The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

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

No. 956. {REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.} FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 27TH, 1878. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Business Announcements.

TELFER'S

SMOKING MIXTURE,

RECOMMENDED for its rich and excellent Flavour. It is prepared and blended, with judicious care and judgment, from the finest Tobaccos the world can produce, making a faultless mixture. Sold only in Packets, 1oz., 2oz., and 4oz., at all Tobacconists, Stores, Shopkeepers, and Innkeepers.

TELFER AND SONS,
TOBACCO AND SNUFF MANUFACTURERS,
NEWCASTLE. 54m

THOMAS ROWE, BAKER & CONFECTIONER,
LEADGATE AND CONSETT.
PIE-NICS AND TEA PARTIES SUPPLIED OR CONTRACTED FOR.

LOOK! LOOK!!—For Washing Machines, Pose Tubs, Pails, &c., or repairs of every description, go to W. BORROW, Cooper, Front Street, Consett.

ROBERT SEWELL,
AUCTIONEER AND APPRAISER,
14, HAVELOCK STREET, CONSETT.

J. FAIRBURN, MEDICAL BOTANIST, PHRENOLOGIST, LECTURER on PHYSIOGNOMY, and FUNERAL BREAD BAKER, Oxley's House, near West Stanley. 630m

NOTICE! NOTICE!!

ANY Person found Trespassing in pursuit of Game, gathering Mushrooms, Brambles, &c., on Middle Meads, Oliverford, Middles, Knitsley Grange, Allen Heads Edgerdean, Rowley, Dean Head, and Healeyfield Farms will be Prosecuted as the LAW directs.
July, 1878. 713z

E. BROOKS,
39, CLAYTON STREET, and 18, NEW BRIDGE STREET, NEWCASTLE.

LARGE ARRIVAL of STOCK for the present Season.

SPLENDID FELT HATS at 3s. 6d. and 4s. 6d.

A. PHILIPPSON,
AUCTIONEER, FURNITURE DEALER, &c.,
CONSETT.

IS prepared to BUY HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., for Cash, or Remove Goods to his Show-rooms, or any other desirable place, to be Sold by Auction.

J. BATES,
HOUSE CARPENTER, JOINER, UNDERTAKER, HARDWAREMAN,
HARVEY STREET, CONSETT. 676f

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

PARTIES leaving the Neighbourhood can have their Furniture, &c., turned into Cash on the shortest notice. 202m

McCOURRY,
PRACTICAL WATCH AND CLOCK MAKER, JEWELLER, AND OPTICIAN,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

HAS on hand a Select Stock of GOLD and SILVER GOODS of the usual Requisites in the Trade to choose from at the Lowest Cash Prices. Goods made to Order, and on Repairs for all the various Branches done on the Premises by Practical Workmen. 460h

MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

M. TUCKER,
PORK BUTCHER,

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public of Consett and Neighbourhood that he has OPENED the Shop next door to Mr. WHITTAKER'S, Middle Street, Consett, with a large supply of Very Dairy-fed PORK, BAVLOYS, genuine SAUSAGE, POLONIES, pickured BRAWNE and everything else in the Trade. Every Article Guaranteed First-class. A trial solicited. 244m

NOTICE.

JAMES BROWN,
GENERAL CARRIER.

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public that he has commenced the above-named Business at Consett and Leadgate to Newcastle every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, leaving the White Swan, Cloth Market at Three o'clock, and hopes by paying attention to all Orders entrusted to his care, to merit a share of their patronage and support.

FURNITURE REMOVED. 449m

FARM SEEDS.

NOW ON SALE:
FINE NEW SPRING TARES.
FINE NEW AND OLD TARTARIAN OATS.
FINE MAPLE PEAS, &c.
CLOVERS AND GRASS SEEDS.
G. H.'S CELEBRATED MIXTURES FOR PERMANENT PASTURES.
TURNIP SEEDS.
GARDEN SEEDS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Ammonia-fixed and Phospho Peruvian Guanos, Turnip and Potato Manures, Dissolved and Dissolved Bones and Top Dressings for Field or Garden use, Nitrate of Soda, and Agricultural Salt.

GEORGE HOBSON,
HARPERLEY MILLS, NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, AND CATCHGATE.
(ESTABLISHED 1817.) 656h

THE LANCHESTER COMMON ACT with the Allotments Roads, Quarries, Wells, Allotments Places, &c., set out by the Commissioners by their Award, dated 13th June, 1781; also a note of the various CUSTOMS OF THE COPYHOLD OF MANORS OF THE SEE OF DURHAM,

Edited and Compiled by ROBERT JACKSON, for upwards of thirty years Managing Clerk in the Copyhold Office, Durham, and late Bailiff of the Manor.

The whole of the remaining copies of this useful work, which was published at 3s. 6d., having been purchased by ROBERT JACKSON, Gentleman, Consett, he has determined to reduce the price to *Three Shillings* per copy (post free) in order to effect a speedy clearance.

Also on hand a few copies (being an exact facsimile) of the *Original* LANCHESTER COMMON ACT, recently published by Mr. JOHN CALVERT, at the reduced price of *Two Shillings* (post free).

Every owner or occupier of property within the boundary of Lanchester Common should possess a copy of either of these editions.

Mr. JACKSON will be glad to forward copies of either of these editions by return of Post. For which Halfpenny Postage Stamps or Post Office Orders made payable to ROBERT JACKSON, Consett must be received.

Business Announcements.

B. MOODY
WATCHMAKER, RECHESTER.
SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

ANY Person Removing, Altering, or Tampering with any Meter, Pipe, or other Property of the above Gas Company, without first obtaining the said Company's permission, will be prosecuted according to Law.

By order of the Directors,
M. RICHLEY, Secretary.

NOTICE.

WILLIAM KNOX

HAS much pleasure in announcing that he has entered upon his NEW PREMISES, at MOUNT TERRACE, CONSETT, where he intends carrying on Business as HOUSE CARPENTER, JOINER, &c., and trusts, by strict attention thereto and keeping a staff of good Workmen, to merit a share of Public support.

N.B.—Estimates given for general Repairs, Shop Fronts, &c. 617f

GOOD NEWS
FOR THE
INHABITANTS OF CONSETT AND DISTRICT.

A GREAT WANT SUPPLIED.

OPENING OF A GOOD
FAMILY BOOT AND
SHOE WAREHOUSE
IN MIDDLE STREET,
CONSETT.

R. LONGSTAFF, the PEOPLE'S CHEAP BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER, has OPENED a BRANCH SHOP, in MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, with the Largest and Handsomest Stock in the neighbrhood of every description of LADIES', GENTLEMEN'S, and CHILDREN'S Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.

The Inhabitants of Consett and District will now be able to select from a large and well-assorted Stock, and purchase the best quality of BOOTS and SHOES at lower prices than are usually charged for very Inferior Goods.

LONGSTAFF'S
FAMILY SHOE WAREHOUSE,
4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
Next Door to Mr. W. AYNSLEY, the Tea Dealer;
and at
18, NEWGATE STREET, BISHOP AUCKLAND;
22, MARKET PLACE, DURHAM;
CHURCH STREET, CROOK;
And
HIGH STREET, SPENNYMOOR.

NOTICE TO FARMERS AND OTHERS.

GEORGE HOBSON

TAKES this opportunity of thanking his numerous Friends for the very liberal patronage bestowed on him during the many years he has been in business, and begs to inform them that he has now got his Mill better throughout repair, and, with the addition of extra CRUSHING and SPLITTING MILLS, he is now in a position to fully meet the requirements of his Friends and the Public. Particular attention will be paid to Grinding, Crushing, or Splitting Grain for Farmers and the Trade.

Try G. H.'s CRUSHED OATS and BEANS for Horses.
Try G. H.'s CRUSHED MIXED HORSE FEED.
Try G. H.'s MIXED COW FEED.
Try G. H.'s MIXED PIG FEED.
Pure BARLEY MEAL, PEA MEAL, INDIAN MEAL, and every other Article in the Trade on the most reasonable terms.

HARPERLEY STRAM AND WATER CORN MILLS
(Warehouse, Catchgate),
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN.
ESTABLISHED, 1817. 228g

Business Announcements.

THE QUICKEST PASSAGE ON RECORD.

ON May 28th, the celebrated steamers, "London Castle" and "Glenaegle," steamed off together with upwards of six million pounds of NEW SEASON'S TEA from the Hankow district. After a desperate race of thirty-eight days, the "London Castle" arrived in the London Docks one day before the "Glenaegle," this being the quickest passage on record. About 4 a the morning she arrived, at eight her hatches were opened, at ten the teas were offered on the market. The importers expected high prices; the dealers prudently refused to buy except in small lots. While the importers halted, five other steamers arrived with fifteen million of new teas. Steamer after steamer followed each other, and not less than thirty million pounds of new teas was thrown on the market. This, with the large stock of last season's teas on hand, produced a panic in the market. Down came the old seasons teas to a price unknown in the history of the tea trade. We, like purchasers dealers, have been watching the market, and secured large lots at the lowest point, and hasten to offer you a GOOD USEFUL TEA AT 1s. 8D. PER POUND. Don't doubt its quality on account of the price. We recommend it with the greatest of confidence as the most wonderful tea ever sold at the money.

Another word about INDIAN TEA :—For many years we have directed the attention of our friends to the wonderful power and quality of that new growth of tea. It is a pleasure for us to report that this year the Indian tea planters have far surpassed other years in the perfection of growth. We have to inform you that we have secured, regardless of cost, the early picking of the finest gardens in India. We stake our reputation on our opinion. Finer and more perfect growth of tea have never been offered. You cannot make a mistake if you send for Indian tea at any of our establishments. WE KEEP ONLY THE FINEST QUALITY! We would like you to test the correctness of our judgment, well knowing you will thank us for our opinion.

WILLIAM STEWART AND SON, THE TEA DEALERS,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND 32, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE; 33, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; AND CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

PLANTING SEASON, 1878-9.

THE NEW NURSERY GROUNDS,
NURSERY COTTAGE, NEAR RECHESTER STATION.

THE Proprietor, in thanking his numerous friends and the public generally for their patronage during the past fifteen years, while respectfully soliciting a continuance of past favours, begs to invite an inspection of his NEW GROUNDS, which contain a Selected Collection of Forest, Fruit, and Ornamental Trees, Evergreens and Deciduous Shrubs, Conifers, American Plants, Roses, &c., &c. Fruiting Strawberry Plants, all the best varieties. Rhubarb Roots, Stott's Monarch, Prince Albert, &c.

The Stock of Roses, consisting of above 100 named sorts, includes all the best show varieties, fine strong plants in healthy condition. A fine Stock of Gloire de Dijon Roses was perhaps never offered to the public.

The Soil of these Grounds being a Maiden Turfy Loam, is peculiarly adapted to grow all kinds of Nursery Stock with perfect bulls of fibry roots.

A healthy Stock of Greenhouse Plants for winter blooming, Flower Pots and Seed Pans at Makers' Prices. Propagating and other Potting Soils Supplied. Estimates given and Plantations undertaken by the Acre.

LANDSCAPE GARDENING.

Gentlemen can be supplied with all the required information to guide them in laying out New Grounds and carrying out improvements with economy and practical skill.

JOHN RICHARDSON, PROPRIETOR.

Seed Warehouse—
Three Minutes from Rechester Station.

POSTAL ADDRESS—
JOHN RICHARDSON,
NURSERYMAN AND SEEDSMAN,
NURSERY COTTAGE, EBCHESTER, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN. 614m

WINES AND SPIRITS FOR EVERY-DAY USE
Selected from W & A Gilbey's List of 200 varieties.

The seals and labels on all WINES and SPIRITS bottled by W & A GILBEY may be accepted as an absolute guarantee of their purity and genuineness. Under the Act of Parliament 36 & 39 Vic., Cap. 63, the purity of any Wine or Spirit can be verified on application to the Local Government Analyst.

This "SELECTED LIST" of W & A GILBEY'S WINES AND SPIRITS comprises two descriptions only of each class of Wines and Spirits, the first selected on account of its moderate price, and the second for its fine quality combined with greater age.

AGENT—
W. AYNSLEY, *Grocer*, CONSETT

PRICES THE SAME AS AT HEAD ESTABLISHMENTS

WINES	Per Bottle	Per Dozen
PORT Castle 1A *from Portugal* A good-bodied well-matured Wine. 4 years old ..	1/9	21/
PORT Castle B *from Portugal* A fine full-flavored fruity Wine. 8 years old ..	2/6	28/
SPANISH PORT Castle 1 *from Spain* A full-bodied fruity Wine. 4 years old ..	1/3	15/
SPANISH PORT Castle 4 *from Spain* The finest Spanish Port produced. 10 years old	1/10	22/
SHERRY Castle SPANISH *from Spain* A pure Spanish Sherry. 4 years old ..	1/3	15/
SHERRY Castle C *Pale from Spain* A good type of nutty Sherry. 6 years old	2/6	28/
MARSALA Castle VP *Pale from Sicily* A delicate dinner Wine. 4 years old ..	1/4	16/
MARSALA Castle C *Pale from Sicily* The finest Marsala produced. 7 years old ..	1/8	20/
CLARET Castle A *from France* A pure sound Wine. Upwards of a year in bottle	1/	12/
CLARET Castle C *from France* A high-flavored and well-matured Medoc Wine	1/6	18/
SAUMUR Castle *Silver Foil* A fine sparkling Wine .. Bottles	2/1	23/
SAUMUR Castle *Gold Foil* A fine old dry Sparkling Wine .. Half-Bots.	1/3	14/6
	2/6	30/
	1/5	17/
CHAMPAGNE Castle 1 A pure Sparkling Wine for ordinary use .. Bottles	2/2	26/
	1/3	15/
CHAMPAGNE Castle A high class delicate Champagne .. Bottles	3/6	42/
	1/11	23/

SPIRITS	Per Bottle	Per Dozen
GIN Castle UP Highly rectified at W & A Gilbey's own Distillery. 33 per cent. under proof	2/	24/
GIN Castle PROOF Highly rectified at W & A Gilbey's own Distillery. Strength, proof	2/10	34/
IRISH WHISKEY Castle UP Distilled from fine Malt. 33 per cent. under proof	2/3	27/
IRISH WHISKEY Castle DG Finest old Dublin Whiskey. Strength, proof ..	2/3	29/
SCOTCH WHISKEY Castle UP Distilled from fine Malt. 33 per cent. under proof	2/3	27/
SCOTCH WHISKEY Castle SO Finest old Scotch Whiskey. Strength, proof ..	2/3	29/
BRANDY Castle UP Compounded exclusively from Foreign Spirits. 33 under proof	2/3	27/
BRANDY Castle PROOF Compounded exclusively from Foreign Spirits. Proof ..	2/	24/
COGNAC Castle D An excellent Cognac brandy of fine flavor. 33 under proof	2/	24/
COGNAC Castle FL Fine Old Pale Champagne Brandy. Strength, proof	4/9	57/
JAMAICA RUM Castle 1 A well-matured Jamaica Rum. 33 per cent. under proof	2/3	27/
JAMAICA RUM Castle 2 The finest old Jamaica Rum. Strength, proof	2/3	29/
HOLLANDS Castle 1 A pure Dutch Spirit from Rye Wheat. 33 per cent. under proof	2/4	28/
HOLLANDS (*Silver Stream*) A fine old Dutch Spirit, bottled abroad. 44 under proof	2/8	32/

SAMPLES .. .. *Single Bottles of any of W & A Gilbey's 200 varieties of Wines and Spirits can be had as samples*

EXPORTATION .. *W & A Gilbey's Wines and Spirits, can be obtained free of duty from their Excise Bonded Warehouses.—For Prices see Special Export List*

PAYMENTS .. .. *In order to give every possible advantage to consumers each payments are absolutely necessary, as all prices are arranged upon that principle*

COMPLETE LIST *A Complete List of W & A Gilbey's Wines and Spirits, containing full particulars of more than 200 varieties, sent free on application*

PLUMBING AND GASFITTING.

ELIZABETH SMITH,
PLUMBER AND GASFITTER,
SHERBURN TERRACE, CONSETT,

BEGS to inform the Public that she intends carrying on the above Business, and hopes by prompt attention to orders, combined with reasonable charges, to merit a share of public patronage and support.

Consett, July, 26th, 1878.

BOTTLED ALE AND PORTER STORES AND LEMONADE AND SODA WATER MANUFACTORY,
DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

THE Trade and Public of Consett and District are informed that the Old Established Business, heretofore conducted by GEORGE YOUNG, will, on and after May 13th, be carried on under the style or firm of YOUNG AND READON, by whom all Orders will be punctually attended to.

All Bleated Waters will be sent out in Codd's Patent Globe Stoppered Bottles. 21m

DERWENT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

A REWARD OF FIVE POUNDS will be paid to any Person who shall give information to the Secretary of any Person Limming or Poisoning the waters deputed to the Association, or taking fish therein by any other illegal means. By order of the Committee

CARRIAGES.—To be Sent in for Sale by Commission:—A light Landau, of canoe pattern, for one horse: also a pair-horse Landau; a Clarence Brougham, also a Miniature and Castle Van; a well-mounted Gentleman's Omnibus, with sittings for eight, and a Waggonette Omnibus, with sittings for four; a pair-horse Waggonette, to carry six at the back, another to carry four, and a light one-horse Waggonette; a Hansom Cab, suitable for a doctor; a Back-to-Back Phaeton, also an Albert Turn-Over Phaeton, and a fashionable Park Phaeton; a Shamrock Dog Cart, a Whitechapel Cart, and a light Gig, also several Pony Carriages; a variety of Hearses.—Particulars sent on knowing the kind of Carriage required.—Apply to ATKINSON and PHILIPSON, Carriage and Harness Manufactory, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 549m

Business Announcements.

JOSEPH OLEY,
AUCTIONEER AND APPRAISER,
10, WOOD STREET,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE. 228o

ROBERT SCOTT,
BELLMAN AND BILLPOSTER,
BELL'S HOUSES,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 784k

D. DOVER,

RESPECTFULLY intimates to his Friends and the Public that he has Opened a New Shop, near to Dr. Benson's Surgery, Wesley Terrace, Dipton. Jewelery, Watches, and Clocks sold, cleaned, or repaired. Dealer in Hardware, Books, and Stationery. Agent for "Stokes on Memory."

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!! WEDDING RINGS!!

A PRESENT to each Purchaser of our GUINEA GOLD RING.

F. A. AND E. WELCH,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 318k

REMARKABLY CHOICE, FUNNY, RARE, and out of the way BOOKS, Twopence, post free.—J. WILEY, Mirfield, Yorks.

JAMES PALLISER,
FAMILY GROCER, AND GENERAL PROVISION MERCHANT,
6, FOUNDRY ROW, BLACKHILL.

Patent Medicines of various kinds on hand.
Dealer in Pianofortes, Harmoniums, Violins, and other Musical Instruments.
Agent for the Royal Life and Fire Assurance Company and the Union Permanent Building Society.

BLACKETT STREET TEA AND GROCERY WAREHOUSE,
91 & 93, BLACKETT STREET,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

JAMES JOHNSON, Family Grocer and Tea Dealer, Teas, Coffees, and Spices of the Choicest quality. Good Useful Teas from 2s. per pound. Coffees, 1s. per pound. Household Soaps from 3d. per pound. All kinds of Drysaltery Goods cheap and of the best quality. Hotels and families supplied at wholesale prices.
TERMS—CASH. 879a

IMPROVED
CONCRETE FLOORING.

JOHN DOVE & CO.,
35, CLOSE, NEWCASTLE.
ESTABLISHED 1854.

BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS, and others supplied with any quantity of PORTLAND and other CEMENTS, PLASTER, HAIR, LATHS, LATH NAILS, &c.

CONCRETE FLOORING executed in all its Branches. Cement rendering.
OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE, 35, CLOSE.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

CHARLES D. SCOTT,
PLUMBER AND BRASS FOUNDER,
NEWCASTLE,

HAVING been requested by some of the leading business men of this locality to OPEN A BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT in Consett. He has now much pleasure in stating that he has taken the Shop, 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, Where all orders entrusted to his care will receive his best attention and will be executed by competent workmen. 240k

THE CONSETT, SHOTLEY BRIDGE, AND DISTRICT COMMERCIAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF TRADERS.

For the Collection of Debts due to Members.
For Opposing the Discharge of Fraudulent Bankrupts on their Examination.
For Keeping a List of Registered Judgments, Warrants of Attorney, and Cognovits entered up against Traders for the Information and Security of its Members, and for Prosecuting Felons.
Terms of Membership, £1 1s. per annum.
Tradesmen at a distance desirous of enrolling themselves as Members of this Soc'ety, are requested to send their names to the Solicitor, Mr. T. W. WELFORD, Jun., Middle Street, Consett 259k

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that any Person or Persons entering into the occupation of any House, Shop, or other Building, to which Gas has been supplied by the previous occupant, upon such entry must first obtain the consent of the Secretary of the Company before using the Gas supplied by the Company. In default therefore, upon proof of the said Company's Meter having been put into, such use of the Gas, without first obtaining such leave, such Person or Persons will be Prosecuted as the Law directs. The Secretary can be seen daily at the Company's Office, Shotley Bridge, to whom all applications must be made.

By order of the Directors,
M. RICHLEY, Secretary.
Shotley Bridge, October 9, 1870.

WILLIAM MOSLEY,
JOINER AND UNDERTAKER,
DIPTON,

RESPECTFULLY intimates to the inhabitants of Dipton and surrounding district that he is now prepared to supply COFFINS at little more than half the usual price paid in the district, viz. :—
Children's Coffins, in Deal, from 5s. 6d.
Adults' do. do. 22s.
Children's Coffins, covered with Black Cloth, from 6s.
Adults' do. do. do. 40s.
Designs on application.
FURNITURE REPAIRED AND REPOLISHED.

Note the Address—
WILLIAM MOSLEY
(Next Door to Mr. J. A. CURRY, Butcher),
HIGH END OF DIPTON. 341k

JOHN W. DAVISON,
CABINETMAKER, FURNITURE BROKER, IRONMONGER, &c.,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
AND CATCHGATE,

HAS now on hand the largest and best made Stock of FURNITURE in the district.
IRON BEDSTEADS in great variety.
MATTRESSES, FEATHERS, FLOCKS, RABBIT DOWN.
A large Stock of New Patterns in PAPER HANGINGS.
PERAMBULATORS. HARDWARE.
Agent for the HOME WASHER and MANGLING MACHINES.
SURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT PICKS and SHAFTS.
Licensed Dealer in SPORTING and BLASTING POWDER. 675h

SERIOUS AFFRAY AT BURNOPFIELD.

On Monday, at Consett Petty Sessions, before Messrs. Town (chairman), Priestman, and Annandale, Henry Graham, William McLean, and Thos. Pletts were charged with assaulting P.C. Turner while in the execution of his duty at Burnopfield. A cross-summons charged Turner with an assault on Graham, on the same occasion. The alleged assault on the policeman took place on the night of the 29th November last, but as Graham, who now appeared with his head tied up in a shawl, was suffering severely from cuts on his head, the case had been repeatedly adjourned. The charge against the men (who were defended by Mr. Dix, Gateshead) was heard first. The witnesses on both sides were, at the request of Mr. Dix, ordered out of court.

Police-Constable John Turner said on the night of the 29th of November, about twenty-five minutes past eleven o'clock, he was on duty near Rippon's public-house at Burnopfield when he heard a man shout "murder! police!" He ran a short distance, and then heard a woman cry out, "murder! police!" Witness ran along the road, and on getting within forty yards of the Co-operative Store he met the three defendants. He turned his lamp on to them, and on telling them they would have to stop, Graham rushed at him and said "Kick the —— guts out." Up to that time, he had not touched any of the men. He got hold of Graham, whereupon McLean tripped him up with his foot and he fell to the ground. While on the ground, McLean kicked him, the other defendant, Pletts, throwing a stone at him, which, however, missed him. Complainant got up again, and gave Graham a blow with his staff, and was rushing towards McLean with the object of giving him a blow also, when Graham tripped him up with his foot. While he was down, Graham and the other men ran away. He ran after Graham, and struck him three or four times across the legs to make him stop, but as Graham seemed bent on getting away, witness gave him a blow on the head and knocked him down. Graham began to shout and kick, and said he would not be taken by a —— like witness, who told him, however, that it was no use shouting, as he (Graham) would have to go with him.

The CHAIRMAN: You found it necessary to defend yourself with your staff from the attack of these men?—P.C. Turner: Yes.

By the Clerk: When I met the men, one of them (McLean) had no cap on.

Cross-examined by Mr. DIX: It was a man's voice that called out "murder, police," the first time. The second voice was that of a woman. I found out next morning who it was that called out. When I met the men on the road they were walking abreast. I have never told anyone that Graham was first. The men were on the middle of the road. I was also on the middle of the road. It is not true that they were on the footpath, and that I was on the road. I did not see a man named Stewart that night, but I saw a man named Hull. Hull was sober. Graham was a good deal worse for drink. I made that discovery after I took him to my own house. The first thing I did on meeting the men was to shine my lamp on them. I then told them they had to stop. I did not draw my staff, till I was on my knees. I will swear that I did not use my staff till I was knocked down. When I met the men they were walking, but I heard them running towards me just before that. Graham was the first man I struck. I was going to strike McLean when Graham took the feet from me. I did not strike McLean on the back of the head, nor Pletts. It is not true that the men ran away as soon as I turned my lamp on them. It is true that I tried to strike McLean, but I missed him. I did not try to strike at Pletts. McLean and Pletts were the first to go away. Graham and I fell to the ground together. I had not my staff in my hand when I fell. It was as I was getting up that I struck Graham. I got my staff out while I was down. All three men were there then. I had hold of Graham when the men rushed at me. Graham struck me on the chest with his fist before I was knocked down. It is not true that I then knocked Graham down. Graham was down when I struck him with my staff. When Graham got up and ran away, he went about 100 yards before I struck him again. I hit him twice on the head with my baton. McLean and Pletts ran away as soon as I went down a second time, leaving Graham behind. It was then that Graham ran away. McLean kicked me while I was down, and Pletts also kicked me. Pletts threw a stone at me when he was kicking me. I was down when he threw the stone. The stone missed me, and "stotted" off the road and struck some rails, five or six yards off. There was no snow on the ground. The second blow I gave Graham did not knock him down insensible. It was a "canny" bit before Graham got up after getting the second blow. I did not leave him on the road, and go to a neighbouring house. Two men named Wright and Campbell came up while we were together on the road. I had a watch, but it was not damaged that night. When Graham was lying on the road, after receiving the second blow on the head, I told him I should stop him if he attempted to run away, but it is not true that I said I would knock his brains out. I cannot tell how Graham got so many wounds on his head. He might get them by falling. The first time I struck him he fell on his side. He fell forward the second time. I took Graham to my house, where a doctor examined his head. I got a man to wash his head. I saw there were two wounds on the side of his head. I cannot say how many more there were. The doctor said there were two big wounds, but did not say how many more there were. He said the others were of a very slight nature. The next morning, Graham's brother came to my house. A man named Milburn was with him. I did not tell them that my lamp was put out before I was knocked down. I did not say to Graham that "I did not know but that he was there too." It is not true that I said I believed I had got the most innocent man of the three, and that if Graham had given me the names of the other two men I should not have taken him into custody. When I first met the men I told them they would have to stop, as they had been up to something. I will swear that I was on the ground twice.

Mary Jane Stewart said on the night of the 29th November she was at Adamson's butcher shop with her husband. A man named William Hull was with them. They left at shutting-up time (eleven o'clock). On getting near the Store, her husband and Hull stopped and began to talk. Witness stood a few yards from them. While they were standing three young men came up, and passed the time of night to Hull. After going a few yards the men turned back, and some words passed between them and her husband and Hull. She saw her husband go forward, and heard him say they wanted no quarrelling, and the next thing she saw was the men having hold of each other. Her husband was knocked down, and blood came out of his mouth. She could not identify Graham and the other defendants as the men who attacked her husband and Hull.

Cross-examined by Mr. DIX: Her husband had a little sup beer that night, but was not worse for drink. Her husband and Hull were not turned out of the "Black Horse." When the men passed the time of night, Hull said something, but she could not say what it was. The other men were the first to interfere. It was a dark night. One of the men came back and called Hull a ——, and the other two men then returned to where her husband and Hull were standing. Her husband went between Hull and the other men to try to make peace. Witness went a yard or two and called out "murder, police." When she went back she found her husband lying on the ground.

Robert Stewart, husband of last witness, said on getting to the Co-operative Store, Hull had to go home in a different direction, and before separating they stood a few minutes in conversation. As the men passed witness and Hull, they spoke, and then they returned and said that Hull had not given them a proper answer. Hull replied that he had, or something to that effect. The men then seized upon Hull, and witness went in between them. Witness was thrown on to his head, and became insensible.

Crross-examined by Mr. DIX: It was a dark night. He did not know the men who attacked them.

William Hull said he was standing near the Co-operative Store with the two last witnesses when three men assaulted him. Stewart's wife shouted "murder." While Stewart was lying on the ground two men came up with a lighted candle. One of the men held the candle, while the other assisted witness to lift Stewart on to his feet. He heard one of the men with the candle say, "yonder, the policeman has met them." Witness then saw a light shining forty or fifty yards further along the road. He knew the defendants by eyesight, but would not say they were the men that assaulted witness and Stewart. Nobody but the three men passed witness and Stewart as they stood on the road. Witness lost his own cap, but found another on the road.

Cross-examined by Mr. DIX: When the three men passed witness and Stewart they answered them. He could not say whether he or Stewart answered. Witness did not strike at the men first.

John Pearson said on the night in question he was with a young man named Potts when they met three men, who struck at Potts. The latter got a lighted candle and went after the men, and as they were following them they came across Stewart and Hull. Witness assisted Stewart on to his feet. Potts and witness went further along the road, and saw the policeman and Graham. The latter was lying on the road. The policeman had not a light when witness and Potts went up. Witness could not identify the men who struck Potts, it being a dark night.

Cross-examined by Mr. DIX: The spot where he found Graham would be about 200 yards from where the men assaulted Potts. Graham was on the ground five or ten minutes after witness and Potts went up. Graham did not speak while witnesr was there. The policeman did not strike him.

Mr. DIX said he should now call evidence for the defence, reserving his remarks till their worships had heard the counter charge against the constable.

James Graham said he was brother to the defendant, Henry Graham. On the Saturday morning following the 29th November witness and Thomas Milburn went to the policeman's house. Milburn asked Turner if he had a prisoner there, and he said "yes." Turner asked witness if he was not one of the men that he met on the road the previous night, and he replied that he was not. Milburn asked the constable if he did not remember seeing him (Milburn) and witness together in Clark's public-house, and he replied that he did. Witness asked what Graham had been doing, and Turner replied that after leaving Clark's house he heard a woman shout for a policeman. He then said Graham and the other men came up, and he (Turner) turned his lamp on them, but that the light was knocked out, that he (Turner) then struck Graham with his baton, and that the other men ran away. He also said that Graham ran away, but that he followed and knocked him down again, adding that Graham was the hardest lad he had ever seen. They then went inside, and after Milburn had said that Graham was a quiet lad, the constable said he "believed he had got the most innocent of the three."

Thomas Milburn said he went with the last witness to the policeman's house. Witness knocked at the door, and Turner answered it himself. Witness asked if there was a prisoner there, and the constable replied that there was. Graham asked what they called him, and the constable said "Graham," adding that perhaps Graham was a brother of his, to which Graham replied that he was. Turner then said, "were you not there yourself?" and Graham said he was not. Witness then asked the policeman if he remembered seeing him and Graham together in Ralph Clark's public-house, and he replied that he did. Graham then asked the constable what his brother had done, whereupon Turner said he was going down the road when he heard someone shout "police." He went further down the road and met three men. He (Turner) got a "bat," and he then struck at Graham with his staff and knocked him down. The other two men, he said, ran off. Graham, he also said, got up and was making off when he (Turner) knocked him down again. Witness then asked the constable if they could see Graham, and as soon as they went in, witness said it was a bad job, as he had known Graham a long time and he was always a fine young man. Turner then remarked that he believed he had got the most innocent man of the three. Witness asked if there was a possibility of getting Graham home, but the officer said there was not, adding that if he (Graham) had told who the other two men were the previous night he would not have been taken into custody.

Dr. Savage said he examined Graham on the Monday following the date of the alleged assault, and found him suffering from five wounds (three of them being dangerous) on the head. Erysipelas had set in on the Saturday previous, and witness considered he was in a dangerous state, and ought not, in witness' opinion, to have been removed to the lock-up at Consett.

Supt. Oliver said Graham was examined by Dr. Marchbank, who was of opinion that there was no danger.

Mr. DIX said the constable should have had the doctor present that day.

Supt. Oliver said the policeman did not wish to be at the expense of bringing him.

Dr. Savage said Graham was in great danger for four days after he saw him. Another medical gentleman (Dr. Benson) who saw him held a similar opinion.

The constable was then charged with assaulting Henry Graham. Complainant produced a letter signed by Mr. Reed, manager of Lintz Colliery, showing that he had been employed at the above pit for eight years, during which he had always borne a good character. On the night of the 29th November, he said, he was on the road with McLean and Pletts when they met the constable. McLean and Pletts were in front of witness. As soon as they met the constable, the latter turned his lamp on witness. He had his baton in his hand at that time, and struck McLean a blow with it. McLean said, "hold on; I have done nothing." Turner next struck Pletts on the back, and he and McLean ran away, leaving witness. The constable then turned to witness and struck him on the head with the staff, knocking him down. At that time, no person had interfered with the policeman. The latter was never lying on the ground. Witness, after being struck, got up again and ran nine or ten yards, but was knocked down again by Turner, the blow this time rendering him unconscious. He did not know how long he remained on the ground in this state. On regaining consciousness, the policeman was standing over him. Witness said, "Turner, what have you done this for?" and he said, "you ——, if you attempt to rise I will kick your brains out." While witness was lying on the road, the constable left him and went towards some houses, but as witness had his back towards him he could not say whether he went into them or not. Before witness and the other men saw the policeman they had met Stewart and Hull. They passed the time of night to them, but one of the men (Stewart and Hull) told them to go to ——. Witness and his companions turned back, and some words passed among them, and blows ensued. McLean lost his cap in the scuffle. Witness heard Stewart's wife shout "police."

By the CHAIRMAN: He supposed Pletts and McLean ran away from the policeman because they thought they had got plenty. Turner was never struck by anyone.

William McLean, one of the men charged in the first case, said as they passed Stewart and Hull and passed the time of night, one of the men told them (Graham, witness, and Pletts) to go to ——. One of the men set himself in a fighting attitude, and they got to blows. Stewart was knocked down. When they met the policeman, Graham was hindermost. Turner turned his lamp on to witness, and hit him with something he had in his hand. He struck Pletts next. Witness and Pletts ran away and stood a little distance off, and saw the constable knock Graham down. The latter got up and ran a few yards, but was knocked down a second time. Pletts and witness then went away.

Cross-examined by P.C. Turner: I saw you strike Graham more than once.

Thomas Pletts said when they met Stewart and Hull one of them wanted to fight Graham. While they were differing, the other man went forward to hit McLean, and a struggle ensued. After they left Stewart and Hull, witness and McLean went along the road first. Turner struck McLean first, then witness, and afterwards knocked Graham down. The policeman was never on the ground at all.

By the Clerk: I have not brought a certificate of character with me. I have been up before, and once got two months' imprisonment for an assault.

This being the whole of the evidence, Mr. DIX addressed the magistrates. After reviewing the evidence, he said, even supposing the constable's version of what took place were true, Turner had grossly exceeded his duty in striking Graham so violently on the head with his baton.

The CHAIRMAN, after ten minutes' private consultation with his colleagues, said they believed the men had committed an assault on the officer whilst in the execution of his duty, but in consideration of the punishment Graham had already received the charge against him would be dismissed. The other defendants, Pletts and McLean, were fined 10s. each and costs. The charge of assault preferred by Graham against Turner was dismissed.

SCARCELY CREDIBLE.

At the last monthly meeting of the Gateshead Town Council, Mr. Alderman Newall stated that he had heard of a case where a boy had died of scarlatina, and between fifty and sixty children were made to kiss the body prior to interment. No wonder that sixty deaths from scarlatina in six weeks were reported at the same meeting if, as is stated as a fact, such barbarous and cruel customs are quite common in that locality! Cannot the local clergymen and medical officers of health do something in the way of giving simple lectures to these poor people, and demonstrate to them the amount of disease and death they are disseminating by force of sheer ignorance?—*Sanitary Record.*

FIRE AT A COTTON MILL.—A DIRECTOR KILLED.

A fire broke out on Thursday afternoon at Dukinfield Hall Spinning Company's Mill, near Ashton-under-Lyne. The origin is supposed to have been friction of machinery. The mill was built on a fire-proof principle, and the flames were confined to the room in which the fire originated, which was, however gutted. A director of the company, Mr. Selby, ascended the ladder outside the building soon after the fire broke out with hose. The ladder broke, and he fell from the height of three storeys, and died almost immediately. Six thousand spindles in the room were burnt, and damage was done by water to other portions of the mill. The damage caused will amount to £2,000 or £3,000.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM COLLISION ON THE THAMES.

On Friday morning, during the fog, one of the London Steamboat Company's boats, the Prince of Wales, had a narrow escape of collision with the Westminster, a large screw collier, belonging to the Vauxhall Gas Company. The Prince of Wales was nearing Waterloo Pier from the City, and the Westminster was going down the river in ballast, and, instead of taking the middle of the river, kept well into the north shore, and took the inside arch of Waterloo Bridge, against the pier. A collision was narrowly avoided, the b[illegible] passing each other so closely that the passengers on the Prince of Wales could have touched the Westminster. Great alarm was naturally felt among the passengers.

A BARONET'S BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

Sir Hew Crawfo[rd] Pollok, Bart., of Pollok Castle, near Paisley, was [the] defendant on Thursday in an action brought in [the] Paisley Sheriff's Court by Elizabeth M'Aulay, aged eighteen years, of Renfield Street, Glasgow, to recover £1,168 damages for breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff is the daughter of a farmer living at Dingwall, Ross-shire, and she entered the defendant's service as housemaid in June, 1876. Her statement is that the defendant immediately began to importune her, and when repulsed only pressed his suit the more strongly, saying he was madly in love with her. He made her presents and representing that he was not married, promised to marry her. She was taken by him to the theatre at Glasgow, and when her son was born he sent her from Pollok Castle in a carriage and pair, accompanied by his own medical adviser. The case was finally compromised, the defendant agreeing to pay the plaintiff £160 and expenses.

A BANK EASILY DUPED.

The *Glasgow Evening Times* gives the following astonishing account of how a great bank was lately swindled:—"Early in the forenoon of a recent day a well-dressed stranger entered the Commercial Bank of Greenock, and intimated that he desired to open an account with the branch, and thereupon he deposited £15 and asked to be furnished with a cheque-book. This was given him, when it appears he proceeded to Edinburgh by the first train, and going to the British Linen Company's Bank there said he desired to open an account there, paying in some small sum and handing in a Commercial Bank cheque on the Greenock branch for a large amount, and requested that the sum be placed to his credit. He then stated that for immediate use he would draw several hundred pounds, which was paid to him. On the cheque being presented at the Greenock branch of the Commercial the swindle was exposed, and for the large amount paid by the British Linen the Commercial handed over the £15 lodged with them by the clever swindler, who managed to escape.

FITS.—EPILEPTIC FITS OR FALLING SICKNESS.—A certain method of cure has been discovered for this distressing complaint by a physician, who is desirous that all sufferers may benefit from this providential discovery. It is never known to fail, and will cure the most hopeless case after all other means have been tried. Full particulars will be sent by post to any person free of charge.—Address: Mr. WILLIAMS, 10, Oxford Terrace, Hyde Park, London. 37[illegible]

TAPEWORM AND STOMACHWORM.—Watson's celebrated "Specific" has effected hundreds of permanent cures of those distressing maladies, where every other remedy has failed. It does not require continuing, a single bottle being sufficient to cure. Its action is mild, but thorough, and the most delicate need not fear taking it. Price 2s. 9d., or safe by post, 36 stamps. Watson's "Specific Powders" for Threadworm are an effectual remedy for the tormentors. No. 1 (adults), No. 2 children's, price 1s. 1½d., or by post 15 stamps. Address J. H. WATSON, chemist, Shipley, Yorks. [illegible] chemist will get them for you. Circulars post free. London agents, BARCLAY and SONS. The genuine has my name and address printed on the Government stamps round each package. 64[illegible]

ANOTHER CHURCH ON FIRE.

On Monday morning, at two o'clock, the roof of the Protestant Parochial Church of St. Nicholas, Galway, was discovered to be on fire. The fire originated in a burning chimney, which also communicated the flames to the adjoining roof of Lynch's Chapel. Colonel Bagot and the 68th Brigade depot were immediately on the grounds, and with the aid of a powerful engine confined the fire to the church, the roof of which fell in. The fire was shortly afterwards extinguished. The church is fully insured. St. Nicholas Church was built in 1320, and it is one of the statliest ecclesiastical edifices in Ireland. The burned roof was built in 1493.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.

A thief in Chesterfield, who lately robbed the hen-roost belonging to Mr. Britt, landlord of the Horns public-house, in Derby Road, afterwards wrote him the following letter: "Derby Lane Chesterfield 25 78 Mr. Britt Sir It is with Great pleasure i write to you but the fowls were so good and Tender that i could not refrain asking you whether Chickens would soon be ready as work is very Bad We Must have something to Eat. Mr. Britt i must not forget to tell you that the Black hen Was very tough We could neither roast nor boil it it was a disappointment as i had ask a friend to come to dinner and with pulling at the old Black hen he Loosened all his Front teeth the cock was very good and tender i should not have written this to you but i hear that you had Promised to give 4 pounds of bacon i will call for it But i am afraid you would not be true to your Promise i am yours Truly FOWL BROTH."

DEATH OF A CHILD FROM DRINKING WHISKY.

Mr. Clarke Aspinall has held an inquest at Liverpool touching the death of Ann Redmond, aged twelve years, daughter of a labourer. A few days since the mother of the deceased sent her into the cellar kitchen, for the purpose of filling a kettle with water. As she stayed longer than necessary, the mother called her, but, receiving no answer, concluded that the girl had gone into the street. Soon afterwards the mother heard a peculiar noise in the cellar, and she called the deceased by name again. As she received but an indistinct answer, she went into the cellar, and found her daughter lying on the floor, moaning very much. On lifting her she smelt whisky on her breath. Mrs. Redmond had that morning put a bottle containing a pint of whisky under the table in the cellar kitchen, and on examining the bottle she found that about a noggin and a half had been taken from it. The deceased was put to bed, and at night, as she did not get better, was taken to a doctor, but she died the following morning. The jury found that the deceased died from the effects of an overdose of alcohol taken by herself, and censured the parents for not sending for a doctor sooner.

JOINT STOCK UNDERTAKINGS AT SHEFFIELD.

The "Sheffield Red Book" for 1879 gives some startling figures relative to the depreciation of joint stock undertakings in that town. There are about sixty of these companies in Sheffield and its neighbourhood, chiefly coal and iron companies, rolling mills, steel works, electro-plate works, carriage works, and the like, and they have a total paid-up capital of £7,667,892. In the case of eleven of these companies the present market value of the shares aggregates £504,775 more than par, but the depreciation upon the rest amounts to £3,098,057. There is therefore a loss upon these undertakings, taken altogether, of upwards of £2,500,000, supposing that these shares could be realised at their present quoted prices. Twenty companies are in liquidation. A year ago, when the same table was published, the total depreciation was less by £1,064,374 than it is now, and it was then considered to have reached its worst. Reasons are given now for thinking that the depreciation is excessive, for the shares of some companies which are still paying dividends of fair amount and which are otherwise in a sound position are now quoted at a discount. The bad companies have, in fact, reacted on the good to their prejudice; but, admitting this explanation, the disastrous character of the figures is something hardly to be exaggerated or realised, and we trust that the decline in value may indeed be found to have reached its limits.—*Times.*

A RAILWAY SECRETARY SENTENCED TO PENAL SERVITUDE FOR LIFE.

The Circuit Court of Justiciary met at Glasgow on Monday, when John Duncan, 60 years of age, was sentenced, by Lord Young, to penal servitude for life. Duncan pleaded guilty to 17 different acts of fraud, extending from April, 1869, till March, 1878, while acting as secretary of the Greenock Guaranteed Railway Company, by issuing forged certificates of stock of the company. The amount to which he did so was £16,412 10s., for which he received from the various brokers through whom the shares were sold, the sum of fully £12,000. In his capacity as secretary, he had access to all books of the company, and he forged the names of several parties as the sellers, knowing at the same time that they held no stock in the company. Mr. Redman, advocate, who appeared for the prisoner, stated that about eight years ago Duncan purchased for parties four of the Clyde passenger steamers, but in some way or another the settlement fell through. The case went to the court of session, and the prisoner had to pay for the steamers. This seemed more than he was able to bear, and hence the crime to which he had pleaded guilty. Lord Young said this was one of the worst cases of forgery and fraud he had ever been called upon to deal with. The prisoner was in a very good business, and making from £400 to £500 a year, when he was appointed secretary to the railway company in 1869. That appointment afforded him an opportunity of acting fraudulently and plundering people of large sums, and appropriating them to himself. He had pleaded Guilty to 17 charges, and the probable amount of property ill-gotten by all the blackguards that were to be brought before the Court would not amount to a fiftieth part of what the prisoner, a man of education, had swindled other people of. He would be wanting in his duty if he did not sentence him to the highest punishment the law allowed, viz., to be detained in penal servitude for the remainder of his life.

THROAT IRRITATION.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. Glycerine, in these agreeable confections, being in proximity to the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, becomes actively healing. Sold only in 6d. and 1s. Boxes, labelled "JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." A letter received: Gentlemen,—It may, perhaps, interest you to know that, after an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease. They soften and clear the voice. In no case can they do any harm.—Yours faithfully, GORDON HOLMES, L.R.C.P.E., Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary." 563m

HOW TO CURE A COUGH OR COLD.—Take "Budden's Balsam of Horehound and Coltsfoot." One Dose relieves; one Bottle cures. Price 1s. 1½d and 2s. 9d. Agent for Consett—Mr. D. IMRIE, Chemist, Front Street. 514m

THE INVALID'S FRIEND.—TODD'S QUININE WINE.—Dr. Wheatley, writing from the Crescent, Carlisle, says:—"I have much pleasure in giving my testimony to the efficacy of Mr. Todd's Quinine Wine. I consider it a valuable and pleasant mode [of] taking quinine." This valuable and renowned preparation [illegible] quinine is the most pleasant [illegible] remedy known for indigestion and all derangements of the stomach. The genuine [is] manufactured [illegible] J. Todd, chemist, Carlisle, and bears [illegible] government stamp.

NEW GAME FOR CHILDREN.

The juveniles have a new game called "Blind Man's Mockery," out of which they are getting lots of amusement. One of the party is blindfolded, and while he is counting twenty-five the others range themselves as miscellaneously as possible in a row and hold out their hands. The "blind man" slaps somebody's hands, at the same time inquiring, "Who are you?" The youngster slapped rather impolitely replies, "None of thy business," and the "blind man" is obliged to guess his name from the sound of his voice. He can guess but once, and, if he fails must try some one else until he guesses right, when the one whom he detects becomes "the man." The game depends upon quickness of ear, as well as upon the ability to disguise the voice, and it shows a wonderful difference in children in both respects.

CURIOUS SUPERSTITIONS.

"It is unlucky to walk under a ladder,"—when they are shovelling the snow off the roof.

"It is unlucky to send a chaffing valentine portraying a red nose and a gin bottle to your rich old maiden aunt,"—from whom you have great expectations.

"Thirteen is an unlucky number"—of pancakes to eat at a dinner on Shrove Tuesday.

"If two people eat six cucumbers at one sitting, it is a sign of approaching sickness."

"It is unlucky, on a showery day, to lend your umbrella, "just for five minutes," to a man with a new hat on.

Folks in fear of hydrophobia should not walk down Mad-dox Street.

If you put a bucket of water at your door for dogs, you will be likely to kick it unpleasantly.

"It is unlucky to spill salt"—if you let it fall into your apple tart.

In November it is considered unlucky to get between two cabs in a fog in the Strand.

SURE SIGNS AND TOKENS.

If the sky looks very red at night, it will portend that either Mars or Jupiter has chilblains, or else there's a fire somewhere.

If you notice your laundress applying her apron frequently to her lips it is a sign of being a wet day with *her*.

If you notice a man with a battered hat clinging to a lamp-post you will know that he has "been in the sun," and is now in a fog, and most likely missed his way.

Should your young lady write to you a conciliatory letter after quarrelling, it is a true sign of a thaw having commenced; but if a theatre is filled by "orders" it denotes frost.

If the wind blows hard from the South West, with a falling barometer, rain may be expected; but if you see anyone coming out of a pawnbroker's shop, you may safely expect that he has been trying to raise the wind.

When there's a halo round the Moon and you return home in the small hours it's a sure sign of storm brewing; whereas if you observe two moons or more you may be certain there is a deal more electricity in the air than usual.

A lecturer, addressing a mechanics' institute, contended that "Art could not improve Nature," when one of the audience set the whole assembly in a roar by exclaiming, "How would you look without your wig?"

"If the gentleman who keeps the shoe shop with the red head will return the umbrella of a young lady with whalebone ribs and an iron handle to the slate-roofed grocer's shop, he will hear of something to his advantage."

A wasp's nest contains fifteen thousand cells, and the greatest of these "sells" is to sit down on the nest under the mistaken impression that all the wasps have gone to the seaside, or somewhere, on a visit. A single wasp loafing in the back-kitchen will give the sister a warm reception. And no doubt a married one would treat him in the same manner.

A young man sat up half an hour one night after his chum had gone to bed, sewing the legs of the innocent sleepers trousers together. He sewed them strong, and laughed long and silently after he went to bed, as he pictured the scene in the morning. When the morning dawned, he rose with a glow of anticipation on his face, and as it slowly faded away sat down upon the side of the bed, and dejectedly cut open the bottom of his own carefully sewn trousers legs, and when his unsuspecting chum asked what he was doing, sighed and said, sadly, "Oh, nothing." And he wearily thought how full of meanness was this base, deceiving, old world.

Sir Hew Crawfurd Pollok, Bart., of Pollok Castle, near Paisley, has been sued in the Paisley Sheriff's Court by a farmer's daughter, named M'Aulay, aged 18, for £1,168 damages for breach of promise of marriage. Plaintiff said she entered the defendant's service as housemaid in 1876. He promised to marry her, representing that he was unmarried. She afterwards had a son by him. The case was finally compromised, defendant agreeing to pay the plaintiff £160 and expenses.

A man named Daniel Sutherland has been charged before the Brighton magistrates with having stabbed a policeman. It appeared that the prisoner had been ejected from a public-house in the eastern part of the town and was quarrelling with another man. The officer proceeded to remove him, whereupon prisoner stabbed him, inflicting a punctured wound of an inch in depth on the arm. The officer was so severely injured that he could not attend to give evidence, and the case was remanded.

At a meeting of the Leeds Board of Guardians the Chairman referred to the decision come to last week not to make any extra Christmas allowance to the out-door poor, and suggested, as such allowance would be illegal, that the guardians themselves should subscribe, and invite the co-operation of the public, to provide supplementary aid to the out-door poor, as there never was a time when such assistance was more required. Seven members of the Board had already subscribed £35 with this object.

A coroner's inquest has been held on the bodies of the mother and two children who were killed through the fall of the end wall of a public-house on to the roof of their cottage, in Lambeth, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death;" but censured the manager of the tavern for not having taken prompt measures to prevent the fatal accident after complaint had been made to him of the dangerous state of the wall. The jury also complimented the two policeman who, at great risk, rescued a child from the ruins.

Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., has sent a letter through Mr. C. J. Thomas, the chairman of the Bristol Liberal Association, to the chairmen of the various district committees by whom the hon. member's election was conducted, thanking them for their services. Mr. Fry says:—"The unanimity and enthusiasm of the Liberal party on the present occasion have rarely, if ever, been excelled in previous contests, and our city has thus given to the important question put before them an answer the significance of which it is impossible to overrate."

A lad, aged sixteen, named Charles Mason, has been charged at Southwark Police Court with entering the dwelling house of Mr. J. Hubbard, chemist, London Road, and stealing a gold watch, chain, and lockets, and also with burglariously breaking out of the same premises. Prisoner had been in prosecutor's service as errand boy, but was discharged three months ago. One of prosecutor's daughters, whilst in bed, at about ten o'clock at night, saw the prisoner take up her locket and go into the next room, in which were her sister's watch and chain. She was so frightened that she could not call out. It was further stated that prisoner must have entered the house through the back way whilst the shop was being closed, and afterwards forced his way out. He was committed for trial.

SHOCKING CATASTROPHE.

A farm labourer, named Ellis, and four cows were on Friday burnt to death in a barn, belonging to [illegible]les Farm, near Monyash. The man had been working with a thrashing machine during the previous day, and retired to the barn to sleep. It is supposed that he placed a lighted candle in a crevice in the wall, and went to sleep without extinguishing it. The barn was found to be in flames at an early hour, and, on removing the debris, the charred corpses of the man and four cows were discovered.

SUSPECTED MURDER AT BRISTOL.

A man named Hallett is in custody at Bristol on a charge of murdering a married woman, named Luxton, with whom he lived. Some men who carried Hallett home drunk found in his room Mrs. Luxton lying on the bed unconscious and in a terrible state. Her clothes were torn, she was covered with blood, there were severe cuts over her right eye, the eye itself being blackened, both her arms being bruised from the shoulders to the tip of her fingers, her wedding ring flattened on her finger, as if her hand had been trodden on, her lower jaw was broken, and she had a compound fracture of the right leg. She died in the hospital. The neighbours heard a row in the night, and she had evidently remained unconscious for fifteen hours.

THREATENING TO SHOOT THE QUEEN.

At Bow Street on Thursday, Edward Byrne Madden, fifty-six years of age, of 19, Duke Street, Aldgate, described as an interpreter of languages, was brought before Sir James Ingham, on remand, charged with sending letters to the Home Office containing threats to kill her Majesty the Queen. When the prisoner was first charged, the evidence taken showed that a letter had been addressed by the prisoner to the Hon. Adolphus Frederick Octavious Liddell, Permanent Under Secretary for the Home Department, which contained a threat to kill the Queen. He had also written two other letters of a similar description. As these communications were in French, the magistrate directed a remand in order that they might be read publicly in court by a professional interpreter. There were no legal gentlemen engaged in the case. Superintendent Williamson was in attendance on behalf of the Government. On the case being called on Guiseppe Guanziroli was the first witness called. He said he was a professional interpreter, and he produced the translation of a letter dated 26th May, 1878.—James Butcher, inspector, Scotland Yard, said he produced an original letter, a copy of which he showed the prisoner on the evening of the 10th December. It was dated 27th May, 1878, and addressed to Lord Lyons. It appeared to be in the same hand writing as the others which the prisoner acknowledged writing. He read the whole of the copy to prisoner. The letter produced was in exactly the same terms as the copy he read to prisoner. This Paris letter, which was written in English, was handed to witness by Superintendent Williamson, who received it from Lord Tenterden. The magistrate asked the prisoner if he wished to put to the witness any question.—Prisoner: No, Sir. Witness: I have no doubt all the letters produced are in the prisoner's handwriting. Three rambling and incoherent letters addressed to Mr. Cross and Mr. Liddell were then read. One stated the "by order of the Holy Spirit." The writer proclaimed the abdication of her Majesty in favour of the Prince of Wales, and that the act was done at the office of "the Modern Prophet." It went on to say that Mr. Dodwell was not insane, and next threatened a visit to Balmoral. It demanded an immediate reply and a remittance of £1,000, it being "the will of God," and was signed "E. B. Madden." A second letter to the same effect was next read, in which the "Modern Prophet" denied that he was insane. A third letter stated that the writr was a state criminal and dangerous to her Majesty and himself, and that if Colonel Henderson did not arrest him he would shoot her Majesty with his "spiritual gun and electric battery." The letter to Lord Lyons was next read, and in it the writer complained of four years' confinement in Hanwell, and described himself as "a spirit immaterial," and as "a second Dodwell." He asked £1,000 for his four years' illegal detention at Hanwell, and subscribed himself "your lordship's obedient servant, E. B. Madden, modern prophet and British subject."—Superintendent Williamson: That closes the case.—The magistrate informed the prisoner he was about to commit him for trial, and asked him if he wished to say anything.—Prisoner: I don't wish to say anything.—The prisoner was then committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court. He seemed totally indifferent to the proceedings.

PRESENTATION TO LORD BEACONSFIELD.

On Thursday afternoon the Prime Minister, the Earl of Beaconsfield, was waited upon at his official residence in Downing Street, by a deputation from British residents in California, for the purpose of presenting him with an address congratulatory of the outcome of his foreign policy, and a casket composed of Californian gold and silver. The presentation was made by Mr. Harrison, who has purposely come from San Francisco. There were present Mr. A. G. Martin, M.P., Mr. J. H. Puleston, M.P. (specially representing English residents in America), Mr. D. MacIvor, M.P., The Earl of Dalkeith, M.P., Viscount Castlereagh, M.P., Sir G. Greenall, M.P., Mr. Ritchie, M.P., Mr. Corry, M.P., Mr. Cotton, M.P., and Mr. M'Ivor. Mr. Puleston having introduced Mr. Harrison, and having presented the casket and address,

The Earl of Beaconsfield, in reply, expressed the regret he felt at being unable to meet the deputation on Saturday, owing to the death of the Princess Alice. He was only fulfilling his duty in meeting them that day. He expressed the pleasure he felt at meeting so many of his old colleagues in the House of Commons. When he returned from Berlin he was much gratified at having so many congratulations from her Majesty's Colonial subjects. He was not surprised at this. There were many reasons which must create feelings and sentiments of great interest between the mother country and the colonies. They had the same language, institutions, and faith, and therefore they ought not to be startled in receiving such expressions from Colonial subjects; but he could not forget that those expressions, coming from very distant countries, would give them a peculiar interest. In the present case the feeling was very much heightened. There was something touching to know that this presentation did not come from the colonial subjects of the Queen, but a new and great State pursuing a course of life of so absorbing a character that it would seem they could think of nothing else than that in which they were engaged. But they remembered the trials and troubles of their mother country, and they had had time to bestow attention to a Minister whose only merit was a desire to maintain the greatness of their common country. They had referred to the Treaty of Berlin. He looked upon the settlement as likely to secure the pacification of Europe. It was not a patched up settlement, but one which he believed would altogether pacify Europe. Some time ago there was an impression abroad—a sort of conspiracy—to persuade the world it was a phantom. No doubt there were persons whose interest it might be that it should not be carried into effect. But that was not the feeling of the signatories of the Treaty. They were resolved that it should be carried into effect. (Cheers.) They had alluded to the acquisition of Cyprus. Every condition on account of which that policy was adopted by her Majesty's Government had been entirely fulfilled. The island of Cyprus was, they thought, in every way qualified as a powerful military maritime post for England, so that being there present in our force, we might support the Sultan in his sincere desire for the regeneration of the most important portions of his dominions. (Cheers.) As a military station Cyprus had the capacity of receiving an illimitable amount of military power, and, as a naval station he went assured by the best naval authorities that at very little cost of money or time the harbour of Famagousta could be made capable of receiving the whole of her Majesty's Mediterranean fleet, and that as a naval station it would be not second to Malta. Besides these advantages the island is blessed with a climate equel to any semitropical climate, and possessed natural riches which he had no dount would be developed. He believed that the possession of this important position would be instrumental to the great cause of social progress and national advancement. The history of Cyprus was romantic, but in all its records there was no incident so romantic as that of a body of Englishmen working in the El Dorado they had discovered, pursuing labours so fascinating and absorbing as those pursued by his countrymen in California, who yet could stop and reflect upon the fortune of their much-loved country, and who, in the golden casket offered to him, had shown how deeply they felt for those who were trying to uphold the country they so much loved. What return could be made for that beautiful offering? He could not send them golden caskets or emblazoned addresses, but he could send them gratitude and sympathy, and ask those who returned to California to tell those who had remembered him that he should never forget them.

MILITARY DIVORCE SUIT.

The petition of William Bell McTaggart, a cavalry officer in the army, for a dissolution of his marriage on the ground of his wife's infidelity with the co-respondent, also an officer in the army, was heard on Saturday before the President of the Divorce and Probate Division. Dr. Swabey and Mr. C. A. Ferrard appeared for the petitioner; the respondent and co-respondent were not represented by counsel. The petitioner and respondent were married at Monkstown Church, in the country of Dublin, in 1870, and lived together at various quarters in this country till 1876, three children issuing of the marriage, of whom two now survive. Early in 1876, the petitioner being ordered on foreign service, the respondent accompanied him. On the voyage to Bombay they formed the acquaintance of the co-respondent, who was a passenger in the same vessel, he too having been ordered abroad. Both the petitioner and the co-respondent were stationed at Bangalore for a time, and afterwards at the Neilgherry Hills, at both of which stations they were extremely intimate. The respondent and co-respondent danced very frequently together, which the petitioner complained of it to his wife. She said she would not do so again, but always did so notwithstanding this. Shortly after the commencement of 1877 the co-respondent was ordered to Burmah, and the acquaintance, of course, discontinued. Early in the present year the petitioner, noticing that his wife looked very low-spirited and unhappy, pressed her to disclose the reason of it, and she thereupon confessed that she had been carrying on an intrigue with the co-respondent at Banaglore, the offspring of which was a child born in August of the preceding year. She also confessed this to some of her own relatives. These facts having been established to the satisfaction of the President, he pronounced a decree nisi for the dissolution of the marriage, and condemned to co-respondent in the costs of the suit.

ROMANTIC SUICIDE.

Mr. C. J. Carttar, coroner for Kent, has held an inquest at Woolwich, relative to the death of Edward Pattison, aged 26, engineer on board the steam derrick Atlas, lying in the river off Charlton. Alice Dumbleton, servant to Mrs. Greenwood, of 3, Charlton Terrace, Woolwich Road, said that the deceased had lodged there for 18 months. The other morning she found him lying in the garden, apparently very ill, and she called for assistance. He was carried indoors and a doctor sent for. Dr. Hughes said he attended the deceased, and finding that he had taken poison applied the stomach-pump. Deceased recovered sensibility, but eventually died an agonising death. Sarah Watkins, residing with her parents at the Swan, Stratford, said she was engaged to the deceased, and they were to have been married. He was a very good, steady young man, and she had never known him the worse for drink. In reply to the coroner, she said she could not explain why he had destroyed himself. He had just laid out £35 for furniture, and she had expressed herself not quite satisfied with some of the furniture provided for the sitting-room, and it was arranged that deceased should get it exchanged. The coroner's officer (Gilham) produced the following letter, which he found in deceased's pocket-book, and proved to be in his handwriting:—"My own loving Alsie. They will not change the things, and it is the means of breaking my heart. My dear, only fancy how I have been waiting for the day for you to be mine, and now it cannot be. Do, my only and ever true love, forgive me, for I do not know where I am. I would that I were in your ever loving embrace.—Your broken-hearted Ted." Gilham also stated that deceased had purchased half a pound of spirits of salts at a neighbouring chemist's, and after receiving it asked in a joking manner what effect it would have upon him if he took it. Dr. Hughes said death had no doubt been caused by taking spirits of salts, of which drug he found some in a bottle at deceased's lougings. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide while labouring under temporary insanity."

As a large number of persons were skating on Loch Erne, near Ennis, on Sunday, the ice gave way, and four young women, named Catherine and Maria Gallagher, sisters, Kate Frith, and Margaret Johnson, were drowned.

Mr. E. M. Thompson has been appointed keeper of the MSS. in the British Museum.

The Danish police have arrested a leading banker in Copenhagen, Baron Gedaliah, on a charge of fraud.

The Earl of Beaconsfield, K.G., completed his 73rd year on Saturday.

A woman, named Edwards, at Banbury, has burnt herself so severely while lighting a benzoline lamp that but little hopes are entertained of her recovery.

At the London Bankruptcy Court, on Friday, the failure was announced of Messrs. Ebsworth, Sons, and Co., commission merchants and agents, of 4, Corbet Court, Gracechurch Street. The debts are stated at £90,565, and are to a large extent due to firms in Manchester, Glasgow, and Paisley. The assets are not known. The first meeting is appointed for the 9th of January.

On Friday morning an accident occurred in the square opposite the Albert Gate, Knightsbridge, which leads into Sloane Street. The victoria of Captain Norries, of The Laurels, Streatham, was turning into the street facing the gate, when a brougham dashed into it. The captain was thrown off his seat against the side of the brougham, and fell to the ground much bruised and shaken. Serious damage was done to both vehicles.

There has been an eruption of mud at Salinella, at the foot of Mount Etna, which is regarded as an epilogue to the numerous shocks of earthquake recently felt in Catania. Numerous craters were formed, which discharged torrents of thick and heated mud, propelled by gases formed of carbonic acid, hydrogen, carbon, carburet of hydrogen, and sulphuric acid. Particles of hydro-carburets, constituting a kind of petroleum, were also observed.

At the Middlesex Sessions, a man named Amey and a solicitor named Parkes have been tried for obtaining money upon false pretences and of conspiring to defraud. Mr. Serjeant Cox ruled that there was no evidence against Parkes on the first count. The prisoners were found guilty. Amey was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, and Parkes, at the request of his counsel, was admitted to bail, to come up for sentence next Session.

Science is ever telling something new. In this week's *Nature* Mr. E. D. Archibald has a contribution in which he states his belief, arrived at from a careful comparison of dates and figures, in a connection between the appearance of locusts and the sun's spots. He thinks that an extensive investigation as to the past visitations of these insects might enable predictions to be made of their future occurrence, and indicate the size and position of the area affected.

DICK BAXTER'S JOKE.

(By Joshua Hatton.)

John Baxter was about fifty years old. He was beyond the necessity of work, but he was not rich. His money brought him in about £200 a year, and with this he lived what many would consider a humdrum life. To him it was a pleasant one, although he had his fits of grumbling as most others have. With him one day was very much like another. He had certain fixed opinions and habits. He believed England to be the finest country in the world, and Pendimmock the finest town in England. He lived in Pendimmock, of course; and to him it was, for all practical purposes, the head-centre of the world. It had its soldiers and its sailors; its barracks and its ships; the sea on one side and the moors on the other, and the little town and its beautiful meadows between.

This was the kind of place John Baxter was satisfied with, and his admiration was not altogether weakness. The chief business of life was to live in Pendimmock. Beyond that he was content with small things, and his happiness was in proportion. His little customs became his daily pleasures. In the evening he would read his paper, and settle the home and foreign affairs in about half-an-hour. Then he would tap his weather-glass, and whatever it told him he would generally express an opinion that rain would fall during the day, which, as a rule, was a pretty safe prediction to make in Pendimmock. Then he would take his stick and start for his morning walk to pick up the town gossip, and perhaps turn down by the Barbican to see how the water was running, and what ships had put in. Now and then he would venture into the bay for pouting or pollack, or go further out for mackerel. He might in some slight way change his ramblings of the day according to the season or his inclination, but he was generally true to the night in all months and all weather. That was spent in the bar parlour of the Red Lion, with clay pipes and beer, and companions who could talk to each other of election days in Pendimmock twenty or thirty years ago. John Baxter would fight all his battles over again in the bar parlour, and would reach home about ten, full of the heads and tales of stories and songs oft repeated at the Red Lion.

John Baxter's wife had long been dead, and six years ago his only son had run away from home after a quarrel with his father. Now John Baxter had only Lizzie, an adopted child, and Jane, to give him consolation and trouble.

It was December, and the out-of-the-world people of Pendimmock were preparing in many ways for the great festival of the year.

Lizzie had the tea ready, and with a Christmas publication in her lap, she was waiting for her father. She called him father, for she had been twenty years out of the twenty-two she had lived under his care.

Presently he entered, and took his place and his tea. "I've been down on the Barbican," he said. "One of the American mails has been landing passengers, and who do you think I saw amongst them?"

"I have no idea."

"Metherel's son. He shook hands, and said he had been doing well. He looked it too. He was pushing about for the old people, and was off in a minute. I didn't see Metherel there either. I must run round to-night and have a look at him."

"How strange," said Lizzie; "and yet I don't know that it is strange either. They knew where he was, and of course they must have known that he was coming home. What a jolly Christmas they will have! Christmas always makes one feel better, whether anybody comes or not, doesn't it?"

"Well, I don't know much about that," said Baxter, in a serious way. "It hasn't made me feel much better of late years. The last merry Christmas I lost £50, and the merry Christmas before, the mare that I gave forty good pounds for dropped dead. It was merry Christmas time too, six years ago, when Dick made an ass of himself, and ran away to his death, I suppose. If he had been alive, I should have had him back before this, like a bad shilling."

"You will let me speak my opinion about the matter, won't you, father?"

"Of course, Lizzie. You generally do, whether or no."

"Well, my opinion is that if you had treated him properly, he would have been in Pendimmock now, doing good for you and for himself too."

"That is certainly a very pleasant remark to make, considering the trouble I had with him. But I can't be angry with you, Lizzie, because you don't know any better."

"Thank you, father. You know you'd be glad to see him back again, and dance round the room with delight."

"It depends whether I should be glad or not. I certainly should not do much dancing. I should like to see him do well if he is alive, but I don't want anybody trailing my name about the earth in the name of failure."

There was a pause.

"It was not far from merry Christmas time," continued Baxter, "when you came into the house."

Lizzie, with a surprised look, rose instinctively from her chair.

"Now, steady Lizzie, steady. You need'nt make a blubber about that. You know what I mean. I don't count that amongst my misfortunes. You're about the best thing that has come into the house, and about the last I could lose either inside or out; but I was thinking of the misery in your own home when you were too young to know anything about it; and thinking too that that also was at Christmas time. It was a wretched time in that house, but you were quite a New Year's gift to us."

Lizzie was appeased.

"I believe it was a good thing for you, anyhow, that Dick ran away," said Baxter, "for I believe you would have spoilt all by marrying him."

Lizzie was again showing signs of a breakdown, but both were aroused by a knock at the door, followed by a ring.

Within two minutes John Metherel ("Metherel's son") was in the room, shaking hands with Baxter, and very much confusing Lizzie.

After a little preliminary surprise, John Metherel said, "Well, I have not only looked in to see the old familar faces, but to tell you some news—news that will interest you, and be as good as a Christmas greeting. Just before I started home I saw Dick in San Francisco. He had been in 'Frisco several years, and although he had not a pile big enough to be called a fortune, he was making money fast.'

Baxter and Lizzie stared alternately at each other and at young Metherel, who did not wait for any interruption, but continued, "He sends home all kinds of good wishes. He admits he was in the wrong, and says everybody is in the wrong sometimes."

"There, what do you think of that, Lizzie?" said Baxter, with pleasure and triumph.

"You were both in the wrong," said Lizzie, smiling.

"I know all about the quarrel," said Metherel. "You lost some money on his account, about £50. Well, I believe you will have the money by the next mail. I am so sure of it myself that I should like to advance the amount just to show my faith in Dick. You know, Mr. Baxter, I don't think Dick was so much in the wrong as you think, if you will allow me to say so.'

"There, father," said Lizzie, "what do you think of that?"

"Well, I like everybody to speak their opinion, but I don't think he here knows much about it."

"Perhaps not," said young Metherel. "Still Dick is coming home in a few months, and he says he'll marry Lizzie or die an old bachelor, or live an old bachelor, or something of the kind. Now what do you think of that? I have cut it as short as I can, but that is about what it amounts to."

What had Baxter to say to that? He had simply nothing to say to it. He was too surprised for words. Presently he said, slowly, "Well, this is a go." This remark was perhaps not fully worthy of the occasion, but it reflected his feelings, and at present words could no further go. Then he added, "Lizzie, I'll have just a little drop of brandy."

"And shall I have a drop, too?" asked Metherel.

"And John will have a drop, too," said Baxter.

"I always thought I was going to marry Lizzie," said young Metherel, laughing. "I have come back to marry somebody, and I thought if I couldn't get anybody else I might make shift with Lizzie."

Lizzie was very glad to have the opportunity of absenting herself for a few minutes, for she too had feelings, and they were in a very excited condition. Baxter had his brandy, but still he did not know what to make of the information. He said it was very strange, and he must think it over. He had command of more words when young Metherel left, and had a great many good things to say of his son. He now found out that he had always been sure "young Baxter," as he was called in Pendimmock, would prove himself worthy of his name. The name of Baxter had always been good enough in Pendimmock, and when his son came back he had no doubt it would be seen that it was just as good in any part of the world—in Europe, Asia, Africa, or America. This was perhaps a peculiar and vague way of looking at the matter, but still it was Baxter's way. At this particular juncture he made two discoveries—that Lizzie had evidently been crying, and that now she was laughing.

"Lizzie," he said, "I shall not go out to-night. I shall stay home and think it over."

He had no sooner made this resolution than there was another knock at the door, and Jane came in to say that an old gentleman wished to see Mr. Baxter. He did not send in his name, because it would not be known, but he had a message to deliver from young Mr. Baxter, in Australia."

"He means America," said Baxter. "Show him in."

In came the old gentleman, and, after the usual formalities, he said, "I did not send in my name, because you would not have known it." He had white hair, and a long white beard. "My name is Peskitoff. I am a Russian; but I have lived so long among you English that you would scarcely guess my native country. I have spent about twenty years in your English colony of Australia, where, about a year ago, I had the good fortune to meet your son."

"I beg your pardon," said Baxter. "I suppose you mean that you met my son in America?"

"I have never been in America," said the old gentleman. "I met your son in Australia. He explained to me some little quarrel he had with his father, that is with you, sir, and knowing my destination he asked me to find you, and say that he was doing pretty well, and he had nothing but good wishes for all at home, and he was ready to acknowledge that he had made a mistake."

"He is coming home soon?" suggested Baxter.

"I did not understand that from him. He told me he was going to leave Australia in a few months for New Zealand, where he intended to marry."

Lizzie was again in an excited condition, but was not observed.

"Nonsense, sir! Marry sir? Who sir?" demanded Baxter.

"Ah, that I cannot say. He did tell me the young lady's name too. He called her Lizzie somebody."

Lizzie brightened up a little.

"I see how it is," said Baxter. "You have got it mixed up a little, if you will allow me to say so. I have had intelligence from my son only a few hours ago. He is in America, and will probably be home by the next mail, and this is the young lady he talks of marrying, my daughter here. But possibly she will have something to say in the matter herself."

Lizzie at once took a deep interest in something on the mantel piece.

"Deary me," said the old gentleman, "but that is very strange too. Then your son is going to marry your daughter?"

Then Baxter made explanations as to Lizzie's position in his house.

Peskitoff, however, was not satisfied. He expressed an opinion that Mr. Baxter had been deceived. "I do not think I could have been so mistaken. I have had many conversations with your son. Has he not a peculiar watch that strikes one at each hour?"

"Yes, that is so."

"Then you may be sure it is your son I have seen. I presume nobody else's son would guide me to your house. I could give you an account of his life in Pendimmock, and that would be absurd if I had not known him. You will at least believe that I, a stranger, can have no interest in deceiving you. I have only been anxious to serve your son as my young friend, and I can only hope that I may see him again, and you too, sir. Now, however, I cannot stay any longer. I have friends I am anxious to see, and I shall naturally be rather restless until I meet them. I am staying at the Great Western Hotel, and I shall be very pleased to see you there if you care to give me a call."

When the old Russian gentleman had left, Baxter and Lizzie stared at each other with amazement. They were not in such good spirits as they had been, and they were altogether very much puzzled. Baxter said it was "a go," but that statement did not appear to clear up matters much. Lizzie looked at the fire, but could not think of anything that would explain the position.

"I am quite sure that Metherel's son is not mistaken," said Baxter. "He had known Dick for years before he went away. And I am quite certain that young Metherel has come from America, and that he has never been in Australia. Of course he said he had met him in San Francisco."

When they had puzzled themselves for about an hour, there was another ring, and Jane came in to say that Mrs. Martin desired to speak with Mr. Baxter for a few minutes.

"Let her come in," said Baxter. "Who is Mrs. Martin?" he asked of Lizzie.

Lizzie shook her head; she did not know.

Mrs. Martin entered, bowed, took a chair as requested, and explained in a very shrill voice that she had just arrived in this country from Bombay. Her husband having died, she had made up her mind to return to her native land, and there she was. While they were at Bombay they had had the very great pleasure in making the acquaintance and being long known to Mr. Richard Baxter.

"Nonsense," exclaimed the astonished Baxter. "This is is really too absurd. It's a lot of nonsense from beginning to end."

Mrs. Martin, in a very fluttered state, rose with an air of having been greatly offended, and prepared to take her sudden departure. Baxter made many apologies, and explained the position as well as he could. Mrs. Martin was persuaded to again sit down.

"I have only a few words to say," she remarked, "and I will not detain you longer than possible." Then opening a reticule she took out a portrait, and handed it to Mr. Baxter. "Perhaps you will be able to recognise that."

Mr. Baxter did recognise it, and a smile worked round his face as he surveyed the familiar face and the prosperous-looking appearance of his son, which added admiration to affection. "Look at it, Lizzie; do you know it?"

Lizzie's smile at once answered for her.

"That reminds me," said Mrs. Martin, "I have something for you from your brother. Miss Baxter," and she handed her a little box.

Lizzie was all trembling with excitement. When she opened the box she discovered a beautiful diamond ring.

Mrs. Martin then entered into detail as to many pleasant evenings that young Baxter had spent at their house when her husband was alive; and she reported so many little stories that Dick had told of Pendimmock that her hearers were amazed and bewildered. When Mrs. Martin departed she left behind her complete confusion which seemed impossible to penetrate.

When Mrs. Martin had been gone some minutes Baxter, in a very determined manner, went to work to settle the matter. He first mixed for himself a glass of brandy and water hot, lit a long clay pipe, stared at the fire, and said it was a rum go, and he could not make head or tail of it.

Lizzie was so charmed with the ring that she almost forgot the bewildering circumstances of the past two hours. "I believe," she said, "that the old gentleman of Russia and the lady of Bombay are people who have been sent to play a joke on us by Metherel's son."

"I don't know," said Baxter, "Dick could not have had his portrait taken in Bombay unless he had been there. There is no mistake about it—it is Dick, and there is no mistake about it that it was taken in Bombay, for there is the name of the photographer at the back of it. And there is the ring, too; why it is worth twenty guineas if it is worth a penny, and that would be rather too expensive a joke for Metherell's son or anybody else, and he would not send it by a strange woman. I feel sure he does not know her and has never seen her. As for Peskitoff, I dare say he has seen Dick somewhere, but being a Russian, he can't tell Australia from America. He has got things mixed up. It seems to be quite clear that Dick was in Bombay and San Francisco at the same time. It is no good thinking about it any more. I shall go out of my mind if I do. I'll tell you what my belief is, Lizzie—that somebody has been having a joke at our expense, but how they have done it I don't know. I expect young Metherel knows something about it after all. I shall just run round to the Red Lion for a few minutes, and then I'll go round to Metherel's. You don't mind, do you? I shan't be long."

No, Lizzie did not mind; but he must say when he would be back, for there would be a hot supper, and it would be his own fault if it was cold when he came home.

Baxter said he would be home at half-past nine—not a minute later. Then he put on his hat, took his stick, and walked to the door. When he reached it he made a little exclamation, for there was a loud knock at it. He opened the door, and before him stood a young man.

"Excuse me, sir; does Mr. Baxter live here?"

"Yes, he does; my name is Baxter."

"May I have a few minutes conversation with you; I have very important news to tell you."

"I suppose you have landed to-day, and have come to tell me about my son."

"Exactly so."

"I dare say he is now in China," said Baxter.

"Exactly so."

"Then you can go and hang yourself, sir," said Baxter, and he closed the door, and walked deliberately away.

The young man walked away in another direction, and in a few minutes he returned to the door, and rang.

Mr. Baxter was, of course, out; and he obtained permission to leave a most important message with Miss Baxter.

"Ah, Miss Baxter," he said, "I am very glad to see you. I have had the pleasure of seeing you before."

"Indeed, sir, I do not remember——"

"Well, perhaps I have made a mistake."

"I believe, sir, you have a message for Mr. Baxter?"

"Well, yes, I have. I don't want to startle you. You must be prepared for anything I can tell you. It is about——"

"Mr. Baxter's son?"

"Yes, about Mr. Baxter's son. He is in Pendimmock."

"Gracious me!" exclaimed Lizzie.

"Yes, he has arrived to-day from San Francisco, Australia, and Bombay," he said, laughing.

Lizzie began to see through the mystery, but she was not sure. "Where is he to be found?" she asked, turning a little pale.

"In his own home, of course. I see you know me, Lizzie. I thought I had met you before."

"You have startled me, Dick," she said, taking his hand.

"I was afraid I should, Lizzie; but I did it as gently as I could. I have startled myself, too. I don't see any mistletoe bough, but I suppose I can give you a kiss. There, I have given you two. Now I know you are glad to see me, Lizzie, so it is no good saying you are not."

"Of course I am, Dick. How you are altered, though."

"I forgot," said Dick, "you will know me better in a minute;" whereupon he took off a wig and a false beard. Time had touched him lightly—made him a little harder looking, that was all.

There was another surprise for Lizzie, and an agreeable one.

"I have been obliged to keep a bare face for my profession," said Dick. "I have been all through the States with an entertainment as a mimic, and I have done very well. I am not a bad mimic, am I Liz?"

"Well, I can scarcely tell, Dick."

"Can't you; why don't you think I did Pestikoff pretty well, and Mrs. Martin?"

Lizzie expressed her surprise, and laughed.

"My little joke was not altogeter premeditated. I thought I would come home without letting anybody know but Metherel. Of course he was in the boat. I sent him in to break the ice, but I was so afraid of startling you that I sent him with only half a story. When it came to the pinch I was really afraid of making myself known, so at last I thought I would do it gradually and have a bit of a joke at the same time. I met dad at the door, but I could no more tell him I was his son than fly. I'll tell you what we must do, Liz. Where is he?"

"At the Red Lion."

"Well, I will write him a note. That will be the best. I dare say he knows I am in the town by this time."

"Yes, I think that will be the best; and then he will come home," said Lizzie, who had not forgotten the hot supper.

Dick sat down, and wrote the following note in a trembling hand:—

"My dear dad,

"When you come home we will all have supper together. Your affectionate son,

Richard Baxter,
alias Peskitoff,
alias Mrs. Martin,
alias The Young Man at the Door."

"There, Lizzie, how will that do?"

"Yes, Dick, capital! That will tell him everything at once. What a joke!"

The note was at once despatched.

"And, now, Dick, you must tell me all you can while I am getting the supper ready. Why, Dick, what an ungrateful thing I am. I had forgotten all about the ring. I am so very much obliged. It is so beautiful."

"I think you will find it the right size," said Dick.

And so the talk went on for half an hour, and then the latch-key was heard in the door, and a voice in the passage said, "I want to see Mrs. Martin."

"That's dad," said Dick, with a jump. "I shall get under the table." And he did.

[The End.]

Public Notices.

PIGEON SHOOTING.

A FIRST-CLASS SINGLE GUN to be Shot for at the Manor House, on New Year's Day. 12s. 6d. shot; the use of both barrels. 676m

REV. HUGH GILMORE Will preach in Consett Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 10-30 and 6. The Rev. J. WOODY at 2. A LECTURE by Mr. GILMORE, on Monday, December 30, at 7-30. See bills for particulars. 672m

BIBLE READING.

STRANGERS, visiting Consett on Saturday Evenings and desiring to spend a quiet hour at Bible Reading, are invited to the BIBLE READING, commencing at Six o'clock, at the Mission Room, Derwent Street.

On Sunday, December 22nd, at Half-past Six p.m., at the same place, the First of Thirteen Weekly DISCOURSES will (D.V.) be given on 1 Cor. i. 9. READER, COME. 666m

WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL, LEADGATE.

TWO SERMONS will be preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Leadgate, on New Year's Day, by the Rev. W. HURST, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Chairman of the District, in the Afternoon at Three o'clock and Evening at 6½.

At Half-past Four o'clock, a TEA MEETING will be held in the School-room. Tickets, One Shilling each.

On Sunday, January 5th, the Rev. J. H. CAIRMAN will preach in the Morning at Half-past Ten and Evening at Six o'clock.

Collections will be made in aid of the Day School Fund. 664m

TOWN HALL, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—Mr. CHAS. STEPHENSON has the honour to announce a GRAND EVENING CONCERT (on Monday, Dec. 30th, 1878. Artistes—Miss MARY DAVIES, R.A.M.; Miss EDITH CLELLAND; Mr. G. H. WELSH, R.A.M.; Mr. J. HUTTON; and Mr. CHARLES SHEPHERD, A.R.A.M.—Prices of Admission:—Reserved and Numbered Seats, 3s.; Second do., 2s.; Third do., 1s. Plan of Hall at Mr. Lax's Shotley Bridge.—Tickets to be had from Mr. LAX, Shotley Bridge; Messrs. SWAINSTON and J. T. CURRY, and Messrs. COCKBURN and ATKINSON, Stationers, Consett; and Messrs. S. WALKER and JAS. PALLISER, Blackhill. Conveyance will run from Consett and Blackhill by Messrs. MURRAY and CHRISTOPHER.

INDEPENDENT UNITED ORDER 'OF MECHANICS, REGISTERED No. 849.

A NEW DISTRICT in connection with the above Order of Friendly Benefit Societies, has been established at Burnopfield. This Order, after an existence of nearly a Century, has been lately registered as a Unity, in accordance with the provisions of the recent Acts of Parliament relating to Friendly Societies; and has branches throughout the kingdom. The District of Burnopfield embraces the Lodges of Burnopfield, Sunniside, Barlow, Tanfield, Rookhope, and Stanhope. Persons desiring of becoming members, or of forming New Branches of the Order, are requested to communicate with the undersigned, who will supply full information as to terms of Membership, Benefits, &c. Copies of the Rules can be obtained, price Sixpence, post free.

A. ROBINSON, A.I.A.,
DISTRICT GRAND MASTER.
Tanfield, *via* Lintz Green. 679m

To Let.

TO LET, a HOUSE, containing Three Rooms, A Washhouse, good Yard, and every Convenience, situate at Rose Mount, Consett.—Apply to Mr. JOHN KELLY, Rose Mount. 677m

TO LET, at Burnopfield, a HOUSE and JOINER'S SHOP, with Paint Shop, Two-stalled Stable, Hay Loft, Cart Shed, Wood Shed, good Garden, and every Convenience. Also, a Four-roomed HOUSE, with Garden attached.—Apply to MATTHEW HETHERINGTON, Burnopfield. 682m

TO LET, with immediate possession, a Comfortable DWELLING-HOUSE, with Six Rooms, and a HOUSE and SHOP, situate in Victoria Street, Consett. Also, a HOUSE and SHOP, containing Four Rooms, situate in Trafalgar and Victoria Streets, Consett.—Apply to WILLIAM RAW, Auctioneer, Blackhill. 628m

To Lend.

TO LEND, on Private Mortgage, £1,000, £500, or £300.—Apply to T. W. WELFORD, Jun., Solicitor, Middle Street, Consett. 666k

MONEY TO LEND on Private Mortgage.—Apply to WM. HALCRO, Solicitor, 2, Mount Pleasant, Consett. 599k

LOANS GRANTED immediately, from £100 to £2,000, at 5 per cent., repayable over Three, Four, or Five Years, on Personal Sureties, and Life policy effected with the WEST OF ENGLAND INSURANCE CO. (Established 1807).—Apply to GEORGE HAWDON, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 527m

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a BIG DRUM, nearly new, a bargain.—Apply to Mr. H. C. SANDERS, 1, St. James' Street, Tanfield Lea, *via* Lintz Green. 675m

HAY.—FOR SALE, a Stack of Prime OLD-LAND HAY.—Apply to W. J. SCOTT, Merchant, Consett. 678m

FOR SALE, a WOODEN STABLE, 10ft. by 7ft., removable. Also, a SPRING CART and CORN BIN.—Apply at the Post Office, Burnopfield. 669m

FOR SALE, 4 Large New BATTEN DOORS and 7 DOOR FRAMES. Also, a MASTIFF DOG, good watch.—Apply to Mr. LEADBITTER, Accountant, Catchgate. 668m

FOR SALE, New and Second-hand CONVEYANCES of every description.—Apply to Mr. ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer, Consett, or to JOHN BRODIE, Jun., Shotley Bridge. 811k

FOR SALE, 7 Pheasants; 2 Whitechapels; Four-wheel Dog-cart; 2 Pony Whitechapels; small Pony Gig; Oak Cabinet, 200 years old. Also, several Ferrets.—Apply to JOHN BRODIE, Jun., Tailor and Draper, Shotley Bridge. 610m

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Clavering Cottages, Annfield Plain.

Sale of excellent Household Furniture, Feather and Down Beds, and Miscellaneous Effects.

MR. ADAM BRODIE is instructed by Mr. HENRY BURNS, who is about to emigrate, to SELL BY AUCTION, on the Premises, at Clavering Cottages, Annfield Plain, on Saturday, January 4th, 1879, the whole of the excellent Household Furniture, Feather and Down Beds, and Miscellaneous Effects. Particulars in Bills.

Sale at One o'clock punctually. 684m

TO FARMERS, GRAZIERS, AND OWNERS OF LIVE STOCK.

MESSRS. HEDLEY and BRODIE, Agricultural Auctioneers and Live Stock Salesmen, Town Hall, Consett, are prepared to undertake the Sale by Auction, or otherwise of every description of Live Stock and Agricultural produce, and trust, by careful attention to all commissions with which they may be favoured, to merit the confidence of the Agriculturists of the District. Valuations for probate. Insurances on Farming Stock effected through the London Insurance Corporation (Established 1720). 744h

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

Business Announcements.

LARGE ARRIVAL OF NEW GOODS.

ENGLISH AND MILBURN

BEG to announce their return from the London Markets with a Choice Selection of all the LATEST NOVELTIES for the Season in every Department, which they will be prepared to offer at remarkably low prices.

ENGLISH AND MILBURN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRAPERS,
CONSETT AND DIPTON. 549m

THE GREAT AND UNRIVALLED SALE OF READY-MADE CLOTHING WILL COMMENCE ON SATURDAY

The most of the undermentioned Goods will, on an average, be sold at a little more than half their original price. Many will wonder why such a reduction can be made. Well, the reason is simply this: that owing to the continued depression in trade, we have been fortunate, both for ourselves and the public in general, to secure, for Cash, several hundred pounds worth of Goods at mere nominal prices, which places us in a position to offer Goods at low prices, and to astonish the oldest Inhabitants in the district. We shall be glad of an inspection of any of the under-mentioned Goods, or will forward a few to any Address on approbation.

350 Pairs of Men's Fancy Trousers at 4s. 11d.! These are not printed, but a thorough good article and well worth 7s. 6d.

750 Men's Tweed Trousers and Vests, in a great variety of patterns and styles, from 8s. 11d. to 25s.; splendid value.

30 Pairs of Men's Worsted Cords, either Lined or Unlined. These will be sold regardless of cost as they are rather soiled.

25 Men's Long Fashionable Nap Overcoats reduced to 21s. The quality is A1, well finished, and cannot be bought elsewhere under 30s.

35 Men's Fancy Tweed Single-breasted Overcoats, very fashionable styles and good patterns. These we will offer all at one price, viz., 25s. 6d. They are equal to bespoke, and we guarantee them to wear well and give every satisfaction.

We have about 100 Brown and Blue Beaver Overcoats which are shorter than what is now worn. These we will offer at half their original price.

150 Men's Pilot Jackets, well Lined, all sizes, from 12s. 6d. to 26s.

220 Men's Black Superfine Coats at 21s. and 25s. 6d. The usual price of these are 28s. and 34s. 6d., but we have a large stock and are determined to clear them out.

Several hundreds of Men's Fancy Tweed, Melton, and Diagonal Coats from 10s. 6d. to 24s. 6d.

25 Men's Fancy Tweed Suits, very fashionable and quite new, at 17s. 6d., 20s. 6d., 22s. and 29s. This lot we would strongly recommend an inspection, as they are, without an exception, the cheapest lot ever seen in the neighbourhood.

200 Boys' and Youths' Overcoats, in all the Latest Fashionable Cloths, from 5s. 11d. to 35s.; all sizes and a splendid assortment to select from.

A lot of Men's Drab Moleskin Trousers to be cleared at 5s. 6d.; well worth 9s. 6d., but have got a little soiled, which will not affect the wear in the slightest.

All sizes in Boys' and Youths' Drab and Brown Cord Trousers. Also, Drab and Fancy Printed Moleskin Trousers at reduced prices.

Boys' Black and Brown Velveteen Jackets and Vests.

MISCELLANEOUS CHEAP LOT OF DRAPERY AND FANCY GOODS

Which we will offer in connection with the Clothing Sale—

30 Dozen of Elastic Braces at 6d. per pair, worth 1s.
150 Dozen of Boys' Turkey Red Handkerchiefs, ready Hemmed, at 2½., worth 3½d.
20 Dozen of Men's Ribbed Hose at 4½d. per pair, worth 1s.; splendid value.
10 Dozen of Women's White Merino Ribbed Hose at 4½d., worth 7½d.
Thousands of Wool Scarfs from 1½d. to 15d.
5 Dozen of Gentlemen's Brown Silk Umbrellas, with Paragon Ribs, to be cleared at 5s. 11d. These are a wonderful bargain and are only half their regular price.
2,000 yards of Brown and Grey Wincey, wide width, at 3½d., well worth 6d.
4 Dozen of Union Wool Shirts at 2s. 6d., large sizes and splendid patterns.
A large Stock of Fit Flannels, Shirts, Drawers, Hats, Caps, Braces, Duck Jackets, &c.

SHAW AND ATKINSON,
CHEAP DRAPERY AND CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT, CONSETT. 529m

MARBLE CHIMNEY PIECES. KITCHEN RANGES.
REGISTER, GILL, HALL, AND SHOP STOVES.
GAS COOKERS, HEARTH TILES, &c.

DINNING AND COOKE, HOT WATER ENGINEERS,
91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 689h

CONSETT STEAM PRINTING WORKS.

ROBERT JACKSON,
PRINTER, STATIONER, LITHOGRAPHER, BOOKBINDER,
"GUARDIAN" OFFICE, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

BOOK PRINTING in all styles—Reports and Pamphlets, Sermons and Lectures, Essays, Poems, Sunday-school Hymns, Friendly Society and other Rules, Catalogues of every description, &c.

PLACARDS, POSTERS, SHOW CARDS, and HANDBILLS of every size and in every colour.

PROGRAMMES—Books of Words, Cards of Admission for Balls, Concerts, Lectures, and Public and Private Entertainments.

POST CARDS, with intimations of all kinds, for summoning Meetings, Announcements from Commercial Travellers, and all other purposes.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING—Trade Circulars, Lists of Goods, Catalogues, Account Headings, Forms, Returns, and Statements, Balance Sheets, Tickets, Cards, Labels, Tallies, Handbills, Circulars, Cheques, and Billheads.

PRINTING OF ALL KINDS, in Black and Coloured Inks, and in any variety of style Ornamental and Plain, is executed with rapidity, accuracy, punctuality, and at reasonable prices, by

ROBERT JACKSON,
"GUARDIAN" STEAM PRINTING WORKS
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

☞ Persons requiring any kind of Printing in haste can rely with confidence on having it executed at the time promised.

F. A. AND E. WELCH,
WATCHMAKERS, JEWELLERS, AND IRONMONGERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,
HAVE the Largest Assortment of CHRISTMAS TOYS and FANCY ARTICLES, suitable for Tree Decoration and Christmas and New Year's Presents, in the Neighbourhood, to which they solicit an early inspection. Wholesale and Retail. 655m

AUSTIN,
WHOLESALE TOBACCONIST, CIGAR DEALER, AND WHOLESALE JEWELLERS' AGENT,
7, TIN MILL PLACE, BLACKHILL

DEALER in all kinds of Meerschaum, Wood, and Clay Pipes, Pouches, Cigar Cases, Snuff Boxes, Matches, &c. Sole Agent in this District for Messrs. J. P. ALLEN and Co.'s Pure American Tobacco and Cigarettes. Agent for PATTERSON and SON'S own Waltham Keyless Patent Levers, Capped, Jewelled, Lever Silver, Electro-plate, Britannia Metal, and Nickel Silver. Sewing Machines, Pianos, Harmoniums, &c. All guaranteed of first-class quality, and at Wholesale Dealers' Prices. All kinds of Fine Art Photographs, &c., suitable for Scrap Books, Screens, or Framing. Christmas and New Year Cards, &c.

Note the Address—
7, TIN MILL PLACE, BLACKHILL. 608m

MRS. COCKBURN'S
REGISTER OFFICE FOR SERVANTS,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT. 502k

TO THE PUBLIC.

COLLIERLEY DYKES GOOD INTENT LODGE having purchased a NEW HEARSE, Funerals can be attended on moderate terms.—Apply to Mr. JOHN HARDY, Dowlais Cottages, Dipton. 636m

£320 BUYS an improved FARM in Texas. 160 Acres under Fence. Good House, Tools, and Eleven Head of Stock. Land to Rent at 3s. per Acre, with Freehold of same after five years tenancy, without further charge. Pamphlet and Coloured Map of the Country free for Three Stamps.—W. G. KINGSBURY, 5, Euston Grove London, N.W. 620m

THE BEST SHOPS IN THE NORTH FOR
CHEAP SILKS,
CHEAP DRESSES,
CHEAP SHAWLS,
CHEAP DRAPERIES,
CHEAP BLANKETS,
CHEAP FLANNELS,
And every other Article in the Trade, are
DONALD BAIN'S,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WAREHOUSEMAN,
126, WESTGATE ROAD (OPPOSITE THE TYNE THEATRE), NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
AND AT
COMMERCIAL ROAD, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Business Announcements.

CHRISTMAS!

ITALIAN WAREHOUSE
AND GENERAL GROCERY AND PROVISION ESTABLISHMENTS.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,
THE TEA DEALER,
8, MIDDLE STREET, 11, NELSON STREET, CONSETT; AND FRONT STREET, LEADGATE,

IS SELLING HIS

Best Superfine FLOUR at 1s. 11d. per stone.
Best Fine FLOUR, 1s. 9d. per stone.
Best HOUSEHOLDS, 1s. 7d. per stone.
Finest INDIAN MEAL, 1½s. 6d. per sack of 20 stones,
Best BOXINGS, 11s. per sack.
BRAN, 5s. 3d. per sack.
SCOTCH OATS, 16s. per sack.
CRUSHED OATS and BEANS, 16s. per sack.
An excellent CRUSHED MIXED HORSE FEED, 14s. 6d. per sack.
Good FAMILY TEA, 1s. 6d., 1s. 8d., and 2s. per pound.
Excellent RAISINS, 4d. per pound.
Splendid CURRANTS, 5d. per pound.
Splendid lot of LEMON PEEL, 9d. per lb.
Good SUGAR, 2½d. per pound.
CRYSTALLISED SUGAR, 3d. per pound.
LOAF SUGAR (Broken), 4d. per pound.
First-class BUTTER, 7d., 8d., and 1s. per pound.
Good AMERICAN CHEESE, 4d. and 5d. per pound.
The very Finest CHEESE, 6d. and 7d. per pound.
Splendid BACON, 4d., 5d., and 6d. per pound, or 5s. 3d. per stone.
Large SHOULDERS, 3½d per pound (whole).
CORNED BEEF, 5d. per pound.
Pure BLADDER LARD, 6d. per pound (whole bladders).

TEAS OF THE FINEST PICKINGS.
THE NEW INDIAN TEAS AT 3s.,
SPECIALLY RECOMMENDED FOR STRENGTH AND FLAVOUR.

FINEST CUMBERLAND, IRISH, AND AMERICAN BACON.
WESTPHALIAN HAMS.
CUMBERLAND, IRISH, AND KIEL BUTTER.
PRIME STILTON, CHEDDAR, DOUBLE GLOUCESTER, CHESHIRE, AND AMERICAN CHEESE,
PICKLED LOBSTERS, SALMON, SARDINES, CHICKEN, KIDNEYS,
FIGS' FRET, HAMS, AND TONGUE.

MARMALADES, JAMS, AND JELLIES.
CANDIED PEEL, RAISINS, FIGS, PRUNES, &c.
SPICES OF ALL KINDS.

AGENT FOR "EN AVANT" FRENCH YEAST.

☞ ORDERS FROM THE COUNTRY PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,
THE TEA DEALER,
8, MIDDLE STREET, 11, NELSON STREET, CONSETT; AND FRONT STREET, LEADGATE.

LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT

☞ COME AND SEE

JOHN POTTS'S

CHRISTMAS GRAND

AND

NEW YEAR'S BAZAAR

ADMISSION FREE.

NOTE.—CHRISTMAS TREES AND BAZAARS SUPPLIED AT WHOLESALE PRICES. 658m

CHRISTMAS, 1878.

NOTE THE REVOLVING LAMP!
FAMILY GROCERY AND PROVISION ESTABLISHMENT.

JOSEPH MURRAY,
TEA DEALER,
16, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

IS NOW SELLING his STOCK of GOODS, of every description, at REMARKABLY LOW PRICES, to suit the times—

Flour ..... 1s. 7d. and 1s. 9d. per st.	Corned Beef; Pic-Nic Tongue; Chicken, Ham, and Tongue; Ox-tail, Kidney, and other Soups;
Superfine ..... only 1s. 11d. "	Wheat Meal ..... 1s. 7d. "
Boxings ..... 11s. per sack of 12st.	Salmon, Sardines, Lobsters, &c.
Indian Meal ..... 7s. 6d. per cwt.	Splendid Teas, good value, from the Lowest Prices; very strong Tea, either Indian or China, at 2s. 6d. per lb.
Horse Corn, Crushed Oats, and Beans, 15s. 6d. per sack of 12st.	Sugar ..... 2½d. and 3d. per lb.
Bacon, Shoulders ..... 3½d. per lb.	Loaf Sugar, broken ..... 4d. "
Best Bacon ..... from 6d. to 6d. "	Good Soaps, Pale and Mottled ..... from 3d. "
Hams, best only ..... 6½d. "	Currants ..... 3d. and 4d. "
Butter ..... from 7d., splendid only 1s. "	Raisins ..... 4d. "
Cheese of every description—Cheshire best only 9d. per lb.; American, from 4d. per lb., best only 7d.; a few fine Dollies and Cadbrettas Cheese at 1s. 1d. per lb.; very cheap.	Rice ..... 2d. "
	Lard (Bladder) ..... 6d. "
	Jams and Jellies, Figs, Prunes, Apples, and Oranges

ORDERS FROM THE COUNTRY CAREFULLY ATTENDED TO.

NOTE THE ADDRESS AND THE REVOLVING LAMP FOR THE RIGHT SHOP.

Wanted.

LADIES requiring SERVANTS will do well by applying at Mrs. COCKBURN'S Register Office, Front Street, Consett. 503k

YOUNG WOMEN of Good Character, who require situations, should call at Mrs. COCKBURN'S Register Office, Front Street, Consett. 504k

COLLIERLEY NATIONAL SCHOOL (MIXED).
WANTED, a P. TEACHER, male or female, first or second year. Commence duty after Christmas vacation.—Apply at the Vicarage, any week-day, between 2 and 3 p.m. 680m

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.
WANTED, for the above Board an ATTENDANCE OFFICER. Salary, £10 per annum. Must reside in the above School Board District, which comprises the Township of Collierley and Pontop. Also, a Salary, £15 per annum. Applications for the above to be sent to me on or before the 7th January, 1879. Applicants, as to their duties of Cleaning School, &c., will, on application to Mr. H. PARVELL, Master, Dipton, be informed of what is required.

By Order of the Board.
W. W. THOMPSON,
Clerk to the Board.
Lanchester, Dec. 26th, 1878. 683m

Delays are dangerous; therefore, if you are suffering from a bad Cough or Cold, Difficulty of Breathing, Hoarseness, or any other affection of the Chest and Lungs, delay not, but at once go and get a Bottle of "Sudden's Balsam of Horehound and Coltsfoot." One Dose relieves; one bottle generally cures. Price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. Wholesale—ISMAY. Agent for Consett—Mr. DAVID IMRIE, Chemist, Front Street. 643m

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DEC. 27TH, 1878.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

Our Christmas has not been so quiet in Town for a-long time. It was thought that a short Session before Christmas would bring many families to Town, and that once here, they would not be at the trouble of a second move. But this is not the case. On the contrary, our legislators seem to have run up to Town *en garcon*, and now, like so many Southern carpet-baggers, are off heaven knows whither; certainly not to eat their Christmas turkey by a London fireside. I never noticed so few broughams and private carriages in Palace Yard on the last day before the holidays, and cabby seems to have it all to himself. But now even cabby is left lamenting, and London is as quiet this yule-tide as if the Pantomime season were not in full blast. It is the old story. Want of cash and hard times have done it all.

Misfortunes never come single, or, rather, one trouble leads to another. The untimely death of the Princess Alice has indefinitely postponed the festivities at Windsor, which were to follow on the bringing home of his bride by the Duke of Con-

naught, the Duke of Wellington's grandson, the Prince Arthur of our early days. There were to be theatricals at Windsor, and Henry Irving was to play before the Queen, as Charles Kean did many yeas ago. The Imperial Prince and Princess of Germany also were coming over, and we were looking forward to a freshening up of trade. But, now the only demand is for Court mourning, and as everyone is in black already, from one cause or another, there is no demand even for sables. In fact, I have to report that a sadder and more sombre Christmas has not been known in London since that Christmas of 1825, when the great panic occurred, when there was a run on all the Banks, and even the old lady of Threadneedle Street was within an ace of closing her doors. We have not come to that yet, but we are as low as well can be.

So many Christmas festivities have been postponed in consequence of the lamented death of the Princess Alice that we may be sure that this will be a dull time for the caterers for public amusement. The Westminster Play has been dropped; the Lord Mayor's ball for children is posponed till April; a ball at Hatfield has also been postponed; and, in fact, a student like the late Sir J. J. Lewis, who used to say that life would be supportable in this country but for its pleasures, might find it even dull enough to content him. I do not remember so sad a season.

The robin redbreasts in our gardens are a sign of hard weather, and, in the same way, the hawking of Christmas cards in the streets is a sign not only of the season, but also of the distress which abounds on all sids. There is no surer test of dull trade than the short demand there is for Christmas cards. One large firm that I know of has found that its travellers have no orders, or next to none, from the manufacturing districts, and the consequence is that millions of Christmas cards are thrown and offered for less than the cost of the paper by street hawkers. It is melancholy to think what that means. A Christmas without cards is as dull as Valentine's Day without valentines, and this is what we are in for this year. In fact, the Christmas card now circulating in Lancashire contains a grim joke at our policy of fireworks and Imperialism. It is a mourning card, with a black border, "Sacred to the memory of Brisk Trade, Esq." "His end war Peace with Honour." Some wag will certainly send one of these to Hughenden.

We are tired of the Christmas holidays before they have well begun. They have twelve days yet to run, according to the good old Twelfth-night tradition, but so bad are the times that most persons will be heartily glad when the make-believe time that we are particularly jolly, when we are not, shall be well over and done with. I am glad to notice one token for good; that while less is spent in extravagant and useless Christmas decorations in our churches, special collections have been made in every case nearly, and much is being done to bring help to deserving cases. It has been the cue of the Conservative press to minimize and make little of this distress, and to speak of it as if it were exaggerated for mere party purposes. Happily, they now strike a better note, and the *Standard*—to its credit be it said—has as full reports as the *Daily News* of the piteous tales of distress which reach us every day from the manufacturing districts. Happily we now know the worst, and are doing what we can to meet it.

Mr. Gladstone is to have his silver axe, and the proprietors of the *Echo* are sending round a private circular to make up the testimonial. As for that enterprising little wonder for a halfpenny, which I hear is likely before long to be turned into a penny organ of the Liberal party, it is, if anything, a trifle too screechy on its own side of the question. Mr. Gladstone's impatience of the political frost, which still gives no signs of giving, has infected some of his followers, and they will not see that all reactions have a cause, and that the effect will never disappear till the cause has first ceased.

Speaking of Mr. Gladstone—he was taken to task for writing President with a large P and Queen with a little Q in his article on "Our kin beyond the sea." It now turns out that Mr. Gladstone was innocent, but that the printer took this liberty with the Queen's English; but he promises to amend and in future to mind his p's and q's.

The rumour which was current in the Chancery Courts and Lincoln's Inn the other morning of the death of Sir Alexander Cockburn was too soon discovered to be unfounded to give the Lord Chief Justice the gratification enjoyed by Lord Brougham of reading his obituary notice in the leading journals. No doubt Sir Alexander has been seriously unwell, but there are some years of life left in him yet. But for a man of seventy-seven the duties of his high office are too arduous. It is a pity he should not be made a Lord of Appeal in Parliament, where his duties would be much lighter. Sir Alexander is known to have several times refused a peerage on the ground that he has no offspring; but as a Lord of Appeal he would only have a life peerage; so that this objection would not apply.

What with snow, and frost, and fog, the condition of the streets is anything but pleasant. The cold is more intense than has been known for a whole fortnight before Christmas for some years. In spite of the brilliancy of the shops, which are doing their best to put on holiday array, everything looks cheerless and uncomfortable. I wish the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would take measures to induce people to get their horses' shoes sharpened in weather like this. It is perfectly sickening to see the poor creatures falling as they do heavily and painfully upon the ice-like wooden paving. It would be easy to count a dozen horses down within an hour in the limit of a hundred yards in Holborn. Indeed, it is difficult enough for human beings to keep their feet in many places in the City, whilst in the suburbs there are genuine slides all along the causeway.

As far as my masculine and uncritical eye can discern, ladies' head gear, whether hat or bonnet, consists exclusively just now of trimming, without any visible basis of wire or straw, but the Prince of Wales' visit to Luton and inspection of the straw manufactory is very likely to have the effect of bringing straw into fashion once more. It was one of the Prince's ancestors, by the way—James the First—who founded the straw-plaiting trade in Dunstable and Luton. In these days one must not say much good of a Stuart; but James the First it certainly was who visited these towns, and imported a number of French artificers for the purpose of indoctrinating the inhabitants in the craft and mystery of plaiting. Now the pupils have beaten their masters, and a Luton firm obtained the highest prize for straw-plaiting at the recent Paris Exhibition.

Local and District News.

We beg to remind our readers that the concert promoted by Mr. Chas. Stephenson will take place in the Town Hall, Shotley Bridge, next Monday evening.

PIGEON SHOOTING.—A match at pigeons was shot off on Saturday, at the house of Mr. Wm. Gladders, Tantobie, between Thomas Foster, of Catchgate, and James Bullerwell, of Kyo, at eleven birds each, 1¼oz. of shot, twenty-one yards rise, and sixty fall, for £10 a side. After some good shooting by Foster, he won easily with plenty on hand. Mr. John Foster was trapper for his brother Thomas, and Mr. Joseph Wilkinson for Bullerwell. Mr. John Johnson was referee. Appended is the score:—Bullerwell, 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0—4; Foster, 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0—7.

TOW LAW.—The annual concert in aid of the funds of the Mechanics' Institute was held on Monday evening last, and although held under very unfavourable circumstances, so far as the weather was concerned, was quite a success, there being both a numerous and select audience, which we think will be, in no slight measure, due to the perseverance and labours of the treasurer (Mr. England) and the committee. The programme was well selected, and consisted of both vocal and instrumental music, rendered in first-class style by lady and gentlemen amateurs of the neighbourhood, who kindly tendered their services. Master T. Backett, of Crook (only eight years of age), played two solos on the violin in a very artistic manner, and was encored each time. The concert was under the able leadership of Mr. John Hughes.

LOST IN THE SNOW NEAR BEARPARK.—About ten o'clock on Sunday morning, a miner was walking down the Lanchester Valley Branch of the North-Eastern Railway, on his way from Bearpark to Brandon Colliery. On reaching Baxter Wood, he found a man lying in the snow, apparently dead. The finder ran to the Dareness Cottages, which are some distance off, and got assistance, and on a second examination it was found that the poor fellow was still alive, but in a very low state. He was at once removed to Dareness Cottages, and Dr. Stewart, of the Boyne Colliery, was soon in attendance, but for a long time it seemed as if the unconscious man was about to slip out of the world. At length, late in the day, consciousness became visible, and at nine o'clock in the evening he was brought to sufficiently to prove his identity. His name is William King, and he is "keeker" at Bearpark Colliery, where he lives. It appears that about half-past ten o'clock on Saturday night, he started from the Pot and Glass public-house, near Crossgate Moor, to walk home to Bearpark, but lost his way in the snowstorm that prevailed, and after wandering about for some time he became exhausted, from cold and exposure to the biting wind and snow, and had little recollection of how he got into the position in which he was found; but it appears almost certain that he must have been in an unconscious state on the ground for at least about eight hours, and his escape, therefore, is a most miraculous one.

SUPPER AT CONSETT.—On Saturday night, between twenty and thirty members of the Fountain Hotel Quadrille Party assembled in the Long-room of the Fountain Hotel and partook of a sumptuous repast provided by Mr. and Mrs. Dobson, the worthy host and hostess. After the cloth was removed, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured, and a most harmonious evening was spent. During the night, the Chairman presented a handsome piccolo to Mr. Thomas Morgan for his kindness in supplying the Quadrille Party with music. In making the presentation, the Chairman said he was not a member of the Party himself, but he was an admirer of the Terpsichorean art, which, he said, afforded innocent amusement to so many young people.—Mr. Morgan, in responding, said his services had always been given with pleasure, and he hoped the members of the Party would live to enjoy many more happy evenings together. Before the company separated, the toast of the "Host and Hostess," was given, and drunk with musical honours. At intervals during the evening, some capital songs were sung by Messrs. Gentles, M. Hobday, Fitters, Dodds, E. Johnson, Lindsay, Thomas Morgan, and Joseph Pescod.

PRESENTATION AT CONSETT.—On Wednesday evening sen., the teachers of Consett Wesleyan Sunday-school and other friends met in the Nelson Street school-room to present Mr. John Curry (who has acted as superintendent of the school for fifteen years, and who has lately removed to Newcastle) with an illuminated address. In the course of the evening addresses were given by the Rev. J. Fielden, Messrs. H. Rogers, A. J. Dunn, T. Carr, W. Robson, and V. Dunn, who each referred to the self-sacrificing endeavours of Mr. Curry in connection with the school. The address is surmounted by an excellent likeness of Mr. Curry, and is enclosed in a handsome gilt frame, and bears the following inscription—

"Presented to Mr. John Curry, on his leaving Consett for Newcastle, by the Teachers, Scholars, and friends of the Consett Wesleyan Sunday-school, October 6th, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—We ask you to receive this address as a slight token of the esteem in which you have always been held by those connected with our Sunday-school. Your labours amongst us for upwards of twenty years, as teacher and superintendent, was of no mean order, which, along with your uniform christian kindness, have won the admiration and affection of all. And, now that you are called upon by providence to change your sphere of usefulness, you will be followed by the good wishes and prayers of those for whom you have so arduously laboured. We feel confident that the God of all grace who has hitherto been your helper, will still afford His timely aid until your earthly course is run, and you receive your happy welcome home.—Signed on behalf of the above,

Henry Rogers,
Artno J. Dunn, } Supts.

The address, which is a beautiful specimen of artistic workmanship, was executed by Mr. Wm. Shell, jun., Consett, and reflects great credit on that gentleman.

DIPTON SOUP KITCHEN.—A meeting, convened by notice, was held in the Board School, Dipton, R. Mitchinson, Esq., presiding, to take into consideration the present state of distress in the district, and to try, by some means, to alleviate the same. All present formed themselves into a committee, with power to add to their number, selecting J. Maddison, Esq., as treasurer, and Mr. H. Prevell as secretary. It was unanimously carried that the relief take the form of a soup kitchen, and to provide for the carrying-on of the same, a subscription list be opened. Those who know Dipton at the present time must be aware of the large amount of distress prevailing, and it is to those that an appeal is made to aid the committee in their charitable work. Subscriptions will be gratefully received by the treasurer, secretary, or any of the committee, and will be acknowledged through the medium of these columns. A subscription list was opened in the meeting, and resulted in the handsome sum of £6, and 10s. weekly during the time of distress. The colliery managers, with the chairman (J. W. Hodgson, Esq., and B. Shipley, Esq.), promised to form a weekly subscription amongst those they employ, and the Rev. B. Hurst, per the treasurer, has promised his assistance in soliciting subscriptions. There was a second meeting yesterday (Thursday), and it is hoped that the kitchen will be opened this week. Mr. R. Clark, Sportsman's Arms, has placed two boilers at the service of the committee, which have been gladly accepted. The committee present were Messrs Hodgson, Shipley, Teasdale, J. Gibson, J. A. Curry, J. Mordue, G. Murray, and R. Clark.

The Rev. Dr. Blythe Hurst, Vicar of Collierley, has received a handsome new surplice, made of fine linen, the kind gift of T. H. Bainbridge, Esq., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ACCIDENT TO A CONSETT MAN.—On Saturday evening last, Mr. W. Bunton, late of Consett and Leadgate, was severely injured in a collision between two 'busses at Newcastle. Mr. Bunton, it appears, was returning home on the top of Mr. Foster's 'bus, and when near the Town Moor it was run into by another 'bus. Mr. Bunton was caught in the back, and on being lifted from the vehicle it was found that his injuries were of a somewhat serious nature. He was taken to his own residence in a cab, and subsequently attended by Drs. Thornhill and Snowdon.

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH AT WATERHOUSES.—On Saturday evening last a new Baptist Church was opened for public worship at the above place, near the passenger station. A good number sat down to a comfortable tea in the afternoon. In the evening, a public meeting was held, when addresses suitable for the occasion were given by Messrs. E. Forster, J. W. Raw, Ainsley, Quicknive, E. Parkinson, and the Rev. E. W. Jenkins, of Highgate. A very interesting meeting was held, enlivened by music from the choir, Mr. G. W. Raw presiding at the harmonium. The place was well filled. Mr. N. Gott, of Cornsay, presided. The Rev. Mr. Jenkins preached on the following Sunday to good congregations.

JUVENILE CONCERT AT CORNSAY COLLIERY.—A very large company assembled in the School-room at the above place, on Thursday evening sen., to hear the British School children give a juvenile concert, and to witness the annual distribution of prizes. J. G. Russell, Esq., of Shincliffe, presided. The pieces were all rendered by the children in a manner which elicited the entire approval of the audience. The prizes were awarded by the Chairman, who in a very appropriate address complimented the leaders and scholars on the satisfactory progress that had been made during the year. The entertainment closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and three ringing cheers to Messrs. Ferens and Love for their kindness in providing the prizes.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, BURNOPFIELD.—The large east window of this Church has been filled with stained glass, at the expense of Mrs. Hodgson Huntley, of Carham Hall, and is a memorial of her late husband. The window is arranged in three compartments, and the subject is taken from St. Luke x. 25—37, and comprises the lawyer in conversation with our Lord, and the parable of the Good Samaritan. The groups are set under elaborate canopy work, reaching to the point of the window, and beneath a vase of rich ornamental architecture, under which is the memorial inscription. The tracery is filled with angels holding crowns, emblematic of the reward for the faithful. The window is the work of Mr. Baguley, of New Bridge Street, Newcastle.

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT AT CONSETT.—Last night, the two-act drama, "Michael Erle, the Maniac Lover," was produced in St. Patrick's Schools by the members of St. Mary's Amateur Dramatic Company. The plot of the piece may be briefly told. Philip D'Arville, Lord of Thornford, and a libertine, becomes enamoured of Mary Woodward, an orphan, who resides with her aunt, Dame Stapleton, and who is already betrothed to Miles Melville, "a shopkeeper, but, in virtue and honour, fit to be a lord." Mary consents to a secret meeting with D'Arville in the Willow Grove, and, on his promise to make her Lady Thornford, agrees to fly with him. They are interrupted by Michael Erle, a harmless idiot, who, some years before, had been engaged to be married to Ellen Mortimer, but the latter eloping with, and being betrayed by, a man of title, Erle is thrown into deep melancholy, which eventually terminates in idiocy. Erle, or the Maniac Lover as he is called, is in the habit of frequenting the Willow Grove, and on perceiving Mary repeats to her the story of Ellen Mortimer. Mary is told to beware of the tempter, who, "with gilded words and soft expressions, seeks to lead frail women from happiness and virtue to despair and guilt," eventually refuses to accompany D'Arville to his country seat at Thornford. D'Arlille seizes Mary, who screams, and her shrieks for assistance being heard by the Maniac Lover he rushes between them, but D'Arville gets rid of her protector by stabbing him with his dagger. The wound does not prove fatal, however, and D'Arville having, in his haste, left the dagger on the ground, it is found by the Maniac Lover, who, up to that time, unconscious of the name of his would-be-assassin, discovers D'Arville's name engraved on it. D'Arville, it transpires, had been the betrayer of Ellen Mortimer, and the Maniac Lover now swears "never to know the balmy power of slumber, nor assuage the pangs of hunger," until he has driven the dagger to D'Arville's heart. Meanwhile, Mary is carried off by D'Arville, but she succeeds in effecting her escape, and returns to the house of her aunt, Dame Stapleton. Prior to her arrival, Dame Stapleton receives a forged letter sent by D'Arville, in which Mary avows her guilt, and glories in its commission. Mary finds Miles Melville at her aunt's house, and both he and Dame Stapleton believe her guilty. While she is pleading her innocence, D'Arville enters, and is on the point of returning to Thornford with his victim when the Maniac rushes into the room, and, springing upon D'Arville, stabs him mortally with the dagger. D'Arville succeeds in shooting the Maniac Lover with a pistol, after which the curtain falls. The piece was played with great care, the parts being filled in a manner that procured for the whole performance a most flattering reception. The chief honours fell to Mr. J. Kimpson (who ably sustained the part of the villain D'Arville), Mr. B. Ward (the Maniac Lover, whose acting was perfect), and Mrs. McMahon, who, with a good voice, clear delivery, united with much intelligence and dramatic instincts, played the part of the orphan Mary with great effect. The other performers were Mr. W. McLevy (valet to D'Arville), Mr. C. Docherty (gardener at Thornford, who assists Mary to escape), Mr. G. Hagan (Miles Melville), and Mr. T. Barry, a bachelor and a country bumpkin, who is madly in love with Mistress Julia Spring (Miss Green), who is on a visit to her cousin Dame Stapleton (Miss S. Cumming), all of whom honourably distinguished themselves. We understand that the piece is to be repeated next Monday evening.

Christmas Festivities.

LANCHESTER WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—The members of the Wesleyan body held a soiree in their handsome chapel. The anniversary sermons were preached in the morning by the Rev. J. H. Cadman, and in the afternoon tea was served up, a large gathering assembling on the occasion, and the building was suitably decorated with holly. In the evening a public meeting was held. Mr. Jonathan Green, of Oxhill, occupying the chair, and addresses were delivered by Mr. J. W. Muir, of Benfieldside, and other gentlemen.

SATLEY.—On Christmas eve, a coffee supper was held in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Society, when upwards of sixty persons sat down to the well-spread tables. The trays were ably presided over by Miss Bowey, Miss Hedley, Miss Disbury, Miss Shaun, Mrs. Towns, and Mrs. Susan Craggs. Afterwards an excellent entertainment was given, consisting of speeches, readings, singing, and recitations by Mr. J. Hillary (Tow Law), Mr. Eales (Salter's Gate), Mr. Reece, Mr. W. Craggs (Satley), and was ably presided over by Mr. Gowland (Waskerley). The singing was conducted by Mr. Mitchell, of Prospect Place, Satley.

The Good Templars in this town held a coffee supper on Christmas-eve, when a large number sat down to an excellent spread. After supper, social games were indulged in until a late hour.

HAMSTEELS.—A first-class concert and fruit banquet was held in the Wesleyan Chapel at the above place, on the evening of Christmas Day. The pieces of music given by the choir, under the leadership of Mr. Boggon, were exceedingly well done, and were highly appreciated by a large audience. Mr. Fletcher, jun., presided at the harmonium. Christmas addresses were given by Messrs. S. Boyd, Parks, A. Prowell, E. Parkinson, and N. Peverley. The chair was occupied by Mr. N. Gott, Cornsay.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—On the afternoon of Christmas-day, the Primitive Methodists held their annual tea meeting, which was largely attended. The sumptuously-furnished tables were gracefully presided over by Misses Gilbertson, Leadbitter, Carruthers, and Robinson. In the evening, a largely-attended public meeting was held in the Chapel. Mr. J. Leadbitter occupied the chair, and interesting addresses were delivered by Messrs. R. Huddlestone, J. Telford, A. Campbell, and Aitkin. The choir rendered selections of music at intervals. Hearty votes of thanks to the chairman, speakers, and singers terminated the proceedings. After the meeting, a coffee supper was held, and was well patronised.

LANCHESTER.—A treat was given to the scholars of Lanchester National School by the master and mistress (Mr. and Mrs. Dunn). The children were treated to buns, oranges, nuts, &c. After they had enjoyed some of the good things prepared for them, the master introduced the magic lantern and some dozens of amusing and instructive slides (supplied by Messrs. Mawson and Swan, Newcastle), which created great fun and amusement. In the interval, there was a spelling bee, Mr. Burgess, Burnhope, acting as interrogator. The spelling of some of the little folks was really excellent. The prizes were then distributed to the successful competitors by the Vicar (Rev. J. Dingle). More pictures followed, the children sang several pieces, and the rest of the oranges, &c., being distributed, they gave three ringing cheers, thanking their master and mistress for their kindness, and then dispersed, all having heartily enjoyed themselves.

HIGHGATE BAPTIST CHAPEL.—The twenty-sixth anniversary of the Highgate Baptist Church was celebrated on Sunday last, when eloquent sermons were preached—in the morning by the Rev. R. Herries, Consett, and in the evening by the Rev. E. W. Jenkins, Pastor of the Church. The congregations were never larger, and liberal collections were taken in aid of the trust fund. On Christmas-day the annual tea meeting was held, and, notwithstanding the counter-attractions in the district, was numerously attended. The luxuriantly-furnished tables were gracefully presided over by Misses Kell, Brown, Thompson, Egglestone, Harrison, and Mrs. J. Mackey. In the evening, a public meeting was held. The Rev. Mr. Jenkins occupied the chair, and suitable addresses were delivered by the Rev. R. Herries (Consett), Messrs J. Rule (Newcastle), J. Muir (Benfieldside), and F. Raine (Shotley Bridge). The choir, under the leadership of Mr. Heymer, sung several anthems, and selections of music. On the motion of Mr. J. Edwards, hearty votes of thanks were given to the chairman, speakers, singers, and the ladies who presided at the tea tables.

CHRISTMAS AT LANCHESTER WORKHOUSE.—The inmates of the Lanchester Workhouse had on Wednesday last their usual Christmas dinner, consisting of a plentiful supply of roast beef, plum pudding, and beer. The dining-hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion with evergreens, and fastooned with coloured paper, the walls being adorned with scriptural texts and mottoes appropriate to the festive season, everything displaying great taste. After grace was sung by the inmates, every assistance was rendered to the worthy master and matron (Mr. and Mrs. Brotherhood) by Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Wall, Mr. P. Hodgson, and Mr. Sadler, who did all in their power to make all enjoy themselves. The inmates expressed themselves in feeling terms for the great kindness shown them by the Guardians. Smokers were abundantly supplied with the fragrant weed, and the women and children with sweetmeats and oranges. Mr. Wm. Palmer, of Lanchester, with his accustomed kindness, gave one hundred oranges and six dozen of entertaining books for distribution amongst the children. Altogether, the inmates spent a merry Christmas-day.

CONSETT BAPTIST CHAPEL.—The usual bazaar and coffee supper were held on Christmas-day. The supper, which was a sumptuous spread, was kindly given by Mr. and Mrs. Knox, Mount Pleasant, and was served out by the following young ladies—Miss Knox, Miss Davis, Miss Oswald, and Miss Bird. The bazaar was well patronised, and in the evening a large company sat down to supper, and altogether the meeting was apparently the most successful gathering ever held in the above Chapel. When the tables had been removed and the usual votes of thanks were given, Mr. Wm. Moss rose and said he had a very pleasant duty to perform. The duty, he said, was to present Mr. Herries, their worthy Pastor, with a silver inkstand, as a token of the esteem in which he was held by the young people of the Church and congregation. Speaking for the young people, he said they had received great benefit under the ministrations of Mr. Herries, and in consequence they respected him very highly, and felt thankful to God that that he had come among them. Mr. Herries, in reply, said he was rather surprised by this expression of kindness, and the whole thing had come upon him so suddenly that he had not had a chance of preparing a speech in reply to this, their expression of esteem. He said he was happy to think he was so loved and esteemed by the young people. He knew he was loved by the older people too, but he was thankful to God that he was enabled so to preach that young people were drawn around him. The inkstand was beautifully designed, and bore the following inscription—"Presented to the Rev. R. Herries, by a few young friends, as a token of their esteem. Consett, Dec. 25, 1878."

CONSETT WESLEYAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL.—The annual Christmas tree and bazaar in connection with the above school were held on Christmas-day. There was an exceedingly large display of fancy and useful articles, which showed that the hands of the fair sex had been busily employed for some weeks. At the high end of the school-room, there was a large holly tree and stall decked with articles suitable for juveniles, but scarcely an hour had elapsed before the beauty of the tree had become a thing of the past. Fruit stalls occupied the centre of the room, and their attendants kept up a perfect din by inviting visitors to test the quality and cheapness of their wares. We would, however, suggest to our Wesleyan friends the next time they hold a bazaar the necessity of securing a larger room, where the public might more easily effect their purchases. The following ladies presided at the drapery and fancy stalls, and their winning and obliging manner won for them large sales—Mrs. Fielden, Mrs. R. English, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Jones, Miss Maden, Miss M. J. Thompson, and Miss H. Smith. During the afternoon, tea was provided in the Chapel, and was partaken of by a large number. In the evening, an entertainment, consisting of anthems, hymns, and readings, was given by the choir and scholars. The Rev. J. Fielden occupied the chair, and in his opening remarks thanked the audience for their attendance and patronage during the day, the sales at the bazaar having proved successful. After the entertainment, business was resumed in the school-room until a late hour. The whole of the proceeds will be devoted to the fund for the erection of new Day and Sunday-schools.

CORNSAY COLLIERY.—The choir of the Methodist New Connection Society at the above place gave a first-class concert on Christmas Eve. The selections of music were all very good, and were exceedingly well rendered. Mr. W. Savage conducted, and Mr. E. G. T. James presided at the harmonium. The chair was occupied by Mr. C. Davison.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE TEMPERANCE HALL.—The second annual tea meeting was held in the new Temperance Hall, on the afternoon of Christmas-day. Several of the local gentlemen gratuitously distributed upwards of 80 tickets amongst the aged people in the district, and a goodly number of the general public, also, patronised the richly-spread tea tables, which were gracefully presided over by the following ladies:—Misses Wilson, Brown, Turnbull, and Forrester. After tea, a social meeting was held, addresses and songs being given by Messrs. N. Brown, J. Oley, H. Carss, and R. Brown. Several harmless games were also extensively indulged in.

LEADGATE.—The Primitive Methodists of this place held their annual services on Christmas-day. In the afternoon, Mr. J. T. Brown, of Bradford, late clown and sceptic, who has, for some time, been labouring so earnestly and successfully at Consett, delivered a very impressive discourse. A tea party was afterwards held in the school-room, attended by a large number of visitors and friends. In the evening, there was a public meeting, Mr. G. Hawdon presiding in his usually pleasant way. Interesting and effective addresses were given by Mrs. Bertram, from Chester-le-Street, Mr. J. T. Brown, and Mrs. Sinton, of Shotley Bridge. The Rev. A. Latimer also took part in the proceedings. The chapel was well-filled and comfortable, and a profoundly religious feeling pervaded the meeting. There were two conversions at the close.

THE HALLELUJAH ARMY.—On the evening of Christmas-day, the Hallelujah Army held a coffee supper in the Assembly Room, Consett, which proved most successful, between five and six hundred persons, principally converts, who have been brought to a saving knowledge of the truth through the ministrations of Misses Agar and Jackson, taking part therein. The viands provided, which were of the most substantial character, were dispensed in the most graceful manner by the following ladies, soldiers of the army—Misses Stelling, Gardner, Jane Shell, Polly Shell, Richley, Harbottle, Stones, Edgar, H. Stones, Walton, and Johnson. The arrangements gave every satisfaction to those who partook of the supper. A hallelujah meeting was afterwards held in the Town Hall, conducted by Misses Agar and Jackson, at which several penitents found peace with God.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

The following are the most important events that have occurred in this immediate district during the year 1878:—

Jan. 4.—Mary Agnew, sixty-six years of age, was run over and killed by an engine on the Carr House Incline.—Mr. Andrew Storey, an innkeeper, living at Crawcrook, hung himself at Thornley Engine, near Rowland's Gill.—Collapse of the Leadgate New Co-operative Society.

Jan. 27.—Lock-out at South Medomsley Colliery.

Feb. 1.—Resumption of work at South Medomsley Colliery.

Feb. 3.—Peter Hester, aged twelve years, was drowned in the Tin Mill Pond.

Feb. 9.—An old man named Wilkinson attempted to murder his wife by cutting her throat, after which he cut his own throat. Wilkinson and his wife lay in bed from Saturday morning till the Monday following, when they were discovered by a neighbour. The old people recovered, and Wilkinson being subsequently tried at the Assizes for attempted murder, received five years' penal servitude.

Feb. 10.—Gas Explosion at Pontop Colliery. Wm. Thompson, deputy-overman, received serious burns, from the effect of which he died on the 18th of the same month.

March 8.—Mr. Joseph Lumley, innkeeper, Leadgate, committed suicide by drinking laudanum.

March 28.—Mr. William Wilkinson, contractor, Consett, was killed by falling downstairs.

April 22.—The Gladstone Drinking Fountain unveiled.

April 23.—Re-opening of Tanfield Church.

May 15.—Benfieldside Local Board instructed their Surveyor to open out the ancient footpath between Blackfine and Shotley Bridge.

May 27.—Opening of new Police Court at Consett.

May 29.—Re-opening of Medomsley Church.

June 4.—Proposal to change the name of Blackhill.—Public meeting of ratepayers.

July 17.—Thomas McNally, aged eleven years, son of Mr. McNally, of the Bath Hotel, Consett, died while under chloroform at the Surgery.

August 16.—John Tumilty, miner, Burnhope, killed during a fight with his cousin, Robert McCormick.

Oct. 18.—Opening of Benfieldside Board Schools.

Nov. 2.—John Dodd, groom and coachman at Lintz Green House, was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun.

Nov. 12.—During a gale, the roof of No. 4 Plate Mill fell, and a man named John Brown, was killed, five others being injured.

Dec. 16.—Re-opening of Leadgate Church.

NOT ALWAYS.

Home is not always the best place for us. There are times when we require a change. Home is sometimes not the best place to rest. The average good wife and mother needs nothing so much as some kind and determined hand to lead her gently out of the old ruts, and make the way easy to a little stretch of smooth road through "pastures new," and by fields fresh and fair. Because she thinks she doesn't want to go, is no sign that she does not need to go. A treadmill is one of the hardest things to get out of gear, and the patient plodder therein too soon comes to think that there is no other round for him or her in the great world. Therefore, husbands, sons, and daughters, take our admonition, and persuade "mother" that occasional travel means rest. And don't wait too long, nor mistake resignation for contentment, or cheerful patience for the bright substance of happiness. If all the unavailing regrets, secretly breathed in desolated homes, over opportunities missed to prolong life or minister to the happiness of lost ones could be sounded forth in warning to the living, there would be such an awakening to duty as the world has rarely seen.

LIVING WITH NATURE.

Tired of the world, a philosopher determined to retire from active life for awhile; consequently he built himself a hut in the woods, and cultivated vegetables for his support. Having but a few visitors, and no neighbours within a mile, he honestly tried what the lower creatures could do for him, and soon became on the most intimate terms with them. The fishes came, as it seemed, into his hand if he but dipped it in the stream; the mice would come and playfully eat out of his fingers, and the mole paid him friendly visits; sparrows alighted on his shoulders at his call; birds built in his shed; and the wild partridge with her brood came and fed quietly beneath his window as he looked at them. Snakes coiled harmless round his legs, he gently pulled woodchucks from their holes by the tail, and took the foxes under his protection. A mouse became so tame that it ran over his feet, picked up his crumbs, and sat in his hand to nibble a piece of cheese held between his thumb and finger, after which it cleaned its face and paws like a fly and walked away. One particular little squirrel of a rather uncommon species he made his particular pet for awhile; when he had observed its habits minutely, and seen as much as he wished to see of it, he took the nimble creature back to the tree where he had caught it. But the squirrel had no desire to return to the woods, and crept into the wooden house again, time after time, till at length it not only refused to be put on a bough, but nestled in its friend's hand, and hid its little head in the folds of his waistcoat. Words could not have spoken more plainly, and his master did not resist the touching appeal, and made him more of a pet than ever.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN RUSSIA.

On Saturday an express passenger train on the Rail New Vladikackas Railway, in the Caucasus, fell off the lines from a height of fifteen metres. The driver and stoker, the guard, and eighteen passengers, including General Hientse and several functionaries and officers serving in the Caucasus, were killed, and thirty-eight other persons injured.

THE QUEEN AND THE LONDON POOR.

Her Majesty has forwarded the sum of £200 to the Bishop of London in aid of the funds of this association. In the letter accompanying the cheque General Ponsonby writes as follows:—"The Queen, notwithstanding the deep sorrow which has fallen upon her, has noticed your appeal in behalf of the suffering poor of London, and has commanded me to send the enclosed cheque as her Majesty's contribution for alleviating distress in the metropolis."

A SON SHOT BY HIS FATHER.

At Ardkyle, near Six-Mile Bridge, county Clare, a farmer, named Frank Meeny, after returning from a fair on Saturday evening, had a dispute with his wife, and, his son interfering to protect his mother, the father seized a loaded gun and shot him. The unfortunate young man died at five o'clock on Sunday morning. The deceased, who was about 30, leaves a wife and a young family. The father is in custody. As alleged he was under the influence of drink at the time.

DESTRUCTION OF A CHURCH BY FIRE.

Early on Sunday morning, St. George's Church, near Bristol, was totally destroyed by fire. The conflagration was caused by the over-heating of gas stoves which were left burning on Saturday afternoon. It was discovered early on Sunday morning, and in three hours the building was entirely gutted, and only the bare walls remain. The register and communion plate were saved, but nothing else. The peal of bells were destroyed. The vicarage was only slightly damaged. The church has recently been restored, and the loss is estimated at £6,000. The building is only partially insured. A wedding took place in the ruined porch on Sunday morning.

SEVEN TRAINS SNOWED UP.

An Inverness telegram says that most of the northern railways are blocked by the snow. The mail train from Inverness to Wick was snowed in on Saturday night, and the passengers were only relieved on Sunday afternoon. Another train coming from the North was also blocked on Sunday morning, but the passengers were able to walk to the nearest railway station. The snow in the open fields is three feet deep, and in the railway cuttings it is higher than the funnels of the locomotives. On the Highland Railway three trains were snowed up between Perth and Inverness; but the line was afterwards cleared by gangs of labourers. The Caithness Railway is blocked to such a degree that there is no hope of resuming traffic unless a thaw sets in. The storm is the most severe experienced during the last fifty years. Eighteen inches of snow fell in Inverness on Sunday, and the weather is still threatening.

ANTICIPATED STRIKE OF 100,000 MEN.

A strike of great magnitude is threatened by the miners in South and West Yorkshire and North Derbyshire. The masters a few days ago gave notice of a further reduction of 12½ per cent. in the wages of the men, and this caused considerable alarm amongst the employed, who, in 1874, when the prices began to fall, stipulated with the masters that the reductions should not go beyond the amount that the men had gained in advances, namely 67½ per cent. The reduction, of which notice is given, is a violation of that stipulation, but the masters contend that the state of trade renders it impossible for them to avoid the course upon which they have decided. The notices have already been served at some pits, and this fact has induced the belief that the masters, instead of relying on concerted actions, have determined to issue notices of the reduction at individual pits, so as to gain their object, and in order to circumvent the coal owners, the men have decided to withdraw from the pits in a body. The South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Unions propose to unite for this purpose, and if they carry out their intention, at least 100,000 miners will strike at the commencement of the New Year. During the Christmas holidays, when the pits will not be working, a monster meeting of miners will be held, and this gigantic scheme for withdrawing the men will be discussed. At that meeting the men will be advised to bring out their tools at the expiration of their notices, and it is feared that the great distress in the district will be intensified by one of the greatest strikes that has ever taken place in that part of the country.

THE AGITATION AMONG THE RUSSIAN STUDENTS.

The following is the address which the students of St. Petersburg recently endeavoured to present to the Czarewitch:—"Your Imperial Highness,—The Government believe that the agitation among us is caused by a few evil-disposed persons. If your Highness will recall to mind the fact that this agitation has been extending for some years, and has met with a response from all the educational establishments of the country, your Highness will scarcely share this opinion. The frequent recurrence of this agitation shows that its sources are to be found in the intolerable position in which the youth of Russia are placed. The students outside the college walls are subjected to police supervision, while inside they are constantly more and more deprived of their rights. They have had taken from them their right of meeting to consider their own affairs, and they have been forbidden to establish a fund for their mutual aid. In case of their attempting anything of this kind they are invariably threatened with persecutions in the most odious form by the police administration. At each meeting the police have almost threathened our lives. Whenever our rights are concerned our dispersion becomes law, but whenever there is a question of burdens to be borne we are looked upon and treated as having a corporate existence. We are being deprived of the independence necessary to adults, and some of us are treated like children. The increasing obstacles placed in the way of higher education will soon make education the privilege of the rich. These and similar oppressions are the sole cause of the agitation. We know what awaits the students of Charkoff, and the example of the Kieff agitation is fresh in our memory. Persons should not be punished when the circumstances in which they are placed are at fault. On the strength of the foregoing we take the liberty of requesting your Imperial Highness's mediation on behalf of our Charkoff fellow-scholars, and your attention to the present condition of the students."

MARRIAGE OF THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

The marriage of the Duke of Cumberland and Princess Thyra was solemnised on Saturday evening with great pomp, in the chapel adjoining the Royal Castle of Christianborg. At seven o'clock all the invited guests, including the Ministers of foreign powers at Copenhagen, the special representatives of the foreign Sovereigns, the members of the Legislature, and all the chief civil and military dignitaries of the kingdom assembled at the Royal Palace, whence they proceeded in order, amidst the joyous pealing of the marriage bells, to the chapel, where they were met by Bishop Martensen and the other clergy who were to officiate at the ceremony. The King and the bride elect led the procession, followed by the Queen and the Duke of Cumberland, who were succeeded by the Crown Princess, escorted by the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, after whom came the Crown Prince, the other Royal Princes, and the special envoys of foreign Courts. Queen Victoria was represented by Sir Lennox Wyke, the British Minister; the King of the Hellenes by the Greek Minister at the Court of Russia; the Prince of Wales by Lord Colville; the Princess of Wales by Colonel Teesdale; and the Duke of Cambridge by Captain Mildmay. At the conclusion of the ceremony the guests returned to the Palace, where the Royal bride and bridegroom received the congratulation of their relations, and afterwards of the assembled company. A grand reception was then held in honour of their Royal Highnesses, which was followed, at a later hour, by a magnificent banquet. The newly-married couple drove off at half-past eleven through the town to the railway-station, to proceed to the Castle of Fredensborg, the summer residence of the King, and were saluted on all sides as they passed through the streets with the most vociferous cheering. The town was very generally and brilliantly illuminated, and all the streets were thronged with spectators who had collected, more especially in the neighbourhood of the railway station, attracted by the grand display of fireworks which has taken place there. All the newspapers contain congratulatory articles, expressing the good wishes of the Danish people for the future happiness for the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland. The wedding presents received by their Royal Highnesses are very numerous, some gift having been sent by every society and corporation, large and small, throughout the country.

THE AFGHAN WAR.—PROCLAMATION OF THE AFGHAN PRIESTS.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News* with General Robert's column, in a message dated from Khurum, on Sunday, says:—"The bulk of the force under General Roberts's command is now assembled round this place. It is already apparent that the next four months are not destined to be spent in inactivity, for although the tribes of the valley are peaceable and friendly, as much cannot be said of those who dwell in the hills around. Our telegraph wire is being constantly cut between Kohat and this village. Sometimes it is severed between Kohat and Thull, no doubt by the Waziris, whose country borders on the Pass; sometimes between Thull and Khurum, on the newly-occupied territory. We cannot say whether this is the work of the villagers in the valley, or of men belonging to the hill tribes. The delays in the communication thus caused are very annoying, and give a great deal of work to the engineers. Last night the natives of Ibrahimzai, a large village some 12 miles from here on the road to Thull, fired at the post runners, killed 1 horse and wounded 2 camels. The 4th King's left for Ibrhimazai this morning, and will probably take up their quarters there, partly to maintain order, partly because it is desirable to diminish the force here before the winter sets in. Proclamations were found at Peiwar Kotal among the papers captured there, from the Afghan priesthood to the people, exhorting them to a desperate resistance against the infidel English, who insisted upon invading Afghanistan to slaughter men, women, and children, to burn the villages, and devastate the country, out of revenge for the former defeats incurred at the hands of the Afghans. The date of the proclamation and its whole tenour show that the Ameer was months ago animated by a disposition the very reverse of friendly towards the English. I regret to say that Cap. Powell, of the 5th Ghoorkas, has died of the wounds received on the 13th instant. Up to two days ago he appeared to be going on well, and strong hopes were entertained of his recovery. The wounds then assumed a less favourable aspect, and he sank rapidly. It has been decided that nothing can be done against the Mangals at the present season. Their country is difficult and altogether unknown, and operations during the cold season might entail a loss altogether disproportionate to the object in view. The lesson they received on the occasion of the attack will probably keep them quiet for some time."

China has applied for admission into the Postal Union.

The Zurich Municipality has granted a site in the cemetery for cremation.

A brigand named Emilio Paltrinieri, who had long been a terror in Modena, has been captured in a tavern near Borgo Panigale.

A paper mill at Grimshaw Bridge, Blacksnape, near Blackburn, was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, the damage being estimated at £12,000.

A panic, caused by a girl fainting, occurred in Accrington Town Hall. The excitement was allayed in time to prevent any personal injuries.

It was mentioned in the Dublin Appeal Court, that the appeal in the celebrated will case of Bagot v. Bagot was fixed for the second day of next sitting.

The uncovering of the statue of the late M. Berryer in the Palace of Justice—a ceremony which the French Government was alleged to have prohibited—is now fixed for the 15th January.

At a meeting of the Greek residents of Marseilles it was resolved to open a subscription for a marble bust to be presented to M. Waddington, in recognition of his recent speech in favour of the Greek cause.

The new nave of Bristol Cathedral was used for the first time on Thursday, when, at an Advent service, a choir of 200 voices, with a full orchestra, rendered Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" as an anthem.

As Parliament now stands adjourned till Thursday, February 13, the Archbishop of Canterbury has signified his intention of again proroguing both Houses of the Canterbury Convocation, to meet on Tuesday, February 18, for the despatch of business.

The Sheffield School Board have resoved to undertake the tuition of the deaf and dumb children of Sheffield, preferring this course to sending them to a distant institution. It will be a free school for the present. A teacher was appointed, at a salary of £50 a year.

A collision at Havre between the Honfleur steamer and the Benwell steamer of Newcastle has occurred. The former sank between the pier heads, blocking the entrance to the harbour; the latter put into Havre damaged. The master of the Honfleur was injured.

Two quartermasters in Algeria, who had quarrelled at mess, having been required by their superior officers to fight a duel, selected the sabre, and at the first lunge one of them was mortally wounded. The *Univers* protests against the "duel obligatoire," which, it says, exists in no other army.

Her Majesty has approved of an important alteration in the regulations governing the promotion of Flag-officers. In future Rear-admirals will not be required to serve as such before being promoted to to vice rank, but will be compulsorily retired should they not have served as admirals before reaching the age of sixty years.

A young collier, named William Taylor, has been by the Bristol magistrates, committed for trial for a cruel assault upon Amelia Griffin, eighteen years old, by twisting round her arm till it was nearly broken. It was so injured that the house surgeon at the hospital thought it might be necessary to resort to amputation.

Great efforts are being made by the military authorities to introduce, among any fresh changes that may be made in the constitution of the Army Medical Department, a modification of the existing station hospital system. A mixed regimental and general hospital arrangement is the plan desired by many commanding officers.

The anniversary festival of the Commercial Travellers' School was held the other evening, at the Freemasons' Tavern, London, with Mr. Colman, M.P., in the chair. It was stated that more than a thousand children had been educated in these schools, which have three hundred scholars at present. Upwards of £2,000 was contributed in the room.

The chairman of the Newdeer (Scotland) School Board has declined to comply with a request of the Board to resign the chairmanship, and the members have resigned their seats. The Bellie School Board, Aberdeenshire, is in the same position, as all the members have resigned save the chairman. It rests with the Education Department to fill the vacancies or order new elections.

Business Announcements.

FOREIGN STAMPS.



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Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH

TRAINS.—WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.		1,2,G.	1,2,G.	1,2,G	1,2,G.	1,2,G
		A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	5·45	9·40	12·30	2·30	5·35
Scotswood	"	5·52	9·47	12·37	2·37	5·42
Swalwell	"	5·59	9·54	12·43	2·43	5·49
Rowland's Gill	"	6·9	10·4	12·53	2·53	5·59
Lintz Green	"	6·15	10·10	12·59	2·59	6·5
Ebchester	"	6·23	10·23	1·12	3·12	6·18
Shotley Bridge	"	6·34	10·29	1·18	3·18	6·24
Benfieldside (Consett & Blackhill)	arr.			1·25	3·25	
	dep	6·42	10·37		4·45	6·35
Knitsley	"	6·54	10·49		4·57	6·47
Lanchester	"	7·3	10·58		5·6	6·56
Witton Gilbert	"	7·14	11·9		5·10	7·7
Durham	arr.	7·25	11·20		5·25	7·20

DOWN TRAINS—WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS		1,2,G.	1,2 G.	1,2,G.	1,2,G	1,2,G
		A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Durham	dep.	7·25		11·45	3·45	8·0
Witton Gilbert	"	7·37		11·57	3·57	8·12
Lanchester	"	7·50		12·10	4·10	8·25
Knitsley	"	8·2		12·22	4·20	8·37
Benfieldside (Consett & Blackhill)	arr.				4·30	
	dep	8·15	9·10	12·35	3·35	8·50
Shotley Bridge	"	8·20	9·15	12·40	3·40	8·55
Ebchester	"	8·24	9·19	12·44	3·44	8·59
Lintz Green	"	8·34	9·29	12·54	3·54	9·9
Rowland's Gill	"	8·39	9·34	12·59	4·0	9·14
Swalwell	"	8·47	9·42	1·7	4·7	9·22
Scotswood	"	8·54	9·49	1·14	4·14	9·29
Newcastle	arr.	9·5	10·0	1·25	4·25	9·40

SUNDAYS.

LEAVE	a.m.	p.m.	LEAVE	a.m.	p.m
Newcastle	7·30	7·15	Benfieldside	8·35	8·20
Scotswood	7·37	7·22	Shotley Bridge	8·40	8·25
Swalwell	7·44	7·29	Ebchester	8·44	8.29
Rowland's Gill	7·54	7·39	Lintz Green	8·54	8·39
Lintz Green	8·0	7·45	Rowland's Gill	8·59	8·4
Ebchester	8·13	7·58	Swalwell	9·8	8·5
Shotley Bridge	8·19	8·4	Scotswood	9·14	8·5
Benfieldside (arr)	8·25	8·10	Newcastle (arr)	9·25	9·1

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

STATIONS.		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	7·10	4·5	7·30
Scotswood	"	7·17	4·12	7·37
Swalwell	"	7·24	4·20	7·44
Rowland's Gill	"	7·34	4·30	7·54
Lintz Green	"	7·40	4·36	8·0
Ebchester	"	7·53	4·49	8·13
Shotley Bridge	"	7·59	4·55	8·19
Benfieldside (for Consett and Blackhill)	arr.	8·5	5·2	8·25
	dep.	9·20		
Knitsley		9·32		
Lanchester		9·41		
Witton Gilbert		9.52		
Durham	arr.	10·5		

STATIONS.		A.M.	P.M.
Durham	dep.	7·55	
Witton Gilbert	"	8·7	
Lanchester	"	8·20	
Knitsley	"	8·32	
Benfieldside (for Consett and Blackhill)	arr.	8·45	
	dep.	8·50	5·30
Shotley Bridge	"	8·55	5·35
Ebchester	"	8·59	5·39
Lintz Green	"	9·9	5·49
Rowland's Gill	"	9·15	5·55
Swalwell	"	9·22	6·2
Scotswood	"	9·29	6·9
Newcastle	arr.	9·40	6·20

STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY

GOING EAST.—WEEK DAYS ONLY.

STATIONS.		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	5·45	12·30	2·30
Benfieldside	"	6·50	1·30	4·30
Rowley	"	7·0	1·40	4·40
Burnhill Junction	"	7·10	1·50	4·50
Tow Law	"	7·23	2·3	5·3
Crook	arr.	7·35	2·15	5.15
	dep.	7·38	2·25	5·25
Bishop Auckland	"	8·7	2·53	5·56
Darlington		8·35	3·20	6·25
Stockton		9·25	4·8	7·18
Middlesbro'		9·38	4·20	7·33
Saltburn		10·15	4·55	8·10

GOING WEST.—WEEK DAYS ONLY.

STATIONS.		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Saltburn	dep.	5·45	11·10	4·30
Middlesbro'	"	6·23	11·45	5·5
Stockton	"	6·34	11·55	·15
Darlington	"	7·10	12·30	·50
Bishop Auckland	"	7·45	1·15	·30
Crook	arr.	8·12	1·40	·55
	dep.	8·15	2·20	7·0
Tow Law	"	8·27	2·32	7·15
Burnhill Junction	"	8·42	2·45	7·30
Rowley	"	8·52	2·55	7·40
Benfieldside	arr.	9·5	3·5	7·50
Newcastle	arr.	10·0	4·25	9·40

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," prepared by HENRY C. GALLUP, 493, Oxford Street, London, and sold by chemists and perfumers everywhere, at 3s. 6d. per bottle.

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 delicious to the taste, and the greatest toilet discovery of the age. Price 2s. 6d., of all Chemists and Perfumers. Prepared by HENRY C. GALLUP, 493, Oxford Street, London.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS!—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to taste, it produces natural, quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine Dealers everywhere at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. Manufactured in New York, and at 493, Oxford Street, London.

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Business Announcements.

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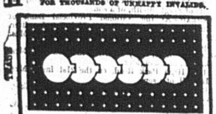
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I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
F. R. FRANCIS, F.S.A., M.T.E., S.I.

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5th April, 1877.

Messrs. E. Hilton & Co.

Sirs,—I have been using your "Sir Astley Cooper's Vital Restorative" for some time past, and with the greatest benefit to my health, it has done me more good than all the medicine I had been taking under medical advice for months before I tried it. My complaint was General Nervous Debility, caused by long residence in India, and now I find my health almost restored to what it should be.

Yours faithfully,
[illegible] AY.

Joseph H. Doran and Son,
Solicitors and Proctors, Dublin.

Dear Sir,—Send me a bottle of Sir Astley Cooper's Vital Restorative. I have found great benefit from the use of it.

I am, dear Sirs,
Truly yours,
J. H. DORAN.

To Messrs. Ephraim Hilton and Co.
9, Lower Belgrave-street,
London, S.W.

FATAL QUARREL.

Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, Mr. Trueman W. Graham, deputy-coroner, opened an inquiry at the Police Court, Consett, touching the death of Bernard Kelly, twenty-eight years of age, who died on Sunday morning last from the effects of a blow received during a quarrel with a fellow-workman named John Linnon. Kelly belonged to Consett, but some weeks ago, being out of employment, he secured work at Witton Park Iron Works. He lodged at Escomb, near Bishop Auckland, and on the night of the 23rd November he and Linnon were drinking in a private house occupied by a woman named Mrs. McDonald, when a quarrel took place owing to deceased refusing to give Linnon a drink of beer. Linnon is said to have made use of a threat towards the deceased, and in consequence of this Mrs. McDonald ran out of the house for assistance. Police-constable Sheriff, the policeman stationed at George Pit, near Escomb, happened to be near at the time, and at once went to Mrs. McDonald's house. As he entered the doorway, Linnon was in the act of striking Kelly on the head with a piece of iron about a foot long, used by Mrs. McDonald as a poker. Linnon attempted to give deceased a second blow, but was prevented by the constable, who stepped between the men, and wrenched the piece of iron out of Linnon's hand. It was found that Kelly was suffering from a wound about an inch long above the right eye-brow. Linnon was brought before the Bishop Auckland magistrates two days following, charged with the assault, for which he was fined 40s. and costs, but failing to raise the money he was sent to Durham Gaol for a month. Kelly returned to his own home at Consett on the 30th November, and was subsequently attended by Dr. Marchbank, assistant to Dr. Renton, who found that his skull was fractured. He continued to attend Kelly till Sunday last, when he died as above stated. Linnon was liberated from prison last Tuesday morning, and was re-apprehended by Inspector Mutimar, and taken before the Bishop Auckland magistrates on a charge of manslaughter, on which charge he stands remanded till Monday next. Yesterday afternoon, on the inquest being opened, the Deputy-Coroner intimated that it would be necessary to adjourn the inquiry, as two important witnesses (a constable and the doctor who attended deceased in the first instance) were not present. He purposed adjourning it to Saturday morning at eleven o'clock.—Mr. Swainston (a juror) said that was a bad day for tradesmen to get away. Could Mr. Graham not hold the inquiry on Friday?—The Deputy-Coroner said he couldn't possibly hold it on Friday, as he had already made arrangements for holding an inquest at Jarrow on the day named.—Mr. Swainston said the inquest might be held at eight o'clock on Saturday morning.—The Deputy-Coroner remarked that that would necessitate his leaving Sunderland at a quarter to five o'clock.—Supt. Oliver said the inquiry was not likely to last more than an hour-and-a-half.—The Deputy-Coroner said if they held the inquest at eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, that would be a time when tradesmen were not busy.—Mr. Aynsley (grocer) said eleven o'clock was the best time.—Supt. Oliver explained that the doctor who attended deceased first, had left the neighbourhood of Bishop Auckland, and was now supposed to be in Cumberland.—The inquiry was then adjourned to eleven o'clock on Saturday morning.

Local Police Courts.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Dec. 23.—Before A. TOWN, Esq. (chairman), J. PRIESTMAN, Esq., and JAS. ANNANDALE, Jun., Esq.

ALLOWING PIGS TO STRAY.

Matthew Ridley, farmer, Snows Green, was summoned by Sergt. Cruickshank for allowing two pigs to stray on the highway. Mr. Ridley admitted the offence, and was fined 9s. 6d., including costs.

SLIDING.

Two lads named John Postle and John William Johnson were charged with sliding on the footpath at Blackhill. A small fine was imposed.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

John O'Neil, of 26, John Street, Consett, was summoned by Mr. Ward, Attendance-officer to the Lanchester School Attendance Committee, for neglecting to comply with an attendance order made by the magistrates on the 17th June last. Mrs. O'Neil answered the summons. Mr. Ward said defendant's child, a girl ten years old, was ordered to attend St. Patrick's School. Out of forty times the school had been open, the child had only made eleven attendances. There could be no excuse in this case, as the Guardians paid the school fees.—Mrs. O'Neil produced a doctor's certificate stating that the child was suffering from sore eyes.—The Chairman: Do you know the child has sore eyes?—Mr. Ward: She has attended so many times every week.—The Chairman: The doctor says that the child is suffering from an affection of the eyes, which renders her unfit to attend school.—Mr. Ward: She is fit enough to hawk sand about the streets, and I have several times seen her begging. This summons was obtained on the 29th November, and the doctor does not say that she was suffering from sore eyes prior to that date.—The Chairman said they had better have the personal attendance of the doctor.—Dr. Renton subsequently attended, and, in answer to the Chairman, said the girl was brought to his Surgery about a fortnight ago, and he found her suffering from an affection of the eyes. She ought not to attend school at all. The disease she was suffering from did not manifest itself suddenly, and witness thought she might have suffered for a fortnight before he first saw her.—Mr. Ward said the girl would be much better at school than hawking sand.—Mrs. O'Neil said her daughter had not hawked sand since she had been under medical treatment.—The Chairman said they had agreed to dismiss the case.——Owen Collins, 34, Trafalgar Street, Consett, was also charged with failing to comply with an attendance order. Mr. Ward said the order was made in July last, since which time defendant's daughter (aged twelve years), had not attended school once.—Defendant said his daughter was not well enough to attend school. He produced a certificate from the doctor.—Mr. Ward said the girl had been in service since until shortly before the beginning of the present month.—The Chairman said the certificate said the girl was suffering from a bad foot.—Defendant, in answer to the bench, said his daughter's foot was injured on the 10th December.—Mr. Ward said this was the second time defendant had been summoned for neglecting to send his daughter to school.—Defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 5s., including costs.——Stephen Crawford, 25, Puddlers' Row, was summoned for a similar offence. Mr. Ward said defendant's child was kept at home to run errands. Defendant had three children, and none of them attended school regularly.—Fined 5s., including costs.

STEALING COALS.

Peter McCluskey was charged with stealing coals belonging to the Consett Iron Company. P.C. Simpson said he was on duty between Leadgate and Iveston Colliery, when he found defendant on the Company's railway. He had a sack full of coals which he had gathered off the line, and there was a heap lying ready to take away. Defendant kept a lodging-house at Leadgate.—Mr. W. Brown, one of the Company's agents, said defendant had no right on the line. The coals fell off the waggons and were collected again. The coals which defendant had in his possession were worth 8d.—Defendant said he had worked eleven years as a puddler at the Tin Mill, where he lost an eye. Since then he had lived at Leadgate. The coals, he said, were never picked up by the Company, because if they were the puddlers would not use them.—The Chairman asked if anything was known about McCluskey.—Supt. Oliver said the present was the first charge that had been made against him.—The Chairman said they had decided to send defendant to gaol for fourteen days.

ASSAULT AT DIPTON.

George Mullen and John McCluskey, two young men, were charged with an assault on John N. Mosley, at Dipton. Complainant said on Sunday night, the 8th December, he was on his way home when he met the defendants. One of them (McCluskey) threw a sonwball at him, which knocked his hat off. Both defendants then attacked him and knocked him down.—After hearing several witnesses the magistrates fined McCluskey 10s. and Mullen 5s. and costs.

ASSAULT AT CONSETT PARK.

James Gregory was charged with assaulting Elizabeth Britton, at Consett Park. Complainant said defendant was her brother-in-law. He lived with her (complaintant's) mother at Consett Park. Complainant lived with her husband at Blackhill. On the 11th December she went to her mother's house, and they had a few words about a sister's child. While complainant and her mother were talking, defendant came out and struck her on the side of the head. He got her down amongst the snow, where he abused her very much. Her mother was standing near all the time, and told defendant to "give her plenty."—Defendant said complainant was calling his mother-in-law foul names. He went out and pushed her away, and she then struck him on the nose. He called his mother-in-law, Mrs. Brownlee, who said her daughter (the complainant) always made mischief when she went to her (witness') house. On the day in question she could not get her own way, and began to use bad language. Defendant went out of the house and pushed complainant away, but never struck her.—The case was dismissed.

ASSAULT ON A POLICE-OFFICER.

Joseph McQuire was charged with assaulting Sergt. Frazer at Stanley, on the 15th April last. Defendant, in conjunction with another man, was running off with a barrow which they had taken away from a neighbouring house, when Sergt. Frazer appeared on the scene, and gave chase. The men, in their retreat, threw stones at the officer, which was the assault complained of. Defendant absconded at the time, and had only recently been apprehended at Blaydon. He was fined 10s. and costs.

Correspondence.

Communications intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

THE SHOTLEY BRIDGE CHIMNEY SWEEP AND HIS DETRACTORS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—In your issue of the 20th inst., I notice "Geordie Smith" crowing at the "chimney sweeper feller at Shotley Bridge." He says, "If aw was the edditer of your paper, aw waddent let him thank his friends and patrons for their kindness to him without making him pay for it as an advartisment."

I don't doubt "Geordie's" story
But he tried to make me pay;
I advise him to tell the truth,
Or have no more to say.

You, sir, have come to the years of discretion to know whether my letter of the 13th inst. was one of correspondence or an advertisement.

Therefore, it's not for Harry, Bob, or "Geordie,"
Or any of the lying crew,
To tell you what to do.
I advise them all to shut their beaks
And crow another day.

JOE HARRISON,
Shotley Bridge Chimney Sweep and Poet.

CHRISTMAS DINNERS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I desire, thus publicly, to thank Capt. Joicey, of Tanfield Lea, on behalf of myself and my family (as well as many others) for enjoying such a good Christmas dinner of roast beef and potatoes, so liberally given to us by him. I can assure you, dear sir, we are all very thankful indeed to him, and we earnestly hope his good example will be followed by other good masters. I do wish Capt. Joicey will long live to enjoy many happy Christmas days.—Yours sincerely,

A WORKMAN OUT OF WORK.

"A. R.'S" REPLY TO "NONDESCRIPT."

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—The most prominent thing in "Nondescript's" last letter is his absoulte perfection.

He acknowledges having a defective memory, and being a little fasitidious; but these are not faults in him. Oh, dear no. Not in "Nondescript." These admitted defects are rather excellencies. They might be considered faults or defects in others; but in "Nondescript" they are commendable qualities, or of that nature.

And, of course, "piety" to such a gentleman means "novelty, enthusiasm, and faith." It must also be very disingenuous on my part to even attempt to point out to your readers any faults in "Nondescript." It is a foregone conclusion that anything I may name as being incorrect in "Nondescript's" correspondence, cannot be incorrect. This is impossible. And because I cannot see anything but vagueness in "piety, novelty, enthusiasm, and faith," of course, I am "an object to be pitied." What next, I wonder? Well, I have "revealed nothing" in my letters. Everything I have said was as "clear as daylight." This, by the way, is admitting what I have said, is to "Nondescript's" mind true. "Nondescript" ought to have said, that to his mind everything was "clear as daylight." For absolute perfection cannot admit an increase of knowledge.

The feeling, sir, I have endeavoured to convey in the above remarks is precisely the one produced in me by reading "Nondescript's" last letter. I will add, too, that I was deeply sorry that your correspondent was so uncourteous to me as to call in question my motives. For, I do honestly declare, I had not the slightest idea of misrepresenting him. And my notion of the postscript is that it is anything but nice. I hope I shall never write anything so unwarrantably personal under similar circumstances.

I see no need to get vexed in the matter. If motives have to be impugned, and we have to call one another names, such as "object of pity," &c., I shall back out of the present discussion. I confess I have no other object in view than that of finding truth. I have no party battle to fight. No personal interests to maintain. I have found by experience that truth is suitable food for the human mind. All I ask for then is—give me light—give me truth. With these I am satisfied.

In reference to my unscholarly blunders, I am obliged to "Nondescript" for pointing them out. I only wish I had had the advantage of his correction sooner. I have no doubt I, with others, will profit by it.

In regard to the terms "concentrate" and "quiescent," as used by me. I cannot see them to be opposite in their meaning, as "Nondescript" states. Concentrate means to bring to a common centre. Quiescent means to be at rest, silent. Why, may a person not sit down and be at rest, and be silent, and at the same time bring his thoughts to a common centre? It must be borne in mind that I was not speaking of a "supreme effort" of the mind, when I used these terms, such as is necessary when the mind is trying to solve some mighty problem, but of that easy natural effort of the mind, in which it seeks to keep free from excitement, and from wandering after a multiplicity of objects. By experience I know that I can go to bed, and so think that I cannot sleep. And I can go to bed and so compose myself that I can soon go to sleep. In the former case I think so earnestly as to become excited, rendering sleep out of the question. In the latter case I think too (for people fall asleep thinking), but not earnestly, and sleep gradually ensues. I have often gone to sleep thinking in the latter way, and have wakened in the morning with the same thing on my mind which I had gone to sleep thinking about. Here I hold for all practicable purposes is a case of concentration and quiescence combined.

I now wish to make a few further remarks on "revivalism." There can be little doubt that revival efforts in connection with religious bodies accomplish good; but I am afraid the good accomplished by revival work, as at present carried on, is more than counterbalanced by the results of an untoward character which follow.

It may be laid down as a fact, that revivals, as at present conducted by established bodies, are—first, expensive, second, misleading, third, uncertain in their results.

With respect to the question of expense, is it not a notorious fact that revivalists, as a rule, have an extra liking for money? So much is this the case, that go where you may you hear people grumbling on this question. And it has been known for ministers to go without their regular salary, on account of the sums paid to revivalists. This kind of thing cannot be very encouraging to ministers, nor healthful to societies.

But, anyhow, revivalists must be paid, and well paid, whether they succeed in their work or not. So the expense is certain. This, however, is the least objectionable of the three points named. Take, then, the next point—that revival efforts in established societies, as now conducted, are misleading. The revivalist is generally employed by each society once a year, for a term varying from a fortnight to two months. Seldom does a revivalist remain longer than two months. During his (the revivalist's) stay the church becomes terribly excited, and expects great things, labouring with unwonted zeal. A measure of success follows; but the time of departure of the revivalist draws near—he leaves. The scene changes, then follow those results we have named as misleading. The excitement abates. Lukewarmness follows. The church has been taught the idea that a revival is not to be expected except when a revivalist is present.

The church has yet the notion, too, that the revtvalist is a holier and more honoured man than any of its own preachers, be they local or otherwise. And the church is brought into a false and damaging condition, which hinders it developing its own resources, and crushes its noblest aspirations. As my letter is already long enough, I shall, for the present, cease, and take up the third point in my next.—I am, sir, yours truly,

A. R.

Blackhill.

MORE RAVINGS BY A MANIAC.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I suppose you think yourself clever! Ha! ha! What need was there to speak of my "mental condition" last week when I told you at the beginning that I was mad? Do you think only sane people can write letters to the newspapers? Ha! ha! *You* ought to know better than that! Madhouse! No, I was not in a madhouse! A man may be mad without being in a madhouse, and a man may be in a madhouse without being mad! Couldn't *you* live in a stable without being a horse? Ha! ha! That's *one* for me! What is my opinion about "Geordie Smith" and the source of power? *My* opinion! What is *your* opinion? Ha! ha! I have *you* in a corner! Carss and Jenkins! Which is the working man's friend? That's good! "Codlin is the friend, not Short!" Policemen getting drunk! Yes, why shouldn't they? Wasn't whiskey made to drink, and weren't bobbies created to keep whiskey-drinkers in order! Getting mixed up, did you say? So would you, if your head come in contact with a policeman's staff! Just try it! What ought to be done with "Civis" and "Rip Van Winkle?" There you are at it again—what *ought* to be done with them? How do they fasten the Kilkenny cats together? Wouldn't the fun——

[The ravings of our correspondent terminate at this point, and as the paper on which the letter is written bears candle-grease marks, it is supposed that our maniacal friend has had a fit.—ED. C.G.]

"RIP VAN WINKLE" AND "CIVIS."

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—There is nothing that I more heartily dislike than to be mixed up in correspondence with a coarsely abusive person, who is so absorbed in the spectacle of his own genius that he can see nothing else. Not content with attributing false motives to an opponent, or with adding edge to his spleen by cunningly devised fables, he almost exhausts the vocabulary of the gutters to cast discredit on one who has certainly not used any word that would bring a blush to the face of even the most delicate reader.

Had it not been that I felt bound to contradict his untrue, utterly untrue, statements that I was employed to write against him by the "Hallelujah Men," and also that he knew the substance of my first letter, before it appeared in your columns, I should not have taken the trouble to reply at all to his third letter. I again affirm that both these statements are pure inventions of "Civis," and, further, I beg to state, in the most pointed manner possible, that my reference to "Civis's" attack on a hardworking pedagogue of Blackhill, is the first public reference I have yet made to that Blackhill gentleman. "Civis" knows he is quite safe in using expressions, which, in the long run, only bring more discredit to those who use them than to those for whom they are meant.

Enough has been written for the public to decide whether "Civis" was a fit person to discuss a religious question or otherwise.

Having said this, and also that I shall take no further notice in your columns of "Civis's" very courteous, very clever, and above all. very Christian references to me, I close my correspondence on the subject. I was not the aggressor. I hope I have not soiled a page by falsehood. My sole aim has been to check a system calculated in all ways to nourish disunion, strife, and hatred in our little community. I mean the plan of selecting the local paper as a medium for unmeasured onslaughts on humble men, who are trying to live better lives than before. If, in so doing, my good name has been turned to base uses by the instigator of these attacks, I need only say that I am none the less convinced of my own right motives, and that had "Civis" been a little less ambitious, and keep himself fairly within the bounds of newspaper correspondence, my letters would never have appeared. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your considerate attention, I subscribe myself, for the last time,

RIP VAN WINKLE.

9, Cort Street, Blackhill, 24th Dec., 1878.

GEORDIE SMITH'S NUT IN "NONDESCRIPT'S" NUTCRACKERS. THE HALLELUJAH LASSES: THEIR SOURCE OF POWER.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Your facetious correspondent, "Geordie Smith," in his own peculiar way, makes some good, suggestive remarks. He has a quick perception for the strong points of an argument, or the weak parts of a proposition, and a knack of shuffling the one or the other off himself on to other folks. In his last contribution to the *Guardian* he takes the liberty of offering a nut for Mr. Tait or Mr. Wiley or myself to crack, or any other person who is fond of writing, thus slyly insinuating that these gentlemen and I have the scribbling itch. Well, sir, I find no fault with "Geordie" for this, for he must have a target to throw his humorous darts at. So, I will oblige him by testing his nut with my nutcrackers; but examine it first. It is pleasing to the eye, and tempting to the palate, hence my resolve to test its quality. Here it is. "Geordie" says—"Bob and me is diermetrikerley opposed to each other in our argeyments as to the 'sorse of power'" of the Hallelujah Lasses, "and it will tak a klivvar feller to prove that either of us is rang." Permit me, sir, to tell "Geordie" that the first squeeze of his nut with my crackers shows that both he and "Bob" are wrong. "Bob" puts his case thus—"The thing lited kannet be briter than the thing that lites it, or, in other werds, the kause must be stronger than the effekt;" and in proof of this proposition he analogically reasons that, as the sun that illumines everything is a million times brighter than the most brilliant thing it illumines, so is every cause greater than the effect it produces. I remark that, though analogical reasoning, as a rule, is very effective, it is often equally fallacious; of which "Bob" has, in this case, given a notable illustration. Of course the sun is more brilliant than anything that reflects its rays. But it does not, therefore, follow that every cause of an illumination or explosion is greater in illuminating and explosive power than the thing it lights or explodes. A lighted Davey lamp emits but dim rays, yet, this poor weak light has, by coming in contact with explosive mixtures, caused many a fearfully scorching flame and terribly destructive explosion. An isolated gun cap, when detonated, produces a very small flame; but when it is properly adjusted on a loaded gun and then detonated, it causes a flame—proportionate to the amount of powder with which the gun was charged—to use "Bob's" own words—it causes a flame a million times brighter than its own. A volume might be filled with similarly forcible examples to these in proof that "Bob's" argument is fallacious, or as "Geordie" told him, it "waddent had watter."

Now, "Geordie" holds that, because an old man he pointed out to "Bob" "hasent the twentyeth part of his son's strength" the cause cannot be stronger than the effect, and that "Bob's" argument "waddent hold good if he applide it to the Hallaluyer Lasses." This assertion or argument contains a fallacy equally as destructive to sound logic as that contained in the reasoning of "Bob." It lies in the limiting of the relation of effects to their proximate causes, instead of referring them to the original or first great cause of all things. "Geordie's" analogy is brought to view by the following question—"How is it, aw wunder, that two such thin, week things as Miss Ager and Miss Jaksen hes the power of kontrollen and leeden see mony hundreds of big, strang men as we see in the Theater ivvery Setterder neet?" and in his reply to "Bob's" pretty simile in reference to the sun, "Geordie" says—"For instence, them two lasses is the kause of all them fokes getten convarted. Thay are what 'Nondescript' and that other chep wad kall the 'sorse of power.' Thay are the kause or motive power, but many of the fokes thay kontrol is far stranger than the 'sorse of power,' as it is kalled." Here "Geordie" has made a mistake; and, probably, he has done so purposely. He displays much quiet humour, and no little cunning. Probably he has baited his line with a view of hooking "A. R." or myself, or both of us. He has caught me; but not with that bait. I beg to remind "Geordie" that I never said that Miss Agar and Miss Jackson constituted the source of power, or "kalled" them the "sorse" of power. They are simply mediums of the source of power—the power of God unto salvation. Novelty, enthusiasm, faith, piety, may be said to be proximate causes of the effects produced, or mediate sources of power; but, properly speaking, these are merely effective means of applying the power and of inducing those to whom it is applied to yield to its hallowing and saving influence.

PROXIMATE AND REMOTE CAUSES.—The chain of causation is very long, and it has many links. Like the telegraph lines and cables that engirdle the earth, and bring, as it were, the opposite shores of the seas together, the links in the chain of causation bring the great first cause, our Father in Heaven, and the salvation of souls, into juxtaposition. Seed possesses the germ of life, but it requires the husbandman to till the ground, to drain and manure it, to sow the seed properly, and bury it in the soil so as to cause the life-germ to put forth its inherent energy, and to grow and produce its kind. The various methods of tilling and sowing may, with truth, be called instrumental causes; the frost and snow may, in many instances, be called protective causes; the dew and the rain, and the rays of the sun may be called revivifying causes; but the primary cause—the great chief source of the power of growth and reproduction is the Creator. Like the pitmen's caller, whose duty it is to arouse the sleeping miner, and call him to his duty, the husbandman arouses the sleeping life-germ of the seed, and bids it come forth in wakeful activity, and bless mankind by its productiveness, as the miner blesses by the produce of his labour. Now, sir, as we find a great difference between farmers, in the industry, intelligence, skill and tact, and in the results of their respective labours, so do we find similar differences in the tillers of the Christian vineyard. Some of them toil with but little apparent effect; while the labour of others is rewarded with an abundant harvest. Miss Agar and Miss Jackson are of the latter class. Their labours are markedly productive in bringing souls to Christ. At this point, the question suggests itself—What is the difference between their method and that of the ordinary minister? How does it come to pass that the labours of the latter are so much less successful than those of the former? This is the point at which I began; it is the one I am still at, and it seems as though I am likely to remain here for some time. I have already given my opinion on the subject, and it is no use repeating it. Still, I cannot help, once more, urging all who are interested in the grand and glorious work of preaching the gospel, to lay aside all sectarian differences and to unite for the purpose of compassing the aim of all true religious effort for the salvation of souls.

It is now my pleasing duty, sir, through you, to tell "Geordie" and "Bob" that, though I have shown they are both wrong, I believe they are, in another respect, both right. "Bob" is right in saying the thing that lightens is brighter than the thing it lights; but he must go at once to the primary cause of light, not to stop at the proximate cause. Then would his argument be truly and forcibly applicable to the source of the power of the "Hallelujah Lasses." "Geordie" is also right in showing that some effects are much greater than their apparent or proximate causes, and "Betty Stubs" is right, too, in saying that the arguments of "Geordie" are as good as "Bob's," taken from their respective standpoints.

As the New Year will have made its appearance before my next letter, permit me, sir, to wish you, your correspondents, and readers, a very happy new year; and that it will prove to be, in every respect, the happiest you and they have ever enjoyed. Also permit me to wish Miss Agar, Miss Jackson, their true and sincere fellow-helpers, and especially those who, by their labours, have been brought from the swamps of sin to the green pastures and beside the still waters of Christ's farm, a very happy new year. I also wish every faithful Christian shepherd, and every flock, a happy new year; and not only these and those, but every rightly-disposed person.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

NONDESCRIPT.

Ayr, Dec. 24th, 1878.

Markets.

NEWCASTLE CORN MARKET, Tuesday.—At this day's market there was a small supply of wheat from farmers as well as coastwise, the only arrivals being a cargo from New York, but with little or no disposition on the part of buyers to increase stocks. Prices may be considered nominally unaltered. Barley quite neglected. Oats also attracted scarcely any attention. Flour and other articles of the trade without change.

HEXHAM CORN MARKET, Tuesday.—At our marke to-day, we had a small supply of grain, and only little business doing. Red wheat, 45s; barley, 32s; oats unchanged.

NEWCASTLE CATTLE MARKET, Tuesday.—The show of stock presented for sale exhibited a decline of 1,140 beasts and 2,037 sheep as compared with that of last week. Respecting quality, both cattle and sheep were only middling. The supply of beef comprised 1,000 head. The number of sheep was 2,163. Pigs: 1,200 were shown. Beasts, prime heifers, per stone, 8s 9d to 9s 0d; secondary sorts, 7s 0d to 8s 0d; good oxen, 8s 6d to 8s 9d; middling, 5s 9d to 6s 9d; cows and inferior, 5s 3d to 6s 3d; pork, large, 4s 9d to 6s 0d; do. small, 7s 3d to 8s 3d; sheep, good vendable wedders, per lb., 9d to 9½d; middling, 7½d to 7¾d; ewes and inferior, 6½d to 6¾d.

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW, Tuesday.—Old land hay, 75s to 100s; this year's growth, 60s to 85s; new land hay, 80s to 100s; this year's growth, 60s to 90s; wheat straw, 1s 5d to 2s 0d; barley straw, 1s 4d to 1s 7d; oat straw, 1s 5d to 1s 10d per thrave.

DURHAM PROVISION, Saturday.—Oats, 7s 3d to 7s 6d; barley, 7s 0d to 8s 6d; Indian corn, 7s 6d; beans, 10s to 11s 0d; peas, 9s 0d to 10s 0d per boll. Beef, 8d to 10½d; mutton, 8d to 10½d; veal, 9d to 10½d; bacon, 4½d to 5½d; hams, 6d to 7d; cheese, 6d to 8d per lb. Chickens, 1s 6d to 2s 6d; ducks, 2s 6d to 3s 0d; hens, 1s 6d to 2s 0d each; butter, 1s 6d to 1s 7d per lb.; eggs, 4 to 5 for 1s; pigeons, 1s 2d to 1s 3d per couple. Apples, 1s 6d to 2s 0d; onions, 1s to 2s 0d per stone; Grapes, 10d to 2s 0d per lb.

DURHAM POTATO, Saturday.—Potatoes, 6d to 7d per stone.

NEWCASTLE POTATO, Saturday.—Scotch potatoes, 8s 6d to 11s per load.

A HAPPY FAMILY.—Mrs. Murray, of Consett, widow of Mr. John Murray, entertained her family at a dinner on Christmas Day, which consisted of 15 children, 40 grandchildren, and two great grand children, making a total of 57. It is a remarkable fact that the whole of this large family resides within a radius of one mile from her own residence.—*Newcastle Chronicle.*

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.—Bad legs, wounds, ulcers, and all descriptions of sores are cured by the proper and diligent use of these inestimable preparations. To attempt to cure bad legs by plastering the edges of the wound together is folly, for should the skin unite, a boggy, deceased condition remains underneath, to break out with tenfold fury in a few days. The only rational and permanent treatment, as indicated by nature, is to reduce inflammation in and about the wound, to soothe the neighbouring nerves, to cool the heated blood as it courses along its vessels, and to render its watery, ichorous discharge consistent and healthy. Holloway's Pills should likewise be taken to purify the blood and expel the noxious humour from the system.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

CROOK—At the Police Station, on the 26th inst., the wife of Sergt. Smith, of a son.

GATESHEAD—At the National Provincial Bank of England, on the 19th inst., Mrs. Blake, of a daughter.

At 1, St. Edmund's Road, on the 23rd inst., Mrs. Spraggon, of a daughter.

NEWCASTLE—At 2, Raby Street, on the 17th inst., Mrs. Daglish, of a daughter.

At 133, High Park Road, on the 21st inst., Mrs. Maxwell, of a son.

At 12, Sanitary Place, on the 22nd inst., Mrs. Baker, of a daughter.

At 28, Victoria Square, on the 26th inst., Mrs. T. A. Alderson, of a son.

GOSFORTH—At 1, Dilston Terrace, on the 25th inst., Mrs. Richards, of a daughter.

Same day, at 1, Percy Terrace, Mrs. Warden, of a son.

EAST BOLDON—On the 24th inst., Mrs. Browell, of a son.

BLACK HEDDON—On the 22nd inst., Mrs. Johnson, of a daughter.

SUNDERLAND—At 8, Westbourne Grove, on the 20th inst., Mrs. Steven, of a son.

At 18, Dock Street East, on the 22nd inst., Mrs. Reay, of a son.

STOCKSFIELD—At Ridley Mill, on the 21st inst., Mrs. Atkinson, of a son.

NORTH SHIELDS—At 3, Prudhoe Terrace, on the 23rd inst., Mrs. Jackson, of a daughter.

LINCOLN—At 7, Sussex Terrace, on the 18th inst., Mrs. Coates, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

LANCHESTER—At the Register Office, on the 21st inst., Mr. J. W. Richardson to Miss H. Dodds, both of Cornsay Colliery.

Same day, Mr. H. Dixon to Miss E. Sober, both of Blackhill.

On the 26th inst., Mr. H. Harvey to Miss D. A. Ayre, both of Consett.

GATESHEAD—At St. Mary's Church, on the 24th inst., Frederick Mawson to Eliza Elsdon.

NEWCASTLE—At Brunswick Place Wesleyan Chapel, on the 18th inst., John T. Watson to Elizabeth J. Cheeseman, both of Wallsend.

At St. Paul's Church, on the 24th inst., William Anthony Binks to Meggie Young, both of Newcastle.

At Christ Church, on the 25th inst., Harry Spittle, Alnwick, to Mary S. Jobling, Newcastle.

At St. Philip's Church on the 25th inst., Geo. Pike Wightman to Janet S. Gibson.

At Blackett Street U.P. Church, on the 24th inst., William Scott to Mary Thompson, both of Newcastle.

At Wesley Chapel, Prudhoe Street, on the 25th inst., Alfred Boag to Jessie Walker, both of Newcastle.

Same day, at the Church of the Divine Unity, T. G. Robson, of Gateshead, to Jane Stuart, Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire.

BENWELL—At the Church, on the 22nd inst., Henry Woolgar, of South Shields, to Isabella Elizabeth Grey.

NORTH SHIELDS—At Christ Church, on the 21st inst., Robert Codling, of York, to Hannah, widow of the late Captain Roxby.

ALNWICK—At the E. P. Church, on the 22nd inst., Ralph Rennison to Elizabeth Whiteford, both of Alnwick.

BELLINGHAM—On the 21st inst., Thomas Davison, of Charlton, to Jane Milburn, of Riding.

DUNBAR—On the 20th inst., William T. Ker, Newcastle, to Agnes Rose, Dunbar.

SOUTHSEA—At St. Jude's Church, on the 19th inst., C. Curtis, of Harting, Sussex, to Ellen Callaway, of Fyning, Sussex.

DEATHS.

STANLEY—On the 22nd inst., William Swinburn.

WINLATON—On the 23rd inst., aged 60, Geo. Nicholson.

GATESHEAD—At 20, Clayton Street, Askew Road, on the 19th inst., aged 51, George Rutherford.

At 6, Palmerston Buildings, on the 20th inst., aged 37, Elizabeth Storey.

At 11, Normanby Terrace, on the 21st inst., Adolph Brandt.

Same day, at 17, St. James's Road, aged 4 years, Agnes Dobinson.

Same day, at 18, Alfred Street, aged 70, Thomas Brough.

At High Street, on the 23rd inst., aged 70, W. Clark.

At 68, Prince Consort Road, on the 24th inst., aged 40, A. G. Binks.

BLAYDON—On the 20th inst., aged 6 years, James Henry Rutherford.

EIGHTON BANKS—On the 21st inst., aged 79, John Walker.

NEWCASTLE—At 18, Crescent Place, on the 16th inst., aged 46, Mary Ann Hutchinson.

At 26, Marsden Street, on the 19th inst., aged 76, Thomas Ord.

At 11, Back Elswick Row, on the 19th inst., aged 59, James Denham.

Same day, at Delaval Terrace, aged 41, Robert Charlton.

At 17, Gosforth Street, on the 21st inst., aged 1 year and 9 months, Sarah Ellen Snowdon.

Same day, at 6, Derby Street, aged 47, Michael Blenkinsop.

Same day, at 4, Wansbeck Terrace, Byker, aged 33, Thomas Spence.

Same day, at Low Elswick, Colliery Field, aged 4 years and 9 months, George Orton.

Same day, at 30, Penn Street, aged 68, J. Richards.

Same day, at 35, Gladstone Street, aged 2 years, Annie Elizabeth Pringle.

At 738, Scotswood Road, on the 23rd inst., aged 33, Joseph Hunter.

At 65, Eldon Street, on the 24th inst., aged 78, Chas. Brough.

Same day, at 10, Elm Street, New Benwell, aged 36, Robert Dixon.

At 127, Percy Street, on the 25th inst., aged 26, Hannah Lunn.

At 13, Ellison Terrace, aged 66, Ann Frazer.

CROOK—At the Royal Hotel, on the 22nd inst., aged 8, Frances Isabella Proud.

PRUDHOE—At New Houses, on the 22nd inst., aged 40, Ursula Hinde.

STAMFORDHAM—On the 14th inst., aged 58, Henry George Handyside.

SWINBURNE CASTLE—On the 20th inst., aged 70, Frances Wood.

SUNNISIDE—At Lingey Fine, on the 21st inst., aged 55, Frederick Fenton.

FELLING—On the 20th inst., aged 43, H. K. Mallen.

HASWELL COLLIERY—On the 22nd inst., aged 29, John Forster.

LITTLEBURN COLLIERY—On the 22nd inst., Martin William Spoor.

HOWDON—On the 22nd inst., aged 58, Andrew Thompson.

WALKER—At East Farm, on the 19th inst., aged 29, Elizabeth Ann Robson.

At the Cottage, on the 20th inst., aged 73, Elizabeth Stevenson.

Same day, at New Road, Lucy Eliza Hicks.

JARROW—At 3, Albert Terrace, on the 21st inst., aged 59, William Elder.

WALLSEND—At 33, Swan Street, on 20th inst., aged 36, Jane Arthur.

TYNEMOUTH—On the 6th inst., aged 58, Thomas S. Anderson.

SUNDERLAND—At Hendon Street, on the 21st inst., aged 81, George Newby.

MORPETH—At Pearson Cottage, on the 22nd inst., aged 4 years, John Watt.

ALNWICK—At 41, Bondgate Street, on the 22nd inst., aged 52, Isabella Lambert.

ALNMOUTH—On the 23rd inst., Andrew Robson.

CARLISLE—At Stanwick, Viewfield, on the 15th inst., Margaret S. Cooper.

SLAKELAW—On the 20th inst., aged 58, Robert Porter Urwin.

RAYDALE GRANE—On the 19th inst., Mary Benson, late of Haydon Bridge.

HUNGERFORD—On the 22nd inst., Bessie Franklin.

NEW ZEALAND—At Dunn Eden Hospital, on the 18th October, aged 24, Isabella Ann Lemm.

NEW SOUTH WALES—At Wagga-Wagga, on the 30th September, William Chicken.

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