby's industry could acquire the one, but certainly not the other, for them, as now, women were fantastical creatures, and unaccountable in their likes and dislikes. You see Old Gubby laboured under this serious disadvantage; to women and men alike he was always Old Gubby. The notion of his being in love, or wishing to get married, was absolutely ludicrous. Women were never shy with Old Gubby. They talked about love, and marriage, and future prospects before him without any reserve whatever. He was looked upon as a tame cat who might harmlessly purr about them, chaperone them, hold their skeins, receive their confidences, amuse them, and still be Old Gubby.

When, in time, his industry and little savings acquired for him one of his pet objects in life—the little back-parlour—matters took a somewhat different turn. Then the young girls, and particularly the old-young girls, began to simper and to sigh, and suggest in the most delicate manner that the little back-parlour at night must be somewhat dull. However, he was not caught, like a sparrow, with a little bit of salt on his tail. He had made up his mind years ago as to the mistress he should like for the little back-parlour. He was determined to infuse a little country blood and freshness into the somewhat faded-gentility society of the Lower-road, Islington, where the shop attached to the little back-parlour was to be found; so he sneaked away one morning to Tottenham, and got married in the Old Church to the fair-haired daughter of the parish clerk, with whom he used to discuss politics, smoke long clay pipes, and play duets on the flute, the latter of which amusements I should have vigorously protested against, had I known Old Gubby or his friend the parish clerk.

Two years of life's sunshine were passed in the little back-parlour in the Lower-road. They were, so very, very happy, and so very, very good, and so very, very kind to the poor, and so very, very unselfish and unworldly, that perhaps it was not altogether strange that those who only recollected God's punishments, never his mercies, should sigh, and ask—as we all have asked at some time or another—why such a dreadful black cloud should fall upon the little back-parlour in the Lower-road.

Anyhow, there was the black cloud, and it broke in a deluge of tears from Old Gubby's eyes as he followed his young dead wife under the ivied porch of Old Tottenham Church.

Old Gubby was not left quite alone. There was one little tender ray of sunshine which stole out, trying to drive away that black cloud, whose waters had swept away all his bright visions of happiness, and almost all the purpose of his life. A fair-haired baby-girl lay in a pretty cot, and smiled at poor Old Gubby when he returned from his melancholy journey to Tottenham Churchyard. Then it was that he knelt down by his baby's bedside, worn out and miserable as he was, and prayed that all the love which he would have expended on his dead wife might be intensified towards her child. His life was henceforward to be devoted to his tiny daughter.

Old Gubby idolised and spoiled his child. Men are but indifferent nurses after all, and a girl who has never known a mother's tenderness and affection too often grows up like a wild, untrained plant. She was wilful from her cradle, proud and head-strong, and her fond father "had not the heart," as he called it, to correct her. Had she been of an affectionate disposition, she would have been won over many a time by the pitiful expression which stole over her father's face. She was either not sensitive enough to see that the old man was pained that she did not cling to him, or too wilful to own it if she did. The little elfish child, who would scamper among the furniture piled up in Old Gubby's curiosity shop, and grin at her father from the top of some carved wardrobe or book case, endangering her life, and destroying her father's peace of mind—this wild, undisciplined creature, who would change from an hysterical laughing scene into a passionate fit of crying, grew up and became more and more estranged from her father.

Her companions were none of his choosing. Old Gubby had prayed by the side of her cot, years ago, that she might be in some sort of way the joy of the little back-parlour, and the light of his remaining life. And now look how it turned out. She hated the little back-parlour, did Miss Polly Gubbs, and declared that it was not genteel to have a father in trade. This cut the old man to the heart, and he still humoured her. He was not a rich man, and a sad accident made him not so well able to attend to his business as formerly. But he gave Miss Polly an excellent education, and, perhaps, by this final act of kindness put a finishing stroke to his misery.

Polly was sharp enough; but the education she received, although it taught her French and Italian, and made her a good singer and pianoforte player, did not teach her that most necessary article—common sense. There was no denying that Polly Gubbs was a pretty girl; but, besides her pretty face and her sunny hair, she had such a gimp little figure and small feet, that she soon began to sigh for that inevitable womanly comfort—dress.

She did not ask in vain. Old Gubby's slender capital, reduced by Polly's education, became smaller and smaller with the constant calls that dress made upon it.

"She looks so sweet," said the old man, as she whisked out of the little shop with one of her smart acquaintances. "What is there which I would not give her if I could?"

But there came a day when he was unable to give her some luxury she wished for, and for the first time in the girl's life Polly's father was compelled to say "no."

Then there was a sad scene. Polly was up in arms in a minute; she said hard things about the shop, harder things about her father's position; she actually taunted him with their humble life "after the education she had received;" but, happily, "she was not dependent on her father." "She had, however, made up her mind. She would go out as a governess, and see the world." This scene nearly broke Old Gubby's heart. He was unable to move her from her determination, and she only relented so far as to accept a daily situation for the present.

"Don't leave me, Polly!—don't quite leave me," he had said. But the drudgery of a daily government was too great for Polly. She had heard of governesses who went into good society, and eventually married well; and Polly was a pushing girl.

One night she packed up all her pretty dresses, and her father's presents, and on another night they were conveyed away; and on the third night Old Gubby came home, and found his daughter's nest was empty. His darling daughter Polly had left him; and Old Gubby was alone in the little back-parlour!

CHAPTER II.

ONE CHRISTMAS EVE.

was a terrible blow for the poor old man, and he naturally feared the worst at first.

"What have I done," he kept saying to himself, "that Polly should leave me? Where can I wander to find her? I shall go mad!—I shall go mad!"

In a few days, however, Old Gubby received a short note, on fine crested paper, dated from one of the most fashionable London squares, written in a fit of Polly's flowing spirits, and telling her father that she had obtained an excellent situation as governess in a rich merchant's family, where she was very happy, and was thoroughly appreciated. It was the last paragraph of this thoughtless—it would be unfair to call it heartless, when the writer had no affection in her—letter which cut Old Gubby to the heart.

"And now, dear father, I hope you will believe that I am very, very happy, and will not trouble yourself any more about your wilful child. The neighbours, I know, will look after you, and I am sure you will want for nothing. Above all things, do not attempt to come to see me. I do not know what would be the consequence if they saw you, and knew what you were. The world is now before me, and it will be my fault if I do not get on. I will come and see you when I can do so safely. Till then, believe me to be, dear old daddy, your affectionate child,

"P. G."

The told man crumpled up the letter, and raged against the selfish folks who had taken Polly away from him. Notwithstanding Polly's wickedness, he had not the heart to scold Polly.

"If they knew what I was," he muttered to himself. "And what if they did? They must be snobs to alter their conduct to her because of my shop, and scoundrels to separate a father and his daughter. And my little Polly is eating these people's bread."

Poor Old Gubby! he could not see Polly's sin. The shock of Polly's sudden disappearance, and the seeming impossibility of seeing her again, except on sufferance, brought on a very serious illness, from which Old Gubby with great difficulty recovered. When he rose from his sick-bed he was an altered man. His business went to rack and ruin. Besides being disinclined to do any work, he was too weak to attend to it properly.

The winter was coming on, and Old Gubby felt that he must give up the shop and the little back-parlour—one of the original pole-stars in the happy days before his child was born or thought of. He persuaded himself that the house was hateful to him now that Polly was not with him; but he could not blind himself to the fact, that once out of the shop he would "come down in the world," a proceeding which is looked upon by conscientious men with abject horror. All his energy, all his business life was gone.

He did come down in the world; but, for all that he sent his last little hoard of ready money to the faithless Polly.

"I must dress well," she wrote, "or I shall never get on here."

Down, down in the world came poor Old Gubby, until at last he found himself running odd messages and blacking boots in a Government office. Through the kindness of one of the messengers, whom he had known in better days, he was allowed to hang about the Railway and Telegraph Office in Whitehall, more as a charity than anything else, for the old man was not the swiftest of Mercuries, and in the matter of blacking boots, a little street-boy would have put him to perpetual shame.

Winter, a cruel pitiless winter, was at hand, and what with candles and firing, and food, and rent for the little garret in which he lived, the pennies at the Railway Office were by no means ill disposed.

Less than ever did he now dare to go and see his daughter.

"I won't disgrace the poor child," he said; "she's a lady now. Never mind what I am; she shan't suffer any more for me than she has done."

Strange to say, it was at the Railway Office that he heard all the news he ever had about his daughter. His friend the messenger was free to do what he liked at four o'clock, and took to waiting at dinner parties for amusement. Indeed, nearly all his life was one round of amusements. The clerks at the Railway Office were quite under the thumb of the messenger, who spelled the paper through and answered bells just when it appeared convenient to him to do so. This particular messenger waited out at Montague Square when any additional assistance was required, and there dwelt Miss Mary Dumayne, *alias* Miss Polly Gubbs.

And this was the news which Old Gubby heard one morning, in a dark corner of the dingy old Government office, from the lips of the messenger who "waited" in Montague-square:

"Don't be alarmed, old man," said the messenger. "I have news, good news for you, news which will make you brisk again. There's such a disturbance in Montague-square."

"She hasn't done anything wrong?" asked Old Gubby.

"Wrong! well, not exactly wrong, I should think; although the old folks at the big house think it precious wrong indeed."

"What has she done? Speak, man, unless you want to kill me."

"Poor Old Gubby! Don't look so frightened! She has played her cards well! Your daughter's a clever girl."

Old Gubby's face brightened.

"She has run away with the eldest son of the old merchant, and they were married yesterday morning, at St. Mary's, Bryanstone-square. That boy will be a millionaire some day. There, pack up your traps, Old Gubby, your fortune's made!"

Old Gubby shuffled away, and the messenger stood aghast. There was not a sign of joy, not a trace of triumph on the old man's face.

"He doesn't seem pleased. Old Gubby must be daft," said the messenger.

But the enthusiastic messenger did not understand that the weary shoeblack would reap but very little good from the triumph of his daughter Polly.

On came Christmas, a downright pitiless English Christmas, whose snows brought sorrow to poor people and fell with bitter severity on Old Gubby.

He had seen his daughter, but his daughter had not seen him. She had returned from her runaway trip, and had been reconciled to the old people in the square; the reward of which reconciliation was a splendidly-furnished house at Lancaster-gate, in the appointments of which the old father in-law exhibited his extreme love for money and his utter absence of taste.

Old Gubby, returning one day from the office to his lodging in Lisson-grove, met his daughter driving in the park. The horses nearly knocked him over, but he crawled away safe, and watched her as she passed and re-passed before him.

"How magnificent she looks!" he whispered to himself, and he would have liked to have shouted out to all the people in the park that this was the daughter of the shabby old man who was nearly run over by her magnificent carriage, not in order to put her to shame, but that they all might enjoy the old man's triumph at the proud daughter's magnificence. This one glimpse of Polly warmed Old Gubby's heart. It certainly wanted warming, for the world was turning against him, and the weather was bitterly cold, particularly cold to poor Old Gubby, for he was often very hungry now.

Because his life had not been sorrowful and unfortunate enough, he was now threatened with the loss of his sole means of subsistence. The harmless shoeblack had managed to offend some of the understrappers at the Railway Office—ignorant, intolerant men—and his dismissal was very soon accomplished.

Christmas Eve, with only sixpence in your pocket! This was Old Gubby's case, and what made it worse was, that he could not remain in his garret, and was forced, from sheer hatred of idleness, to wander out into the streets and see what was going on.

The streets were bright with happy, laughing faces; the bells were answering one another's peals of joy; the shops groaned with bright Christmas fare; carts full of berried holly and mistletoe rolled along to adorn rich houses and grand churches, which would echo to-morrow with anthems and hallelujahs; friends met friends, and interchanged merry greetings; cabs dashed by, taking some prodigal son to his expected family; little children gazed at grocers' Christmas trees and tempting toy-shops, transfixed with awe and admiration; home went the rounds of beef, and plump turkeys, and boxes of sweetmeats; and amidst this glittering scene of Christmas happiness and laughter, Old Gubby wandered with exactly sixpence in his pocket.

The sixpence was very soon gone, for he saw a little miniature Polly, so very like the wilful Polly of the old curiosity-shop days, breaking her heart for a picture-book temptingly exposed to view.

"Would you like it, my darling?" he said.

"Yes, please, sir; very much!"

"And what will you give me for it, my darling?"

There was no answer, but the little fat arms went round the thin little old neck, and Old Gubby was hugged until he nearly lost all his breath.

The book was bought, and Old Gubby thought—and I declare he meant what he thought—that the cry of delight which welcomed that pretty book was worth more than the best Christmas dinner in London.

This little adventure with the miniature Polly brought a sudden hunger to his heart. For twenty-three Christmases past he had taken home some little present for the real Polly, and a sudden longing came over him to see his child again.

He remembered nothing but what was happy in the past: he forgot the letter, forgot the neglect, forgot the pride. Without knowing what he was doing, or where he was going, he wandered on in a kind of dream, from which he was awakened by the trembling knock with which he aroused the obsequious porter at Lancaster-gate.

"I want to see your mistress," he said, when the porter appeared.

"Impossible at this time of night," growled the porter; "she can see no one now."

"How do you know? I tell you I must and will see her at once."

Old Gubby's voice trembled with rage, and the man thought on the whole that he had best be humoured.

"What is your name and errand?"

"My errand has nothing to do with any one but your mistress. My name is Nicodemus Gubbs."

Long hours seemed to pass until the man returned. "She must—she will see me," he muttered to himself. "Oh Polly, if I might only see you this night! Please God that I may see my child this night!"

It was strange that the answer to Old Gubby's message should have been delivered before the man arrived at the spot where Old Gubby was standing in the hall. The man knew his business, and it was by no means the act of a well-conducted servant to scream out an answer half-way down the stairs. Anyhow, this was the answer given out in a loud voice from the stairs—

"My mistress does not know such a name!"

But this was the real reply on a scrap of paper which was thrust into Old Gubby's hands, together with a five pound note, as the door was slammed behind him:

"Father, dear father, forgive me. I will try and see you to-morrow."

But on the next day, when Mrs. Smyth-Johnson, really repentant, and sorry for her timidity and heartlessness of the night before, drove up in her carriage to her father's lodging in Lisson-grove, she herself supplied the missing link of evidence in the identification of the body of an old man, who was supposed to have died suddenly in the streets, the night before.

It was over her father's dead body that Polly's first real tears were shed. It was kneeling at his bedside, in the miserable garret in which she found him, that she saw clearly and understood thoroughly the ingratitude and heartlessness of her life.

But Polly's tears and lamentations could not bring Old Gubby back to life. In her case, as it often does, repentance came too late. The door had been shut upon him, and now he was dead. How he had hungered for the penitence and the true tears which came when he was no more!

In due time Polly's sorrow came, and with each fresh sorrow came a sad and bitter reflection of her life. One day they came and told her that her little fair-haired boy, for whom she would have died—a darling child of four years old—was so fast asleep that they could not wake him.

The little fellow was in heaven before his mother reached the room.

Let us leave her there.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

IT WOULDN'T TAKE HIM.

"Will this road take me to Atlanta?"

"No, sir-ree, narry a time."

"That's strange," mused the first speaker; "A man told me a few hours ago that it would."

"He lied, stranger; I've been hyar twenty years, and I haint seed it tuck nobody annywhar yit; and I don't s'pose she ever will long as folks kin ride an' walk."

"Well, if I follow the road I'll get there, won't I?" smilingly asked the traveller.

"Not much; for ye kaint foller it, kase she don't move, an' ye kaint foller nothin' what don't move 'long in front of ye."

"But if I travel this route I'll soon reach the city, I reckon."

"Then ye struck it, mister; jes' keep a movin' the way ye're goin' an' ye'll git thar after a while. Mornin' to ye."

WOMAN'S PERSISTENCY.

In a night train, recently, was a woman who persisted in requesting the affable guard to inform her when Chester was reached. Every time the guard passed he was greeted with:—

"Please to tell me when we get to Chester."

Courteous man though he is, even his patience was finally exhausted, and he politely requested the unfortunate female to maintain silence, as he had heard and would heed her injunction. Chester was finally reached, and "Chester" was yelled at the door. The train again started, and the guard was entering his carriage, when his tormentor exclaimed:—

"Will you tell me when we get to Chester!"

"This is Chester!" he exclaimed, and he was about to whistle to the driver to stop.

"I'm real glad you obliged me," said the daughter of Eve to the exasperated official, and comfortably seating herself for a further journey added, "my third 'cusing' used to live here."

A SMART BOY.

One time a boy he cot a frog and tuke and put it in his father's bed, and just fore bed time the boy said to his father—"It's been mighty wet wether lately, and the frogs have all been drowned out of the pond, and mebby some of them big green fellers has come in the house and gone to bed like folks." Then the boy's father he luked up from his newspaper and he sed—"Charlie," cos that was the boy's name, "I ges you better go to bed yure ownsef, cos yure intelek is a wandering mity wild agan, and you mite do yure sellef an injury by swollering the cole skuttle, or buttin yure brains out aginst the sofy piller." So Charlie he went to bed, but after a wile he was woke up and see his father stand there with a candle, and his father he said —"Charlie, I didn't pay much tention to wot you was a sayn abowt frogs, but after I had gone to bed, and seen things was a beginning for to turn out jest like you had sed, why I hollered right out, cos I was so dillited for to think I hed sech a smart boy. Didn't you hear me holler, Charlie, didn't you hear yure old father's exclamations of satisfy, and feel the house shake wen he arose to come and fondle you?" Then Charlie, he said wat did his father hev in the hand wich was behine his back, an' the ole man he said, "O, that's the fondler." But my sister's young man, wich tole me the story, he sed that the fondler bore a fancifle resemblance to a black whip.—*Toledo Blade.*

"Doctor," said a wealthy patient to his physician, "I want you to be thorough and strike at the root of the disease." "Well, I will," said the doctor, as he lifted his cane and brought it down hard enough to break into pieces a bottle and a glass that stood upon a sideboard. It was his last professional visit to that house.

On the gravestone of a John Carnegie, who was very proud of his descent is the following:

> Johnnie Carnegie lais here
> Descendit of Adam and Eve,
> Gif ony can gang heiher
> I'se willing gie him leave.

Railway restaurant keeper: "Say, Mike, what is the matter with this knife?" Mike: "What knife, sor?" "This carving knife. I made it as sharp as a razor this morning, and now it is as a hoe and natched up like a saw. Why, it is ruined. Who has had it?" "Sure, sor, one of the customers grabbed it to cut a sandwich in two."

Dr. C—— was called to see his colleague, Dr. B——. Dr. C—— prescribed for his patient and left the house. The next morning Dr. C—— called again, and enquired blandly of Mrs. B——: "Well, has our patient followed my prescription?" "He would have landed on the pavement if he had," replied the lady, "for he threw the whole box of pills out of the window."

A GREAT SUCCESS

FACTS AND EVIDENCE [illegible]

THE business commenced with a capital of £1,000. The writer has previously been living in Vienna, and had there acquired knowledge of an article now universally known in Great Britain and Ireland, and such strong proof was there afforded to him of its great merits that he became enthusiastic in its favour, and ultimately threw up the business in which he was then engaged and came right home at once solely for the purpose of making known this then unknown article, in association with a partner. And looking back the writer is astonished at his temerity, for it was started to do with £2,000 that which it is variously estimated by experts requires from £25,000 to £50,000 of capital to accomplish. It is true that capital was borrowed, and that a Limited Company was formed to complete the development of "Gordon's Extract," which is the business to which allusion is made; yet none the less the purpose originally held in view has become an accomplished fact, and in less than three years this remedy has grown from utter insignificance to be one of the largest-sold proprietary medicines in the Kingdom, at a capital expenditure of certainly less than one-third of the sum it has taken to establish any other proprietary medicine, despite of very largely-increased competition, and in the face of the gigantic advertising of some of its contemporaries. Truth is mighty and must prevail. There is an intangible something in a straightforward statement of facts, such as has always marked the advertisements of "Gordon's Extract," and upon which no man can lay his finger and say "That is it" that impels conviction of its truth, even when the language is bald and the comparisons threadbare, and hence the reason of the enormous success attendant upon the introduction of "Gordon's Extract." The proof afforded by the 54,000 test bottles sent out for gratuitous trial has been so vast and overwhelmingly irresistible in favour of the medicine, that commendatory letters of the very highest character from the most unimpeachable sources have flowed in in the past, and stream in in the present, so freely, that every theory of disease that has been broached, every statement of fact, and every assertion that has been made, has received corroboration from the evidence, very often from clergymen, that we have been enabled to print from among the stores of testimonials, some thousands in number, that have been received. It cannot be said that the "Gordon's Extract" success is owing to advertising, for while the expenditure of the business for advertisements has been nearly £2,000 less for the eight months of 1885 ending August 31st than for the same period in 1884, yet on the other hand the actual sales of "Gordon's Extract" have in eight months of 1885 exceeded those of the same dates in 1884 by no less than £1,623 10s. 9d. This fact of increased business, despite decreased advertising, is extraordinary and altogether unique in the annals of a proprietary medicine, for less advertising with other remedies is universally known to be accompanied by a dwindling business, whereas with "Gordon's Extract" just the opposite has taken place. It is, therefore, quite certain that the growth of the "Gordon's Extract" business is owing to the plain straightforwardness and honesty of the claims made about this remedy, impelling faith and belief in it, and because the merits of the remedy are manifestly of a high curative order, so as to secure for it the energetic and impromptu recommendation of those who use it. This is proven by the reports on its merits, sent post free on application.

The great success of "Gordon's Extract" is in large measure owing to

THE NOVEL METHOD OF INTRODUCTION.

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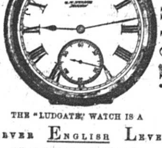

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CHRISTMASTIDE JOTTINGS.

[Specially Contributed.]

The two "big D's" of Disestablishment and Disendowment have not yet overtaken Christmas and Boxing Day. We have not as yet dispensed with the "compliments of the season" on the first of these two days, or of the old charities on the second. But we shall have to look narrowly to our ways if we are to escape that sense of weariness arising from mere repetition which at last takes the light out of the love-feast, and leads us to regard it as stale, flat, and unprofitable. The prig of modern society, whose portrait, I may add in passing, has been taken to the very life by a wag who describes himself as "one of them," is a youth of this kind, who, if he is given his head, will both disestablish Christmas and disendow Boxing Day. But be his intents wicked or charitable, we must face the fellow as *Hamlet* did his father's ghost, and question him. There is something to be said in excuse for the prig who will have no more of our good old Christmas customs, and hies him off to Paris or Monaco at the approach of the dreaded season. He knows that it is the days of the taxing for batchelors as well as fathers of families. Already he is reminded in the Club that there is a fund in the secretary's office for Christmas-boxes to the servants. Then the postman, the dustman, the cats'-meat man, the waterman round the corner, the very pew-opener in church, all harbour designs against him at Christmas. He is the hunted hare of the community, and finds his only safety in flight. Marriage, even the last refuge of the unhappy bachelor of the Albany, offers no retreat to him at Christmas. This is only to spring, like the flying-fish, out of the water on to the enemy's decks. It is to exchange one class of ills for another. At present he is the bachelor-uncle; then he will be both pater and pater-familiar in one, and every olive-branch round his table will become a snoker, claiming more than its due of the root and fatness of the olive. It is no wonder, then, that the middle-aged and the well-to-do go humming the saw at this time that Christmas comes but once a-year. The *Times* sapiently opened a leader on this subject the other day with this trite sentiment; but unless as a consolation to the golden calves of society which are then bled to death for the good of others, I see no point in the saying at all. These are the excuses for the modern Prig who has set up a Liberation Society of his own to disestablish and disendow at one blow this season of indiscriminate giving. But is it possible? Is it even desirable? Let us make out a case for giving, and begin by putting it on the lowest grounds. I shall not glance, as J. F. Newman once did in his inimitably caustic style, at a coming age of general unfaith, when there shall be no bloom at Easter, no mirth at Christmas. How an Agnostic is to get on with his new-fangled Gospel of Altruism, I forbear to enquire. To me the old is better; but dismissing these gloomy forebodings of an approaching glacial epoch of general unbelief, I prefer to look at Christmas and Boxing Day on their social side only.

So much is to be said for these two days on the lower grounds of expediency that keeping to this only I think we can make out a good case against the disestablishment of Christmas or the disendowment of Boxing Day. The world is too much with us early and late all the year round. We all feel the need of a small advantage against the systematic selfishness which creeps into the heart and freezes us to our very marrow.

Christmas comes, then, once a year like a break-up to this frost of custom, and men are made charitable by the very contagion of example. In these days, moreover, of depressed trade it is no little matter if there is a general loosing of purse-strings. Men stand at shop-windows and look for fancies and notions which at other times of the year they would pass by with contempt. It rains books at Christmas; it snows cards and all kinds of small compliments of the season, from a goose and a bottle of gin to one class to the ormolu clock or the fur cape of another class.

Then again, what would our refuges, our orphanages, and all other winter charities do but for God's best gift of Christmas? Every child goes to bed on Christmas Eve in the faith and hope of a Santa Claus who will descend and leave on its pillow in the night a doll or a drum to make merry with at Christmas. Poor relations long forgotten then come to mind. Family quarrels are patched up, if not healed, and there is a truce of God for twelve days at least to the bawling of Home Rule for Ireland, since a better kind of Home Rule has set in. On these grounds we are no Liberationists of Christmas and Boxing Day, and least of all in a year like the present when the pinch of poverty is so sharp and trade depression so real that it is good even to forget our own troubles in the still sharper privations of others—an unfailing prescription commended to those of my readers to whom I cordially wish a happy Christmas.

Christmas is as much the national Feast-day in this country that we are apt to forget that it is New Year's Day in France and Germany that rules the roast. It is quite possible to solemnize Christmas and Boxing Day in London, and then step over to Paris, as I did a few years ago, and find Paris preparing for its gingerbread fain on the Boulevards on New Year's Day and for a week after. Huge booths are erected, the whole population turn out as if to an open-air bazaar, and if the weather is mild and open, as it promises to be this year, Parisians have a lively time of it.

How would you like to spend the New Year in Honobulu, and to trifle away time on Twelfth Night in going up a volcano with a chance of being stifled in a crater, the largest in the world? This was the query of a friend in a letter from that most interesting little bit of Paradise with the serpent which exists in the world. Three weeks only has it taken for a letter to reach me, after seven days' sail in the Pacific, seven days across the whole Continent of America, and another seven days to cross the Atlantic. This is the most rapid journey I ever heard of; but there are travellers who have done it, and kept up with the mails all the way.

Christmas under hydropotic influences would be no Christmas to many; and yet, happily for the cause of order in the streets and quiet in our homes, this is what we are fast coming to. The hydropot, as we may now call the water-drinker, by using a barbarous Greek compound, is now with us early and late. We are not allowed to brew a bowl of rum punch to sip under the misletoe, and if we were to listen to the laments of some people, sober England will soon cease to be merry England; but this I do not believe a word of, as the evidence is all the other way.

A Reviewer's table furnishes a fair reflex of the signs of the times and impending changes of the season. Last week a shower of Christmas numbers anticipated the time of mincepie and pudding, holly and misletoe; and now ere the dawn of the New Year the Gardeners sound the warning note that if we would have fruit and flower in season, we must by no manner of means disregard the practical injunction to "sow in time."

The following note appeared in the *Montreal (Canada) Weekly Star*:—On a marble tablet in Oberemmell, in Germany, the following lines are engraved:—

> Quando Marcus Pascha dabit,
> Et Antonius Pentecostem celebrabit,
> Et Joannes Christum adorabit,
> Totus mundus vae I elamabit.

This means that when Easter falls on St. Mark's Day, 25th April; Pentecost on St. Anthony's Day, 13th June; and Corpus Christi on St. John the Baptist's Day, 24th June, all the world will cry, Woe! Now, in 1886, all these feasts will fall on the dates mentioned. The famous Nostradamus, born 14th December, 1502, and died at Salon, 24th June, 1566, saith:—

> Quand Georges Dieu crucifiera,
> Que Mark le resuscitera,
> Et que St. Jean portera,
> La fin du monde arrivera.

That is, when Good Friday falls on St. George's Day, 23rd April; Easter on St. Mark's Day, 25th April; and Corpus Christi on St. John's Day, 24th June, the end of the world will come. In 1886 these three feasts will be celebrated on the days stated above.

Durham Training College.—Rev S. B. Smith, Principal of the Durham Training College for Schoolmasters, who has been promoted to the Rectory of Sunderland, was on Monday night presented by the students of the Male Training College with a silver communion service. A concert was also given to the junior students, during which the presentation was made by Mr Weatheritt.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS.

The festival of Christmas-tide is once more at hand, and to-morrow (Friday) the greatest festival of all the year being celebrated. There are some features connected with our social life which are invulnerable to the destroying effects of time, remaining untouched by that spirit of change which is a conspicuous characteristic of these progressive days, and the celebration of the festival of Christmas is one of them. Christmas is universally recognised as the Day of Days throughout the year, and in town and country the season of Christmas is one of merry-makings, social gatherings, immoderate feasting, gift-exchanging, and all those other delightful features which act as a pleasant lubricant to the wheels of every-day life, and impart a spirit of cheerfulness and courage to meet the tasks of the coming year. In viewing the rapid approach of Christmas, whether it be in a general way or in regard to our own town of Consett, the subject which immediately suggests itself is the aspect of trade, and the condition of the people in regard to labour and wages. A year ago it was our painful duty to refer to the distress and scarcity of work, which so extensively prevailed in the North, and in our district as well as elsewhere. It is a depressing fact that the commercial outlook at the present time in no way improved upon what it was a year ago. Work is lamentably scarce everywhere, though, by accounts from local centres, the actual distress and want does not appear to be so intense as it was this time last year. It is gratifying to observe, however, that everywhere the cry of want and penury is being listened to, and organised aid and assistance to the needy is being promoted with a heartiness and a good-will which evinces a full appreciation of the sufferings and unhappy condition of so many of our fellow-creatures. While this promptness to relieve the poverty-sticken, and to lighten in some degree the dark shadow which hangs low over many and many a household, is a matter for congratulation, it is a picture not without its melancholy aspect, for it indicates that we expect as a matter of course that extensive distress will prevail during the winter season, and that we are prepared with ready-made machinery to meet it. That the festival of Christmastide will always find poverty amongst us in a greater or less degree is a truism which it is needless to repeat, but we are not prepared to accept as a matter of course the permanent continuance of the appaling prevalence of distress which has characterised the winters of the past few years. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and whilst entering with heartiness into the genial and generous spirit of this festive season, and aiding as far as in us individually lies those amongst us who are in need of help, an essential element in our cheerfulness in entering upon the duties and pleasures of this season, is the hope of a brighter day to come. There is one very important element which enters largely into our contemplation of Christmas, and which affects in a special degree the condition of the poor, and that is the weather. At the time we write these lines (Wednesday), the weather is bright and frosty, and not altogether unseasonable, and is, of course, no kind of forcast of what will be the state of things in a day or two, and indeed the weather, from its kaleidoscopic character, is a subject altogether too mutable to prophesy about. Notwithstanding the fact that lovers of the old-fashioned style of Christmas may grumble at the absence of the snow and frost, the more thoughtful amongst us will remember with feelings of gratification the vast amount of suffering which a warm and mild Christmas will obviate. Amongst the many and various ways by which we are accustomed to mark the Christmas season, there is none which is more increasingly popular than the practice of making Christmas presents, and sending to relatives and friends those lovely products of exquisite and and skilful artifice, yclept Christmas cards. Our booksellers and fancy-dealer's are flooded with them, and their forms of embellishment, which are almost endless, are marked with exquisite beauty, and the every variety of tasteful artifice. Before referring more particularly to this department of Christmas preparations, however, it will be well to revert to our usual custom of noticing in detail the stocks of the various emporiums of our local tradesmen, which have of course been supplemented with the usual abundance of "Christmas cheer," wherewith to meet the demands which the festive season invariably calls forth. In making this review, the establishments of the butchers claim a prior right to attention, and as good solid flesh meat forms the groundwork of a good Christmas dinner, so should the richly stock boards of our local "Knights of the cleaver" form the prelude of our running commentary on our local Christmas preparations. At the recent sales of fat stock which have taken place on the estates of various members of the nobility and gentry in the county, some of the finest samples of well-bred beef and mutton have been secured by local butchers, and the inhabitants of this locality may be assured that their Christmas tables can be stocked with the most superb quality of the roast beef of old England. Amongst the butchers who have a capital display this season, Mr John Parker, of Leadgate, Annfield Plain, and Consett, certainly takes a foremost place. Mr Parker has killed a grand polled ox, which he purchased in Newcastle Market on the Christmas show day, and this splendid beast, which was in prime condition, weighed 96 stones. The animal has gained some notoriety in the district, and when it was exhibited in the shop on Wednesday morning, several hundreds of curious spectators were attracted to the scene. Mr Parker has also slaughtered three grand heifers, bought from Mr E. Balleny, Little Greencroft; another heifer from the Stella Coal Company; besides a number of prime sheep, all the stock being exhibited in the usual way. Since the large ox arrived, the premises have been visited by vast numbers of people from all parts of the district. Mr Edward Lockey, Middle Street, Consett, has some first-class beef; he also makes a speciality of his pork pigs. Mr G. Walburn, Lanchester—who has been commissioned by Mr Edward Taylor Smith, J.P., of Colepike, to supply the poor inhabitants of the village with a portion of beef for Christmastide, has on hand an exceedingly good four-year old heifer, fed by Sir Wilfred Lawson, in addition to a quantity of other seasonable stock. Mr John Lovatt, of Blackhill, likewise shows an excellent and varied stock of English beef, mutton, and dairy-fed pork, bred and fed by such well-known local farmers as Mr Osborne, Eddis Bridge; Mr R. Dixon, Broad Oak, Ebchester; Mr McNally, "Strawberry" Mountains, and others. All the other butchers in the district are well supplied with Christmas beef. We may next turn our attention to those purveyors who supply us with so many of those delightful danties and delicacies, in the absence of which Christmas, for the young amongst us at all events, would be robbed of many of its pleasures—we allude of course to the grocers. Their shops in many cases are a perfect blaze of rich and tasteful ornamentation, and are stocked to overflowing with the products of almost every clime under the sun—preserved fruits from the sunny land of Spain, tea from China, coffee from Ceylon, cheeses from Cheddar, Gloucester, America, Wensleydale, Cotherstone, Parmesan, Gruyere, Roquefort, and Stilton; wines from the island of Madeira, and the vineyards of France, Spain, and Germany. In addition to the inviting character of the comestibles which the grocers display so abundantly, they are still made more inviting by the bright and attractive way in which their windows are adorned. Charming pictures, tasteful floral arrangements, equally tasteful blendings of colour and gorgeously-decorated boxes of bon-bons, now made up a display which is to be found in all our grocers' shop windows. Amongst this class of purveyors who claim special mention are Mr William Aynsley, Middle Street, Consett, and Front Street, Leadgate; Joseph Murray, Middle Street, Consett; Mrs M. Almond, Front Street, Consett; Mr John Hall, Annfield Plain; Mr C. F. Cooke, Annfield Plain; &c.

There is no department of local trade which enters more largely into the festival of Christmas than the booksellers and fancy-dealers, and already these are replete with a host of Christmas publications suitable for all ages, and every description of fancy goods adapted for Christmas presents. Each return of the Christmas season brings out fresh designs in the preparation of Christmas and New Year's cards, and this year is no exception to that rule. Many of the cards are noticeable as containing views of picturesque spots in various localities, whilst others contain portraits of the leading characters of certain celebrated operas. The multiplicity of Christmas annuals this year is greater than ever, and they can all, as well as every other book suitable for Christmas, be obtained from Mr Jasper Cockburn, Front Street, Consett; Mr H. Cornforth, Middle Street, Consett; and Mr Robert Jackson, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett. For novelties in the shape of Christmas and New Year presents, Messrs Donald Bain and Company, of "The Bon Marche," Consett; and Mr T. H. Batchelor, at "The People's Shops," 9 and 22, Middle Street, Consett, are striving to excel each other in the varied character and brilliancy of their displays. Further particulars are amply set forth in our advertising columns. We can only conclude this notice by expressing the hope that the dawn of the coming new year may prove the prelude to a resuscitation of local trade, and the advent of a larger diffusion of general prosperity.

NORTH-WEST DIVISION OF DURHAM.

BENFIELDSIDE POLLING DISTRICT.

On Wednesday night, a public meeting of Liberals comprised within the limits of the Benfieldside Polling district, took place in the Sons of Temperance Hall at Blackhill. In the absence of Mr Jonathan Priestman, J.P. (President of the Derwent Liberal Association), Mr J. W. Rounthwaite presided, and pointed out that he did not agree with the adverse criticisms against what was styled the "Caucus"—a name they need not feel ashamed of. So long as they had party Government, he could not conceive any better instrument for strengthening the party, and getting at the feelings of the electors. He did not mean to assert that their Associations were perfect, but he thought those who condemned them ought to suggest some better system of organisation.—Mr Carss stated that the Derwent Liberal Association, which had been in existence for so many years, was still alive, and was now accomplishing the task of registration, &c., in the townships of Benfieldside and Edmondbyers. This work properly devolved upon the Association in the different polling districts. The Derwent Liberal Association had contributed its quota towards the expenses of the Central Council, and had also borne the cost of registration in that township. They had expended during the year £13 5s 5½d, and of this sum, £8 5s went towards the Council expenses. Their respected secretary (Mr Joseph Eltringham) and Mr John Dixon had rendered most valuable aid in this respect, and fully deserved all the credit. (Applause.) Mr Carss dwelt at length in the recent revisions of voters' lists, stating that the principle of the Liberals was to allow all moderate Tories to be put on to the register, and endeavour to enlarge the field of the operations of the Franchise. Through the instrumentality of the last Reform Act, nearly 3,000,000 voters had been added to the electoral roll.—Mr Priestman, having arrived at this juncture, took the chair, and apoligised for his non-attendance at the commencement of the meeting, owing to pressure of engagements delaying him in Newcastle. He then proceeded to explain the nature of the business of that meeting, which was to elect a president, vice-president, and secretary, and seven representatives on the Central Council. He explained the relative position of the old Derwent Liberal Association to the Benfieldside Polling District Association, and expressed a hope that during next year the Derwent Association would be merged into that Association.—The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr J. Priestman, J.P.; vice-president, Mr J. W. Rounthwaite; secretary, Mr Joseph Eltringham. The last-named gentleman, in acknowledging the compliment, stated that he was rather surprised that he had been selected to fill that post again, seeing that several gentlemen had complained that he had not worked sufficiently during the recent contest. When Mr Atherley-Jones was selected, he said that he was not the candidate of his (Mr Eltringham's) choice, and those who had fixed upon Mr Jones must work for him. He had plenty of work on his hands, what with his private and public duties, and he had had quite enough of electioneering during the last 20 years. He had hoped that they would have appointed another secretary that night; he was quite willing to stand aside—in fact, he had written to Mr Priestman to that effect. He had offered the post to several gentlemen; they had all refused the honour, but one individual had gone so far as to say that he would take it twelve months hence. (Laughter.)—The Chairman said they could not impose on any particular officer or member of their Association any special duty at an election, so long as they knew he was a true Liberal. (Applause.)—The following were chosen to act (along with the other officers as *ex-officio* members) on the Divisional Association:—Messrs R. Walton, P. Teare, Henry Carss, J. G. Cooke, M. Noble, W. Ramsay, and W. Wheatley.—Mr W. Hoe (an old representative) was proposed by the Chairman, but Mr Heymer objected to any gentleman being appointed who was absent from that meeting. He thought there were plenty of good and true men present, and those gentlemen who assisted the Committee and worked so industriously during the election were the men they required to act for them.—The Chairman said he merely suggested the name of Mr Hoe, as the meeting did not seem disposed to nominate any gentlemen; but of course if it was the feeling of those present, he would withdraw the nomination.—Mr Eltringham stated that he had received a letter from Mr J. G. Cooke (an ironworkers' delegate) who regretted his inability to attend, having to be at work that night, but he was willing to undertake any duties imposed upon him at that meeting. Under these circumstances he thought it exceedingly hard that a representative should be struck off the list because he did not happen to be present at that gathering.—Mr Teare desired to retire in favour of Mr Hoe; but on the sense of the meeting being tested, only two hands were held up for Mr Hoe, while the rest of the meeting voted for Mr Teare, amidst laughter and loud applause.—Mr Heymer was likewise nominated, but he declined to stand, his pretext being that many would think he had been hunting for a place himself.—Several other gentlemen in the room were nominated, but they all excused themselves.—The name of Mr John Brodie as a representative was rejected in favour of Mr Wheatley.—New members having been enrolled, the meeting briefly discussed what steps it would be advisable to take with a view to establishing a Liberal Club in the district, and engaging leading Liberals to come and deliver lectures and addresses on the political topics of the day, so as to educate the young members in the principles of Liberalism.—The Chairman was afraid that Mr John Morley, M.P., owing to the pressure of business, would be unable to give an address at Consett, although it would afford the hon. member for Newcastle the greatest pleasure to come amongst them (applause); but he promised to use his exertions towards securing the services of Dr Spence Watson to give an address in the New Town Hall, Consett, on current politics. (Applause.)—The proceedings, which were protracted to a late hour, closed with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman.

MEDOMSLEY POLLING DISTRICT.

On Tuesday evening, a meeting of the Liberals of the Medomsley Polling District Liberal Association, was held in the Allendale Cottages Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, and also representatives on the Council of the Divisional Association, Mr W. Walton, Medomsley, presided. After some discussion as to the best method of organising the party, the following gentlemen were elected:—President, Mr George Peile, Greenwood, Shotley Bridge; vice-president, Mr F. Priestman, Shotley Bridge; secretary, Mr W. Clayton, Allendale Cottages, who together with Messrs W. Walton, Medomsley; J. Clark, Westwood; R. Fenwick, and W. Milligan, Hamsterley Colliery, are the seven representatives the district is entitled to elect.

STANLEY POLLING DISTRICT.

On Saturday night, a public meeting of Liberals was held in the Primitive Methodist School-room, Stanley, under the presidency of Mr T. W. Wilson Ritson. There was a good attendance. Mr Ritson was appointed chairman; Mr Robert Summerbell, East Stanley, vice-chairman; and Mr W. Ridley, secretary, of the Polling District Liberal Association; and the following gentlemen were elected (along with the president, vice-president, and secretary) representatives on the Central Council:—Messrs Jon. Green and W. Atkinson, Stanley; and Edwd. Pickering, East Stanley.

PROPOSED PRESENTATION AT WEST STANLEY.

On Monday evening, there was a large gathering in the long-room of Mr J. Clarkson's Commercial Inn, West Stanley, for the purpose of considering more fully the details in connection with the testimonial to be given to Mr Wm. Johnson, the manager of West Stanley Colliery.—Mr J. Henderson, West Pelton, occupied the chair; and he was supported by Mr Jas. Fairley and Mr E. Herron, Craghead; Mr P. Kay and Mr J. Errington, Oxhill; Rev Father Keenan, Stanley; Mr G. Moore, Annfield Plain; Messrs Jos. Robinson, G. Ridley, T. C. Frater, J. Watson, J. Clarkson, J. Toes, J. G. Mann, J. Dixon, Mr Anderson, R. Peacock, J. Knox, W. Indian, R. Collins, Stanley, and a large number of workmen under Mr Johnson.

The Chairman, in a few choice remarks, referred to the length of time he had known Mr Johnson, but it would be unnecessary for him to dwell upon the excellent disposition and qualities of that gentleman, for it was evident from the large gathering and the interest manifested that they were familiar with and appreciated Mr Johnson's virtues. (Applause.)

Letters were then read from the following gentlemen:—Alderman T. S. Salter (Mayor of Jarrow); Mr W. Crawford, M.P.; Mr W. H. Patterson and Mr J. Foreman, Durham Miners' Association; Mr E. Clarkson, East Boldon; Mr W. R. Taylor, Selby Lodge, Consett; and Mr George Swallow, Gateshead, speaking in high terms of and their respect for Mr Johnson, and giving substantial proof by enclosing donations towards the fund, the contents of the communications being received with loud applause.

Mr T. C. Frater said he was very satisfied with the report of the preliminary meeting which appeared in last week's *Guardian*, with the exception of a slight error in the heading, which was apt to convey a wrong impression. It said: "Proposed presentation to an *ex*-colliery manager," and he thought it might be inferred that Mr Johnson had ceased to be manager; but that was not the case, as he still occupied that position. Of course he knew those present would be aware of the fact, but it would be better to have it inserted, so that outsiders could not misconstrue it. (Applause.)

After further considerations and suggestions, a working committee was formed, and the meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Mr Wm. Indian, checkweighman, West Stanley, writes as follows, relative to the foregoing:—"Sir,—On reading your report in last week's issue of the meeting held at Stanley, for the purpose of getting up a testimonial to Mr William Johnson, the respected manager of West Stanley Colliery, I observe you head it as "Proposed presentation to an *ex*-colliery manager." As this heading may convey the impression that Mr Johnson is not now manager of the colliery, I, on behalf of the workmen, would be obliged if you would correct this error. As long as Mr Johnson is there he is the recognised manager.—[We gladly make the correction; the fault is entirely ours, and we regret the mistake should have caused any misapprehension.—Ed. C.G.]

General News.

The Winter Assizes.—North-Eastern Circuit (Mr Justice Cave and Mr Justice A. L. Smith).—Newcastle, Tuesday, Jan. 12th; Durham, Wednesday, Jan. 20th. Mr Justice Cave will proceed alone to Newcastle, but will be joined at Durham by Mr Justice Smith.

The West-Durham and Tyne Railway Bill.—This Bill now before Parliament, seeks to authorise the construction of railways between Pelton Fell and other places in the county of Durham and the River Tyne. The company is incorporated under the name of Sir George Elliot, Wm. Hedley, Geo. Hedley, Chas. Edwd. Hunter, and others, and the proposed capital is £270,000, with the usual borrowing powers. There is also a clause in the Bill requiring the North Eastern Railway Company to afford facilities for exchanging traffic.

A Royal "Baron of Beef."—On Tuesday, the baron of beef selected for the Queen's Christmas dinner was exhibited at Windsor. The huge joint, which was festively decorated with holly, weighs about 250lbs., and was cut from a Devon bred and fed at the Prince Consort's farm. On Wednesday, the baron was roasted at the Castle, its cooking occupying about ten hours, and when cold it will be forwarded to Osborne.

Archdeaconry of Northumberland: Election of Proctors.—A meeting of the beneficed clergy of the Archdeaconry of Northumberland was held on Wednesday afternoon, in St. Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle, the chair being occupied by Archdeacon Hamilton. After Divine service, the Registrar—Mr T. Jones—read the Bishop's mandate, directing the election of two Proctors, after which the Archdeacon adjourned the meeting to the vestry. Canon Lloyd received 23 votes, Canon Dwarris 18, and Canon Cruddas 8. The first two gentlemen accordingly were elected Proctors. Canon Cruddas was unanimously elected the Commissioner under the "Pluralities Acts Amendment Act, 1885."

The Home Rule Programme: How it Came Out.—A London correspondent says:—"The announcement in the *Standard* on Thursday morning that Mr Gladstone was ready with a scheme for Home Rule startled the town. Everyone was anxious to know the *Standard's* authority. I will tell you whence the news came. Mr Wemyss Reid is editor of the *Leeds Mercury*. Mr Herbert Gladstone is one of the members for Leeds. Mr Reid came to town at the beginning of the week. On Tuesday and on Wednesday he had several interviews with Young Hopeful. On Wednesday night Mr Mudford, editor of the *Standard*, and Mr Reid dined together. On Thursday the *Standard* gave the world an epitome of Mr Gladstone's Home Rule plans, and the *Leeds Mercury* told the same tale at greater length. Mr Gladstone, of course, had no idea that his pet son was revealing secrets to newspaper editors. Certainly not."

Funeral of Mr A. Blyth.—Rev J. Grimshaw, Wesleyan minister at Gibraltar, has supplied the family of the late Mr Alexander Blyth with particulars of the death of that esteemed gentleman and the interment of his remains. When Mr Blyth left the s.s. *Ferguson* at Gibraltar on the 6th inst. it was with the intention of spending a few days in visiting a friend connected with the mining industry in the neighbourhood. He was then apparently in his usual health. At first he stayed at one of the hotels, but subsequently removed to a private lodging-house, kept by a Mrs Oxenborough, which is described as being "a very respectable place, and very much better for him than any hotel in the world." Here it was that his illness first exhibited itself. A night or two preceding his death, he said he did not feel very well, and could not go to bed. A doctor was sent for, and at first thought something might be done for him; but inflamation of the brain set in, and on Friday, the 11th inst., another medical man was sent for. No hope of recovery, however, could then be held out; and the patient died on the evening of the following day. During his illness Mr Blyth received the utmost attention from the Rev J. Grimshaw, the Wesleyan minister of Gibraltar—one of the papers which had been found in his possession, in reference to a Northumbrian chapel, leading to the introduction of that gentleman. Mr Grimshaw asked Mr Blyth if he should write to his friends, and the invalid replied, "Yes; tell them I'm all right." The rev. gentleman states that "all was done for the deceased that kind hearts could suggest by Mrs Oxenborough and her daughter." The funeral was attended by about 30 members of the Wesleyan Church in Gibraltar, including a captain and several non-commissioned officers, and bouquets of flowers were laid on the coffin. The grave is in the Wesleyan ground in the cemetery at the North Front of Gibraltar; and the coffin bore the following inscription:—"Alexander Blyth; died Dec. 12th, 1885; aged 50 years," that being the age which he gave to the doctor. It has been found impracticable to remove the body but steps will, no doubt, be taken to indicate by a suitable memorial stone the spot in which it lies. Meanwhile, expressions of regret at the sad occurrence continue to be received at the offices of the society from the mining districts of the two counties; and the fund which it is intended to raise on behalf of Mrs Blyth and her young family will at once be initiated. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Saturday to complete the arrangements.

The Durham County Magistrates, on Wednesday, fined *Isaac Dixon*, an army pensioner, living at Ushaw Moor, 10s and costs for being drunk and assaulting P.C. Stobart at Broom on the 19th inst.

The First Honorary Freeman.—At a special meeting of the Durham Town Council on Friday, the honorary freedom of the city was conferred upon Ald. James Fowler, in exercise of the powers contained in "The Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act, 1885."

Mildness of the Season.—Mr James Hall, workman for Mr Sanderson, builder, who is at present erecting a new wing at the Durham County Hospital, has found underneath a pine cutting a splendid tortoiseshell butterfly. The colours are very fine, and the wings measure two inches across. The butterfly flew about six yards before Mr Hall caught it, and took it into the hospital, where it was much admired.

Temperance Society.—The usual entertainment was given in the Temperance Hall, on Saturday night. Songs were rendered by Messrs T. Biggins, Geo. Biggins, W. B. Richardson, and R. Swan; a duet by Misses Mary Gray and Annie Lowdon; and recitations by Misses Lizzie Gray, Mary Gray, and Annie Lowdon. Mr J. Bagnall, Winlaton, gave the address. A special feature of the entertainment was the performance of Master Waggott on the violin. Mr T. Heppell presided. The attendance was moderate.

Sad Accident.—On Wednesday morning, Elizabeth Simpson, 17 years of age, a domestic servant with Mr Frank Madgin, Post Office Buildings, Swinburne Street, Gateshead, was cleaning a window in the third storey of the building, when, sitting on the ledge on the outside, she fell to the ground, a distance of 40 feet. Dr Hardy was immediately sent for, and when he arrived ascertained that she had sustained a compound fracture of the left thigh, and it is also feared that she is severely injured internally. The unfortunate girl was removed to the Newcastle Infirmary.

Election of an Alderman.—On Friday, a special meeting of the Durham Town Council was held in the Mayor's chamber for the purpose of filling up the vacancy on the aldermanic bench caused by the death of Ald. Jos. Fergus.—The Mayor presided, and there was a full attendance of members. Two candidates were nominated for the office, viz., Mr Councillor Blackett and Mr C. Maynard. The voting resulted as follows:—Blackett, 12; Maynard, 10. The Mayor declared Mr Blackett duly elected. The elevation of Mr Blackett to the aldermanic bench has caused a vacancy in the representation of St. Nicholas' Ward, for which Mr G. Forster, Market Place, has issued his address.

Singular Occurrence.—About ten o'clock on Tuesday night, a somewhat serious occurrence took place on the carriage road leading from the North Road to the Railway Station, Durham. Mr Duncan, a gentleman living at Sunderland, was standing on the road, inquiring from a railway porter when the train would leave for Sunderland, when a Polish Jew, named Hyman Barnow, who lives at Hendon, Sunderland, came up and offered to sell his watch. Duncan jokingly offered a shilling for it, which Barnow accepted, but immediately wanted his watch returned. Because it was not handed him directly, he, it is alleged, became extremely violent, striking Duncan on the face with something in his hand, which caused a deep wound near the eye. Persons attracted by the noise held Barnow till P.C. Reid came up, when he was given into custody and conveyed to the Police Station at Claypath. Here Dr Vann, police surgeon, was speedily in attendance, and dressed Duncan's wounds, which are serious.

Death of Mr Thomas Welsh.—A correspondent informs us of the death of Mr Thomas Welsh, one of the oldest colliery engine-wrights in the coal trade, late of Twizell Colliery, where he had been for a large number of years. Mr Welsh was connected with the late Mr Coulson in sinking some of the most important collieries in the counties of Nothumberland and Durham, notably Whitworth, Brockley Whins, Framwellgate Moor, and New Hartley, at which last-named place he was present during the lamentable beam catastrophe in 1862. His experience in sinking and pumping was very great, and his decisions were never disputed. Latterly he had been living retired at Sunderland, where he died at the advanced age of eighty years. He leaves a large family, grown up, the eldest son being an engineer in Wales, and the youngest an engineer under the Messrs Hedley Brothers, of South Moor Collieries. Mr Welsh's wife died two years before him.

Durham Coal Trade.—A new drift (for which tenders are now being given in by the miners) is shortly to be commenced near the French ovens, Bankfoot Cokeyard, Crook, by Messrs Pease and Partners. The drift is to be carried in by a double road to the B seam of the Roddymoor Colliery, now laid in, and it is expected to be completed in about six months. The project will effect a saving in working the coal of the aforenamed Colliery, as, under the existing arrangement, the coal has to be run from Roddymoor down an incline to Bankfoot. A drift has also been cut in at Bowden Close Colliery, to a good seam of coal at Grahamsely Colliery, which has been closed for some time, and which is situated between Bowden Close and Crook. The foundation for a new drawing engine for the drift are now being laid. The coal, which has just been reached after much expense, when mixed with that which is now being drawn from the pit, will produce much better coke.

National Miners' Conference.—Important Questions for Consideration.—A conference of miners throughout Great Britain will take place, under the auspices of the Miners' National Union, at Birmingham, from the 19th to the 23rd January. Mr T. Burt, M.P., will preside, and is expected to deliver an important address. The conference will consider a large number of questions of practical interest. Amongst these is a proposal that the certified manager of every mine should be held to be the person having the responsible care and control, shall be a properly trained and qualified viewer or mining engineer, and shall hold a first-class certificate; and that guarantees should also be required of the capacity of the under-manager and overman. It is also suggested that more shafts are necessary, and that no working place or places should be driven more than one mile from any existing shaft until another shaft is put down. It will also be proposed that the use of blasting powder or other dangerous explosive substances be entirely prohibited in every mine, or part of a mine, where any gas is given off, or any accumulation of explosive gases are known to exist; that the time has come when there ought to be appointed a Minister of Mines, and that power of prosecution, instead of being exclusively in the hands of the Secretary of State, be granted to a common informer; that it is not right to work both day and night mines generating quantities of explosive gases, and where the workings extend over a large area; that all night shift working of coal and ironstone be abolished; and that the examination of sub-inspectors be lowered, so as to give working men a better chance of passing such examination, and being appointed to such positions.

Newcastle Hay and Straw, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £4 10s to £5 5s; this year's growth, £4 0s to £4 10s; new land hay, £0 0s to £0 0s; this year's growth, £4 0s to £5 10s per ton; clover hay, £0 0s to £0; wheat straw, 1s 10d to 2s 2d; barley straw, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; oat straw, 2s 0d to 2s 4d per thrave; carts of hay at market, 95; straw, 33.

Newcastle Corn, Tuesday.—Arrivals into Newcastle, week ending December 21st, 1885:—Coast and rail—Wheat, 4,928; maize, —; barley, 400; oats, 414; beans, 258; peas, 164; flour, 1,925. Foreign—Wheat, —; maize, —; barley, 1,797; oats, 22; rye, —; flour, 1,040 qrs. The arrivals of wheat from the coast are fair, with nothing from abroad. At this day's market there was only a quiet demand for wheat, and although holders endeavoured to make some advance no change can be quoted on the business done. Maize steady. Old Scotch oats firm, new dull; foreign unchanged. Beans rather easier. Peas steady. Malting barley in limited demand, and all but finest samples are rather lower. Flour unchanged.

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.

THE LOCAL DISTRESS.

CONSETT.

The Committee are making active preparations for providing the poor people resident in Consett with a dinner, to be held in the New Town Hall, on Christmas Day. We are pleased to note that the tradesmen and public in general have liberally responded to the solicitations of the Committee.

BLACKHILL.

The subjoined appeal was made on Wednesday:—"Will you kindly allow the Blackhill Distress Committee, through the medium of your excellent paper, to appeal for subscriptions on behalf of the workmen unemployed? Great distress prevails, many families being destitute of the necessaries of life. We are able to state that the manager of Consett Iron Works (Mr W. Jenkins) and also Mr R. Evans (secretary) are in entire sympathy with this movement, and have subscribed liberally to the funds; and we hope that the shareholders of the Consett Iron Company who live in the parts where this paper circulates will kindly forward donations to assist the Company's *employes*. Portions of the work have been idle for some time, and we regret to add that there is not much prospect of improvement at present, so that continuous effort is required to meet the distress. The Committee have collected £25, and expended £16. The balance will soon be disposed of. 120 parcels of groceries have already been sent out, and cheap dinners are now in contemplation, to be supplied by an experienced party. Subscriptions made payable to James Palliser, treasurer, Foundry Row, or to Wm. Raw, secretary, 5, Roger Street, Blackhill, will be thankfully acknowledged."

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

At Chester-le-Street there is a good deal of distress. Mr Pickering, on Tuesday, distributed among the poor 130 half-crowns, have been the proceeds of a concert given by Mr Spurrs, and the other by himself. In going round, Mr Pickering met with many heartrending scenes. One family had had no food for two days, and the eldest boy had gone to the pit without any food. Col. Fife-Cookson has also been very generous this year.

CROOK DISTRICT.

Since the previous meeting the relief list had been raised from 100 to 135. No extra arrangements were made for Christmas Day, there being neither funds nor appliances for making special provision. The cost of the present rate of relief is about £2 per week, besides the quantity of goods which are being given daily. The following subscriptions have been given:—Barney Bryan's Fund, £5; Co-operative Stores, £3; Rev A. Pippet (Catholic), £5; and Dr Mackay, £5. Weekly subscriptions of 5s are being given by the Rev J. King and Mr R. Dixon; and goods amounting to £1 12s are also being given by the Crook tradesmen, Mr Walter Willson giving five stones of flour per week. Messrs Pease and Partners are giving 50 tons of coal. The workmen at the Bank Foot coke-yard and the brickworks, Mr J. Anderson's tannery, Messrs Turnbull's foundry, the Co-operative Stores, and Mr Fell's drapery establishment are making fortnightly collections.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

"The Mayor of Shotley Bridge" has the following epistle in the *Newcastle Chronicle* of Wednesday, under the heading of "Christmas and Poor Lazarus":—"Sir,—Once more we come to the beautiful festival of peace to men of good will. Let not the rich Dives leave the poor Lazarus to starve. There are few, and very few, who cannot do something to alleviate sorrow or cheer the oppressed by letting them feel that, though they may be poor, they are not forgotten. Let all join heart and hand in the noble work of charity, and show their liberality to each poor Lazarus from whom trade died or emigrated through orders being sent away; thus they will entitle themselves to what I wish to you and your readers—A merry Christmas and a happy New Year.—Yours, &c., J. J. Harrison, Shotley Bridge, Mansion House, Mayor's Chambers, 21st Dec., 1885."

Football.—Westwood Royal Blue 2nd v. Crookgate Rovers (Juniors) (A).—Played at Milkwell Burn, on Saturday, and resulted in favour of Westwood by two goals (one disputed) to one goal.

Local Hunting Appointments.—Braes of Derwent Foxhounds—Saturday, December 26th, Crawcrook—10·30. North Durham Foxhounds—Saturday, December 26th, Cornsay; Monday, 28th, Burdon; Friday, January 1st, Framwellgate Moor—10·45.

CONSETT HEARSE & MOURNING ESTABLISHMENT.

T. C. RAWES & Co.,

Consett,

In tendering their best thanks for the liberal patronage bestowed upon them since they commenced the Cab and Funeral Business, begs respectfully to inform the Public that they have BOUGHT THE UNDERTAKING AND FUNERAL FURNISHING BUSINESS belonging to the late Robert Jackson, Raglan Street, for the Manufacture of Coffins of every description, in the most approved styles, and at prices suited to meet the requirements of all classes; and at the same time assures them that they have spared neither capital or labour to render every branch of the Establishment in Material and Equipments superior in every respect to any other. Orders received day and night.

Hearses and Mourning Coaches for Hire.

GEORGE AND J. HOPE,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS IN MARBLE, STONE, AND GRANITE,
CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL, AND BURNOPFIELD.
Inscriptions neatly executed in Town or Country, Special Designs and Estimates on application.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Blackhill.—Railway Cottages, 18th inst., the wife of Mr Joshua Hetherington, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Blackhill.—Highgate Baptist Chapel, 21st inst., by the Rev E. W. Jenkins, pastor, assisted by the Rev A. Graham-Barton, Hamsterley, Robert Morris, Newcastle, to Fanny, youngest daughter of John Foggon, Blackhill.

Crook.—Methodist New Connexion Chapel, 14th inst., Wm. R. Barlow to Jane Ann Nicholson, both of Crook.

Prudhoe.—United Methodist Free Church, 19th inst., by the Rev F. Raine, Mr J. Herron to Miss M. White, both of West Wylam.

Corbridge.—Wesleyan Chapel, 21st inst., by the Rev T. R. Jackson, Wm. Bullock, Gunnerton, to Annie Jane, daughter of Mr John Harle, of Corbridge.

Bishop Auckland.—Parish Church, St. Andrew's, 14th inst., John Wm. Atkinson, Wolsingham, to Eleanor Elizabeth Robinson, Bishop Auckland.

DEATHS.

Blackhill.—No. 11, Derwent Street, 22nd inst., David Wilkie, aged 72. Interment on Friday, 25th inst. Friends, please accept this intimation.

Gold Hill.—21st inst., aged 78 years, Mary, widow of the late John Sherlock. Interment at Muggleswick Church, on Friday, 25th inst., at Two p.m. Friends, please accept this intimation. 501v

Langley Moor.—16th inst., infant son of Isaac and Sarah Wilson.

Tantobie.—(At the residence of her son, Edward) 22nd inst., aged 78, Isabella, relict of the late George Ridley, sexton, Tanfield.

Edmondsley.—22nd inst., aged 50, William Kindred.

Spen Colliery.—21st inst., aged 6?, Thomas Harle, late of Wylam.

Hookergate, near The Spen.—21st inst., aged 79, Robert Wood.

Crookgate.—18th inst., aged 64, William Pace.

Swalwell.—Malting Yard, 20th inst., aged 64, suddenly, Joseph Foster, late of Washington.

Ryton.—(At the residence of his sister, Mrs Gibson) 21st inst., aged 77, George Snaith, late of Gateshead.

Hexham.—Fellside, 21st inst., aged 71, Sarah, relict of the late James Richardson, Broomhaugh. Interment on Friday, at Twelve o'clock. Friends kindly invited. 499v

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