The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

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

No. 1,220 | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, December 28th, 1883. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

THE INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMPANY advances Money from £5 to £500 to respectable House-holders, at a moderate rate of interest and easy payments. Applications personally or by letter (strictly private), 20, Clayton Street East, Newcastle.—Manager, I. TURNER. Business hours, 10 till 5.

MONEY WITHOUT SECURITIES.—The Monetary Advance Company Lends Money from £10 to £500 to respectable householders, farmers, &c., on their own security, at moderate interest and easy repayments. Applications, personal or by letter, receive prompt attention, with the strictest privacy. Offices, Neville Street, (opposite Central Station Hotel), Newcastle-on-Tyne.—H. S. SCOTT, Manager. 539s

MONEY ADVANCED, in large and small sums in Town or Country, on Personal and Household Security, Farm Stock, Second Mortgages, Deeds, Life Policies, Building Society or any other Shares or Interest, repayable to suit borrowers' convenience, as may be arranged. Write or call on Agent, Mr. JAS. FROSDICK, Rose Mount, Consett, or direct to M. L. ROSENBERG, Cross House Chambers, 54, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (opposite Mr Angus, Coachbuilder.) Established 1860. 696½r

Wanted.

WANTED immediately, APPRENTICES to the Dressmaking.—Apply 13, Cort Street, Blackhill. 572s

WANTED, a few steady COAL-HEWERS for the opening out of a new colliery.—Apply to CHARLES DAVISON, Cornsay Colliery, Co Durham.

BOARD and RESIDENCE offered to Ladies and Gentlemen. A comfortable, quiet Home.—Mrs. J. PROUD, Derwent House, Shotley Bridge. 499s

WANTED, a steady, single MAN (in house) as Groom, Gardener, and to make himself generally useful. Reference required.—Apply to Mr. GEORGE HOBSON, Harperley Mills, via Lintz Green. 569s

REGISTRY OFFICE.

LADIES requiring Servants; also, Servants wanting Situations. — Apply at MRS. COCKBURN'S Registry, 13, Front Street, Consett. 149p

WANTED, at once, COOKS, HOUSEMAIDS, NURSEMAIDS, and good General SERVANTS.—Apply, Miss SCOTT'S Registry Office for Male and Female Servants, 3, Saville Row, Newcastle.

QUEENSLAND EMIGRATION.—A few Free Passages for Female Domestic Servants, and Assisted Passages for others, by "Otago," from Glasgow for Brisbane, on 24th January, 1884.—Apply at once to ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, the only Authorised Agent in the District. 500s

EMIGRATION TO QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

WANTED, 500 Female Domestic Servants, Farm Labourers (married or single). Coal Miners, and all classes of Mechanics. Immediate employment upon arrival, at high wages. Free and assisted passages granted by mail steamers every month.—Apply to Local Agents, J. DALY, 2, Shakespeare St., Consett; or J. HILLARY, Auctioneer, Tow Law

WANTED, Ladies requiring SERVANTS, Male or Female, also NURSES, INVALID NURSES, &c., and Servants good Situations, can be suited daily by applying to Miss PHELAN, Servants' Institute, 75, Clayton Street, Newcastle (formerly with the late Miss Leybourne). Hotels supplied from the Bar to the Kitchen.—Wanted, daily, Cooks, Kitchen and Scullery Maids, House and Kitchen Maids, Head and Under Laundresses, General Servants, &c., &c. 15s

FREE AND ASSISTED PASSAGES TO QUEENSLAND. Five thousand Domestic Servants, Farm Labourers, Miners, Mechanics, and good workmen of all kinds Wanted at once. Immediate employment obtained at highest wages.—Apply to THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION AGENCY (Chief Office for the District), 96, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD. Passages Booked to Canada, Texas, and all parts of America and Australia at exceedingly low rates. 453s

To Let.

TO LET, a TWO-STALLED STABLE, with HAY LOFT.—Apply to G. BROWN, Railway Hotel, Consett. 554s

TO LET, at February term, HOUSE and SHOP, with large Cellar and Stable, in Newmarket Street, Consett.—Apply to JOHN THURLOW POTTS.

TO LET, a Five-roomed HOUSE, in Durham Road, Leadgate.—Apply to Mr. M. MOYLE, Durham Road, Leadgate. 568s

CONSETT NEW TOWN HALL.

THE DIRECTORS of this Company are prepared to receive Applications and Offers for the SHOPS under the New Town Hall, which it is expected will be ready to be entered upon at the May term, 1884.

THOMAS WM. WELFORD, Jun., Sec., Consett.

Day of Letting extended in consequence of the Snow.

TO BE LET, and Entered to on the 13th May next, AIREYHOLME and BOLISHER FARM, in the Parish of Shotley, containing 212 acres, more or less, of excellent Pasture and Arable Land, at present in the occupation of Messrs. PEARSON.

Mr. GEO. WAUGH, Low Waskerley, will show the Farm, and offers in writing will be received by Mr. SAMPLE, Matfen, Newcastle-on-Tyne, up to and including Monday, the 31st December. 463s

For Sale.

ANOTHER large consignment of Irish POTATOES just arrived, and for SALE.—Apply to JOHN S. MURRAY, Benfieldside. 573s

FOR SALE, a good COW, close to calving.—Apply to JOHN DENNISON, 63, Princess Street, Consett. 570s

FOR SALE, a useful lot of excellent SEED HAY, 2s. 4d. per Truss.—Apply to JOHN SMITH, No. 4, Consett Brick Works Square. 562s

PIANOFORTE FOR SALE, on easy terms. Iron Frame, Seven Octaves, Trichord.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office. 520s

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

FOR SALE, RIDING SADDLES and BRIDLES HORSE CLOTHING, GIG APRONS CLIPPING MACHINES, and SINGING LAMPS.—THOMAS OWEN, 67, Side, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES FOR SALE, overlooking the proposed New Park, situate at Mount Pleasant, Consett.—Apply to Messrs. JOHN SMITH & SON, Shotley Bridge; or Mr. WILLIAM AYNSLEY, Middle Street, Consett. 451r

A GOOD PLAN.

£10 AND upwards judiciously invested in Options on Stock and Shares, often giving handsome profits in a few days. *Full details in Explanatory Book gratis and post free.*—Address GEORGE EVANS and Co., Stock-Brokers, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. Best and safest plan ever devised.

For Sale.

FOR SALE, an unlimited supply of PIANOFORTES, in Black and Gold, Walnut, and Rosewood Cases, by English and Foreign Makers, on our SPECIAL HIRE SYSTEM, from 50s. per quarter for three years, when the Instrument becomes the Property of the Hirer. Every Instrument warranted for seven years. HARMONIUMS from 10s. 6d. per month, on the same system.—DAWSON & Co., Pianoforte and Harmonium Warehouse, and Music Sellers, 1 and Saville Row, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 178r

Business Announcements.

REVELY AND KELL,
IMPORTERS OF
FOREIGN WINES AND SPIRITS.
WHOLESALE AND FAMILY MERCHANTS.
No. 7, COLLINGWOOD STREET, NEWCASTLE.

STANDARD LUBRICATING OIL CO.
1, DRAPERS GARDENS,
THROGMORTON STREET,
LONDON, E.C
IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF LUBRICATING OILS. 713r

EMIGRANTS! EMIGRANTS!!

EMIGRANTS Booked to and from all parts of AMERICA and CANADA, also to AUSTRALIA, at the most reasonable rates, compatible with accommodation. Recent Pamphlets on Canada and its Prospects free on receipt of stamp for postage.
JOSEPH WETHERALL, Emigration Agent, Oxhill, Chester-le-Street, Durham. 326r

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY
ESTABLISHMENTS,
59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 16, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

AGENT FOR DIPTON:—MR. THOMAS CLARK, SOUTH MEDOMSLEY COTTAGES.

MESSRS. FEGAN AND MURRAY,
AUCTIONEERS,
DERWENT STREET AND TINMILL PLACE, BLACKHILL,

RESPECTFULLY announce that they have commenced Business as above, and as they intend to conduct their Business in a straightforward manner and at Moderate Terms, they hope to secure a share of public patronage.

All Orders left at either Address will be promptly attended to. 697q

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY
First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

THE SHORTEST AND BEST ROUTE TO THE WEST.

Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO., 17 and 19, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, via Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 833p

FURNITURE AND HARDWARE SOLD UPON THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM.

DISCOUNT 2s. IN THE POUND FOR CASH ONLY

WILLIAM WILKINSON,
CATCHGATE,

BEGS to inform his friends that owing to the great increase of business he has had to take the whole of his premises to meet the demands of his customers, and is now prepared with a well selected Stock of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, in all its Branches. Also, HARDWARE, GLASS, CHINA, CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY. WEDDING RINGS from the best makers—Wholesale and Retail.

Agent for the New Patent Table Wringing and Mangling Machine, Hickman and Claris Coffin Furniture, and Patent Horse Nails. 371r

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.
BURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT PICKS and SHAFTS.
Licensed Dealer in SPORTING and BLASTING POWDER.

T. C. CAMPBELL,
SURGEON DENTIST,
8, GRAINGER STREET,
(4 Doors from Bigg Market)
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH!

With all the latest Improvements, of Superior Workmanship, and made of the Best Materials. Life-like in Appearance, &c.

PERFECTLY FITTED TO THE MOUTH, WITHOUT EXTRACTION OF STUMPS.

EVERY CASE WARRANTED FOR FIVE YEARS

FROM 4s. TO 10s. PER TOOTH. PARTIAL SETS, FROM 3s. PER TOOTH, UPWARDS.

COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SETS, FROM £1 10s. TO £4 10s.

TEETH STOPPED, FROM 2s. TO 5s.
TEETH EXTRACTED, 1s.
TEETH PAINLESSLY EXTRACTED BY NITROUS OXIDE GAS, 5s.

Teeth Scaled, Cleaned, &c.
Children's Teeth Regulated.
Deformities of the Mouth Treated.

ALL OPERATIONS SKILFULLY PERFORMED.

ALL CHARGES STRICTLY MODERATE.

Patients may be attended at their own homes by appointment, by letter or otherwise. Wherever possible, Railway Fare will be allowed to patients from the Country. 720s

Business Announcements.

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!!

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,
THE RENOWNED TEA DEALER,

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

W. A. wishes to draw the attention of the Public in general to his

LARGE STOCK JUST RECEIVED FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

Which includes A LARGE VARIETY OF PICKLED GOODS.

NAMELY:—Salmon, Lobster, Rabbit, Sardines, Roast Beef, Corned Beef, Brawn, Libby's Lunch Tongues, McCall's Paysanden Ox Tongues, Chicken, Ham and Tongues, Sausage.

A LARGE ARRIVAL OF THE FINEST INDIAN TEAS!

FRENCH COFFEE IN ONE POUND AND HALF-POUND TINS!

CURRANTS AND RAISINS—SULTANAS AND MUSCATELS. FIGS AND PRUNES.

CROSSE and BLACKWELL'S JAMS, JELLIES, SAUCES, and PICKLES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF.

HUNTLEY and PALMER'S FANCY BISCUITS OF ALL KINDS AND QUALITIES.

Also, a LARGE STOCK OF CHRISTMAS LOAVES, from ½lb. to 4lbs.

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

SPECIAL KINDS OF FLOURS—HUNGARIAN, WHITE FROST, SUNSHINE, SEMOLINA.

McDOUGALL'S SELF-RAISING FLOUR, IN 3lb. BAGS.

HOME FED HAMS AND BACON. Wiltshire SMOKED HAMS. Finest KIEL BUTTER, in 14lb. Tins.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY refrains from quoting prices. Only a visit to his Establishment will be sufficient to convince the public how just is the remark made—that he is not only the Cheapest Grocer in the District, but in the North of England.

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

"ONE OF THE BEST OF ALL ALCOHOLIC STIMULANTS."
"BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL" ON WHISKY

The under-mentioned "Castle Grand" Whiskies have been selected from W & A Gilbey's Stock of 10,000 Butts, as the choicest specimens of old Scotch and Irish Whiskies.

SPECIMEN SEALS

	Bottle	Dozen
"Castle GRAND" SCOTCH WHISKY — Fine Highland Malt Whisky—Very old — 10 *per cent under proof*	3/6	42/
"Castle GRAND" IRISH WHISKY — Fine Dublin Malt Whisky—Very old — 10 *per cent under proof*	3/6	42/

Each Bottle should bear W & A Gilbey's Gold Label and Capsule with Patent Seal on Cork as in margin, and Signature on side of Cork thus—W & A Gilbey

TO BE OBTAINED FROM W & A GILBEY'S AGENTS IN EVERY TOWN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

WINES & SPIRITS FOR THE PRESENT SEASON

Selected from W & A Gilbey's List of 258 varieties, representing the largest finest and best matured Stock in the world.

The purity of every article is guaranteed under Act 38 & 39 Vict., Cap. 63. Consumers will recognise in this Act a means of verifying the guarantee W & A Gilbey have always given of the purity and genuineness of all WINES and SPIRITS bearing their seals and labels.

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

WINES

	Bottle	Dozen
PORT Castle A *from Portugal* fruity Wine, well matured — An excellent 5 years old	2/	24/
PORT Castle B *from Portugal* flavored fruity Wine — A fine full-8 years old	2/4	28/
SPANISH PORT Castle 1 *from Spain* A fruity Wine of good body — 2 years old	1/3	15/
SPANISH PORT Castle 4 *from Spain* The finest old Red Wine produced — 10 years old	1/10	22/
SHERRY Castle SPANISH *from Spain* A good Spanish Wine — 2 years old	1/3	15/
SHERRY Castle C *Pale from Spain* An excellent type of dry Sherry — 6 years old	2/4	28/
MARSALA Castle VP *Pale from Sicily* A delicate dinner Wine — 3 years old	1/4	16/
MARSALA Castle C *Pale from Sicily* The finest Marsala imported — 7 years old	1/8	20/
CLARET Castle A *from France* A good sound Beverage Wine — 6 months in bottle	1/	12/
CLARET Castle C *from France* A superior Médoc Wine — 18 months in bottle	1/6	18/
SAUMUR Castle *Silver Foil* A Sparkling dry Champagne	2/1	25/
SAUMUR Castle *Gold Foil* A choice Wine of the District	2/6	30/
CHAMPAGNE Castle 1 A good Sparkling Wine for ordinary use	2/2	26/
CHAMPAGNE Castle 3A A high-class delicate Champagne	3/6	42/

SPIRITS

	Bottle	Dozen
GIN Castle UP Gilbey's Distillery — Highly rectified at W & A 33 per cent. under proof	2/	24/
GIN Castle PROOF Gilbey's Distillery — Highly rectified at W & A Strength, proof	2/10	34/
IRISH WHISKY Castle UP Dublin Whisky — Fine 33 per cent. under proof	2/3	27/
IRISH WHISKY Castle PROOF Dublin Whisky — Fine Strength, proof	3/	36/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle UP Scotch Malt Whisky — Fine 33 under proof	2/3	27/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle PROOF Scotch Malt Whisky — Fine Strength, proof	3/	36/
BRANDY Castle UP Possessing the wholesome qualities of Cognac — 33 under proof	2/6	30/
BRANDY Castle PROOF Possessing the wholesome qualities of Cognac — Strength, proof	3/6	42/
COGNAC Brandy Castle D — A fine old Cognac 33 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/
COGNAC Brandy Castle F — A very fine old Cognac Strength, proof	4/6	54/
JAMAICA RUM Castle UP Jamaica Rum — A fine 33 per cent. under proof	2/3	27/
JAMAICA RUM Castle PROOF Jamaica Rum — A fine Strength, proof	3/	36/
HOLLANDS from Rye Castle 1 — Distilled in Holland 14 per cent. under proof	2/4	28/
HOLLANDS *(Silver Stream)* Geneva. Bottled abroad. — The finest 14 under proof	2/6	30/

All Bottles (except for Sparkling Wines) are charged 1d. each, which is allowed when returned.

AGENT—

W. AYNSLEY, *Grocer*, CONSETT & LEADGATE

ECONOMY IN ALES. OCTOBER BREWINGS.

NINE-GALLON CASKS.—CASH PRICES.

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

BOTTLED ALES AND STOUT.—PER DOZEN.

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

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

BRITISH WINES.—PER BOTTLE.

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

GOODS DELIVERED DAILY TO ANY PART OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, AND FRONT STREET, LEADGATE. 491e

Business Announcements.

FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, AND PLATE GLASS INSURANCE.

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

Note the Address:—ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. Dealer in Steamship Shares. 782q

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. 660a

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

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.

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

All Business promptly and carefully attended to.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

J. McINTOSH,
(Cutter for the late Mr. T. S. Atkinson, of Consett),

HAS REMOVED his Business to JESSAMINE COTTAGE, BENFIELDSIDE EDGE ROAD, BLACKHILL,

ALL ORDERS WILL RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

BOTANY! BOTANY!! BOTANY!!!

BRITISH AND FOREIGN HERBS, ROOTS, AND BARKS,
MAY BE OBTAINED OF
T. HUDSPITH,
MEDICAL HERBALIST,
BOTANIC DISPENSARY, BLACKHILL.

AGENT for W. BUTCHER & Co.'s HOMŒOPATHIC PREPARATIONS; also, Prof. O. P. BROWN'S HERBAL REMEDIES. 268r
Orders by Post promptly attended Trade Supplied.

THE AUCKLAND UNION
PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1857.
Offices—56, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland.

THE Directors are prepared to ADVANCE MONEY on approved securities. The payments may spread over 16 years, or any less number, to suit the means of borrowers.

INVESTING SHARES may be entered at any time, and withdrawn, if required, at a month's notice.

PROFITS are divided every three years.

The Interest and Profits paid to members on Completed Shares has averaged 6¼ per cent. per annum.

Any further particulars may be obtained of Mr. GEO. STILLMAN, 56, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland; or Mr. WILLIAM ELLIOTT, 5, Mount Pleasant, Consett.

HUGHES & CO.'S
PHARMACY,
(From Hooper & Co.'s., London),
(LATE CURRY)
OPPOSITE THE NEW TOWN HALL.

PURE CHEMICALS OF ALL KINDS IN STOCK.

A VARIETY OF OTHER ARTICLES USUALLY SOLD BY CHEMISTS & DRUGGISTS.

GENUINE PATENT MEDICINES.

HUGHES' BALSAM OF HONEY. An invaluable remedy for Coughs and Colds, especially for Children.

QUININE and Iron Tonic, in Bottles, 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. 6d. Curry's Celebrated Stomach and Liver Pills. Hughes' Rheumatic, Cough, and Neuralgic Pills. Savory and Moore, Ridges, and Neave's Food for Infants. Liebig's Cocoa and Extract of Beef. Kepler's & Hoff's Malt Extract. Hop, Dandelion and Mandrake Bitters, in 1s. and 2s. Bottles, a most efficacious remedy for Dypepsia in its varied forms.

EUPHORBIA PILULIFERA the Great Australian Specific for Asthma and Chronic Bronchitis.

Congreve's Preparations for Consumption and all Chest Disorders.

SPECTACLES IN A GREAT VARIETY.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

ALL KINDS OF HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES KEPT IN STOCK.

ALTERATIVE POWDERS FOR HORSES.

CATTLE DRINKS, &c.
OILS, PAINTS, AND COLOURS.

ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

VIDE ADDRESS—
HUGHES & CO.,
54, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

COOKE'S NEW DRAPERY
ESTABLISHMENT,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THE Shop beside the railway gates
Has opened been by C. F. COOKE;
So do not any longer wait
But go at once and take a look.
At all the goods therein displayed,
In quality—both rich and rare—
And this much may at least be said,—
Minute inspection they will bear.
Examine well, the prices note,
The quality then criticise;
Mark well the easy fitting Coat,
The Shirts, and Collars, Cuffs, and Ties.
COOKE'S Suits are noted near and far,
A ready sale they must command,
For neatness, elegance, and wear,
They are renowned throughout the land.
Some hundreds have been sold, and still
Their sale increases day by day,
For suits like these they must, and will,
In public favour make their way.
If then you want a useful Suit
Or Drapery of any kind;
Go to COOKE'S shop and I've no doubt
Full satisfaction you will find.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28TH, 1883.

1883

In the run of time there will happen years which have had no flaw in them; years of prosperity and peace, when crops were abundant, trade brisk, and contentment general. If the year we are now leaving behind us is not to be classed in this category, it is one which has exhibited fewer spots than many of its predecessors. It was essentially a quiet year. There were no exciting wars or rumours of wars. Trade improved, though not by leaps and bounds. Politics were unsensational, but a few useful measures were passed. The season so far as agriculture was concerned was propitious, though the corn crop was, after all, little above the average. Throughout, however, the prospect was bright, and it was felt that the end of a long and weary ordeal was at length reached. With a nation such as ours prosperity depends on a variety of causes. There must be peace; but even this would be insufficient without kindly skies. There must be useful legislation; but this would not avail if trade were bad. Circumstances seemed to combine during the past year for the general well-doing; so that at the end nearly every section of the community can indulge in congratulation. A veteran statesman still presides over our political destinies, and controls Parliament with wisdom and success. Mr GLADSTONE can look back on last year's doings with a considerable degree of pleasure, since the greater part of what was attempted was carried through, and the efforts of the Government were not frustrated as they were in preceding sessions. His institution of the Grand Committees was in all respects successful, and doubts and suspicions are already dispelled with regard to the *imperium in imperio* which seemed at first to be out of harmony with Parliamentary traditions. To it we owe two very important measures—the new Bankruptcy Act and the Corrupt Practices Act, the first of which is likely to purify the atmosphere of trade, and—what is almost as important—to insure integrity amongst officials. No better proof of the need of such an Act could have been afforded than the disappearance of numerous trustees as soon as the full meaning of the measure was understood. The other Act is likely to work as great a change in electoral procedure. At York and at Ipswich the old abuses dared not raise their heads, and the harpies who formerly worked such mischief found their occupation gone. Measures of a less extensive but hardly less beneficial nature were successfully passed, amongst them the payment of Wages in Public Houses Prohibition Bill, the measure for the improvement of sanitary regulations in Factories and Workshops, the Patents for Inventions Bill, and an Act for the benefit of the sea-faring population. These and many others sustained the character of Parliament for business capacity, and cleared the way for a campaign of greater importance in the session which is approaching. Our relationship with foreign Powers, with one exception, was most satisfactory. The exception, of course, was France, whose dealings with Madagascar caused some little friction, and whose action at Tonquin created considerable apprehension. Forbearance, however, on both sides prevented actual disagreement, and it is hoped that the larger venture in which France now finds herself engaged will not embroil us with either her or China. We have intimated that trade for the most part during the year was fairly prosperous. There were some industries which remained at a standstill, if they did not even recede. Taking things, however, on the whole, there was little to complain of, and not a little to encourage. The greatest stain on our national escutcheon at the present moment is the condition of the poor in the crowded districts of our large towns. Recent revelations have been sufficiently startling to induce prominent statesmen of both parties to look into the subject with the view to legislative action, and it is likely now that the worst is known that some decisive effort will be made to remove these plagues spot from our midst. It affords a wide field for action, and it would be well if the whole energies of our legislators could be concentrated on this crying need. There is, however, before Parliament and the country a campaign for next session of quite a stupendous character, and, remembering the slow pace at which legislation as a rule proceeds, we can scarcely contemplate without misgiving the task immediately at hand. There must be forbearance exercised on all sides, if success is to be the result, and we trust it will be manifested. Only by such a virtue can the coming year be rendered either prosperous or happy either in the case of nations or individuals. It need not be pointed out how grievously Society would suffer if politeness, forbearance, and sacrifices of various kinds were not continually exhibited. May we all bear the fact in mind when we wish each other, as we now wish our readers, A Happy New Year!

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

We shall soon have done with the old date, and 1883, with all its joys and all its troubles, will have become a mere reminiscence. A formal change in the calendar is not much to be sentimental about. Dates are but labels to the pigeon-holes of memory. Yet we are so much the creatures of association, and the least imaginative amongst us are so far under the spell of imagination, that we cannot part from an "old" year—or enter upon a "new" one without some serious feelings. The change is, at any rate, an invitation to reflection upon the past and to forecast of the future. It is well if the reflection is unmixed with remorse, and the forecast devoid of foreboding. May age be able to look back on by gone years for consolation, and may youth look forward with hope, its glorious prerogative; and to one and all of us may a "Happy New Year" be granted! And, after all, why should we elder ones leave hope to youth? Let us dream our dreams like them of a golden future. Let us have our picture, too, of difficulties removed and triumphs achieved; and if we paint in more sober hues, see less gorgeous visions, on imaginations will be perhaps none the less soothing, and will certainly be more likely to be realized. With the old year we may at least bury some of our animosities and get rid of some of our worries; and correct—for it is never too late to mend—some of our faults. We may abandon regrets and possibly lighten our burden by throwing overboard some of our ambitions. And if we have little but care and disappointment to look back upon, and hope his hard, if not impossible, to cultivate, the waning year may yet whisper a lesson of Resignation. And we might be armed for the New Year's conflict with a less effective shield than that.

In speculating on the New Year's political programme, there are not probably many people who have the sanguine faith of Sir Charles Dilke, who proposes in the most buoyant manner to settle out of hand vast questions which other public men would be pleased to think could be accomplished in four or five sessions. To listen to Sir Charles there might be no such thing as obstruction; no such thing even as an Opposition, to say nothing of a Whig section in the Cabinet. This is all very well, standing by the side of Mr Chamberlain and exhilarated by the enthusiasm of a Birmingham Liberalism. But long experience tells a different tale of the progress of great reforms—Mr Parnell is not likely to be more reticent in Parliament or to make the path of the Government more pleasant after achieving his greatest triumph and pocketing £30,000 as a reward for persistently disturbing the serenity of Sir Charles Dilke's colleagues. Less dazzling in his promises than the President of the Local Government Board, but more sensible and useful in his advice, is Mr Bright. The late speeches of the veteran orator and politician have a peculiar charm. There is a fine flavour of the benignity and calm of age about his recent addresses. As though weary of too much strife, he recommends workmen to have respect for capital, and Radicals to have regard for the "old lines of the Constitution." He urges moderation on all sides, and even has a hopeful word to say about the House of Lords, much as a Puritan divine entertained some hope of the ultimate restoration to grace of the devil. John Bright, the People's Tribune, may yet become a kind of St. John in politics—a venerable apostle of universal charity.

Some pray and preach in the New Year; some dance and drink in it; and some, not the most foolish of all, dream it in. This is the special privilege of a happy childhood. To their young dreams the New Year comes as to Cinderella, a prince in coach and six, the coach all glass and the fur slipper all glass too. This is the happiest form of all to dream in the New Year, and if we could all do so with a safe conscience we should deserve the happy New Year which permit me, Mr Editor, to wish you and your Readers, and so Cinderellism might be the religion of the future.

A Merry New Year is not exactly what we could wish the old City Companies after the Report of the Commission which has been sitting on them since 1880 has begun to leak out. The *Standard*, of all papers, was one of the first to comment on the decision of the Commissioners, and to comment in a sense unfavorable to these Guilds. Guzzling and gormandizing were Abernethy's two deadly sins, and I suppose the biscuit which bears the name of this Aberdeen Æsculapins was a kind of Lenten fare for those who had feasted too highly. I have not heard yet whether a dietary scale has been ordered for these Guilds; but if so I should say it will be oi the toast-and-water order in future.

The Government have been too sanguine in looking forward to a session free from the worry of foreign difficulties. It seems only too sadly probable that Egyptian affairs w'll force themselves upon the attention of Parliament for some time to come. It seems now to be very generally feared that we are only at the beginning of our Egyptian troubles. It would surprise no one if Baker Pasha and his horde of incapables were to meet with the same fate as Hicks and his wretched "army." The natives of Egypt are represented by Correspondents as ready to throw themslves into the arms of the Mahdi. We shall perhaps have a second and more powerful Arabi to contend against. We cannot now withdraw, however much we may wish it. We have undertaken a heavy responsibility, and Europe will hold us to our bargain. Unless very unexpected news arrives soon from the Soudan, the British troops in Egypt will have to be reinforced, and the most peaceful of Governments will find itself once more at war.

It is rich litigants who make the law, or, what is the same thing, give the Judges the opportunity of making it It is said that there is one law alike for rich and poor; but it is only extremely wealthy people that can afford to indulge in the numerous appeals which the English judicial system allows. Ordinary people have to be content as a rule with the opinion of Courts of first instance. It is Railway Companies and other wealthy corporations generally that go to the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords. The great wealth of Sir John Lawes enables his son to contest his great Libel case with similar determination. The compromise suggested by the Divisional Court has been objected to and indeed summarily declined by Mr Charles Russell on behalf of the defendent in Belt *v.* Lawes, and consequently the Rule for a new trial is refused by the Divisional Court. The defendant will appeal at once, and in a few week's time there will be a renewal of the wrangle of which the public is already tired. A new interest, however, now attaches to the case. The question for the Appeal Court will be practically whether the Lord Chief Justice is right or wrong in the assertion that the evidence of experts upon the question of artistic merit is not a question of opinion but of fact.

We Londoners are, as it is often remarked, a long-suffering community. We endure bad water, fogs, bad gas, floods, heavy rates, vestry government, watery milk, dirty bakeries, adulterated food, and Billingsgate Market as well as Billingsgate language. But there is one thing that we make a stand against. We are resolved to allow no inroads upon our Parks and open spaces. Let these be interfered with or even remotely threatened, and it is easy to get up a powerful agitation at once. The proposed extension of the Underground Railway under Hyde Park is bitterly opposed. Mr Perks, the solicitor to the Company, endeavoured to explain to the public that no harm will be done. But in the case of Perks *v.* the *Parks* the judgment of the Court of general opinion is on the side of the Parks. The shopkeepers in Edgware Road and Knightsbridge are against the new line on personal as well as general grounds. They contend that if it is opened, their customers will travel by it to the Army and Navy Stores at Westminster. If this feeling is so strong in this particular region, it is plain that there is a fine opening for some new Stores in the neighbourhood. I am afraid the day is gone when such an argument would have any weight with a Parliamentary Committee.

At last there is a peal of bells which are musical and chimes which do not give forth a gruff cracked note like that unfortunate Big Ben of Westminster. Messrs Gillett, of Croydon, have redeemed their promise by casting the bells for the clock of the Law Courts to such a perfect pitch that it will no longer be necessary to go to Belgium for a peal of bells, as the experts only a few months ago said was the case. It is a pleasure to stand under the great clock, and hear a great shock of sound such as the bells of Coventry pealed forth when Lady Godiva stole home at noon.

The Life of Lord Lytton, which is deservedly the most popular biography of the hour, adds confirmation to the report which was current in the great novelist's lifetime, that he was not only a student of but also a believer in Astrology. According to his son, he cast the nativity of Disraeli during their early friendship, and the predictions based upon the horoscope of the young Jew novelist all, or nearly all, came true. I have heard on good authority of others besides Bulwer Lytton, who even in this enlightened age entertain at least half-faith in the occult science of the stars. I believe there are still searchers after the Philosopher's Stone and the Elixir of Life, and that not in the far East, but in Europe and in England.

The Financial Reform Almanack for 1884 is out, and it is a document which no fiscal reformer or politician on the Liberal side of the House can afford to be without. It is drawn up with great care, and among the new features of this year are (1) an analysis and condensation of results from the Irish Land Commission with an exposure of the more salient instances of landlord oppression there rectified; (2) a pension list of all the public money paid to titled persons for sinecure services or hereditary pensions which are not yet commuted; and (3) an exposure of the costs resulting from the Bank Charter Act of 1844, and the results of this monopoly on the free extension of credit facilities. As a whole no such shilling's worth of statistics has yet appeared.

LANCHESTER RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The monthly meeting was held at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. There were present Messrs W. Logan, R. W. Shaw, Jas. Fairley, N. Clark, George Hobson, T. Pringle, W. Cumming, J. Eltringham, Mr W. H. Ritson (clerk), and Mr J. W. Rounthwaite (inspector).

THE DIPTON SEWERAGE SCHEME.

The Sanitary Inspector produced a plan he had prepared, showing the method of disposing of the sewerage at Dipton by means of settling tanks, which was approved; and the Inspector was directed to advertise for tenders for carrying out the work, the same to be laid before the Authority that day month.

Mr LOGAN explained that no definite arrangements had been made with the Messrs Armstrong as to the area of land to be taken on lease.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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

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

GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with your instructions a modified notice was served on the agent of the Rock Building Society on the 27th October, with respect to the property at Blackhall Mill, but it has only been complied with so far as relates to the repairing of the ashpit; the same rough stone channel without any proper trapped outlet is still the only means of drainage for the five houses.

Thomas Forster has occupied a new house at Langley Park without having a proper supply of water thereto, contrary to his undertaking given when the plan was approved by the Authority, and contrary to the 6th section of the 1878 Water Act, whereby he has incurred a penalty of not exceeding ten pounds.

As directed at your last meeting, the new houses at Craghead Colliery were again visited on the 7th inst., but no sewage drains had then been put in.

The cases of Brown and Donnolly were again before the magistrates on the 3rd December, when, after being fully gone into, they were further adjourned to the 14th January, in order to give the defendants time to make certain alterations to their houses, so as to comply as far as possible with the bye-laws which have been disregarded.

My attention having been called to certain premises at Ushaw Moor Colliery used as a day school, I visited the place on the 6th inst., and ascertained that there were 75 children present out of 92 on the books, occupying a room, the total capacity of which is 4,149 cubic feet, giving for each child present a breathing space of only 55 cubic feet, being about one-half the ordinary requirement in elementary schools.

Notice was served on G. A. Wherley on the 16th October, to clear out the drains behind his property, at Square House Cottages, within four days. On visiting the place on the 15th the drains were still stopped up. The premises were also in an unsanitary condition in other respects, with reference to which a further notice was served yesterday.

Nuisance notices served during the month	15
Letters written with respect to nuisances	53
Plan approval notices sent out	7
Plans received and examined	7
Habitation certificates sent out	3
Villages, hamlets, &c. inspected	62

The following new building is completed and fit for habitation:—

466. Joseph S. Hewison, two houses, at Greeland.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
J. WM. ROUNTHWAITE.

Lanchester, 20th December, 1883.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

December 20th, 1883.

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

491. James Joicey and Co., additions to the Plough Inn, at Mountsett.
497. G. Wilson, stable, at Dipton.
498. John Oxley, additions to house, at Catchgate.
499. Joseph Henderson, pigstye, at Shield Row.
500. Annfield Plain Co-operative Society, stable, at Annfield Plain.
501. George Hobson, landing stage, at Catchgate.
502. Annfield Plain Co-operative Society, wash-house, at Langley Park.

It was agreed to summons Thomas Forster (an ex-policeman), who had occupied a new house at Langley Park without first obtaining a habitation certificate, and not providing a proper supply of water, contrary to his promise when the plan of his dwelling was passed.

It was decided to again call the attention of the agent of the Rock Building Society to the requirements of the notice served on him in respect of property at Blackhill Mill before taking further proceedings in the matter.

Ultimately, the matter was left with the understanding that Mr Fairley would have the drains put in as soon as the weather would allow.

THE DRAINAGE OF CRAGHEAD.

With respect to the item in the foregoing report, that no drains had been laid down to about fourteen new houses at Craghead, the property of Messrs Hedley Brothers, Mr FAIRLEY (as the manager for the Messrs Hedley) said he intended to put in the minor drains as soon as the weather would permit, but he never promised to lay down the main drains, as he expected the Inspector was preparing plans for a new scheme for disposing of the sewage, in order to remedy the nuisance caused by the alleged pollution of the Stanley Burn, by the sewage from Craghead. If the record of the minutes stated that he promised to lay in the main drains, it was incorrect, as he never said so.

The Clerk pointed out that Mr Fairley should have raised that objection before the minutes were signed. It would be useless laying down the minor drains, without putting in a main drain to carry the stuff away.

Mr FAIRLEY replied that he could not see the utility of running the sewage matter into Mr Fenwick's field. It was only adding fuel to the fire. The drains he agreed to lay in were the gulley-traps and the small drains to the houses. It was for that Authority to provide proper main drains.

The Inspector explained that the Authority only undertook to provide an outlet to pick up the whole of the sewage at the ends of the rows of the houses of the Messrs Hedley.

Mr FAIRLEY observed that the sanitary condition of Craghead could not be in a worse state than it was at present. During the past twelve months there had been more cases of deaths from infection and disease than at any period during the past twenty years.

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr Fairley ought to put in the drains according to promise.

Mr LOGAN and other members declared that Mr Fairley made a distinct promise to put in the drains as indicated in the plan.

Mr FAIRLEY said he would not advise the owners to do so at present. If the drains were laid along the different rows, now that there was no outlet, the village would be in a much worse state than it was at present.

The CHAIRMAN: But these drains were indicated on the plan we passed.

Mr FAIRLEY: Yes, but the question of disposing of the sewerage has cropped up since then.

The Inspector said this was quite correct, but that was no reason why the Messrs Hedley should not carry out the plan as adopted in its entirety, and leave the Authority to deal with the question as to how the sewage shall be disposed of. It would be their duty at some future time to lay in the main drains, as the Messrs Hedley intended to build 400 houses at Craghead.

Mr ELTRINGHAM considered it was the duty of the Authority to lay down the main drains. It was unreasonable to call upon private individuals to put in certain drains, with the intention of pulling them up as soon as a new sewerage scheme had been determined upon.

Mr FAIRLEY pointed out that there was nearly 100 houses now in course of erection at Craghead.

Mr HOBSON agreed with Mr Fairley that it was nonsense to provide drains if there was no outlet for the disposal of the sewage.

Mr LOGAN remarked that the time had not arrived when it was the duty of the Authority to put in all the drains. It was not for them to make drains for houses that were to be built in the future.

After the matter had been thoroughly discussed Mr FAIRLEY undertook to put in the drains as shewn on the plans approved by the Authority.

THE OVERCROWDED SCHOOL AT USHAW MOOR.

Concerning the overcrowded state of the School-room at Ushaw Moor, Mr LOGAN explained that Dr Lee, vicar of Esh, had been requested to open this building as a school, by the colliery owner (Mr H. Chaytor), in consequence of the Roman Catholic Schools being closed, as they were used as a sort of refuge for the wives of the workmen during the protracted strike at Ushaw Moor. The attention of the Education Department was called time after time to the fact of these schools being closed, but for some reason or other no action had been taken in the matter. Lately, however, these schools had been re-opened, and he could not say whether there was any necessity for keeping on the private school. The scheme was not paying for the working expenses, and no grant was received from the Government. He believed Dr. Lee would be happy to get these schools off his hands.

It was decided to draw the attention of Dr. Lee to the overcrowded state of the school.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The following are the monthly reports from the Union Medical Officers:—

Medomsley District

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

GENTLEMEN,—I am happy to say that no fresh cases of scarlet fever have come under my notice at Waskerley Park. The school after having been closed for three weeks has been well cleaned and disinfectants freely used in it, as well as in all the drains. The ashpits, &c., have also been cleaned and all refuse removed.

Medomsley and Ebchester district continues in a good sanitary condition, and free from zymotic disease.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Dec. 19th, 1883. W. T. BOLTON.

Eastern District.

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

GENTLEMEN,—The following cases of zymotic diseases have been notified to me during the month, viz., 7 of scarlatina at Stanley, 3 at Annfield Plain, and 1 at Kyo; 2 of enteric fever at Tanfield Lea, and 1 of diphtheria at the same place.

I stated in my last report that scarlatina has been epidemic in the district for many months It still continues cropping up in different places; and in most instances, without its source being traceable.

With regard to enteric fever cases I am utterly at a loss to account for the origin of the disease. The patients (who reside near each other and were attacked simultaneously) can give me no satisfactory information; and nothing either in their dwelling-houses or surroundings was likely to have given rise to it.

The cases of diptheria was an importation; so far, no one else has got it.

The mortality for the month is about the average, the deaths registered were 30, being equal to an annual ratio of 21·43 per 1,000.

Infectious diseases caused two deaths, viz., diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 1.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

T. BENSON, Medical Officer.

Dec. 18th, 1883.

Lanchester District.

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

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—Since my last report the following are the fresh cases of catching diseases in this district:—Four cases of measles at Langley Park; eight cases of measles, and four cases of scarlet fever at Cornsay Colliery; one case of scarlet fever at Square House Cottages; two at Greencroft Cottages, and one at Espgreen.—I am, Mr Chairman and gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON.

Dec. 20th, 1883.

The reports were adopted.

Mr John Waggott, secretary to the Hedley Hill Lodge of the Durham Miners' Association, wrote to the Board, complaining that the workmen residing on the Cornsay side had no place to keep their coals except in their dwelling-houses; and, moreover, in summer time, there was an insufficient supply of water. Mr W. Crawford, secretary of the Durham Miners' Association, had requested the workmen to see if they could get this state of things remedied, and he trusted the Authority would take action in the matter which affected 360 miners.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that they should leave the question in the hands of Mr Crawford. (Laughter).

The Inspector explained that the water might be slightly affected in the summer months, but the supply was all right at present.

It was decided to let the matter stand over.

THE ALLEGED NUISANCE AT WEST STANLEY.

A letter was read from Mr Johnson, manager from Mr J. H. Burn, owner of the West Stanley Colliery, who wrote denying that the drain from the Gas Works was in any way connected with Mr Forster's sewer. He hoped, however, that when Mr Rounthwaite next visited the Gas Works, he would kindly send him word, as he would probably like to have something to say to that gentleman.

It was considered to be impracticable to adopt this course.

This was all the business transacted.

HEALEYFIELD AND ROWLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of this body was held in the School-room, Castleside, on Monday afternoon, under the presidency of the chairman, Mr T. J. Muse. There were also present—Messrs R. Walton, J. Milner, and H. Lee, besides the clerk (Mr R. Ward).

The minutes of last meeting, and also of a special meeting held on the 15th inst., were read, and after confirmation, were signed by the Chairman.

MR ROBSON'S SUCCESSOR.

The CHAIRMAN said it was their duty that day, seeing that Mr Robson could no find his way clear to withdraw his resignation as a member of the Board, to nominate his successor. There were two gentlemen eligible for the office who had been on the Board previously—he referred to Mr Elliott Leybourne and Mr J. W. Scott. However, seeing at the election, Mr Leybourne gained more public favour than Mr Scott by being higher in the poll, and also being Mr Scott's senior, he thought Mr Leybourne had a prior claim to fill the vacant seat. Besides, all the religious sects but the Baptists were represented on the Board, and if they gave Mr Leybourne the seat that body would also be represented, he being a Baptist. He, therefore, had much pleasure in nominating Mr Leybourne as the successor of Mr Robson.

Mr WALTON said there was no doubt Mr Scott was an excellent candidate for the post; but under the circumstances mentioned by the Chairman, he most assuredly thought Mr Leybourne had a prior claim to the seat.

Mr LEE begged to second the nomination, which was carried without opposition.

THE PROJECTED ENLARGEMENT.

At last meeting plans, specifications, &c., in connection with the proposed enlargement of the schools were forwarded to the Education Department, asking their approval of the same. These were subsequently returned fully approved of by the Department, and recommended the Board to ask the Loan Commissioners for a loan of £784 in order to make the necessary alterations. The Board, at the special meeting, instructed the Clerk to write the Loan Commissioners as suggested, asking for a reply at the next meeting of the Board. A reply came to hand, which the Chairman read, enclosing a form of queries to be answered by the Board, and also stating that the percentage on the loan would be 3½ per annum for 20 years, and from that to 30 years, it would be 3¾ per cent.

The Clerk was instructed to fill up the form sent by the Loan Commissioners, and return it to them.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

The following statistics for the past month were submitted by the master (Mr Duckworth):—

Number on Roll	201
Average in attendance	164
Percentage on attendance	82
Average for quarter	174

Cash banked £10.

THE LATE EXAMINATION.

The CHAIRMAN read the report of H.M. Inspector of Schools on the examination held at the schools some time ago, which was, on the whole, a very good one, the children having passed most successfully. The Government grant amounted to £137 12s, or equal to 17s 10½d per child. He (the chairman) thought the children had passed very creditably, seeing that under the New Code the examinations were so much more difficult than previous years. It was also pleasing to perceive that the teachers had been very assiduous in their duties, which was signally proved by the grant being £8 more than last year. It also confirmed an opinion of his which he had expressed often, and that was, if the people would see to sending their children more regularly to school, there would be better passes, better grant, and, consequently, not so many rates.

Mr Duckworth said he wished they could abolish the absurd idea which prevailed among the people, that it did not matter greatly about the children attending school immediately after the examination, as that was the very time they pushed the teaching for the next examination, and it was quite urgent that the parents should be acquainted with this fact, as the attendance had gone down considerably since then.

The CHAIRMAN said that after the Christmas holidays, instructions would be given to the attendance officer (Mr J. Proud) to see that the matter be properly looked after.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT-MASTER.

The CHAIRMAN said that one of their pupil teachers—John W. Golightly—had completed his apprenticeship, and it was then their duty to say whether they would employ him as an assistant-master or not. He had, he might say, ever been a faithful and industrious teacher, of a stainless character, and most worthily served his apprenticeship without ever having a fault found against him. He thought Mr Golightly would suit their requirements admirably, and suggested that they engage him as assistant-master.

After a little deliberation, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr MILNER, seconded by Mr LEE, to engage Mr Golightly as assistant-master, at the salary of £40 per annum.

This offer was accepted by Mr Golightly.

NEW RATE.

The Clerk said that a new rate of 3d in the pound would have to be levied for the ensuing quarter.

On the motion of Mr LEE, seconded by Mr WALTON, the Clerk was instructed to make out a rate, and issue the same.

After signing the cheques, the Board adjourned.

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

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 Stamps by the maker E. T. TOWLE, Chemist, Nottingham.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B41 PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional), Gravel, and Pains in the back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s 6d each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address for sixty stamps by the Makers, THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln. Wholesale Agents, BARCLAY & SONS, London, and all the Wholesale Houses.

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

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

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

Christmas Festivities.

Christmas this year has passed away without any special feature likely to distinguish it any way from its immediate predecessors. The general outlook betrays no sign of any beyond the usual characteristics, either meteorological, social, commercial, or religious. Touching the Christmas season in its meteorologicol aspect, much has been said and written about what Christmas weather ought to be and what now-a-days it usually is. Christmas as it ought to be, we are told, particularly by old-fashioned folks, is a season of icebound lakes and rivers, of snow-covered hills and snow-blocked streets, when the rattle of the carriage is exchanged for the music of sledge bells, and the street sweeper gives place to the snow plough. But Christmas weather, like many other Christmas features, is no longer what it was in the "good old times." "A green Christmas makes a fat churchyard" is an old and oft-repeated saw, but like many another of the same kind it probably does not contain even a modicum of truth. Whether the dingy verdancy of our woods and fields at this festal time will conduce to the increased prosperity of gravediggers and undertakers, we would not for a moment venture to prophesy. It is sufficient for us to congratulate ourselves on the fact that the ice and snow, to be inevitably followed, sooner of later, by bursting of water pipes and interminable slush, are not absolutely necessary to the thorough enjoyment of the good times that Christmas more or less brings to one and all. At present the weather presents a curiously mingled combination, embracing at different times the cold, clear sunshine of spring, and the murky fogs of November, with just an occasional sprinkling of snow and dash of frost, to make matters doubtful and prepare us for unthought of possibilities before the merry bells ring in the New Year. In respect to the social aspect of the season it bids fair to be marked by the usual festive gatherings. The latter form of celebrating Christmas is becoming much more popularised by the ever-increasing number of dinners held under the auspices of the numerous benefit societies, &c., in the district. Looking at matters from a commercial point of view it may safely be said that there is ground for congratulation on the fairly prosperous condition of the toilers in our town and county. Tradesmen complain of business being dull, but still on the whole the great mass of the workpeople—we allude more particularly to the miners of the county—are pretty actively and regularly employed, and we have little doubt that they have spent a duller Christmas than the present will be to them. The relations between employers and employed are on the whole of a most harmonious character. In regard to the religious observance of the great festival which has passed away, there is nothing to mention beyond the fact that the usual special services were held in all the places of worship throughout the town of Consett and the surrounding neighbourhood on Christmas Day, and in several of the parish churches extensive decorations were carried out. Coming in the depths of winter, when the nights are dark, cold and dismal, the bright and ornate appearance of our shops at Christmastide makes the contrast all the more pleasing, especially during later years, when the great improvement in artistic taste has extended itself, as well as to everything else, to the prosaic operations of trade. The festive gatherings in this district have not been quite so numerous as in the past two or three years. Reports of the principal meetings are appended :—

Salvation Army: Consett Corps.—On Sunday, Monday, and Christmas Day, the detachment of the Salvation Army stationed at Consett, held a series of special services at their barracks at Consett, all of which were well attended.

Consett Wesleyan Schools.—The Wesleyan body of this town held their customary sale of work, &c, in the Gibson Street Schools, in aid of the school funds. The affair was largely patronised throughout the day. A tea was provided, given by the members.

Blackhill Wesleyan Choir.—A very successful fruit banquet and entertainment was given by the Blackhill Wesleyan choir on Christmas Day, the chair being occupied by Mr William Hogg, of Westwood. Several anthems were excellently rendered by the choir, recitations by Messrs. J. Lax and R. Frankland, and addresses by Messrs. M. Noble, M. Frankland, and W. Hoe. After the usual votes of thanks, the benediction was pronounced by the Chairman, bringing to a close a most interesting gathering.

Blackhill Primitive Methodist Chapel.—The members of the above chapel held their annual public meeting and fruit banquet on Christmas Day. Speeches were delivered by Mr Robert Huddlestone (Berwick-on-Tweed), D. Reed. (Leadgate), and the Rev T. Elliott (superintendent minister). Fruit was served at intervals, and the choir, under the leadership of Mr James Greenwood, rendered some choice selections of music, which added greatly to the enjoyment of the meeting. The chair was ably occupied by Mr W. Stubbs. The usual votes of thanks and the singing of the doxology brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

Baptist Chapel, Highgate, Blackhill.—The Christmas tea was held on Christmas Day as usual. A fairly large and representative sat down to it. In the evening a public meeting was held, the pastor presiding. Recitations and speeches were given by senior scholars and members of the church. Specially prepared Christmas music was rendered by the choir, under the leadership of Mr John Mackey. A very pleasing and interesting feature of the meeting was Messrs Joseph Mackey and William Raw presented, on behalf of the members, teachers, and scholars of Highgate, Messrs James Edwards and A. E. Turner with a copy each of Mr Spurgeon's "Treasury of David," in six volumes, and after they feelingly and gracefully responded. A very pleasing meeting was brought to a close.

Castleside Wesleyan Chapel.—On Christmas morning, the choir connected with this place of worship heralded in the day of Christ's birth by carolling hymns adapted for the occasion in the neighbourhood of Castleside, after which they were, as usual, graciously entertained to breakfast by Mr T. J. Muse, of Castleside House. In the afternoon, the usual tea was held, when the Sunday-school scholars and a large number of the public partook of the same. In the evening, a fruit banquet was held in the chapel, ably presided over by Mr T. J. Muse. Excellent addresses were delivered by Mr John Oliver, Burnhill, and Mr T. C. Elliott, Castleside. The choir rendered choice selections of music, and, altogether, a very enjoyable day was spent. The affair was a complete financial success, £11 having been taken.

Fruit Banquet at Waskerley.—On Christmas Day, two services were held in the School-room at the above place. In the afternoon, the Rev C. Longstaff, from Consett, preached a very eloquent and impressive sermon, basing his remarks on Galatians v. 18 v. In the evening, a fruit banquet was held, which was largely attended. Stirring and impressive addresses were given by the Rev C. Longstaff, on the "Variety of things;" and Mr T. Featherstone, on "The importance of little things." The choir, under the able leadership of Mr W. W. Graham, gave select pieces of music in a highly creditable manner. We may also add that two young ladies from Annfield Plain—namely, the Misses Wilsons—along with Miss Bowey and Miss Skipey, from the neighbourhood of Consett, also Mrs Wilson and I. Gowland, of Waskerley, rendered great assistance towards the success of the entertainment.—Votes of thanks having been given to the Chairman, Mr J. Gowland, the speakers, the choir, and to Mr W. Reed (who distributed the fruit at intervals) brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

Wolsingham.—In connection with the Baptist Sunday School tea was provided in the school-room, after which a public meeting was held in the chapel, when addresses were delivered by Revs H. P. Slade, T. Durant, Mr G. Cranston and the pastor. Mr J. Dobinson, North Shields, presided.

Primitive Methodist Gathering at Annfield Plain.—On Christmas Eve Mr and Mrs Graham, of Annfield Place, entertained with their usual liberality a large number of people to supper at their own house, to the satisfaction of their guests. The proceeds were in aid of the Primitive Methodist Missionary fund.

Lanchester Wesleyan Chapel.—The anniversary of this place of worship was celebrated on Christmas Day, when the sermons were preached in the morning and evening by the Rev. William Taylor, of Annfield Plain. A public tea was provided in the school-room in the afternoon, at which a very good company sat down at the several tables. The profits were in aid of the chapel funds.

Presentation at Whickham.—On Christmas Eve, at the office of the Swalwell Brewery, Messrs M. Taylor and Co., presented to their respected manager, Mr Robert Glass, a very handsome timepiece, in recognition of long and valuable services. Mr H. E. Taylor in making the presentation remarked that, although the brewery had been carried on by his family for 120 years, and had always been fairly prosperous, the last 14 years under the management of Mr Glass had been far the most successful.

Stanhope.—Christmas passed off quietly and pleasantly the day being remarkably bright and fine. Services of some sort was held at the various places of worship. A bazaar in aid of the funds to improve the heating arrangements at the Wesleyan Chapel, was opened on Christmas Day, by Mrs Bainbridge, of Leases House. A fancy fair and exhibition in aid of the debt fund of the Primitive Methodist Chapel was also opened.—On Saturday night the Stanhope Primitive Methodist choir gave a very successful concert in the Town Hall. The Rev J. Elliott occupied the chair.

New Primitive Methodist Chapel at Lanchester.—On Monday afternoon, the foundation stones of a new Primitive Methodist Chapel, proposed to be erected at the high end of the village of Lanchester, were successfully laid by Miss Jenkins, of Consett Hall; Miss Davison, of Cornsay Colliery, and Mr Michael Buckham, of Low Meadows, near Lanchester, in the presence of a very fair company of spectators. A tea for the visitors and friends was subsequently provided in the new Wesleyan School-room (lent for the occasion), and in the evening a public meeting was held in the chapel, at which addresses were delivered by the Rev T. Elliott, supt. minister, of Blackhill, the Rev C. Longstaff, of Consett, and others. The proceeds realised by the occasion will be given to the new chapel building fund.

Methodist Free Church.—On Christmas Day, a tree, decorated with a very choice variety of useful and ornamental goods for sale, was opened out at six o'clock in the evening, by Mr W. Rutherford, manager of Messrs Dickinson's collieries, Annfield Plain. The people came in crowds, and in a very short time every available spot in the spacious chapel was occupied to excess. Mr Rutherford, to whose skill and energetic efforts much of the interest as well as the success is attributed, is nothing short of an expert of no small degree in matters of this kind. There was also a stall in the chapel, furnished with a very nice selection of made-up draperies, presided over by Mrs Rutherford, Mrs Williams, and Mrs Collins. The receipts were highly satisfactory. The entrance money amounted to £3 7s 9d; goods sold during the night realised £6 3s 1½d; a few goods sold on Christmas eve realised 9s 1½d. The total takings amounted to £10, for the liquidation of the chapel debt.

Annfield Plain Wesleyan Chapel.—On Christmas Day, Mr Cawood, district evangelist, preached in the afternoon at three to a large congregation. At the close of the sermon a splendid tea was partaken of by a goodly number of people. Afterwards a meeting of great interest was held, Mr Henry Greener, of South Pontop, being in the chair, and that gentleman made a most earnest appeal to the members and congregation to assist them in the work of teaching in the Sabbath-school, as they were in great need of help. In so good a cause he thought members and well-disposed people could not spend their time much better than to train up young children in Wisdom's way, as by so doing they would be helping to make the world better than they found it. Before resuming his seat, the Chairman introduced their old friend, Mr Cawood, to interest the company, which he did in capital style. He sung six beautiful pieces, which were interspersed with short addresses. Mr Cawood observed that the old Jewish Law was to go and do such a thing, but the invitation of Jesus Christ was "Come unto Me," &c. The word "Come" was recorded in the New Testament over 600 times, this fact was most encouraging to us, so that all who would accept the conditions in the Gospel could be saved.—Mr Oliver, of Stanley, also addressed the meeting in a very pleasing way, and then Mr Cawood sung five more beautiful hymns from Sankey's Book, one piece being composed on the Sunderland catastrophe.—Mr Russell presided at the organ. There was a large gathering at all the services. The whole of the proceeds were in aid of their school funds. A hearty vote of thanks to all parties who had taken part in the day's proceedings, brought this pleasant meeting to a termination.

Christmas Treat to the Aged Miners of Pelton Fell.—On Christmas Eve, a dinner was given to the old men living at Pelton Fell Colliery. Covers were laid for upwards of twenty old miners, whose average age was 74 years, one of the guests being in reality upwards of 90. A few friends joined them, and all agreed in acknowledging it a most sumptuous repast. After the removal of the cloth, Mr George Pickering, of Chester-le-Street, was called upon to preside, Mr John Smith occupying the vice-chair.—Mr Pickering, in returning thanks for the honour conferred upon him, said that he felt proud of being a resident in their neighbourhood, and said it had given him great pleasure being present that night—the eve of another Christmas. He might ask the very pertinent question, How many of them would be present next Christmas Eve? He could scarcely express how pleased he was at seeing so many old men, after a life of toil at a hazardous occupation, being regaled in such an excellent and generous manner, and also to see them enjoying themselves to the full. He felt proud of being able to speak of such a noble institution as the Miners' Relief Fund, especially seeing the philanthropic work it was doing. He was extremely glad to note that the men of Pelton Fell Colliery took such a delight in making the remaining days of their old men as happy and as cheery as possible, and he thought that all praise was to them in augmenting, of their own free will, by 3s per week the sum allowed to aged miners by the Miners' Relief Fund. Owing to another appointment he (the chairman) had to leave the meeting, but, before doing so, proposed "Success to the Northumberland and Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund," coupling with it the name of Mr Thomas Weatherley. The latter gentleman, who was then appointed chairman, in drinking to the toast of the evening, eulogised the Miners' Relief Fund, and stated that before leaving that evening each old man present would receive half-a-crown, and that after all expenses were paid a considerable balance would be left, which the committee proposed to divide amongst the old men as a New Year's gift; and he (the chairman) hoped that next Christmas they would be able to have another dinner, but on a larger scale. The company afterwards spent an enjoyable evening, songs being given by Messrs Thompson, Brown, Spedding, Ritson, &c.

[Primitive Methodist?] Church, Catchgate.—On Sunday two sermons were preached in the afternoon and evening by Mr W. Shepherd, of Shield Row. On Christmas Eve a fruit banquet was given. The choir was in attendance and sung a choice selection of pieces, Mr J. Urwin was conductor, Mr F. Blatchford presided at the harmonium, and Mr Joseph Johnson (Kyo) occupied the chair. Several gentlemen addressed the meeting, and a splendid collection of fruit was served out at intervals. On Christmas Day the members had a Christmas tree for the sale of useful and ornamental articles. There was a good sale. The whole of the proceeds were in aid of the church fund.

CONSETT BAPTIST CHURCH

This once chaste iron edifice was erected some thirteen years ago, but during the past two years it was found that the plates on the outside of the building had much corroded and, consequently, during stormy weather the rain dropped profusely into the place, besides causing very bad draughts. Finding it absolutely requisite that a new stone structure should be erected, the deacons and members promoted various schemes in order to raise funds to carry out the project, and which have been mostly successful. In order to augment the funds already accumulated, the lady-members of the church and congregation had been assiduously working during the past few months in making a quantity of saleable goods, both ornamental and useful, and on Christmas Day these were shown to advantage on a large stall erected in the chapel. Besides this, there was a "Christmas Tree," heavily ladened with toys, &c., of every description, and which, together with the profuse decorations of mottoes tastefully bordered with holly and other evergreens, gave the place a most brilliant aspect. The bazaar was opened at two o'clock in the afternoon, the sale being carried on by Mrs Proud, Mrs Teasdale, and Mrs S. Farnsworth, and right up to the close of the evening the place was visited by a large number of the public. The sale of goods was exceedingly brisk the whole of the time, owing, no doubt, to the superiority of the goods exhibited for sale. An exhibition, promoted principally by Mr W. Moss, consisting of microscopic views, model steamships, stuffed animals, pictures, &c., as also a galvanic battery—which caused no end of amusement—was well patronised, being justly worthy of witnessing. During the evening a ham coffee supper was spread, presided over by Mesdames W. Davies, J. Jenkins, W. Farnsworth, G. Edwards, Burlinson, and W. Mathieson. The viands, being all that could be desired, were partaken of by about 200 people, which number, considering the various counter attractions in the town, far exceeded the expectations of the promoters. Music was discoursed at interval, and throughout, the whole proceedings were marked with sociability and exceeding enjoyment, it being one of the most successful treats ever held at Christmastide in connection with this church.

SACRED CONCERT AT CASTLESIDE.

On Saturday evening, the first of a series of concerts proposed to be held in aid of the funds now being raised for the erection of a large and commodious Primitive Methodist Chapel at Castleside, was given in the Board Schools by the members of the choir connected with the above-named denomination, who were ably assisted by a number of lady and gentlemen friends, who kindly volunteered their services. The programme consisted of the performance of a sacred cantata for Christmastide, entitled "The Nativity," written by Mr George Bennett, the music being selected, arranged, and for the most part composed by Mr C. Ward. The band was composed as follows: First violins—Messrs T. Brownlee and T. Cathbertson; second violins—Messrs J. Moss and J. Robson; viola—Mr J. S. Kirkip; violincello—Mr W. Moss; clarionette—Master Coulson; harmoniumist—Mr W. Harker. The soloists were: Miss M. Collins, Miss Davison, Miss Stoker, Miss Rogerson (Newcastle), Messrs J. S. Kirkip, M. Lister, W. Moore (Shotley Bridge), J. Wilson, and Master F. B. Raine. Despite the adverse state of the elements and the somewhat boisterous and stormy weather prevailing, there was nevertheless a large and appreciative audience present, the school-room being what might be termed nicely and comfortably filled. The chair was taken by Mr W. J. Scott, of the Sycamores, Rowley, who briefly introduced the programme, and apologised for the non-attendance of the Rev C. Longstaff, of Consett, who it was anticipated would have presided over that gathering. The band then struck up the instrumental introduction, after which the choir, under the skilful guidance of Mr Raine, the conductor, sang the chorous, "O'er the verdant plains of Bethlehem," illustrative of the angels appearing to the shepherds, the piece throughout being faultlessly rendered. Mr Kirkip was well received in the solo, "O, be not afraid," wherein the Angel bids the shepherd to fear not. The next chorus (the song of the Angel host), "To God in Highest Glory," was given by the band and choir with much spirit and effect, and proved to be one of the best pieces of the evening. A short duet followed by Messrs M. Lister and Kirkip, which produced a most harmonious effect. Miss Collins, Messrs Moore and Lister, and Master Raine next appeared in a quartette, "As a fair dream is fading," in which the morning dawns on the shepherds, and the efforts of the vocalists met with the appreciation they deserved—viz., by an enthusiastic *encore*. In the next recitative, by Mr Kirkup, "Then the shepherds they said," the shepherd agree to go to Bethlehem. This was succeeded by an instrumental march, which was exquisitely beautiful, and the performance thereof elicited outbursts of applause. The choral march "We go by angel bidden," finds the shepherds on the way to Bethlehem. The selection was very well sung by Miss Collins, supplemented with the voices of the choir. The arrival of the shepherds at the birth place of Christ, is depicted in the quartette, "By the herald angels guided," by Miss Davison, Messrs Wilson and Lister, and Master Raine, with chorus by the choir, which brings the first part to a close. After a lapse of about ten minutes, the band favoured with another instrumental selection, while Miss Rogerson gave the solo (representing the shepherds conversing together), "Oh! 'twas in a vision we saw," which was most effectively given. Mr Lister and Master Raine appeared side by side in the duet, "We will publish to all men around," indicating that the shepherds agree to make known all they have seen and heard. In this piece, the company got rather more than they bargained for, as no sooner had the duettists opened their part, than a baby's accompaniment, about a couple of octaves higher than the key in which the composer doubtless intended the piece to be sung, was commenced at the other end of the room, which greatly improved (!) the effect, and resulted in one of the infants being uncermoniously carried out, yelling all the time at the top of its voice. This amusing incident, although perhaps somewhat annoying to the performers, proved a source of delight to the majority of the audience. The shepherds repeat the Angels chorus in words, "O list to the grand chorus we heard," which was one of the cleverest efforts of the choir, and they were loudly re-called. The solo and chorus that follows, "I ponder o'er the words divine," shews that the Virgin Mary ponders on all she has heard. Miss Collins was the soloist, and she was so ably sustained by the choir, that the audience demanded a repitition of the piece. The quartette, "With weary weeks of travel," sung by Miss D. Stoker, Messrs Wilson and Lister, and Master Raine, celebrates the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem. The piece was clearly and distinctly given, and eventually called forth an *encore*. The invocation and worship of the Saviour is embodied in the solo (by Miss Collins) and chorus, "O come, all ye faithful," sung to that old familiar tune, "Portugese," and the succeeding chorus, "Allelnia, Amen," exhausted the programme. The success of the concert must be attributed in a great measure to the painstaking management of the conductor, Mr Raine. We ought also to mention that the front of the platform was overhung with wreaths of holly, surmounted with the usual Christmas greetings prominently displayed on a scarlet background.—The Chairman thereafter rose and said that he thought everyone present would be satisfied with the efforts of their choir that evening, and he was sure they had received full value for their money. The choir had vastly improved since the last occasion he had heard it—about twelve months ago. He certainly was proud to think that they could give such an eminently successful concert in that village. Such an affair as that would not have been attempted a few years ago in a place like Castleside. He, therefore, had much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the choir and to the ladies and gentlemen who had assisted them that night.—Mr Faulkner (Newcastle), in seconding the proposition, said that, speaking as the inhabitant of a large town, the choir had accomplished their work exceedingly well, and the concert had eclipsed some of the entertainments given in Newcastle.—The audience acquesced in the resolution by loud acclamations.—Mr Raine briefly acknowledged the compliment, remarking that the ladies and gentlemen who had assisted the choir that evening had given their services gratuitously, and had taken a greater interest in the success of the concert than they had themselves.—Mr W. Pattinson proposed that a similar compliment should be paid to Mr Scott for occupying the chair.—Mr Carruthers seconded, and said if Mr Scott progressed as he had during the past few months he would soon become a Primitive Methodist. (Laughter and applause).—In responding to the expression of thanks, the Chairman observed that he was always glad to assist in promoting any good and noble cause.—The choir then sang the doxology, and the company afterwards dispersed.

OLD PEOPLE'S TREAT AT CATCHGATE.

Some three years ago, various philanthropists of Catchgate and Annfield Plain became cognisant of the fact that there were a large number of helpless aged people, widows, and deserving poor in Annfield Plain and its vicinity, and, with true spirit, a scheme was promoted in order to give them an annual treat at Christmas. A judicious and zealous committee was appointed, with the following officers :—President, Rev J. Gornall, vicar of Collierley; vice-presidents, Mr R. Mitchinson, manager of Pontop Colliery; Mr Swallow, manager of East Pontop Colliery; Mr Greener, manager of South Pontop Colliery; treasurer, Mr W. Rutherford, manager of South Derwent and Shield Row Collieries; secretary, Mr W. Wilkinson, Catchgate. These gentlemen seconded the committee's efforts with great earnestness, and for two consecutive years the scheme was carried out most successfully. During the past year, several concerts have been held to raise funds for the old people's treat, and these, together with the contributions received, gave promise of the present occasion eclipsing any previous year. On the day named tea was spread in the Board Schools, which embraced both substantial and delicate edibles. The tables were presided over by Mesdames Hetherington, Ord, Newton, Southron, Cranston, Wilkinson, and Miss Armstrong. The old folks flocked in to the place, and partook of the viands with great gusto. It was indeed exhilirating to see the "canny aw'd bodies" enjoying themselves so freely. After tea, each of the old people (whose ages ranged from 60 to 81 years), to the number of 139, were presented with a parcel containing tea, sugar, and bread, to the amount of 1s 7d. Smoking was also one of the indulgences provided, and the weed was partaken of by a great number of the men and women.

In the evening a public meeting was held, when the place was comfortably filled. The chair was occupied by the revered president of the scheme (Rev J. Gornall), and he was supported on the platform by the Rev E. Phillipson, White-le-Head, and Mr J. Orr, Annfield Plain.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at seeing so many old friends present, and was glad to again meet with them on that auspicious event. He then spoke at length on the subject,—"The Old People's Party." He divided it into different heads, and brought therefrom model lessons, which he impressed on his audience with great pathos, and, consequently, much effect. He held before them the immortal motto which Solomon spoke of —"The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness," and urged them to ever work on the Lord's side, and even in their adversity they would feel far more happiness than those in prosperity.

The Rev E. Phillipson next followed with a very earnest and soul-inspiring address, in which he spoke of the principal topic of the day—"Outcast London," and pointed out that they need not go to London to find outcasts, as they could always find abundance in their own neighbourhood, and, of course, these needed their careful attention before going away from home with their assistance. He was glad to think that the philanthropic spirit of Annfield Plain had moved in this matter, and provided a feast for the deserving poor in the district, which was indeed a noble action on their part. He then, in a powerful appeal, enjoined each one to think that their life's voyage was almost run, and after braving the tempests of life, still found themselves on the wrong path; and therefore, entreated them to place their bark in the hands of the Saviour, and he would steer them into the harbour where there would be peace and happiness for ever.

Mr John Orr also gave an address replete with common sense and good advice, in which he gave proof of entire sympathy with the object.

The choir of the Catchgate United Free Methodist Chapel, under the direction of Mr John Castle, contributed largely to the evening's enjoyment by its members giving instrumental selections, solos, duets, quartets, &c., in grand style and with good effect.

At the close votes of thanks were proposed by the much-respected treasurer (Mr W. Rutherford) to the Chairman, speakers, singers, and all who had taken part in the day's proceedings. This was seconded by Mr Thomas Collinson (an ardent and practical sympathiser with the object), of Catchgate, and was carried with renewed acclammations.

After singing the doxology, the audience dispersed, all feeling greatly edified and delighted by the happy way in which they enjoyed themselves, and we can only congratulate the committee on the excellent manner in which all the arrangements were carried out, and to add that we fully sympathise with the noble object they had the honour of inaugurating and carrying out so successfully.

DINNER AT LANCHESTER WORKHOUSE.

On Christmas Day, the inmates of the Union Workhouse at Lanchester, numbering upwards of 170 men, women, and children, were provided by the Board of Guardians with their usual annual treat. The spacious dining-hall, which had been artistically decorated for this auspicious event, with wreaths and garlands of evergreens and coloured tissue papers, presented a most beautiful and attractive appearance. The tissues, which were intermixed with all the colours of the rainbow, were worked into chains, and hung across the room. At each end of the hall might be noticed two large mottoes, while the walls were literally studded with pretty devices and illuminated texts of every description. The aspect of the long corridor leading from the dining-hall to the boys' and girls' wards was very charming indeed. The whole of this work was the handiwork of the inmates, and the comprehensive character of the decorations must have entailed an enormous amount of time, perseverance, and painstaking labour. About 12.30 p.m. the inmates filed out of their respective wards, the smiling countenances of everyone betokening that they were about to participate in a gathering which is closely associated with the festive season. After being seated, each inmate was provided with the good old Christmas fare of roast beef, potatoes, and plum pudding, the adults, in addition, being supplied with a pot of ale. Ample justice having been done to the different courses, a quantity of tobacco was served to those who were in the habit of indulging in the fragrant weed; whilst nuts, sweets, and oranges were distributed amongst the non-smokers, and the women and children. Mrs Tom Taylor Smith, of Greencroft Park, presented each child with some useful toys; the larger girls receiving, in addition, a skipping rope, which they were not long in bringing into requistion, after leaving the hall. The wants of the patients in the infirmary were attended to by Miss Nellie McLaughlin, the nurse. The following ladies and gentlemen were present, and ably assisted Mr and Mrs Brotherhood (the master and matron of the House) in the somewhat formidable task of carving and serving-out the dinner:—Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. (chairman of the Board), the Rev J. P. De Pledge, J.P. (vicar of Satley), and Miss De Pledge; Mr Tom Taylor Smith (Greencroft Park) and Mrs Smith; Mr W. Logan (vice-chairman of the Board); Mr John Calvert, Consett (ex-chairman of the Board); Mr Jonathan Wall (Lanchester), and Miss Wall; Mr R. Walton, Mr T. Wilson, and Mrs H. Waugh. Cheers for the Guardians and visitors brought the festivities to a fitting close.

Football.

LOCAL FIXTURES

Dec. 29.—Tantobie v. Hobson Wanderers, at Tantobie.
" 29.—Tantobie 2nd v. Hobson Wanderers 2nd, at the Hobson.
Jan. 5.—Consett and District v. Tow Law, at Consett.
" 12.—Castleside v. Tow Law, at Tow Law.
Feb. 9.—Tow Law v. Castleside, at Castleside.

Tow Law v. Stanhope.—This match was played at Stanhope on Saturday, but owing to the late arrival of the Tow Law team it was only played in two thirties, and resulted in a draw, each team obtaining one goal.

Middlesbrough Rovers v. Tow Law.—Played off on the ground of the latter on Saturday, the game ending in a win for the visitors by one goal and one try to nil. Tow Law—Full back, Proud; three-quarter backs, Hall, Douglass, and Stantley; backs, Scott. Drummond, and Parker; forwards, B. Simpson, T. Thompson, Robson, T. Hall, W. Emerson, Weatherell, and Collingwood. Tow Law played one man short.

South Shields Rovers v. Shotley Bridge.—The above Rugby clubs met at Tyne Dock on Saturday, and a very fast and pleasant game resulted as follows :—South Shields Rovers, four touches down to nil. The forwards played a very fast and good dribbling game, being well assisted by the backs. Shotley Bridge—Back, P. Gibson; three-quarter backs, J. B. Lazenby and J. Murray; half backs, Bailey and Woodley; forwards, A. E. Farrar, Muse, H. Nichols, R. Dixon, J. Sheffield, W. Allison, and T. Bewick. The captain of the Rovers retired just after the game commenced.

Catchgate Red Stars v. Tantobie.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the visitors by one goal to nil. The goal was kicked by Dixon. J. Rutherford for the home team and B. Hannent for the visitors were most prominent. Teams:—Catchgate—Goal, P. Boyle; backs, Bulmer and Robinson; half backs, Weirs and Sleep; forwards, Mason Robson, Humphrey, Rutherford, Dixon, and Russell. Tantobie—Goal, W. Hodgson; backs, A. Watson and R. Hannent; half backs, J. McCrum and B. Hannent; forwards, W. Stoker, R. Stoker, G. Dixon, J. Gedling, and N. Atthey.

Tanfield Lea 1st v. Catchgate Red Stars.—(*To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.*) Sir,—In your issue of December 21st you published an account of a match between the above clubs; your correspondent must have made a mistake for the first team of the latter club were not on the field. Also he said that Catchgate team would not play according to the rules of the game. I should say that Tanfield Lea players would not play by rule, for if the visitors' team violated the rules the home players, instead of claiming a free kick preferred the vulgar system of "squaring up" before their opponents. Again, the home team claimed a free kick near their opponent's goal about which the umpires disputed. The general rule on cases of this sort (unless there is a referee) the ball is thrown up, and as Tanfield Lea team would not agree to this they stopped the game, although they had the advantage of two goals. Hoping I have not trespassed on your valuable space.—Yours &c

Annfield Plain, Dec. 27th. Spectator.

Mr E. J. Meynell, County Court Judge, has appointed Mr Adam Brodie, of the Town Hall Chambers, Consett, to be bailiff under the Agricultural Holdings' Act for the Consett district.

Northern Ironworkers' Wages.—Dr Spence Watson, who was unanimously asked by the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Manufactured Iron Trade to arbitrate on the wages' question, has signified his willingness to accept the post. The arbitration is expected to take place within the next fortnight, and it is probable that the Board will meet the arbitrator in Newcastle.

The North-Eastern Railway Passenger Carriages.—The North-Eastern Railway Company is building, at its Darlington works, the first steel-framed passenger carriages that have been run on its line. In addition to heavy composite carriages, the company has also built a few steel-framed waggons, and one or two waggons for the conveyance of heavy forgings of special size, such as rudder frames. After sufficient experience has been obtained, it is probable that it will be generally adopted by the company in place of the wooden frames that have hitherto been general on that line.—*Engineering.*

Throat Irritation and Cough.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins, 1s. 1½d., labelled "James Epps & Co., Homœpathic 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.—Yours faithfully, Gordon Holmes, M.D., Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary."

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

Business Announcements.

SMOKE UNCLE TOM CIGARS, 2D. EACH. SOLD EVERYWHERE. 12s. 6d. per Box of 100; per Parcels Post 6d. extra. Discount to the Trade.
TELFER'S MERRSCHAUM CLAY PIPES, 1d. each. The best 1d. pipe ever made.
JOHN TELFER & SONS, 23, CLAYTON STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE
AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWART AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA (the Finest Tea in the world). Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half o each kind as you may direct.
WILLIAM STEWART AND SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND 32, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE; 33, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; AND CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

NINTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

MR. MARKHAM, SURGEON DENTIST, of Newcastle, Attends at Miss WILLIAMS', No. 4, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY, from 1·30 p.m. to 3·30 p.m.

ESTABLISHED 1830. 962p

HALL'S FOR FLOUR, at 1s. 8d., 1s. 10d., 2s., and Finest Hungarian at 2s. 6d.
HALL'S FOR TEA, Standard Blend, 2s.
HALL'S for TEA, is the best.
HALL'S FOR SUGARS, at 2d., 2½d., 3d., and 3½d.
HALL'S FOR SOAPS, at 2d. to 6d. Curd Soap is add at
HALL'S 6s. 8d. in the £ Cheaper than other places.
HALL'S is decidedly the BEST and CHEAPEST
HOUSE FOR READY-MONEY PEOPLE TO BUY
Groceries, Flour, Feeding Stuffs, Cake, Patent Medicines, &c., &c.
HALL'S 2s. TEA IS THE BEST. Gibs Free by Post for 11s., on receipt of Post Office Order. Samples on receipt of Addressed Envelope.

JOHN HALL'S,
ANNFIELD PLAIN, VIA LINTZ GREEN. 332a

PERSONS WISHING TO MAKE UP THEIR
HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW,
SHOULD USE THE
"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.
IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.
PREPARED ONLY BY
JOHN HUME AND SONS
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
BRANCH—MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 583r

FOR THE VERY
BEST VALUE IN DRAPERY GOODS,
WE RECOMMEND YOU TO
DONALD BAIN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WAREHOUSEMAN,
150, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
BEST VALUE IN DRESSES AND DRAPERIES.
BEST VALUE IN LINENS AND COTTONS.
BEST VALUE IN FLANNELS AND BLANKETS.
BEST VALUE IN SHIRTS AND HOSIERY.
BEST VALUE IN SMALLWARES.
BEST VALUE IN WOOLS.
BEST VALUE IN YARNS.
N.B.—DONALD BAIN SUPPLIES SHOPS, DRESSMAKERS, CLOTHING CLUBS, MOTHERS' MEETINGS, DORCAS SOCIETIES, AND OTHERS ENGAGED IN THE DRAPERY TRADE AT THE LOWEST GLASGOW, MANCHESTER, AND LONDON WHOLESALE PRICES.
N.B.—Mr. MATTHEW WILLEY, Iveston Road, Lowgate (late with GEORGE HAWDON, Rate Collector), will be happy to wait upon you, on receipt of Post Card, and submit Patterns and Prices of our well-known Dress and Drapery Goods. All Parcels forwarded at once, CARRIAGE PAID! 99s

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, VIA LINTZ GREEN,
GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDSMAN, GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.
INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.
OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.
THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.
HOBSON'S IMPROVED CONDIMENT FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, STACKING, &c., Cheapest and Best in the Market.
HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD. REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save calves from that inflammatory fever commonly called quarter-ill.
G. H.'S MIXTURE OF
PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-five years.
RICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 437r

Business Announcements.

CHARLES S. PROCTOR,
(FROM REID AND SONS,)
SUCCESSOR TO THOMAS LUPTON,
GOLDSMITH, WATCHMAKER, AND JEWELLER,
15, GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
The Stock has been largely augmented with the latest Novelties for the Christmas Season. 416s

FLOORCLOTHS AND LINOLEUMS
CUT TO ANY SIZE AT MANUFACTURERS' PRICES.
MORGAN AND DAWSON,
FORTH HOUSE, PINK LANE (OPPOSITE CENTRAL STATION),
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WORKS, KIRKCALDY, N.B. 19s

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(OVER 60 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.
DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET. 691n

J. J. CAYGILL,
TEACHER OF MUSIC
(PIANOFORTE AND HARMONIUM),
HARVEY STREET, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT. 482s

SURGICAL DENTISTRY.
HENRY DELLOW,
SURGEON DENTIST,
1, NEW BRIDGE STREET (Corner of Higham Place), NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
17 Years with the late Messrs. NIGHTINGALE.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH of superior make on most Reasonable Terms, and all Surgical Operations skilfully performed. Attendance Daily, 41, New Bridge Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 577d

DENTISTRY.
SUPERIOR DENTISTRY AND REASONABLE CHARGES.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH from 2s. to 5s.; samples Upper or Lower Sets, containing 14 teeth, 30s. to 50s.; a perfect fit; and all work guaranteed and warranted for five years.
MONS. VAN GELDEREN,
SURGEON DENTIST,
17, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE.

MASONIC AND GENERAL LIFE
ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE:
9, NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON, E.C.
The Directors are desirous of receiving applications for Loans on Real or Personal Security in connection with Life Assurance.
Every description of Life Assurance and Annuity Business transacted.
Commissions allowed to Solicitors and others introducing business.
For full Particulars and Forms apply to
A. TORKINGTON,
Managing Director.

TO SHEEP FARMERS AND OTHERS.
T. MILNER, Chemist, Consett, wishes to draw the attention of the above to Messrs. NESS & CO.'S CONCENTRATED TAR ELIXIR SHEEP DIP, which is one of the Cheapest and Best Dippings for Sheep or Cattle ever discovered, and received the Prize Medal at the Amsterdam Exhibition, 1883. Sole Agent for Consett, Benfieldside, and the surrounding district.
T. MILNER, A.P.S.,
DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,
7, SHAKESPEARE STREET, opposite the Post Office, CONSETT.
Price 2s. 6d. per quart; 4s. per half gallon; 7s. 6d. per gallon. One gallon sufficient for 100 Sheep.
"Hylton, Southwick, Sunderland,
"September 23rd, 1883.
"I beg to inform you that after having used your Sheep Dip for two seasons, I can with confidence recommend it, as it improves the quality of the wool, and keeps the sheep clear of maggots. J. RENNOLDSON.
"Agent for Major Briggs, of Hylton Castle, R. L. Pemberton, of Hawthorn, &c., &c."
N.B.—T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S Hexham SHEEP DIP, MCDOUGALL'S, COOPER'S, BIGG'S, MORRIS'S, LITTLE & Co.'s, WILSON and KEWORN'S, &c.
HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
PURGING, COUGH, AND CONDITION BALLS, AND ALTERATIVE CONDITION POWDERS FOR HORSES.
FELLON CLEANSING AND OTHER DRINKS FOR CATTLE.
OILS, PAINTS AND COLOURS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Numerous testimonials have been received for Milner's Dandelion and Podophyllyn Pills, Blood Purifying Mixture, Quinine and Iron Tonic, &c. Finest New Season's Cod Liver Oil.
Agent for LAMONT'S Chest Protectors, Magnetic Belts, and Appliances of every description.
SPECTACLES AND EYE-GLASSES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.
Balsamic Cough Mixture, an excellent remedy for Coughs, Colds, Influenza, and all diseases of the Chest and Throats. Dr. Coffin's Composition Powder and Composition Essence. Homœopathic Medicines in great variety. 404s

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS.
WE continue to present a Half-Dozen best Nickel Silver TEASPOONS to each PURCHASER of our Standard GOLD WEDDING RINGS.
F. A. AND E. WELCH,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN 920p
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!
THE CHEAPEST HOUSE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND FOR
CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY, ELECTRO-PLATED GOODS,
CUTLERY, AND FANCY GOODS,
BUNN AND DICK,
10, WEST GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 466s
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
R. VON DIX,
THE PHOTOGRAPHER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
HALF-DOZEN CARDS-DE-VISITES AND ONE CABINET FOR 2s. 6d. SPLENDID FINISH.
JOHN FERRY,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
23, VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.
HOT DINNERS, TEAS, and other REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice and most Reasonable Terms.
N.B.—As J. F. has a REGISTRY OFFICE in connection with his Business, Ladies wanting Servants would do well to give him a call. 264s
CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT.
XMAS and NEW YEAR'S CARDS,
BIRTHDAY CARDS,
DESK & POCKET DIARIES.
1d. Packets Tissue Paper and Stationery in every variety in Stock.
A great variety of Toys and other Seasonable Goods.
JASPER COCKBURN
STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, CONFECTIONER, &c.,
12, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
BROOKS'
CELEBRATED
FELT 2s. 6D. HAT,
50, CLAYTON STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 754o
NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
GEORGE PATTON,
PLUMBER, GASFITTER, BRASS FOUNDER, &c.,
Has great pleasure in informing his Friends and the Public of Newcastle-on-Tyne and District that he has Removed from Neville Street, to larger and more commodious premises,
NO. 60, WESTGATE ROAD,
Lately occupied by Messrs. Bone Bros., next door to King and Tinsley's Livery Stables, where, having greater facilities than he has had before, he hopes to still further augment the increasing number of his Patrons.
Newcastle, July 5th, 1882. 711s
WILSON BROTHERS,
FAMILY GROCERS,
ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN,
CONFECTIONERS, &c.,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.
FOR the Incoming Festive Season, WILSON BROS. are now Booking Orders for their splendid Ornamental, Table, and other CAKES, including Madeira, Sultana, Almond Cakes, Sponge, Mince Pies, &c.
Orders in CONFECTIONERY will be made of the best quality by an experienced Artist, and promptly attended to.
BRIDE'S CAKES, CHRISTENING CAKES, and FUNERAL ORDERS supplied on the shortest notice. 390t
CARRIAGES FOR THE WINTER.
Light BROUGHAM of newest design, weighing 5½ cwts.
Light One-horse LANDAUS under 9 cwts.
Handsome LANDAULETTE BROUGHAM, forming perfect Victoria or Brougham.
Three Elegant Second-Hand BROUGHAMS, with circular fronts.
A Fashionable Single BROUGAAM, by Hooper, London.
A Square-fronted BROUGHAM, by Peters, London.
A LANDAULETTE BROUGHAM equal to new, adapted for a light horse.
Illustrated Catalogues and printed lists of second-hand Stock post free.
ATKINSON AND PHILIPSON,
CARRIAGE & HARNESS MANUFACTURERS,
PILGRIM STREET, NEWCASTLE.
500 New and Second-Hand Carriages. Inspection Invited. 900s

Business Announcements.

NORTHUMBERLAND CUTLERY EMPORIUM,
31, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE.
ROBERT CLARK,
MANUFACTURER OF ARTIFICIAL LEGS, ARMS, CRUTCHES, SPINAL SUPPORTS, INSTRUMENTS FOR CLUB FEET AND BOW LEGS,
TRUSSES, BANDAGES, BELTS, ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, SOCKS, &c.
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT & TRUSS MAKER To the Newcastle Infirmary.
A large assortment of
TABLE KNIVES, POCKET KNIVES, SCISSORS RAZORS, &c.
OPERA AND FIELD GLASSES, BAROMETERS, THERMOMETERS.
MAGNETO ELECTRICAL MACHINES.
SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.

Public Notices.

101 FOR First Prize, and 166 for Second Prize, are the Winning Numbers for Two PIGS, raffled by JOHN NEVIN, of South Medomsley. 662s
NOTICE.
THE Game upon Medomsley East House and Allendale Farms is strictly preserved.—Dogs found on these Farms will be destroyed, and all Persons found Trespassing will be prosecuted. 350p
AGRICULTURAL HALL, BENFIELDSIDE.
MR. A. PARKER will hold his ANNUAL BALL in the above Hall, on New Year's Eve (Monday, December 31st, 1883). Dancing to commence at 8 p.m., and close at 5·30 a.m. 459p
CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.
THE 82nd QUARTERLY MEETING of the above Society will be held on Saturday, January 5th, 1884, in the Society's Meeting Room. Chair to be taken at 6·30 p.m. Particulars of Business on Balance Sheet. 464s
ANNANDALE TOWN, Deceased.
ALL Persons having Claims against the Estate of the late ANNANDALE TOWN, Esq., J.P., of Allanford, Shotley Bridge, are requested to send notice thereof to
Messrs. DAVIES & BALKWILL, Solicitors, St. John Street, Newcastle. 567s
TOW LAW REGIPROCAL BUILDING SOCIETY.
THE Directors are prepared to make ADVANCES on approved security, at £5 per cent. Interest. Repayment by Easy Instalments.
(By order)
ARTHUR W. EMERSON, Secretary,
430s Campbell Street, Tow Law.
CANARY SINGING CONTEST.
THE Public are respectfully informed that a CANARY SINGING CONTEST will be held at the House of Mr. JAMES QUIGLEY, Middle Street, Consett, on New Year's Day, 1884.
First Prize, 15s.; Second, 10s.; Third, Pound of Tobacco. Entries, One Shilling each.
Contest to commence at Twelve o'clock. 543s
SPECIAL NOTICE.
THE Cheapest Wholesale and Retail Shop in the North of England is PERCY HOOD'S, 126, Westgate Road, (opposite Tyne Theatre), Newcastle-on-Tyne. SEWING MACHINES from £3 10s. to £5 10s., all warranted. MANGLES and WRINGING MACHINES from 26s. to 55s. MITCHELL'S PATENT STEAM WASHER at One-half the usual Price.—MANUFACTORY, 150, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE.
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS
IN ENDLESS PROFUSION,
AT ROBERT JACKSON'S,
9 AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
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, or Consuming Gas upon any Premises without first having obtained permission from the Secretary to the said Company, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.—By order,
M. RICHLEY, Secretary,
Gas Office, Shotley Bridge. 145d
MUSICAL FESTIVAL AT EAST CASTLE.
THE Public are respectfully informed that there will be a PUBLIC TEA in the Wesleyan Chapel, East Castle, on New Year's Day, January 1st, 1884. Tea on the tables at Four o'clock.
After tea, there will be a SERVICE OF SONG, entitled, "The Monk that Shook the World," with consecutive Readings illustrative of MARTIN LUTHER. The Service of Song will consist of Solos, Duets, and Choruses, given by East Castle Wesleyan Choir. The following Ladies and Gentlemen will take part in the Solos, Duets, &c., viz.:—Misses L. and M. HALL, Miss RAWSON, Miss S. BELL, and Misses J. and E. TEASE-AWAY. Also, Messrs. T. HUGHES, M. NICHOLSON, J. HALL, and S. WESTLAKE. Readings by Mr. H. WRIGHT; Harmoniums, Mr. J. ARMSTRONG; Conductor, Mr. J. HUMBLE.
Admission to Tea only, 9d.; to Concert only, 6d.; to Tea and Concert, 1s.
Service of Song to commence at Six o'clock p.m. 553s
FREE METHODIST CHAPEL, BLACKHILL.
A GRAND BAZAAR will be held for the Sale of Useful and Ornamental Articles, to be opened on Monday, December 31st, 1883, at Five o'clock p.m., by THOMAS SIDDELL, ESQ., Viewfield House, Blackhill, assisted by the Revs. A. BAILLIE, R. W. JENKINS, and GEO. LORD.
A COFFEE SUPPER will be provided.
MUSIC by the Choir at intervals.
ADMISSION—Adults, 6d. each; Children, 3d.; Coffee Supper, 6d. Proceeds for Chapel Trust Fund.
The BAZAAR will also be open on New Year's Day, January 1st, 1884, from five until Ten o'clock.
SERVICE OF SONG.
ANNFIELD PLAIN WESLEYAN BAND OF HOPE.
ON Monday, December 31st, 1883 (New Year's Eve), a SERVICE OF SONG, entitled, "The Monk that Shook the World," will be given on behalf of the above in the Wesleyan Chapel, Annfield Plain, consisting of Solos, Duets, Trios, Quartettes, and Choruses, with Connective Readings. The Service to commence at Seven o'clock.
Organist, Mr. J. RUSSELL; Conductor, Mr. J. HUMBLE; Reader, Rev. W. TAYLOR.
Admission, Threepence each. 542s
GRAND TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL.
THE NINTH ANNUAL GRAND TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL in connection with the "Beacon on the Hill" Division (Medomsley) of the Order of the Sons of Temperance, will be celebrated on New Year's Day, 1884, in the Templars' Hall, Medomsley.
In the Afternoon, a PUBLIC TEA, with HAM, will be provided. Tea on the Tables at Three o'clock in the Afternoon.
After Tea, a PUBLIC MEETING and CONCERT will be held, when the following Speakers will occupy the Platform; Mr. BECKWITH, from the North of England Temperance League, and Mr. WM. CAMPBELL, Shotley Bridge. The following Lady and Gentlemen Vocalists are expected, viz.:—Miss MOORE BELL, Leadgate; Miss ANNIE BELL, Leadgate; Mr. Peter MANNO, Consett; Mr. R. BARNES, Leadgate.
Harmonium Accompanist, Mr. R. BARNES.
Mr. S. LEVERGANCE, Derwent Hill, has kindly consented to preside. Chair to be taken at 6; to commence at 6·30.
Collection after Concert to defray expenses.
TICKETS—Gentlemen, 1s.; Ladies, 6d.; Children, 3d. May be had at the door. 541s

Public Notices.

IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY AT DURHAM

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF AARON READSHAW, DECEASED.

READSHAW v. READSHAW.

PURSUANT to a Decree of the Court of Chancery, at Durham, made in a claim in the matter of the Estate of AARON READSHAW, late of Jeffrey's Rake, near Hunstanworth in the County of Durham, Farmer, deceased (WILLIAM READSHAW, on behalf of himself and all other Creditors of the said AARON READSHAW, deceased, against JANE READSHAW and JACOB JOHN READSHAW, by the said JANE READSHAW, his next Friend, 1883. R, No. 15) the Creditors of the said AARON READSHAW, deceased, who died on the Twentieth day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-three, are on or before the Twelfth day of January, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-four, to send by post to JOHN THOMPSON, of Stanhope, in the said County of Durham, Solicitor for the Defendants, their Christian and Surnames, Addresses, and Descriptions, with full particulars of their Claims, Statement of their Accounts, and the nature of their Securities (if any) held by them, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said decree. Every Creditor holding any security is to produce the same before ALFRED OXNARD SMITH, Esquire, the Registrar of the said Court, at his Chambers, No. 6, Sadler Street, Durham, on the 21st day of January, 1884, at Twelve at noon, being the time appointed for adjudicating on the same.

Dated this 4th day of December, 1883.

ALFRED O. SMITH Registrar.

516a

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

123, Derby Street, Bolton.—In the matter of Henry Jones, Linen and Woollen Draper, in liquidation.

ADAM BRODIE is instructed by the Trustee, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on the Premises, 123, Derby Street, Bolton, in January, the entire STOCK-IN-TRADE belonging the Estate. Particulars and date in Posters, small Bills, and Catalogues. 506a

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). 744b

JOSEPH OLEY,
THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
16, WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE

A. PHILLIPSON,
GENERAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION AND HOUSE AGENT, &c., DIPTON.

TO AMERICA, £4, BY THE BEST LINES.

FURNITURE, &c., Bought for Cash. Business done Promptly, and upon Reasonable Terms.

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

Business done promptly and on reasonable terms.

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket.
The Oldest Established in the City.

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Business Announcements.

4s. POUND. 4s. POUND.

YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME,
SUCH AS OUR FOREFATHERS DID DRINKE AND ENJOIE.

Sold only under the above registered title in 6lb., 4lb., 2lb., 1lb., and ½lb. Tins, air-tight and damp proof.

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YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME.

This Tea is selected and offered to those who are JUDGES of GOOD TEA by an old established London Firm of Tea Merchants with the object of reviving the taste for HIGH-CLASS Tea, such as enriched the tables of our forefathers, and, where such taste exists, supplying the quality to gratify it.

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Our grandparents prided themselves on the quality of the Tea they drank or presented to their friends. "But such Tea cannot be got now-a-days" is a remark often made. "There are, however, as good fish in the sea as ever came out," and as fine Tea to be got to-day as ever was drank.

YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME.

But the quality grown of choicest early pickings full of sap, and exquisite, delicate flavour is very limited and the competition for them keen, especially by Russia. They therefore command a high price on the London Market, and cannot be retailed under 4s. per pound.

YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME.

AGENT FOR CONSETT:—

JOSEPH MURRAY,
FAMILY GROCER,

Who will be happy to forward by Parcels Post to customers at a distance.

4s. POUND. 4s. POUND.

Business Announcements.

MOST MONEY LENT

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

J. & E. WILSON'S,

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

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OUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET).

PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE.

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

THE NEW

COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINE

From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills; also BURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at

THOMAS BOSTON'S,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Patent Medicines at less than London Store Prices.

A NOTE!

Were the enormous advantages resulting from purchasing "Patent" and other Medicines from J. REMMERS, The Newcastle Chymist, properly understood, we have no hesitation in stating that Consett residents requiring such and similar articles would invariably call (when in Newcastle) and consult Mr. REMMERS, at 1, NEW BRIDGE STREET, or 97, CLAYTON STREET. Our Consett friends will do well to make 'a note' of this fact! 128a

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28TH, 1883.

TO OUR READERS.

PERMANENT ENLARGEMENT OF THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN.*

The Proprietor has great pleasure in announcing to the numerous readers of this Journal, that, in order to meet the growing necessities of this fast-increasing and densely populated district, the *Consett Guardian* will, on and after Friday, January 4th, 1884, be CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED, without any change in its price. By means of this arrangement, the *Guardian* will contain an additional fourteen columns of news in each issue. At the commencement of the New Year there will appear the Opening Chapters of a New Story of Thrilling Interest, besides "A Ladies' Column," and a Corner specially allotted to the Young Folks.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INGEDO."]

The *Guardian* will have quite a stylish appearance next week with its broad pages and fresh attractions. He is a wise man who steps to the front and does the right thing at the nick of time. Fourteen columns is no mean addition to a newspaper, and although the extra outlay must be proportionably heavy, the change is, I believe, what orators call "absolutely necessary." Consett is a growing place, and its local paper to hold its own must keep abreast of the times. I have no doubt whatever but the enterprise of the proprietor will meet with due appreciation from business men as well as from the reading public. A popular lecturer, in course of a lecture on "The Newspaper," alluding to the advantages of advertising, observed that people sometimes spoke as if they were charged too much for a few inches of an advertising column, but they ought, he said, to remember that if every copy of the paper was taken into account it would be found that they had in reality obtained a considerable amount of space for their money.

Now that the small fry from Swalwell have gone to the shades to hide their diminished heads, it would not be meet to linger by the "cave of their slumbers." It would, of course, have been more compatible with manliness and good breeding, had they made their exit with a better grace, but there is a possibility in these latter days of expecting too much—especially from certain quarters. It will be remembered that in my last communication I went so far out of my way as to give a *resume* of the "small paragraph," and drew public attention to the several points to which I took exception, as well as the grounds upon which these exceptions were based. [No line of criticism could have been more honest; but apostates from the rule of criticism the Swalwell pigmies, instead of risking a *pass-de-arms* on the merits of their pet theory, raise the cry of coward! and beat an inglorious retreat. The fact of my willingness to engage them two to one ought to have held me exempt from that stigma, but men in the throes of despair cannot be held responsible for the effervescence of a mind diseased. The pitiful lament that I am base enough to quote part or parts of my would-be critic's letters cannot fail to provoke a smile. To quote what seems best to me is my prerogative, and if the Swalwell gentry are foolish enough to make statements that can be turned against themselves, that's their business—not mine.

"Fools are my theme, let satire be my song."

There is a sameness in these letters from Swalwell which preys upon the mind like a nightmare. How often the words disappointment, abuse, conceit, and spleen have been used I cannot tell; they seem to be thrown in at random by way of seasoning, without the least regard to applicability. Ashamed of me forsooth! Methinks the "Knight of the Quill" has more need to be ashamed of himself, if in truth there is such a thing of shame in his composition. The dismal cackle to which he ever and anon gives utterance is appalling, as gorged with arrogance he parades his mis-shapen ideas before the public. It must not be supposed that although I am the only one who has questioned the right of this Swalwell worthy to foist his new-fledged nostrums on the public that men have swallowed his nauseous preparation. Far from it. The soul grows clotted, says Milton, and thus it is that many shrink from even touching that which is unclean. It is quite true that "he needs a long-handled spoon that sups kail with the de'il," but I have kept my adversary at a respectable distance, with an occasional prick to keep him steady. To handle him gently is out of the question, for he knows no difference between compliment and castigation—truth and error. In support of this I have only to refer the reader to his last letter, in which he declares that my remarks have been the source of much enjoyment to him; and yet we hear him exclaiming in the same breath that they make his hair stand on end! One has heard of side-splitting mirth, but never before that it was calculated to make men's hair stand on an end like the quills of the porcupine.

"Unthought of follies cheat us in the wise,
The fool lies hid in inconsistencies."

The mental calibre of the man is so strikingly portrayed in the little he has written that it will at once be seen that whosoever dubbed him a "Knight of the Quill" spoiled a good pitman. Imagine a man raising an outcry about the Presbyterian form of worship being monotonous, and yet protesting that he is a Presbyterian, and means to die one! Why does he not go elsewhere? To complain of monotony is to betray inertness of mind, and as that is a purely individual concern, the idea of the "Knight of the Quill" setting himself up as an oracle and a judge is as ridiculous as it is absurd.

A correspondent, writing from Edinburgh informs me that in a shop in that city is a cheese weighing 2,800 pounds. The monster is surmounted by an ordinary spade, to the handle of which is attached a ticket bearing the following inscription:—"'Jumbo' just arrived; digging operations to commence on Saturday. Contractors wanted." Can the Consettonions match this; or is their substance wasted as heretofore on clockwork niggers and performing jackanapes?

The parting knell of the old year will soon be borne on the wintry blast, and like its predecessors it will carry with it to the grave many a forlorn hope, and many a bitter memory. But if no greater evil hath befallen the reader than the premature decay of some cherished dream, happy art thou. Many have to lament with tears the absence

"——of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."

Disappointments may retard for a time, but the man determined not to be trampled upon in the race will make disappointment subservient to his will, and a ladder wherewith to reach the prize. To the man with an aim in his life the advent of a new year has a peculiar significance. It is at once wise and profitable to cast a retrospective glance through the vista of the past, for in no other way can men hope to profit by experience. Life has been compared to the flame of a taper, but these are stirring times and the winds of circumstance tends to consume the heaven-lit flame. The crowd is pressing in every direction. Some are allured by the meteor twinkling in the distant marsh "which serves but to dazzle and then to betray;" whilst others chase the bubble which bursts on touching earth. Nothing can, however, be gained unless definite lines are laid down and scrupulously adhered to. Strive to attain to a truer conception of life by the diligent study of pure literature. No passport is requisite in order to enter the domain of knowledge — simply "read, mark, learn." To weary before the task is done is natural: rest thee awhile and take up the burden again; and by-and-bye purer and more ennobling fancies will bear thee company like ministering spirits sent to cheer and cherish thee, for life is a mystery, and "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

[BY "RAMBLER."]

I learn that at a meeting of the ratepayers recently held at Castleside, it was unanimously agreed to carry out the proposed Post Office scheme in its entirety—viz., to open-out a money order office and savings bank at Castleside; to convert the Post Office into a proper stamping office, and likewise have the telegraphic communication laid into the place. It was further decided to obtain a loan of £6 from the Burial Ground Improvement Committee, being the amount required by the Postmaster-General as a sort of guarantee fund. Since then, however, it is said the Postal Authorities have refused to connect the wires with the Post Office unless the inhabitants of Castleside are willing to give an annual guarantee of £35. It is needless to add that the ratepayers do not feel disposed to contribute such an exorbitant sum.

***

At the same meeting, the Chairman (Mr T. J. Muse) was requested to forward an expression of condolence from the inhabitants of Castleside to the widow and family of the late Mr A. Town, J.P.—At the Petty Sessions held at Lanchester yesterday (Thursday), Mr Matthew Kearney, the esteemed chairman of the Lanchester Bench of Justices, made suitable allusion to the demise of their late colleague.

***

I see that at the approaching Miners' Conference at Manchester it is proposed to hold a meeting of the representatives of miners throughout South Staffordshire, and to take steps to organise a general strike throughout the district. I think the Ushaw Moor difficulty has taught both masters and men a practical lesson in this locality, and it is to be hoped that the gigantic strike about to be organised in Staffordshire will not seriously affect the miners here in the North.

***

I have noticed exhibited in the window of Mr J. Collinson, of Middle Street, Consett, three silver medals in the shape of a Maltese cross, suitably inscribed thereon, which are to be presented by the members of the Consett Football Club to the swiftest hares and hounds participating in their annual paper chase on New Year's Day. The club has generously invited the members of the neighbouring cricket and football clubs to compete in the race, so that the chase this year will be of an exceptionally lively character.

***

Concerning the dinner given on Christmas Day to the aged miners at Pelton Fell Colliery (reported elsewhere in this issue), Mr W. J. Armstrong, secretary of the Pelton Fell lodge, has written to the papers "to contradict some false reports afloat in the neighbouring districts, about the lodges having sheets, in written form, to solicit subscriptions from the tradespeople in the surrounding districts and their fellow-workmen, for to have a drunken spree, under the pretensions of getting up a dinner for the old men on the colliery. We wish to inform the public that the lodge had nothing to do with it. It is only a few individuals that got this up. Believing, as we do, that it will not benefit the old men, but somebody else, we were quite willing to co-operate with them on these conditions—to give the old men the money that was collected for them—but our conditions could not be accepted—it was a dinner they wanted; and anyone soliciting subscriptions on behalf of the main body of the workmen do so without authority, and the responsibility rests with themselves. But we trust, for the welfare of old men in future, that it is not got up for the purpose of a 'beer feast,' to use the word in its broadest sense. The lodge was always willing to do anything to benefit the old men, as our actions in the past will prove, and which we consider our duty."

***

When the customary dinner was given to the inmates of Lanchester Workhouse on Christmas Day, it was noticed that one prominent personage in former years was absent on the present occasion. I refer, of course, to poor David Mitchell, the centenarian, whose death occurred in September last.

Local and District News.

A lectureship is to be founded at Cambridge University, the perpetuate the memory of the late Canon Clayton, rector of Stanhope.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.—The return of traffic for the week ending December 22nd, shows an increase of £5,778, principally under the head of merchandise and cattle and minerals. The total increase to date is £47,893,

CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT LANCHESTER.—The churchwardens of Lanchester, have been enabled through the liberality of C. M. Palmer, Esq., M.P., to give to eighteen poor people, in the village of Lanchester, a load of coals each; and Mr John Buckham, whose kindness of heart never flags, has generously given to the same a quantity of firewood.

PRESENTATION AT DUNSTON.—On Tuesday evening, the Rev J. Jones, on behalf of the managers of the Church School, Dunston, and friends, presented a handsome timepiece to Miss E. Preston, head schoolmistress of the above school, on her leaving for the purpose of taking a similar position at Doncaster. Miss J. Preston, assistant mistress, was also presented with a bracelet by friends.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS: CONSETT COMMITTEE.—We omitted to mention in our account of the fortnightly meeting of the Guardians at Lanchester last week, that it was decided the Consett Committee should not hold their monthly meeting in the Local Board Room on Tuesday next (New Year's Day). Mr Moon, however, was directed to bring all the applications for relief in the meantime before the ordinary meeting of the Board on Thursday.

THE REV J. KIRK'S LECTURE ON WESLEY.—In our report of a lecture on the Life of Wesley, by the Rev J. Kirk, several inacuracies appear which, in justice to the revered lecturer, we wish to correct. "Baptismal regulation of infants," ought to be read *Baptismal regeneration*; "tearing asunder sacred lies," should be *ties*; while "one reason why God is pleased to continue my life so long, is to confirm them in their present purpose, and to separate from the Church," ought to read "*not to separate*, &c.' We regret that these errors, escaped the notice of our reader; but the misprints would no doubt be noticed by many of our readers.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT WITTON GILBERT.—A handicap at pigeons, promoted by Mr T. Hunter, of Witton Gilbert, who gave £3 to a sweepstakes of 5s each, commenced on Christmas Eve. There was a large attendance, and 27 of the entries determined to shoot off their lots at once. The birds were a good sample, but backers of the gun had the best of the business at the close, no less than 13 out of the 27 killing all their birds. The large number of entries promises a nice haul for the winner of the stake. Mr R. Richardson, of Pity Me, was referee. Mr T. Warple, of Witton Gilbert, trapped the birds, and Mr Patterson kept the registers.

PROPOSED MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FOR BLACKHILL AND DISTRICT.—It is proposed to form a Mutual Improvement Association at Blackhill, and we have reason to think that it will supply a want which has long existed in the neighbourhood. The following is a list of the officers:—President, Rev Wm. Douglas; vice-presidents, Messrs. M. Noble and Jas. Palliser; secretaries, Messrs. George Wilson and Jabez Swindale; treasurer, Mr H. Bell; committee, Messrs. Joshua Lax, William Raine, William Walton, William Hoe, and George Reed. The Association is to be inaugurated by a public meeting in the Wesleyan School-room, Blackhill.

CHRISTMAS AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.—The decoration of the shop windows in this district was really magnificent, an attractive taste in window-dressing was displayed in the village, the fruits and spices of the grocers and the stock-in-trade of the drapers being much admired. The general opinion is that Mr C. F. Cooke takes the lead in the artistic style in which his window is dressed. A larger and better show of Christmas beef has not on any former occasion been exhibited in the district. The Annfield Plain Brass Band contributed to the day's enjoyment by discoursing some favourite carols. Social parties were the order of the day. Mr Thomas Pearson and his choir, as usual, did their part in announcing the dawn of Christmas morn with some beautiful Christmas carols; as did also the Christian Lay Church Choir.

FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 370TH STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.—The tenth appropriation of this flourishing society took place on Friday night last, at the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill, under the presidency of Mr M. Noble, chairman of the board of directors. After the chairman had addressed the meeting, and the secretary had read a lengthy paper upon the benefits of Starr-Bowkett Building Societies, the ballot was proceeded with, Messrs. Wm. Elliott and T. Patterson, of Consett, being appointed scrutineers on behalf of the members, and a boy named Allison to draw the balls. The result was that register number 459 was the winning number, held by Mr Samuel Kennedy, miner, Tin Street, Leadgate, who having two shares, was declared entitled to an advance of £200, free of interest, repayable during a term of 12½ years. The chairman informed the meeting that in all probability another appropriation would take place in the course of a few weeks. The usual votes of thanks terminated the the proceedings.

PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION at the lowest possible prices by ROBERT JACKSON "Guardian" Office, Consett. Estimates furnished.

Yesterday (Thursday) some detention was caused to mineral traffic by an engine getting off the rails between Dearness and Baxter Wood Junctions, near Durham.

The mission services successfully conducted in the Consett Wesleyan Chapel, during the past fortnight, by the Rev J. G. Stuart, of Newcastle, were brought to a close on Sunday last.

Mr E. J. Meynell, County Court Judge, has appointed Mr Wm. Raw, auctioneer, of Blackhill, a bailiff for the purpose of levying distresses under the Agricultural Holdings' Act, 1883, in the Durham County Court district.

THE COUNTY REGISTERS.—The new registers for the Northern and the Southern Divisions of the county of Durham have just been printed, and both show a decrease in the number of voters. The number of voters on the old register for the Northern Division is 13,327, and the number on the new register 13,228, showing a decrease of 99.

ORDINATION AT DURHAM.—The Lord Bishop of Durham held his Christmas Ordination in Durham Cathedral on Friday last (the Feast of St. Thomas), when nine deacons and twenty-one priests were ordained. After the service, the Bishop licensed the Rev Peter Cameron, of the University of Durham, Lectonhall Theology, to the curacy of Holmside.

THE SALVATION ARMY.—The report for this year states that 34 buildings have been erected or purchased during the year at a cost of £22,000, providing sitting accommodotion for 46,000 persons, and there are now being constructed 16 more buildings to seat 29,000 people. There is a balance in hand on the general fund account, to which the outside public gave £7,465, as against £3,384 in 1882.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—MEDOMSLEY PAROCHIAL ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the above association was held on Thursday se'nnight, in the Templars' Hall, Medomsley. The vicar, the Rev W. Cookin, M.A., presided. Addresses were delivered by Mr A. B. Plummer, of Newcastle, and Mr Edward T. Reed, organising secretary of the Durham Diocesan Branch. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was not large.

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

SALES OF LOCAL PROPERTIES.—The house and shop situate at Medomsley, and now occupied by Mr Robert Moffatt, grocer, as tenant thereof, which was offered for sale by auction at Mr Mace's, Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley, on the 7th inst., by Mr William Raw, auctioneer, of Blackhill, was bought by Mr Wilson, of Westwood.—The house situate at No. 4, Tinmill Place, Blackhill, and in the occupation of Miss Walton, as tenant thereof, which was offered for sale by auction at Mr Richardson's, Railway Hotel, Blackhill, on the 12th inst., by Mr Raw, has now been sold to Mr Robert Colpitts, of Dixon Street, Blackhill.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Diseases of advanced years.—The grand climacteric being passed, mankind passes to old age. Then the digestion becomes impaired, the nervous system grows feeble, and the physical powers become enervated. Now arise congestion of the liver, lungs, or head, followed by dropsy, asthma, or apoplexy, which frequently afflict and often destroy the aged. As the liver usually becomes torpid, its activity may speedily be revived by rubbing Holloway's Ointment thoroughly over the pit of the stomach and right side, at least twice a day, and taking the Pills at the same time. This treatment also disperses all other congestions by varying the parts rubbed according to the situations of the mischief.

LINTZ AMATEUR BICYCLE CLUB.—The annual general meeting of the above club was held on Christmas Eve, in the Lintz School-room, thirty-seven members being present. The honorary secretary's report and balance sheet were read, showing the club to be in a thriving condition. The cinder track, which has been considerably altered and improved since the August meeting, is now nearly cleared from debt. The following were elected officers for the season of 1884:—William Prittee, captain; A. Ferguson, sub-captain; Wm. Harkes, honorary secretary (re-elected); W. Braidford, assistant secretary; W. Gladders, honorary treasurer; bugler, John Little. After the usual votes of thanks to the retiring officers, who suitably responded, the meeting adjourned.

GREYHOUND COURSING MATCH NEAR CORNSAY.—A coursing match, the best of three courses, for a £6 a-side, took place on Saturday last, on Stob House Farm, kindly granted for the occasion by Mr Wm. Nicholson, the well-known stock salesman and auctioneer, the competitors being Mr Watson Allison's red dog Jack, by Balderdash—Sister of Mercy, and Mr Lumley's brindled and white dog Hare Lug, by Freeman. The latter dog hails from Tow Law, whilst Jack's owner is the host of the well-known fellside hostelry, the Moorcock, near Waskerley. There was a good attendance of spectators. The task of judging was allotted to Mr Wm. Thornton, of High Brandon, whilst Mr Edward Taylor, of the Monkey's Nest beerhouse, near Cornsay Colliery, handled the slips. On being slipped, Hare Lug got a good bit the best of it with a jerking hare, but Jack raced past. The hare, however, doubled right back to Mr Lumley's dog, who wrenched once or twice before puss escaped. On being slipped again puss succeeded in reaching a clump of whins, and escaped before anything could be done. Another hare was soon found, however, and Jack raced away four lengths ahead, and in a short trial he never lost his his place next the hare. In the final Jack again assumed a commanding lead, but the hare had not been reached when they raced from view. On reappearing again Jack was still in possession, and he turned and placed his opponent. Hare Lug put on two weak wrenches, but puss then got to cover, leaving Jack the winner of the match with a trifle in hand.

LANGLEY PARK WESLEYAN CHAPEL. — On Saturday night, a presentation of a new harmonium from the society to the trustees was presented by the Rev S. Sheard, who remarked that Methodism was cradled in music for the Wesleyan family was a musical family, therefore the Wesleyans should be a musical people. The chair was occupied by Mr Appleby, of Durham. After the presentation, the Newcastle Service of Song was given by the Wesleyan choirs of Langley Park and Bearpark. Conductor and soloist, Mr D. Whitehead, of Durham Cathedral. Harmoniumist, Mr Frederick Smallwood (Durham), who gave two solos on the new instrument. As regards Mr Whitehead's and Mr Smallwood's musical qualifications, we need not say anything, as their ability is widely known. But a word for the choirs, who must feel themselves highly honoured to have such men with them. The choirs executed their part well. We should say that they are the two best choirs in the district, and great praise is due to the separate leaders. The rendering of all the hymns and anthems was admirably done, and especially the anthem or chorus, "When His loud voice in thunder spoke," which received an *encore*. We would say to the choirs go on, for they are doing a grand work, Langley Park being a young or new village, and is becoming very musical, ought to have the most approved method of singing which can only be done by the choirs practising as these choirs do for the great service of song given at Newcastle each year.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Dec. 24th.—Before J. PRIESTMAN, Esq. (in the chair), and ROBERT DICKINSON, Esq.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLIES.

John Fitzpatrick was charged by Sergeant Cruikshank with drunkenness at Blackhill, at nine o'clock, on Saturday night, 15th December.—When the officer told the man to go home, he went into a beerhouse, and as he was in a very drunken state, he had to be taken home.—Defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined 2s 6d and 6s 6d costs.

William Kay, a respectable looking man, pleaded guilty to being drunk at Blackhill, on the same evening.—The Sergeant said he saw another person dragging the defendant through some of the back streets at Blackhill, the latter being in a helpless state of intoxication.—Fined 2s 6d and expenses.

William Wheatley, who was charged by P.C. Dodds with being drunk and incapable at Blackhill, on the night of the 15th inst., was committed to gaol for seven days in default of paying the fine of 2s 6d imposed by the Bench.

Hugh Clark was summoned by P.C. Dodds for being guilty of the same offence at Blackhill, also on the night of the 15th inst.—The constable said he visited Mrs Christopher's public-house shortly after seven o'clock at night, when the landlady was endeavouring to eject the man, who was very intoxicated, from the premises. She asked witness to turn the defendant out of the house. He did so and took the man part of the way home.—The defendant emphatically declared that he was not intoxicated, but P.C.'s Garbutt and Featherstone, who saw Clark just after he had been turned out of the public-house, deposed that he was very drunk, and used very bad language to the officer when he got outside.—A similar punishment was awarded to the defendant, he being unable to pay the usual penalty inflicted.

Bernard McLeer was charged by P.C. Campbell with being drunk and disorderly in Middle Street, Consett, on the 15th December, and was fined in the same amount.

Charles Grant, a youth, was brought up for being drunk and disorderly at Consett, on the 22nd inst.—P.C. Hurworth proved the case, and the prisoner was fined 5s and the costs.

P.C. Garbutt charged *Michael Nugent* with being drunk and disorderly in the streets at Blackhill, on Saturday night last, about half-past eight o'clock.—A fine of 6s and costs was inflicted; with the alternative of seven days' hard labour.

Thomas Daley, a tramp, was brought up in custody charged with being drunk and disorderly.—P.C. Simpson found the defendant in Consett last Saturday, with his coat off and wanting to fight. Prisoner was so drunk that he had been turned out of nearly every public-house for his misconduct.—Prisoner was sent to gaol for seven days' hard labour.

John Telford was charged by P.C. Dodds with being drunk and causing a disturbance by cursing and swearing in Tinmill Street, Blackhill, last Saturday evening.—Fined 5s and costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

Andrew Martin, charged by P.C. Featherstone for being drunk and guilty of disorderly behaviour at Blackhill, on the previous Saturday night, was fined in 5s and costs.

Francis Mulhollin was placed in the dock on a charge of being drunk and disorderly.—P.C. Watson said that shortly after eleven o'clock on Saturday night, he found the prisoner wandering about the streets of Consett in a beastly state of intoxication. He had previously fallen through one shop window, for which he had paid the amount of damage.—Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.

A HAPPY FAMILY.

John Mason, of Hamsterley Colliery, was accused by P.C. Best of having been drunk and wanting to fight at Allendale Cottages, about nine o'clock on Saturday night, 15th inst.—Defendant was mulcted in a penalty of 2s 6d and costs.

Clementson Mason, of Hamsterley Colliery, was found guilty on the evidence of P.C. Sanderson of being drunk and creating a disturbance at Medomsley, on the 15th of this month.—Defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 5s and expenses.

Thomas Mason, also of Hamsterley Colliery (son of the last defendant), was charged with the same offence. P.C. Sanderson saw the man fighting, and on endeavouring to separate the combatants, the defendant struck at him, threw him down, and likewise kicked at him.—He was fined 11s 6d, including costs.

WILFULLY WASTING WATER.

John Cooper pleaded guilty to damaging certain property belonging to the Consett Iron Company, on the 2nd December.—P.C. Simpson deposed that on the 2nd inst., he saw the defendant wandering about among the coke ovens at Crookhall, the property of the Consett Company. He observed the defendant working on with the water taps. He turned on one of the taps, and if witness had not been on the spot, the yard would have been deluged with water. He also observed the defendant turn on the spring valve tap.—Cooper alleged that he was merely walking along the wagon-way, when he stumbled and fell on to the tap, causing it to run out, and about a gill of water was spilt.—Simpson stated that the defendant had no business in the yard, and moreover, if he had fallen down a hundred times it would have been impossible for him to effect the working of the tap.—The Chairman believed the defendant had wasted the water from purely mischievous motives, although he might not have turned on the tap intentionally. He would have to pay 1s fine, 1d damage, and the expenses, amounting to 6s 6d in all.

WILFUL DAMAGE TO COKE.

Two young men, named *Benton Brown* and *George Richardson* were charged with damaging a quantity of coke, the property of the Consett Iron Company, to the amount of 1d each.—P.C. Best spoke to seeing the defendants, along with other twenty men, walking about the centre of the ovens connected with the Busty Pit, at Westwood, on the afternoon of Sunday, 16th inst. A large quantity of coke had been damaged in this way, and a number of the oven doors had been broken in. The men assembled there on Sunday afternoons for the purpose of gambling.—The Manager proved the damage to amount to 1d each.—Supt. Oliver said this sort of thing had become so great a nuisance that the General Manager for the Consett Iron Company had complained to him, and asked him to endeavour to put a stop to it. The men did not go into the cokeyards with the intention of committing any damage, but for the purpose of playing at pitch and toss, and they could protect themselves by stationing a man on the top of the ovens to watch the movements of the police.—The Chairman remarked that as this was the first case of the sort that had been brought before the Bench, they would let the defendants off on paying the damage and court costs, 4s 7d each.

Thomas Scott, *John Graham*, and *Jonathan Simpson* were charged by P.C. Simpson with being guilty of a like offence on the same afternoon, and the offenders were similarly dealt with.

MORE STONE-THROWING.

Myles Agnew, a young lad, pleaded guilty to throwing stones in the public streets of Consett, on the preceding (Sunday) night, contrary to the bye-laws in force for the Local Board district of Consett.—Sergeant Murphy adduced that about half-past ten o'clock on the evening named he saw the defendant flinging stones at another boy in Medomsley Road. There was a great disturbance, some thirty or forty people having congregated around.—The Chairman informed the defendant that this was a most dangerous practice, and he had rendered himself liable to a fine of 40s. The Bench, however, would merely impose a penalty of 1s and 6s 6d costs and warned him not to repeat the offence.

GATESHEAD COUNTY POLICE.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 26th.—Before U. A. RITSON, Esq. (chairman), and J. HALL, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Sarah Bushby, of Blackhall Mill, was summoned by P.C. Farrar on a charge of being drunk and disorderly at that village, on December 15th.—She was fined 1s and costs.

John Brodie, of Blackhall Mill, was charged by P.C. Pattison with being drunk and disorderly at that village, on the 15th inst.—Fined 5s and costs.

Edward Luke, of Low Thornley, summoned by P.C. Taylor, on a charge of having been drunk and disorderly at Winlaton Mill, on December 15th, was fined 2s 6d and costs.

William Ellison, of Winlaton Mill, was charged by P.C. Taylor with having been drunk and disorderly at Winlaton Mill on the 15th December, and was fined 2s 6d and costs.

Lawrence Brannon, of Scotswood, was summoned by Sergt. Benzies, charged with being drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on December 17th.—A fine of 1s and costs was imposed.

Charles White, of Blaydon, was charged by P.C. Walton with having been drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on December 16th.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

John Kelly, of Blaydon, charged by P.C. Walton with being drunk and disorderly at Blaydon on December 14th, was fined 2s 6d and costs.

Luke Gray, of Blaydon, was summoned by P.C. Harkess for being drunk and disorderly at Blaydon on the 17th inst.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Richard Henderson, of Blaydon, was charged by P.C. Walton with having been drunk and disorderly at that place on December 14th.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

James Hopper and *Michael Kendall*, of Winlaton, were both summoned by Sergt. Clark on a charge of committing a breach of the peace, at Winlaton, on December 15th.—Defendants were bound in the sum of £5 each to keep the peace for six months.

GAME TRESPASS.

James Talbot and *Edward Donnolly*, of Winlaton were summoned on a charge of trespassing in pursuit of game on the Earl of Ravensworth's estate, on the 14th December.—Defendants were found guilty, and the Bench fined them 10s each and costs.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Thomas Duxfield, of Greenside, was summoned on a charge of doing wilful damage to a door, the property of John Cooper, of Barlow, to the amount of 6d.—Fined 6s 6d, including amount of damage and costs.

THEFT AT BLAYDON.

Alice Douglass, of Blaydon, was brought up in the custody of Sergt. Benzies on a charge of stealing a jacket the property of Jane Gee, of Blaydon, on December 15th.—Prisoner was committed for seven days' imprisonment.

WIT AND HUMOUR.

ALL roads lead to roam.

BRED winners—Greyhounds.

MAGNIFICENT training-ship—A scholar-ship.

THE strongest desire of woman is to be desired.

A MASTER of free-hand drawing—A pickpocket.

SAFE blowing—The challenges of French duellists.

THE key-note, pitched rather low—"Wife, let me in!"

THE watering-cart saves many a man from biting the dust.

THE proper place for a corner in coal—Down in the cellar.

THE possibilities of the candy-dates are all in the Sweet Bye and Bye.

MAN is like a pin—The size of the head does not indicate how sharp and pointed he may be.

WHY is a drawn tooth like a thing no longer remembered?—Because it is out of the head.

IN olden times barbers used to pull teeth and bleed people. Now they talk them to death.

SCHOOL houses should have lightning rods on them, for if you spare the rod your children may be spoiled.

A MARKET gardener should be careful about allowing a widow to enter the premises because of her "weeds."

NOT very widely known—The reason why men succeed who mind their own business is because there is so little competition.

"I MARRY that fellow," exclaimed Miss Mitinice. "No! I would rather die than have him—that is, if I could get somebody else."

"I AM burning to stand at the head of my class," as the boy remarked when he threw his schoolmate's exercise into the fire.

IN a summer hotel kitchen: "Good gracious! here is another order for chicken-salad, and there is not an ounce of veal left in the house."

A FRENCH dramatist makes one of his characters in a recent play declare that he is "holding up the trousers of despair with the braces of hope."

THE stingiest man in Portsmouth is said to be a miserly old bachelor who talks through his nose so as to save the wear and tear of his voice on his false teeth.

THE bibulous person who said he had "a bright prospect" before him, was told that it would always be there, unless he swore off or ckalked his nose.

A YOUNG man, charged with being lazy, was asked if he took it from his father. "I think not," was the reply; "my father's got all the laziness he ever had."

THERE are two rules to follow in skimming milk. If the cream is to be sold, skim deep, if the milk is to be sold, skim deep. Never fail to skim deep.

"DEAR lady, please help an unfortunate man. I ain't had no work at my trade since last winter." "Poor man! What is your trade?" "Shovellin' snow, mum."

"Do you mean to tell me that Adam wasn't a polygamist, when he married every woman there was in the world?" shrieked a Mormon lecturer at his audience.

"MASTER's away from home, sir. Would you please leave your name?" "Faix, an' what should I be lavin' me name for, bedad! when he knows me quite well?"

THEY were boasting of their beautiful figures. One said her figure wasn't like a figure 1; and the other retorted that hers was not like a figure 8, figuratively speaking.

A CALAMITY—"Please to give me something, sir," said an old woman. "I had a blind child; he was my only means of subsistence, and the poor boy has recovered his sight!"

CONSOLATION at the table d'hôte—A waiter spilt some gravy over a lady's dress. The lady was terribly put out. "Never mind," said the waiter; "there's plenty more gravy where that came from!"

A PROFESSOR was expostulating with a student for idleness, when the latter said:—"It's no use; I was cut out for a loafer." "Well," declared the professor, "whoever cut you out understood his business."

A LITTLE boy went to his first tea party when four years and three months old. Upon his hostess asking him how he liked his tea, he replied, "It is very nice, but it tastes very much of the water."

"POOH!" remarked the wise concert-goer, as the performer of a piano solo was leaving the stage; "that fellow can't play. Why, he don't wriggle his body, nor throw back his head, nor stick out his tongue a bit."

A MUNICH journal gives vent to the following Hibernicism *a propos* of Wagner and the recent representations of *Parsifal*—"Ah, if the master were alive, he would see how greatly he was estimated after his death!"

"THOSE birds flying over yonder are aquatic birds, I suppose?" asked the young man in the seal-brown suit of the captain of the steamer. "No, they ain't," was the scornful reply. "Them's ducks!"

"WAS that a Zulu?" inquired a countryman of his city cousin, whom he was visiting, as he heard a blood-curdling "whoop" about five o'clock in the morning.—"No," growled his relative; "that was a milkman."

"JULIA, my little cherub, when does your sister Ida return?" Julia: "I don't know."—"Didn't she say anything before she went away?" Julia: "She said that if you came to see her she'd be gone till doomsday."

PROFESSIONAL: "Please gimme a penny, sir, to buy some bread?" Muggins: "Why, I gave you sixpence not an hour ago!" Professional (taking in the situation): "Yes, sir, I know, sir, but I—I'm a terrible bread-eater."

SPINKS went home the other night afflicted with double vision. He sat for some time with his sleepy gaze riveted on Mrs. S., and then complacently remarked, "Well, I declare if you two gals don't look 'nough alike to be twins!"

THIS was Jones's reply to a friend's intimation of his approaching marriage—"I should make my compliments to both of you; but, as I don't know the young lady, I can't felicitate you; and I know you so well that I can't felicitate her."

A BRIGHTON hotel keeper was charging a visitor high prices for very bad accommodations. "What will you do when you have killed the goose that lays the golden egg!" said the grumbling boarder.—"Wait for another goose!" said the hard-faced landlord.

THE STOLEN DIAMOND.

"Your adopted daughter is very handsome, Ellen. My quiet, demure little Annie will be scarcely seen; indeed, quite eclipsed by the brilliant Lucia."

"Yes, Lucia is handsome; but—" and Mrs. Davenport hesitated. A sigh escaped her lips, and an anxious expression settled on her face, as she answered her friend's inquiry:

"What is it that troubles you, Ellen?"

"I will tell you. I ought to; and I feel sure you will lend me your assistance. And with dear, good little Annie's example, my Lucia may be won from that love of ornament which causes me such uneasiness. Indeed, it was from this hope that I accepted your invitation for Lucia to spend the winter with you."

A few days after the above conversation, Mrs. Davenport returned to her home, leaving Lucia with her friend Mrs. Wilton.

Notwithstanding Lucia's failings were known to her hostess, she became very much attached to the orphan girl, who was so beautiful, bright, winning, and generally pleasant and entertaining. All, for a time, yielded to her.

George Wilton loved his mother's favourite, the gentle little Annie, and he had told her so many times. Still, there was no positive engagement between them. When Lucia first came to visit Mrs. Wilton, George did not seem very much taken with either her handsome face or easy, cordial manner.

But after a while he grew more tolerant of Lucia's faults; a little longer, and he lingered to listen to her merry voice, then sought her side, and finally Annie's quiet, artless little ways no longer won him, even for an hour, from the brilliant girl's presence.

As the weeks of her residence with her friends wore on, Lucia's restraint gradually passed away, and many times her ruling passion broke forth in a most glaring and disfiguring light.

On one occasion, after returning from a large party, she entered her room, and, unmindful even of the presence of Mrs. Wilton, she tore off her muslin dress, and throwing it down, stamped upon it; and in a perfect fury of envy and disappointment, she raged until exhausted, because she could not dress in diamonds and satin, like a new star that had just appeared in the fashionable firmament, and, of course, quite eclipsed Lucia that evening.

Sorely grieved, Mrs. Wilton tried to soothe and calm the excited girl, but with little effect.

About that time cards were issued for a very brilliant reception; Mrs. Wilton and her family receiving theirs. Immediately the question arose, "What shall we wear?"

Lucia vowed, unless she could have just what she wanted, she would not go.

As the night appointed was a week off, Lucia had ample time to write to her adopted mother and express her wishes. This she said she should do.

The next morning Mrs Wilton went out to make her purchases for the coming event.

After a short absence, Mrs. Wilton returned with an anxious look; and after hastening up to her room, she came down again and said—

"I went out, intending to bring you both home a present, but I have met with quite a loss—a hundred pounds. I hoped it might have gotten out of my pocket-book somehow before I left my room, but I've looked in vain!"

Both girls started up and exclaimed—

"Let us go hunt for you;" and "Where can you remember having it last?"

But all hunting was of no avail. The money was gone.

Three days before the evening of the reception Lucia received a letter from home. And with great apparent satisfaction she asked Annie to go with her to get her dress and trimmings.

Although there were many more elegantly dressed women present that gala night, none looked more beautiful than Lucia, in a rose-coloured silk, covered with puffings of tulle, the neck and sleeves trimmed with point lace.

"Well, Lucia, you are contented to night, I trust. You were admired sufficiently, and there was not a more beautiful dress in the room. Nothing was wanting," said Annie.

"Yes, something was. I had no jewels. Let me don yours for a moment, Mrs. Wilton, and see how I will look when I have diamonds of my own," said Lucia.

Mrs. Wilton was just removing her wrappings. Throwing off the opera hood, she unhooked one earring, and handed it to Lucia; then putting her fingers to the other ear, she exclaimed:

"See! I have pulled the other out. It has caught in the tassel or fringe of my hood. I had it when I came upstairs, I know. Look quick girls. Be careful not to tread on it."

Both girls commenced to look over the wrappings. The hood was turned in and out; every inch carefully examined. But look as they might, it could not be found.

The evening of the next day the family were in the sitting-room, Lucia trifling over her workbox, when Mrs. Wilton, greatly to George's amazement, said:—

"Lucia, I see you have a safe little box there. Please lock up this earring. I had it showing to a friend who, seeing our advertisement of the other's loss in the paper, asked to look at this. I do not want to go up stairs to put it away. Just keep it until I ask for it."

The afternoon following the night that Mrs. Wilton had given Lucia the earring to keep for her, some friends were speaking of it, and Mrs. Wilton said:—

"Lucia, I will take that earring now, please. George, dear, go up and ask Annie for Lucia's workbox——"

"Why, Mrs. Wilton, I gave it to you last night!" answered Lucia quickly.

George stopped.

Mrs. Wilton said:—

"My dear, you will see you have it. Just look. I cannot be mistaken. Go, George; get the box."

"Why, surely, Mrs. Wilton, I gave it to you! We were up in your room, you and I, and——"

"Lucia, if you will look well, you will find the earring that I have not got," answered Mrs. Wilton, and looking into Lucia's eyes, her own speaking more than her tongue could ever have; the words so dreadful would have faltered and died in the attempt for utterance.

Lucia gazed amazed, terrified an instant; and the bright crimson flush which had spread over her face when she first denied the possession of the jewel, gave place to a deathly paleness, and she faltered:

"Indeed, I gave it you. I—I—"

"And I will declare, to the public if necessary, you have it still in your possession. Will you get it, Lucia?"

Footsteps were heard on the stairs—George's. With a powerful effort for composure, Lucia said, as he entered:

"I was so frightened! I knew I had taken it out to give you. I remember now. When I retired, I put it in my trunk for more perfect safety. I will get it."

In a few moments she returned, and placed in Mrs. Wilton's hand the earring.

That night, when the girls had retired, Mrs. Wilton called George into her room, and opening her jewel box, displayed, to his amazement, both earrings.

With a warning movement, she hushed the cry that was about to escape his lips, and in a whisper he asked:

"Where did you find it?"

"Where I told you."

"Oh, no, no, no!"

"Yes."

"She gave them both to you?" he asked with a suppressed groan.

"She did. As you heard her say, one last night—that which you saw me give her. I asked her for it when we were alone, with no witness, you see. This afternoon you heard me demand it. I looked at her. She saw I had her completely in my power then, and brought forth the missing one, that she had taken that night when I first dropped it. It was an experiment."

"But if you had been mistaken, mother, what then?"

"She would have proved her innocence by insisting, notwithstanding my words, and more than words—my looks, that she had given it to me. And I should have seen that I was wrong."

The next day Lucia stated that she was called immediately home, and bade them "good-bye" the same evening. George escorted her to the depôt, and was very kind. But there was an air of deep dejection about him that, like his mother's looks, spoke more than words.

About the missing money nothing was ever known to prove the guilt of any one; only suspicions lurked in the minds of those who had cause to doubt the honesty of one.

George was, after a while, restored to his former position in Annie's loving and forgiving heart; and in a year after his temporary blindness, caused, he said, by too close proximity to such a light object, Annie became Mrs Wilton.

HOW to demonstrate that man is always a fool—A man is always a fool. If he be young, the world says, When he is older, he will know more, if he be older, it says, He is old enough to know better; and, when he is old, it says, There is no kind of fool equal to an old fool.

SHORT way with a souvenir-seeker—The following bombshell has been discharged by a famous American general, who received a polite letter requesting an autograph and a lock of his hair—"The man who has been writing my autograph is discharged, and, as my orderly is bald, I cannot comply with the second of your requests."

As pa and ma were having a little evening quarrel, their only child, little Johnny, rushed in and exclaimed, "Pa, what does my teacher mean by saying that I inherited my bad temper?" Pa hesitated, but ma spontaneously replied, "She meant that you are your father's own boy," and then burst into tears.

A TRAVELLER in India writes home: "It is considered a disgrace for a Hindoo girl not to be married when she is eleven or twelve years old." The English girl does not come to maturity quite so early as those Eastern fairies do; but at 25 or 30 she begins to feel about as keenly on such subjects as any Hindoo girl could.

THE political bogy—Many years ago an Englishman residing in Florence threw out of his window some dirty water, which fell upon the Grand-Duke of Tuscany, who happened to be passing. He ran down-stairs to apologise; but his highness good-humouredly checked him. "Say nothing about it, or Lord Palmerston will make me pay an indemnity."

SAID a self-satisfied young man, "Really, I don't know what I shall do, with the girls all after me so. A fellow can't be absolutely rude to them, you know, even if they do follow him up and constantly force opportunities to propose, you know, and what can I do, old boy?"—"Easy enough; emigrate to Utah and telegraph for the whole gang," answered the practical friend.

A YOUNG hopeful—A little French boy, on returning from school, brought home a copy-book all blotted with ink. "You untidy boy," said his mother, "to spoil your nice copy-book in that way! You shall be punished for this." "Well, mamma," was the reply, "it wasn't my fault really; there's a negro boy sits next to me in class, and his nose bled as he was looking over my page!"

A SHARP student was called up by the worthy professor of a celebrated college, and asked the question, "Can a man see without eyes?"—"Yes, sir," was the prompt reply.—"How, sir," cried the astonished professor, "can a man see without eyes? Pray, sir, how do you make that out?"—"He can see with one, sir, replied the ready-witted youth. And the whole class shouted with delight at the triumph over metaphysics.

THE mind of the child should be disciplined by the effort of study, as our souls by suffering.

There is no nobility like that of a true heart; for such never stoops to artifice, nor is wanting in good offices, when they are seasonable.

Good and evil, or what we esteem as such, come to us all at different times and in various ways; but the message they bring and the effect they produce are chiefly determined by the way we receive them.

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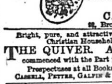
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Business Announcements.

INTERESTING TO GENTLEMEN.

I, DR. DANIEL SUTHERLAND, Surgeon at the New Medical Hall, 72, Jamaica Street, Glasgow, hereby intimate to all whom it may concern that I have long studied and treated confidential Complaints and Weaknesses as a principal part of my Practice, both here and in Edinburgh, though never formerly made known by Advertisement, and it is possible that this notice may be construed as a breach of professional etiquette; but I think it very pardonable when I consider the number of Gentlemen constantly consulting me with their Constitutions injured, and Complaints aggravated, after being for months and years the dupes of Quacks and Druggists. I consider it a righteous necessity in the Public interest to advertise the fact that a Member of the Profession proper devotes his time to the study and treatment of these special Complaints. Gentlemen are therefore inexcusable if they fall into the hands of empirical pretenders. I make free to assure Gentlemen entrusting me with their confidence that they may rely upon the highest professional honour and skilled conscientious treatment, whether they visit me at 72, Jamaica Street, Glasgow, or communicate with me by letter, which will have my immediate attention.

I am, faithfully, DANIEL SUTHERLAND,

Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons; also of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons. For 7 years Councillor and Trustee of the City of Edinburgh, and Manager of the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh; President of the Scottish Christians' Evidence Society; Medallist (Royal College Surgeons), 1867; awarded Queen's Prize (Science of Chemistry), Kensington Museum, 1868; Public Honours (Royal College of Surgeons), 1869, &c., &c.

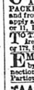
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THE Committee of Management *urgently appeal for Subscriptions or Donations* to meet the necessary expenses of this Charity, as well as to cover the present deficit of £1,300. The Applications for Admission far exceed the accommodation which the present income enables the Committee to provide. Number of Patients treated last year: In-patients, 563; Out-patients, 8,231. Chairman of the Committee of Management—HENRY CHURCHILL, Esq., J.P. Treasurer—F. H. BEAUMONT, Esq. Bankers—Messrs. SMITH, PAYNE, & SMITHS. T. S. CHAPMAN, Secretary. [365

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EMIGRANTS' PASSAGES.—For lowest fares and information apply to Sewell and Crowther, 18, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross. Canada, £3; United States, £4; Australia, £13 13s.; Brisbane, £14; New Zealand, £13 13s.; and South Africa, £15 15s.; Queensland, £5. Food provided. Saloon passages at lowest rates. Goods shipped and Insured. [346

BRITISH HOME FOR INCURABLES, CLAPHAM.—Information and Forms of Application either for the Home or Pension can be obtained from R. G. SALMOND, Secretary, 73, Cheapside, London, E.C. Funds urgently needed. [347

STAMMERING CURED. See book written by one who cured himself. Price, post free, thirteen stamps. From B. BEASLEY, Hall Green, near Birmingham. [363

EPILEPSY—A certain Cure. Pamphlet free two stamps.—Dr. HAMILTON, 81, Oxford Street, London. [347

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TUNE YOUR OWN PIANOS. — Send 12 stamps for "TUTOR," which will enable you to tune your own piano in a few weeks without the aid of a master.—Address, ..., New Oxford Street, London.

THIS DAY'S NEWS.

"GUARDIAN" OFFICE, FRIDAY, 4 P.M.

GREAT RIOTS IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

FOUR PERSONS KILLED.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

NEW YORK, THURSDAY.

The *New York Herald* publishes a despatch from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, giving particulars of the riot between Orangemen and Catholics at that place, according to which the former, whilst parading the streets, were fired at by some Catholics, who were entrenched behind a snowbank. Three Orangemen were killed and a number wounded, some fatally. The despatch adds that further disturbances are apprehended.

ST. JOHN'S (N.F.), THURSDAY NIGHT.

When first shot at the Orangemen thought that some of their friends were simply firing off blank cartridges. The night passed quietly. A hundred special constables have been sworn in to maintain order. There is great excitement in the neighbouring villages. Many arrests are expected to follow.

[CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.]

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, FRIDAY.

The riots at Harbour Grace continue, and are extending to the neighbouring localities. Four Orangemen were killed yesterday, and many persons were injured. Business is entirely suspended.

[CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.]

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP PERCHE.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY.

Archbishop Perche, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New Orleans, is dead.

IMPENDING STRIKE OF WEAVERS.

A dispute has arisen in the Macclesfield silk trade, the weavers demanding an advance in wages, besides uniformity in the prices paid by the manufacturers. It is intended to strike at each mill until the employers yield.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCES AMONG SOLDIERS AT CANTERBURY.

Last night three hundred cavalry soldiers broke into the City Arms public-house at Canterbury. They drank up the liquor, smashed the furniture to pieces, and completely wrecked the premises. The disturbance lasted till after two o'clock this (Friday) morning, the picket being unable to cope with the rioters. The cause of the attack was the non-receipt of a silver watch won by one of the soldiers at a singing party.

ORANGEMEN AND NATIONALISTS.

DUBLIN, FRIDAY.

A circular has been issued calling upon the Orangemen to assemble in thousands at Cookhill on Tuesday, January first, as a protest against the proposed National meeting.

In a letter just forwarded to the secretary of the Liverpool Orange Lodge, Lord Rossmore says:—"Rome has had a great many rebuffs lately. The rebel Parnell has dealt with her heavily in that way. He rules her bishops with an iron hand. He has made her Pope a myth. I am pleased to think that the men of Ulster have, up to the present, kept the whole party—Pope, Priests, and Parnell—out of our province. Royalty has, through me, received from Mr Gladstone a most impertinent blow. This should not, and must not, be forgotten at the next election. There may be stormy times ahead for us Orangemen in Ireland. If this disgraceful Government continues in office, we may need assistance from your side of the water. I know we shall get it, if we are so far pressed as to ask for it. Therefore, watch; be very careful; and be ready, if the time should come when fighting for our Queen and cause should be necessary."

ATTEMPT TO WRECK A TRAIN.

An attempt was made to throw a train off the line near Newry last night by placing a stone on the swith. The engine left the metals, but the passengers escaped uninjured.

LOSS OF THE PLANTYRE.

ANTWERP, THURSDAY NIGHT.

The owners of the steamship *Plantyre* have received a telegram from Captain Scott, giving details of her loss. The heavy seas on November 17th, swept the decks and extinguished the fires. Four men were washed overboard when bailing and pumping. The vessel was kept afloat until December 6th, when the survivors were rescued.

COLLISION BETWEEN STEAMERS.

News reached Grimsby this morning of the total loss of the Manchester Railway Company's Steamer Gainsboro', plying between Grimsby and Hamburg. The vessel left Hamburg on Monday night, but was delayed by a fog when about 25 miles from Spurn. She was struck amidships by the steamer Collier, from Sunderland, and cut down below the water-line, and sank in a few minutes. The passengers and crew were rescued by the Wear, but transferred afterwards to the s.s. Franklin.

FRANCE AND CHINA.

["DAILY NEWS" TELEGRAM.]

PARIS, THURSDAY NIGHT.

The Havas agency sends the following:—

LONDON, Dec 27.—It is thought here that the Marquis Tseng has come to seek the good offices of the Court of St. James. It is doubtful whether his suggestion can be favourably received. It is not possible to ask France, in present circumstances, to abandon, even partially, after the taking of Sontay, the programme she has carved out for herself; and it seems that China, by the aggressive attitude she has assumed, cannot escape the pecuniary responsibilities for the satisfaction of which France is now entitled to demand material guarantee.

MEXICAN SHIPPING DUES.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAM.]

MEXICO, THURSDAY.

The law establishing the differential duties in favour of Mexican vessels, as finally passed by the Mexican Legislature, grants the following reduction of duties:—2 per cent. on all goods brought by Mexican vessels, 8 per cent. on Asiatic goods brought by regular lines of steamers to the Pacific Coast, and 4 per cent. on occasional Asiatic importations.

THE ROWING ON THE TYNE.

The condition of the river Tyne is to-day (Friday) much more favourable for the decision of the events in McKenzie's open-boat handicap than it was yesterday. The rowing was resumed this morning shortly after ten o'clock. The dead heat between A. Dunlop and Jos. Hedley will be rowed off, and the remaining heats in the handicap will be decided this afternoon.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, Dec. 27th.—Before M. KEARNEY, Esq. (chairman), the Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE, GEO. G. TAYLOR SMITH, Esq., and GEO. HEDLEY, Esq.

THE LATE ANNANDALE TOWN, ESQ., J.P.

A TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

The Chairman said that before proceeding with the usual business of the court, he wished on behalf of the Lanchester Bench of magistrates to express their deep regret and sorrow at the death of Mr Annandale Town. It was a subject of the deepest melancholy to everyone who knew Mr Town, for he was one of the best magistrates in the North of England, a kind friend and extremely good in every other respect. The magistrates expressed their sorrow at his death, and condoled with his family in the great loss they had sustained.

DRUNKENNESS.

James Galley was summoned by Sergt. Nicholson for being drunk and causing a disturbance by shouting and swearing at Quebec, on Saturday night, 8th inst.—As the defendant did not appear, he was fined 10s and the costs.

John Dodds pleaded guilty to a charge, preferred against him by the above-named officer, of having been drunk and disorderly at Quebec on the night of the 15th inst.—Sergt. Nicholson, hearing a disturbance near Marley's public-house, proceeded to the spot, and on arriving there he saw the defendant shouting and swearing at the top of his voice, a lot of boys having gathered around him.—Dodds was ordered to pay 11s 6d, which includes fine and costs.

James McGinn failed to appear to answer a similar charge.—Sergt. Nicholson adduced that at 11·30 p.m. on the 15th December, he observed McGinn creating a great uproar at Wilk's Hill, near Quebec. He was endeavouring to gain admittance to a dwelling house, and also desired to fight with the people. Defendant, who is separated from his wife, was kicking in the door, and threatening to kill everybody inside.—A fine of 10s and costs was likewise imposed in this case.

John Jones was summoned by P.C. Readman for being drunk and causing a disturbance at Langley Park, on Saturday evening, 15th inst.—Defendant admitted the offence, and was fined 5s besides pay the expenses incurred.

James Graham was accused by Sergt. Tranmer of being drunk and riotous at West Stanley, at nine o'clock on the night of the 15th inst.—The officer noticed the man going about the streets in a very drunken state, and ordered him off home. The defendant, however, declined to go away, and shortly afterwards witness found him in Mr Clarkson's public-house at West Stanley. Graham becaved himself in a most disorderly manner—As the defendant did not respond to the summons, a penalty of 10s and expenses was inflicted upon him; with the alternative of 14 days' imprisonment.

William Cuthbert, who was charged by P.C. Robinson with being guilty of drunkenness at the same place, on the 8th of the present month, was also fined 10s and costs for non-appearance.

BREACH OF MINES' REGULATION ACT.

Joha Nicholson, miner, failed to appear to answer an adjourned summons, charging him with wilfully infringing the special rules enforced at the Ushaw Moor Colliery.—Mr Lawrence Chaytor, the son of the owner of the colliery, stated that on the morning of the 4th inst., he encountered the defendant in the mine, when he stopped and talked to him for a few minutes. During the conversation Nicholson's light blew out, and the latter deliberately pulled a paper of matches out of his pocket, struck it, and re-lit his candle.—The Rev J. P. De Pledge: Do the men take candles there?—Witness: Yes, sir.—The Chairman: But supposing a man's candle accidentally goes out, how is he to light it again?—Witness: He must see the deputy, sir.—The Chairman: Defendant will be fined 5s and 6s 6d costs; in default of payment to be imprisoned for 7 days.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

Robert Ferry and *Joseph Ferry*, brothers, were summoned for committing a breach of the peace.—Sergt. Nicholson adduced that at 11·30 p.m. on Saturday, 8th inst., he heard a disturbance going on at Quebec, and thereupon he came across the two defendants fighting in the streets.—The defendant Joseph only responded to the summons, and he pleaded guilty to the charge. He said he had nothing to say except that his brother came up to him and struck him first. He had done so on several occasions.—The Chairman (to the sergeant): Do you think the defendant Robert was the aggressor?—Officer: I believe so, sir. He is a regular blackguard, the other brother.—The magistrates bound Joseph Ferry over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for three months, and defray the Court costs, 8s. A warrant was issued for the apprehension of the defendant Robert, for disobeying the summons.

PITCH AND TOSS.

Thomas Dodds, Jonathan Corbett, William Reay, George W. Clark, Thomas Halliday, pitmen, were summoned at the instance of P.C. Philipson for playing at pitch and toss at West Stanley, on Sunday, 16th inst.—About two o'clock in the afternoon the officer observed the men playing on the public road leading to Stanley Hall, and being in plain clothes, he almost walked right up to the defendants before he was observed. As soon as he was recognised, however, the men suddenly decamped.—The Chairman observed that it was very strange that men like the defendants should always select a Sunday on which to play at pitch and toss. It was bad enough to gamble on a week day, but the offence was greatly aggravated when committed on a Sunday.—In the case of Reay and Clark (both of whom admitted their guilt) a fine of 5s and costs was imposed; as the other defendants did not put in an appearance at the Court, they were mulcted in a penalty of 10s and pay the expenses.

A DRUNKEN WOMAN.

Mary Ann Kelly, a married woman, residing at Hill Top, was charged with having been drunk and disorderly at Stanley, on the 18th inst.—P.C. Phillipson stated that he found the defendant very drunk and creating a disturbance. She had frequently been drunk of late, and was a complete nuisance to the neighbourhood.—Defendant said that she had only had two glasses of rum, and she pleaded for mercy on account of her six little children.—The Chairman said it was a sad thing to see an apparently respectable woman like the defendant in such a condition, wasting in drink and fines the money she ought to spend in procuring food and clothing for her family. On this occasion she was fined 2s 6d and costs only, but would be more severely dealt with if she ever appeared before them again.

USING THREATENING LANGUAGE.

Septimus Gibson was charged with committing a breach of the peace by using threatening language towards John and Elizabeth A. Hetherington, at Annfield Plain, on the 15th inst. Mr Oliver prosecuted.—Complainant stated that on the day named the defendant came to his house, and after using a deal of bad language, threatened to knock his head off, and "scatter his b—— brains about." He also burst the door in three times. Complainant was afraid that defendant would carry out his threats.—Elizabeth A. Hetherington, the complainant's wife, proved the case, and said the defendant also threatened her in a similar manner. He accused her of getting a man convicted by false swearnig, and for the past nine or ten weeks she had been afraid.—Defendant called a witness named Robert Hale, who denied that any threats were used.—Defendant was bound over in his own recognizances of £5 in each case to keep the peace for six months, and to pay [illegible].

EMPLOYER AND WORKMEN'S ACT.

Richard Pallister, publican, was summoned by George McDonald, labourer, for refusing to pay 8s for two days' wages earned on the 1st and the 2nd inst.—Plaintiff stated that he worked for the defendant for two days at clearing out a pond at Ushaw Moor, for which he claimed 8s. When he went for his money defendant told him he had given it to another man.—Defendant said he had paid the money to the plaintiff's marrow, and that the plaintiff authorised him to do so. The man that the money had been paid to had been convicted of theft, and was in gaol. Witness held a contract to clean out and puddle a pond at Ushaw Moor, and employed the plaintiff and other men to do the work.—Evidence was given that the plaintiff authorised the defendant to pay the wages to his companion. The Bench dismissed the case.

ASSAULT AT USHAW MOOR COLLIERY.

James Simpson was charged with assaulting Henry Marshall, at Ushaw Moor Colliery, on the 1st inst.—Complainant, a young boy, stated that the defendant struck him across the face with his fist and then kicked him.—The stepfather of the complainant deposed to seeing the defendant strike and kick the boy.—Defendant said that he was a banksman, and had charge of the complainant and other boys. The complainant ran one tub into the the cage, and when witness told him to put another in he became very offensive, and made use of some foul expressions. He (defendant) then struck the boy over the face with the flat of his hand, and also touched him with the side of his foot.—William Bunting spoke to the insolent conduct of the complainant, and to the slight nature of the blows given by the defendant.—The Chairman said that on account of the great provocation given by the complainant they would impose only a very small penalty.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Local and General News.

DURHAM QUARTER SESSIONS.—Durham Epiphany Quarter Sessions will be held on Monday next, in the Assize Courts at Durham, by Mr John L. Wharton. The calendar contains the names of 53 prisoners, but they are of the ordinary quarter sessional character, and contain no case of more than passing interest.

STANHOPE UNION WORKHOUSE.—The usual Christmas cheer, consisting of roast beef and plum pudding was served up to the inmates, numbering 68, on Christmas Day. The master and maton, Mr and Mrs Hodgson, spared no pains to make the festive day cheerful to those under their charge. In the evening a very interesting dialogue of a humourous turn was given by a few of the young inmates, who sustained their part with wonderful tact, having each passage committed to memory. Other interesting features in addition to the dialogue rendered the entertainment pleasing.

SOCIAL SUPPER AT CONSETT.—On Christmas Eve, a social gathering was held at the house of Mr A. Parker, the Black Horse Inn, Consett. Between 50 and 60 persons sat down to a capital repast, served up in an able manner by the Host and Hostess. After the removal of the cloth, Mr R. Murray, of Benfieldside, filled the chair, and the list of toasts submitted were enthusiastically honoured. A few songs were occasionally sung by Messrs. E. Lennox, J. Savage, W. Cannon, and other members of the company, and all present thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

CHRISTMAS AT LANGLEY MOOR.—A fine day was experienced for the carol singers at Christmas, and they were very numerous at Langley Moor. The Salvation Army Choir, at an early hour, perambulated the streets, and they were followed by the choirs of the Wesleyan, New Connexion, and Primitive Methodist Chapels. In the course of the day a bazaar, Christmas-tree, and public meeting were held in connection with the Wesleyan Chapel.—On Saturday evening an excellent entertainment was given in the Methodist New Connexion Chapel by the local members of the Blue Ribbon Army. The chair was occupied by Mr Thompson, of Langley Moor, and Master Thompson ably presided at the harmonium.

A RUFFIANLY FELLOW.—At Durham City Police Court, yesterday (Thursday), William Peter Gilroy, a groom, who was formerly connected with one of the Richmond training stables, was charged with an indecent assault upon a housemaid named Frances Watson (whose parents live at Hedley Hill), employed at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Durham, on Wednesday night. The prosecutrix was cleaning out a washhouse about six o'clock, when the defendant entered the place, blew out the lights, and assaulted her. She got away from him and informed the landlady, and Gilroy was apprehended the same night.—The Bench found him guilty of a common assault, and sent him to prison for one month, with an additional week on non-payment of costs.

THE FARMERS AND THE SCARECROW.—A somewhat remarkable adventure befel two farmers who had been present at Lord Boyne's fat stock sale as they were returning home in their trap at the end of the day's business. They had just reached Hollywell Farm when they were startled to find the figure of a man hanging by a rope from a tree. The wortho pair at once jumped to the conclusion that it was a case of suicide, and whilst one of them ran off to the nearest farmhouse for assistance the other speedily mounted the tree, and cutting the cord, allowed the supposed dead man to fall upon the ground just as the other farmer came up with assistance. A lantern was held over the body, and to the great disgust of the parties who had given themselves so much trouble, they discovered that the "suicide" was nothing more than a scarecrow. They resolved, however, that as they had had nothing more than their labour for their pains they would not give wind to the story, and so prevent any chaffing over the matter; and accordingly each one present was sworn to secrecy, whilst the scarecrew was taken to a farmhouse from which they learned it had been abstracted by someone bent upon a joke. Practical jokes seem, however, like murders, for they will "out" and the principal actors in the affair have already been the recipients of so much chaff and banter that they are not likely to soon forget their little adventure.

DURHAM COKEMEN'S ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Durham Cokemen's Association was held on Saturday, at Durham. There was a full attendance, every branch of the association being represented. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr John Dunn, New Shildon; secretary, Mr Thomas Hart, Bishop Auckland; treasurer, Mr John Bell. The question of the new sliding scale to take the place of that which will come to a close early in next year, was discussed. It was stated that the following propositions had been submitted to the coalowners:—1. That we cannot entertain any arrangement for a future sliding scale unless the coalowners agree to a basis of work consistent with the basis of wages decided by Mr Jos. Dodds, M.P., either by ton of coals or coke, or by the oven, in proportion to the amount of coke drawn therefrom. 2. That when the owners are not ready, according to arrangement in the mode of burning, the drawers be allowed compensation for waiting on. 3. That all cokemen be supplied with house coals on the same footing as the miners, mechanics, and enginemen. 4. That the basis of the new sliding scale be an advance of 10 per cent. on that at present in operation. The coalowners refused to entertain the propositions. The following resolution was then carried unanimously:—That we do not agree to the renewal of the sliding scale, or any other mode for arranging our wages in future, until an arrangement is entered into with the coalowners providing that nonunionists shall receive no benefit from the arrangements entered into between the coalowners and this association.—The report of the treasurer shewed the financial position to be satisfactory.

A DOLLAR.—The word dollar has a singular and interesting origin. Its connection with dale, a little valley, would hardly be suspected, but it is etymologically that very word. It comes through the Dutch, from the German thaler. Now, this word is an abbreviation from Joachimsthaler, the coin having been so called because it was first coined from silver obtained from mines in Joachim's thal, i. e., Joachim's dale, in Bohemia, about the year 1518.

STATE ETIQUETTE IN TUNIS.—Etiquette in Tunis requires that the man who is to succeed the ruler should be completely ignored. No minister or state officer could visit him or communicate with him without running the risk of losing his office or of being exiled. Even the representatives of foreign governments may not visit the heir, and personally he is quite unknown to them. For a native to show him any mark of attention would be high treason, and such an act by a foreign counsel would be regarded as evincing a want of respect for the Bey, every manifestation of regard for the heir being tantamount to an international allusion to the transitory power of the Regent, and to his eventual death.

LOCAL SHARES IN 1883.—Consett Iron Company shares have varied in price to the extent of £4 per share, and now stand at the lowest point touched this year. The dividends paid during the year were 12s 6d in February, and 15s in August, and it would appear from the present tone of the market that investors, being aware of the state of trade, look for smaller returns next year.—The Consett Spanish Ore Company have maintained their improved dividends, and the shares have had a further substantial rise, and are in such demand at the present price, that a still higher figure will probably be touched ere long.—Harehope Gill Mine shares have fallen from 26s to 20s. This is probably caused by the rumour of further capital being required.—Hexham and Edmondbyers Mine shares opened at 15s, rose to 1½, and closed at 10s.—*Newcastle Journal.*

CHRISTMAS AT WITTON GILBERT.—Early on Christmas morning the choirs of St. Michael's Church and the Wesleyans sang their annual Christmas carols through the village, and also visited the principal of their respective adherents. The weather being calm and mild, the music had a pleasing effect in the still morning air.—Divine service was held in St. Michael's Church in the morning at the usual hour, and at three o'clock in the afternoon. The sacred edifice, as has now been the case for some years, was very neat and tastefully decorated with holly, fir, flowers, &c. The choir also acquitted thamselves well, the Misses Carr presiding at the organ. The preacher in the morning was the Rev C. J. Carr, rector, who took for his text Proverbs xxv, 25, "As cold water to a thisty sould, so is good news from a far country." At the afternoon service the Rev C. Fleetwood, curate, preached an appropriate sermon for Christmastide. The congregations were good at both services.

BAPTIST DENOMINATION, LANGLEY PARK.—Evangelist Davison, the Sheffield hero, and a late captain in the Salvation Army, has been conducting, for three weeks, special services for the Baptist denomination at Langley Park, and during the three weeks sixty-one, not including children, have come out, confessed their sins, repentance, and belief that God, through Christ, had saved them. These sixty-one are composed of both sexes and a fair average of all ages, from youth to those advanced in years. All the meetings were very harmonious, and those who attended them longed all the day for their return. On Sunday night the last service was conducted by Mr Davison, and it was most successful. The meeting was crowded from the beginning, and two of the sisters and a brother of the Baptist Society, with Mr Davison, andressed those assembled. At a late hour the building was still full, and there was a jubilee of testimony and praise when thirty or forty testified in a few words how good God had been to them. It may be stated that Evangelist Davison is undenominational, and he is a most pure and disinterested worker in the cause of truth.

GALLANT SPORT WITH THE NORTH DURHAM FOXHOUNDS.—The hounds met as usual in the Hill Top district on St. Stephen's Day. A great gathering of sportsmen came to the meet, both mounted and on foot. A fox was found at Underside Whin and broke away in beautiful style over a fine country for Hill Top, then pointed up the Valley of Browney, and over a grand country, mostly grass and nice flying fences, which suited the hard-riding young men, and after a run without a check of 40 minutes reynard was pulled down.—On Monday last the meet was Burnhopeside. A fox was found in the high wood, and made away for Langley, and after a short burst, was killed. A second fox was found in Nursingfield Gill; it made away over the grass for Fulford, then for Saggerstone Wood, and away for Twizel. Leaving White House to the right, he made through the Whithhill covers, then for the Hermitage, the seat of Sir Henry Pottinger, over Waldridge Fell for Barrashill, where reynard saved his brush, after giving a good run of one hour and 30 minutes.—These hounds had a good day's sport from Croxdale last Friday, where they found a good fox which gave them a fine run over a good grass country. Mr Rogerson, of Croxdale Hall, is a first-rate fox preserver, and it gives him the greatest pleasure possible to have a fox for his hunting friends, and we are glad to see his son and all his family delight in the sport of fox-hunting.—Hill Top was the trysting place on Boxing Day, and as usual there was a large field of mounted members, with quite an army of pedestrians. A little before noon, a move was made for Broom Park, where a favourite cover was drawn blank, and a movement was then made to the northern face of the ridge which seperates the Browney and Dareness valleys. Better luck attended the visitors at Hewitt's Whins, not far from Ushaw College, and two foxes were soon on foot. Freeman and his whips succeeded in working out a grand specimen, and laid their dogs on in capital style, the second fox skulking off soon after the hunt had made a start. The first fox bolted off along the face of the ridge, and at first he did not appear to have decided which way to go, but he eventually made a dash and reached the Dean and Chapter's plantation, near Witton Gilbert Station. The hounds were close upon him, however, and bustling him through the cover they compelled him to take to the open again. Away sped the gallant fox, and taking the side of the ridge he left Langley Park Colliery on the right and passed close to the homestead at North Farm. Here he nearly gave his pursuers the slip, the hounds speeding on for a considerable distance before it was discovered the fox had doubled back. Freeman made a back cast and hitting off the course his fox had taken he quickly had his hounds laid on to the line again and in full cry down the valley. Reynard pointed for Blackburn, but changing his mind he ran straight for Langley Park Colliery, and took refuge in the yard of one of the dwellings. A terrier caught sight of the fox as he took shelter, and notwithstanding that his owner did his best to keep him back, the dog bolted after bold reynard, and compelled him to leave his shelter just as the pack came up, when he was at once pulled down, the run having lasted three-quarters of an hour. A short delay took place, and with the fog fast becoming a dense pall upon the country, a move was made to Bearpark Gill, where the hounds soon gave the welcome note of reynard being "in residence." He stuck lovingly to his quarters, but his persecuters gave him no rest, and he at last took to the open. After a bit of shifty work he sped off for Ushaw College, crossed the playground, and dodged about the land adjoining the college, and eventually succeeded in reaching the cover there. The fog had now become exceedingly dense, and it was determined to leave this fox for another day.

THE IRON TRADE IN 1883.

If in the iron trade in the year 1883 there has been the disadvantage of prices that are very low, there has been the partial counter-balance of a production that has been in many of the centres of the trade extremely large. The fall in prices has been general, and continued throughout the largest part of the year. Pig iron has fallen in price from 10 to 15 per cent. during the year; and there have been falls that are about proportionate in manufactured iron and steel. But in many of the producing centres the fall in prices has as yet caused no decline in the amount of pig iron produced, and in the Cleveland and Durham district the output is for the year about 2,750,000 tons—the largest recorded in the history of the trade. And this production is one that is real, and one that has been accompanied by a full sale of the whole of the quantity produced, for the stocks of crude iron in the hands of the makers are practically the same at the end of the year as at the beginning. It has been contributed to by a sale of crude iron to other districts and countries to a larger extent than has ever been known—the total shipments from the ports of the Tees being altogether about 1,000,000 tons for the year. There has been less iron exported in the crude state state from the country as a whole during the year—the falling-off being the most remarkable in the quantity sent to the United States. But of other classes of iron in the manufactured state the tonnage sent out is fully up to that of the past year. And as in the first eleven months of the year the value of the exports of steam engines was £50,000 more than the value of those for the corresponding period of the past year, and the exports of machinery and millwork of other descriptions showed and increase of £600,000. It is evident that these important branches of the iron trades have had considerable briskness in the export demand. The returns of the Board of Trade, except in regard to pig iron, are not unfavourable in regard to quantity, though the value of the goods sent out seems to have known a general dimiution. And the favourable return is emphasised when it is remembered that it is an increase of quantity at times upon one that showed a similar increase. In the manufactured iron trade there has been also an increased production so far as the figures are obtainable. In the North of England the production of the associated makers has been 62,000 tons monthly on the average, which is in excess of that of the previous year. Shipbuilding and marine engineering have been exceptionally busy in the year, and that briskness has conduced to the activity in the manufactured iron trade. Prices of manufactured iron have also generally fallen, though the fall is not very heavy in the realised prices, owing to the fact that contracts are placed for periods of some length. Other branches of the manufactured iron trade show less change, and give less field for remark. The year ends with prices in all branches of the trade at their lowest ebb for years; but there are indications that the worst has been passed, because the effect of the lessened activity in shipbuilding on the iron trade has been discounted, and because the stocks of pig iron are falling with same rapidity. Low prices lessen production in many parts—a process which is at work now; and as these low prices stimulate consumption, the stocks are reduced, and with the reduction of the reserve there is a gradual improvement in demand and in price. There may be a decline in the exports of one kind of iron and to one centre, but cheap material invariably precedes a fuller demand. The shipbuilding industry in the North of England is depressed, owing to low freights, and as it uses 88 per cent. of the total of the manufactured iron in that district, its recovery to some extent must precede recovery in the iron trade of the North. Labour questions prevent a present reduction in the cost of production, and so hinder orders being given out; but these are likely to be peacefully settled, and with that peaceful settlement in the early months of the year, and with the lessened competition in the freight market that follows winter losses and restricted building, the iron trade improvement may begin.—*Times.*

RIVAL NEWSAGENTS AT BRANDON.—At the Durham County Petty Sessions, on Wednesday, Wm. Burke, of Sleetburn, was charged with assaulting Andrew Glass, of Brandon Colliery, on the 15th December. The parties are newsagents, and carry on business within a mile and a half of each other, and a strong competition existed between them as to who could obtain most trade in the district. The parties met each other as they were delivering their papers, and got to high words, Burke alleging that Glass made improper use of his (Burke's) name, whilst Glass said that Burke struck him.—Burke, however, denied assaulting any one, and alleged that so far from such being the case, Glass shoved him to one side, and this statement was borne out by a witness he called.—The Bench bound both the parties over to keep the peace, in their own recognisances, and to pay the costs between them.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

BURNOPFIELD.—On the 24th inst., the wife of Mr A. Fail, of a son.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—St. Mary's House, 21st inst., the wife of W. Cameron Morris, M.B., of a daughter.

DIPTON.—27th inst., the wife of Mr Robert Smailes, grocer, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CONSETT.—At Christ Church, on the 24th inst., by the Rev F. Steggall, vicar, Mr Andrew Miller, of Langholm, to Miss Jane Ann Brown, of Consett.

REGISTER OFFICE, LANCHESTER.—22nd inst., Mr R. H. Reay, to Miss M. A. Robson, both of Consett.—24th inst., Mr M. Forster, to Miss A. Atkinson, both of Consett.

DEATHS.

LEADGATE.—On the 24th inst., Margaret Ann, the beloved wife of John Parker, butcher, aged 60 years.

BLACKHILL.—33, Derwent Street, 22nd inst., aged 63 years, Robert Sutherland Johnson, formerly of Annfield Plain, and was interred at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Tuesday, 25th inst.

DIPTON.—26th inst., aged 73, Mr John Temple, late of Dyke Row, Northumberland.

BEAMISH.—23rd inst., in his 21st year, John Cuthbert, son of Robinson and Margaret Ratcliffe.

SWALWELL.—21st inst., aged 64, Thomas Jobling, joiner.

WHITTONSTALL.—21st inst., aged 83, George Surtees.

SOUTH AFRICA, Mooi River, Natal.—8th November, aged 32, Margaret, wife of Joseph Buckham, late of Ryton.

SPEN COLLIERY.—26th inst., aged 15 years, Christiana, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Armstrong.

HARROGATE.—19th inst., Edward N. Taylor Smith, son of Edward Taylor Smith, Esq., of Colpike Hall, Lanchester, aged 48 years.

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