The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

No. 273 CONSETT, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1865. [PRICE ONE PENNY.]

Wanted.

WANTED,
TWO or THREE APPRENTICES to the DRAPERY BUSINESS, and ONE to the TAILORING BUSINESS.—Apply at THOMAS POTTS and Son's, Berryedge.

WANTED, TWO or THREE JOINERS, and an APPRENTICE to the JOINERING BUSINESS. Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett.

Money.

MONEY TO LEND.
£200, £300, and £500 may be advanced upon ample security of Building Property. —Apply to MESSRS SCAFFE and BRITTON, Solicitors, Front-street, Berry-edge.

To Let.

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP. The House contains Four Rooms, with Back Yard and all Conveniences.
Apply to THOMAS BELL, 3, Annfield Plain.

Education.

MISS LOWRIE'S SCHOOL will resume on TUESDAY, the 16th of January, 1866.

EDUCATION.
THE DUTIES OF MEDOMSLEY SCHOOL will be resumed on TUESDAY, JANUARY 16th.
J. HOLDEN, Master.

EDUCATION.
WOODBINE HOUSE, PENTERS-STREET, BISHOP AUCKLAND.
THE MISSES MCCULLAGH, assisted by eminent Masters, continue to receive Young Ladies to Board and Educate.
October, 1865.

Lost.

LOST, between Langlands and Cove House Station, on THURSDAY, Oct. 12, 1865, a LOCKET, with Brown Guard attached.
Any one Finding it and returning it to the *Guardian* Office will be Rewarded.

Public Notices.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1858.

NOTICE OF MEETING.
I DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that a MEETING will be holden at Blackhill, Gideon Lion, Langlands, on MONDAY, the 8th day of January, 1866, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, in pursuance of a Requisition duly signed, for the purpose of considering a Resolution for the Adoption of the Local Government Act, 1858, for the Township of Iveston, including part of the Township of Medomsley.
(Signed)
MATTHEW COUPLAND, Summoning Officer.
December 21st, 1865.

MR. J. G. POTHECARY,
TEACHER OF THE HARMONIUM, HARP, PIANOFORTE AND SINGING,
(Organist of Consett Church,)
BEGS to inform his numerous Friends and Public that his professional Visits will re-commence on MONDAY, January 22, 1866. Distance no object.

Terms	
Single Pupil	£1 1s. 6d.
Two ,,	1s. 6d. each
Choral Societies attended	

Residence—2, Ledger Terrace, Blackhill.
CONSETT COMMITTEE METHODIST CHAPEL.

NEW YEAR'S SERVICES.
THESE ANNUAL SERVICES will be held in the above Chapel as follows:—
On SATURDAY EVENING, December 30th, 1865, the Rev. E. SHIELDS, of Hartlepool, will deliver a LECTURE Subject,—"A Happy Home for the Working Man."
Admission, Sixpence each.
Chair to be taken at half past Seven o'clock.

On SUNDAY, December 31st, TWO SERMONS will be preached by the Rev. RALPH SHIELDS, at Two o'clock in the Afternoon, and Six in the Evening.
A Collection will be taken after each Sermon.

On MONDAY, January 1, 1866, the ANNUAL TEA PARTY will be held, in the Schoolroom, at Half-past Three o'clock.
A PUBLIC MEETING will be held after Tea, and Addresses will be delivered.
Tickets for the Tea, One Shilling each.

MR. J. RANDALL, of the Commercial Inn, Shotley Bridge, has the honour to announce that a BALL will be held in the Town Hall, Shotley Bridge, on TUESDAY, January 9th, 1866.
The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Stewards:—

G. Benton, Esq.	J. Robinson, Esq.
W. A. West, Esq.	J. Taylor Smith, Esq.
W. R. Dickinson, Esq.	James Campbell, Esq.
W. Watson, Esq.	E. Wilson, Esq.
T. W. Thomas and W. J. Joicey, Esqs., M.C's.	

Tickets admit

Lady and Gentleman	10s 6d
Gentleman and Refreshments included	7s 6d

Dancing to commence at Nine o'clock.
For the convenience of Ladies and Gentlemen coming from Langlands, Consett, or Blackhill, an omnibus has been engaged to convey them to the Hall. Notice to be sent to Mr Randall on the day previous.
Tickets to be had of the Stewards and Mr RANDALL, Shotley Bridge.

Business Addresses.

HOPES INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE.
THE PEOPLE'S FAMILY TEA WAREHOUSE!
The Wonderfully Cheap Beverage, 2s. 6d. per Pound.
The Economical Beverage, 3s. 6d.
The Genuine Household Beverage, 3s. 6d.
The Celebrated Popular Beverage, 4s. 6d.
"THE BEST TEAS ARE THE CHEAPEST."
First-Class Teas only Sold—No Common Tea kept.
Samples sent per Post to any Address.
Wholesale Dealers supplied on London Terms.
TERMS—CASH.

FINEST FRESH ROASTED COFFEE.
Every Article in Grocery and Provision Trade supplied on the very best Terms.

JOHN HOPE, JUN.,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TEA MERCHANT, GROCER AND PROVISION PURVEYOR AND FIELD SESDMAN
CANDLE MANUFACTURER AND MATTRESS MAKER,
DEALER IN PERUVIAN GUANO AND MANURE SALTS.
BREAD, BARM, AND COMMON CAKE, &c.
FIRST STREET AND PRETTYPOTTLE, HEXHAM.

J. A. X.
(SUCCESSOR to F. SMITH & CO.)
IRONMONGER & FURNISHING HARDWAREMAN,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.
BEGS respectfully to tender his sincere thanks for past favours, and hopes by strict attention to all orders entrusted to him to merit a continuance of their esteemed orders.
A well-selected Stock of Goods always on hand.

THOMAS ROWE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
BREAD AND BISCUIT BAKER, CONFECTIONER,
GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
FRONT STREET, LEADGATE,
AND
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.
RESPECTFULLY thanks his sincere Thanks for his numerous Friends for past favours, and begs to assure them that no effort shall be wanting on his part to merit their future orders.
BRIDES' CAKES, Plain and Ornamental, made on the shortest notice.
FUNERALS SUPPLIED on reasonable terms.
PUBLIC and PRIVATE PARTIES supplied to any extent by means of a large Tea Apparatus kept for their purpose.

THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

GENERAL PRINTING WORKS.
ROBERT JACKSON,
PRINTER, ENGRAVER, LITHOGRAPHER,
BOOKSELLER, STATIONER, BOOKBINDER, &c.,
CONSETT.
Cards, Circulars, Handbills, Invoices, Cheques, Posting and Hand Bills neatly and expeditiously executed at moderate Charges.
For District Agent and Reporter for the *Consett Guardian*; Accredited Correspondent to the *Northern Daily Mail* and *Weekly Express*, the *Newcastle Daily* and *Weekly Chronicle*, and *Newcastle Guardian*.
All Orders left at the *Guardian* Office, Consett, or at the LIBRARY, Blackhill, will be immediately attended to.

Business Addresses.

THOMAS LEWIS,
HIGH-STREET,
BLACKHILL,
PROFESSIONAL HAIR DRESSER, &c., &c.,
BEGS to return Thanks for the very liberal Support he has received since his commencing Business, and begs to inform the Town and Country that he still continues in Business at the Above Branches.
N.B.—Families attended any day during the week except Saturday.

TRAFALGAR STREET SALE ROOMS.
JOHN JENKINS,
AUCTIONEER AND APPRAISER,
FURNITURE BROKER,
GENERAL DEALER AND COMMISSION AGENT,
FRONT STREET and TRAFALGAR STREET,
CONSETT.

GAME! GAME!! GAME!!!
GEORGE PEDDLEDEN, begs most respectfully to inform the Inhabitants of Consett and neighbourhood that he has again procured a Licence to DEAL IN GAME, and hopes by strict attention to the wants of his Customers to merit a share of Public Patronage.
OBSERVE:—MIDDLE STREET (OPPOSITE THE THEATRE).

JOHN BARRON,
No. 1, DUN COW INN, BERRY EDGE,
LICENSED TO LET FOR HORSES, GIGS, DOG CARTS, &c., FOR HIRE.

FURNITURE REMOVED,
On the Shortest Notice and on the most Reasonable Terms.
GENERAL CART WORK DONE.
RICHARD MURRAY,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
HIGH STREET, CONSETT,
HAS always on hand a Large Stock of FIRST-CLASS TEAS, COFFEES, and Genuine GROCERIES. Likewise Butter, Bacon, Cheese, Lard, Flour, &c., from the first Markets.
Pickles, British Wines, Orange Tonic, Sauces, &c. Wholesale Dealer in Tobacco.

LEONARD GIBSON,
GENERAL DRAPER, HOSIER, HABERDASHER,
2, TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT.
REGISTER OFFICE FOR SERVANTS KEPT.

WILLIAM HORN,
WATCH AND CLOCK MAKER, &c.,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,
WISHES to inform his Friends and the Public in General that he has REMOVED from Nelson Street to the above Place, and takes this opportunity of thanking them for their kind Patronage, and begs to hope, through strict attention, still to merit a continuance of their esteemed favours.
Harmoniums, Pianofortes, and all other Instruments carefully Tuned and Repaired.

J. DAVISON,
CABINETMAKER AND FURNITURE BROKER,
GARDEN STREET,
FEATHERS, FLOCKS, AND RABBIT DOWN,
COOPERS' GOODS.
PAPER HANGINGS IN GREAT VARIETY
PARAFFIN OIL AND LAMPS.

A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF HARDWARE GOODS
DOWNS REDEADALE, &c.

GEORGE HOBSON,
Wholesale and Retail
FLOUR DEALER, GROCER, DRAPER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDSMAN,
HARPENDEN STEAM AND WATER OATS MILLS,
FRONT STREET,
AND SOUTH MOOR.

FINEST ENGLISH OILCAKE.

BUY YOUR WEDDING DRESS AND GEM RINGS,
AT W. COLLINGWOOD'S, BLACKHILL.
Brooches, Gold, Silver, and other Guards; Ironmongery, Paper Hangings in great variety from 3½d per piece; Britannia Metal Goods, Tea Pots, &c., &c.
W. COLLINGWOS'S, BLACKHILL.

ROBERT HUDDLESTONE,
LICENSED BROKER, FURNITURE, AND WINE MERCHANT,
VOLUNTEER ARMS, FRONT STREET,
BLACKHILL,
RESPECTFULLY begs to announce to his Friends and the Public generally that he has entered upon the above premises, and hopes by strict attention to the commands of his customers, and by always keeping fashionable articles, to be favoured with their support.
Prices Also Porter, &c.

CONSETT STEAM PRINTING WORKS.
NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
ROBERT JACKSON
RESPECTFULLY announces to his Friends and the Inhabitants of Consett, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Langlands, Tow Law, and surrounding District, that he
HAS REMOVED
TO
THE GUARDIAN OFFICE,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
Behind which he has erected New Premises, and
A LARGE STEAM PRINTING MACHINE,
And Jobges, from the increased facilities, at his disposal, he is able to attend to the Orders of his Customers promptly.

The following List specifies some of the different descriptions of PRINTING which can be done at the above Offices, in first class style:—

Posting Bills.	Check Books.
Hand Bills.	Account Books.
Bill Heads.	Tickets, every description.
Invoices.	Circulars.
Trade Cards.	Circulars (all sorts).
Window Cards (in elegant style).	Direction Labels.
Funeral Cards.	Tea Papers.
	Tobacco Papers.

LITHOGRAPHIC AND COPPERPLATE PRINTING.
In the most artistic style, and moderate prices.

FUNERAL OR WEDDING CARDS ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

A LARGE SUPPLY OF
ACCOUNT BOOKS AND STATIONERY
ALWAYS ON HAND.

HAWKERS AND SHOPS SUPPLIED ON LIBERAL TERMS.

THE LONDON AND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS SUPPLIED TO ORDER.

ROBERT JACKSON,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

Sales by Private Contract.

FOR SALE, by Private Contract, ONE HOUSE containing Four Rooms, with Back Yard and every convenience; also, ONE HOUSE containing Two Rooms, with Back Yard and every convenience.
The above Houses are finished in first-class style, and are occupied by respectable tenants of purchasers.
For further particulars, apply to JOHN WATTS, Victoria street, Consett.

TO MEMBERS OF BUILDING SOCIETIES AND OTHERS.
BUILDING SITES and COTTAGES FOR SALE near the projected Railway Station, Blackhill, or adjoining the Consett Iron Works, containing Two Rooms, the Purchaser. Apply to JOHN ROUTLEDGE, Builder, Consett.
Consett, April 6, 1865.

BRICKS FOR SALE, at the Blackfine Brick Works. Apply to RICHARD MURRAY, Consett.

ON SALE,
SPRING TARES AND GARDEN SEEDS,
OIL CAKE, RAPE CAKE,
LINSEED and LINSEED MEAL,
BEACH'S HORSE and CATTLE FOOD,
PATENT FELT FOR ROOFING, ONE PENNY PER FOOT.
ROBERT BELL,
6 and 8, TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, NEWCASTLE.

Business Addresses.

GEORGE ROBSON, DRAPER, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
CHEAP GROCERY ESTABLISHMENT,
FRONT STREET, BERRYEDGE.
MRS. M. ALMOND,
GROCER, TEA DEALER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
BEGS to return her sincere thanks to the Inhabitants of Berryedge, Lendgate, Blackhill, and surrounding Neighbourhood for the liberal patronage bestowed on her late Husband during a period of Nineteen Years, and begs to assure them that no effort will be wanting to supply the same, as no effort will be wanting to supply Goods at the Lowest remunerative Prices.
TEAS, COFFEES, and every Article in the Grocery Trade, of the Best Quality.
CUMBERLAND BACON, HAMS, CHESHIRE and other CHEESES, &c., &c., of the Best Quality.
Observe—
MRS. ALMOND'S,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

HARRY SHEPHERD, BUTCHER,
IS a Letter from Newcastle, from my son Harry, to inform me he has forwarded me a Parcel by Rail. He thought the best way of wishing me a Happy Christmas was by sending me a Package of the Finest Tea from Newcastle, the Dealer, (good fellow!) he never forgets the poor; he has enclosed a Packet for the Widow in the Cottage. He says it will help to remind her of his old days when Harry was at home. FORWARD, the Tea Dealer, informs me that his Christmas Box for 1866 will be presented to all the Customers who visit his Grocery Stores, Satchfield, Low Mowley-street Tea Establishments during the Christmas and New Year's Weeks. He describes it as a beautiful Oriental Lithograph, from Photographs taken on the spot, by the Author of Harry Shepherd's Tea Tablets, Entitled "Reading the Queen's Letter." The ceremonies of this work of art have been entrusted to M. A. M. W. Lambert, who have produced an exquisite picture, and produced a work of art fitted for the Palace of the Queen. Harry has promised to call on Christmas week and forward me a copy by post.

CONSETT FIRE BRICK WORKS, BERRYEDGE, GATESHEAD.
GLAZED PIPES,
CHIMNEY TOPS,
CHIMNEY LINING,
CHIMNEY TOPS, PLAIN AND ORNAMENTAL.
GLAZED SINK STONES.
DO. WATER CLOSET PANS AND TRAPS.
AND EVERY OTHER ARTICLE IN THE FIRE BRICK TRADE.
R. DICKINSON & CO., Proprietors.

H. SMITH,
DRAPER AND OUTFITTER, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
THANKING our very numerous Customers for past favours, we will at all times do our utmost to merit a continuance of the same.

PRINTING,
Of every description, and at Cheap Rates.
Cheapest and Best Printing Office,
"GUARDIAN" STEAM PRINTING OFFICE,
62, WEST CLAYTON-STREET.

BOOK WORK, PAMPHLETS, REPORTS
BY CHEAPEST AND OTHER PRINTERS,
"GUARDIAN" STEAM PRINTING OFFICE,
62, WEST CLAYTON-STREET.

Sole Wholesale Agent for the Sale of
DOWNING'S ITALIAN COUGH BALSAM.
DOWNING'S UNIVERSAL HEALING OINTMENT.
DOWNING'S FIRE PROOF WORKING PASTE.
WILL Purify the Blood. Heal all Sores, and Ulcerous Complaints of the Skin, and remove all Complaints of the Throat, Chest, and Lungs. They never fail.—Give them a trial, and prove the truth.
Prepared only by BENJY DOWNIE & Co., Wholesale Chemists, 42 and 43, Scotland, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Sold by Peter, Brown, Dougall, Shotley Bridge; Dixon, Dougal, and Guardian Office, Consett; John Reid, Lanchester; Watson Smith, Leadgate; H. Snowball, Dougal; W. Hutchinson, Burnhill; J. Hilary Graves, Tow Law; and may be had of all Chemists and Dealers in Patent Medicines, in Boxes, Pots, and Bottles, at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. each.
Extraordinary CURES by DOWNIE'S MEDICINES.
Mr. Robert Dunn, Chemist, Gateshead, writes—Dowdie's Pills and Jalebum completely cured his wife of asthma and difficulty of breathing of many years' standing.—Nov. 14th, 1864.
Mrs. Ann Sanderson, and her Son, 38, Green-street, South Shields, were cured of scurvy, &c., after years' standing, by taking only two small boxes of Downie's Pills.—Sept. 5, 1864.
Boston Chase, Newcastle, November 18th, 1864.—Mr. Downie, Dear Sir,—Your Fale Preserving Pills and Universal Healing Ointment have cured my child of a very bad leg, after ten months of intense suffering. The large sore on the knee joint, which was so painful, is now of your invaluable medicine, and after a physician had failed to do any good. I shall always recommend them to sufferers by them.—Yours respectfully, JOHN BOWMAN.
Mr. Alexander Winhart, Ballast Hills, Newcastle, was cured in three days of a violent cough, with-spit, and pain in the chest, by the use of your Pectoral Balsam of Pulse, and one small bottle of balsam.—Dec. 1st, 1864.
Mr. Thomas Gaynor, Ballast Hills, Newcastle, was cured in ten days of a bad leg of 45 years' standing.
Mrs. Hardy, Gateshead, 3, Bank-street, was cured in three days of bronchitis and a cough of 23 years' standing by Downie's Pectoral.
Mr. Wm. Purvis, 51 years old, Teams, Gateshead, was cured of a long standing cough, shortness of breath, and debility.—Aug. 5th, 1863.
Mr. Thomas Ayre, 7 Jackson-place, Gateshead, was cured in four days of a cough with spit, soreness in the chest, &c., of two and a half years' standing.—Feb. 5th, 1864.

IMPORTANT TO ALL.
NEW WORK BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE PEOPLE'S FAMILY PHYSICIAN."
DR. SMITH, who has had TWENTY YEARS' Practical Experience in the Treatment and Cure of NERVOUSNESS, PIMPLES, LOSS OF MEMORY, APPETITE, PAINS IN THE BACK, INDIGESTION, DEBILITY OF YOUTH, GLEET, GONORRHŒA, &c., has just published a NEW EDITION of 10,000 Copies of the WARNING VOICE, or, The Secret Friend. Price 2d. Pages.
This Work contains his highly successful and only safe treatment, and is illustrated with hundreds of cases and testimonials from patients, who have followed his perfect restoration to health. Sent post-free to any address, secure from observation, on receipt of two penny stamps.
Letters, with details of case promptly answered.
Address, "DR. SMITH, 4, Burton Crescent, London-road, Nottingham."

ONE BOX of CLARKE'S B 41 PILLS is guaranteed to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs in either sex, whether recent or of long standing. Sold in boxes, 4s. 6d. each, by F. J. CLARKE, Chemist, Apothecaries' Hall, 32, Newhall, Lincoln. Sent to any address on receipt of sixty stamps.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF BURNOPFIELD AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.
MR. JOHN FENWICK, of BURNOPFIELD, has been appointed Agent for the *Consett Guardian* in that neighbourhood; where all orders received will have due attention.

BROWN'S EYE OINTMENT AND LOTION.
WILLIAM WHEATLEY BROWN (Son and Successor to the late Mr. Thomas Brown, Blacksmith, near Lanchester, Durham, begs to call the attention of those afflicted with Blindness, Cataract on the Eyes, &c., to the above, which, for a great number of years, have been applied to the public with the most satisfactory success.
To Gentlemen, &c., having Horses, Dogs, or other Animals suffering from Sore Eyes on the Eyes, he can confidently recommend it as a safe and certain cure.
Price 1s. 1½d. per Box. Sent free to any address on the Lanchester Railway Station.
WM. W. BROWN, Hawdon Bank, near Lanchester.

MAY BE HAD OF THE FOLLOWING AGENTS.
Messrs Hunter, Druggist, Chatham, Chester-le-Street.
Mr Robert Jackson, Guardian Office, Consett.
Messrs Scott & Wharton, Druggists, Market-place, Durham.
Mr Dougall Hudson, 26, Woodbine-street, Sunderland.
Mr Jonathan Scratchard, Toilhouse Ironwork, near Durham.
Mr. C. Wilkinson, Druggist, Market-place, Newcastle.
Mr John Lamb Farmer, Lee Group, Hilary, near Durham.

DO YOU WANT BEAUTIFUL HAIR WHISKERS, Moustaches, or Eyebrows, in a fortnightly perfumed toilet compound, for nourishing, preserving and restoring the hair, is guaranteed to produce moustaches, whiskers, or whole hair on the face in three weeks, strengthen weak hair, prevent its falling off, check greyness in all its stages, make the original colour, dispel scurf and dandruff, and make it clean, soft, curly, and glossy. For the regeneration of the hair in baldness, whatever cause, and at any age, its effects are certain. In thousands of cases it has been successful when all other preparations had failed. In the nursery it is unequalled, as it keeps the head clean and free from scurf, and promotes the growth of hair. Price 3s. sufficient for three months use, sent anywhere free by post, on receipt of the money, addressed to W. Russell, 28, Clarence Road, Kentish Town, London. "It stopped my hair falling off, and in a few days it began to grow strong and thick.—William Neale." "My hair had gone in patches from illness, but it is now growing nicely.—Miss Webb." "My moustache is envied by everybody.—Major Birch." "For keeping the hair in curl it is the best thing I ever used.—Mrs Pratt." "I was bald for 2 years, but now my head is covered with hair.—J. Spence." Sold by all Chemists. CAUTION.—Every Genuine bottle has the words RUSSELL'S LIXIVENE modified in the glass, and is wrapped in a square pamphlet of 16 pages, illustrated by engravings, on the management of the Hair, Skin, and Teeth. Sold by Mr Lamy and R. Dewdie & Co., Chemists, Newcastle; Mr Imrie, Chemist, Consett.

AMERICA.
ADDRESS OF THE FENIAN PRESIDENT.
New York, December 16 (Reuter).—Telegraphic despatches assert that the polite and congressional manifestations of sympathy towards Southern have led to a correspondence between M. Montholon, the French Ambassador and Mr Seward, in consequence of which M. Montholon despatched the Chief Secretary of the Legation to France on Wednesday last for definite instructions regarding the intervention. It is generally assumed that M. Montholon has intimated to the Federal Government that in case a Federal Minister is accredited to Juarez, the French Ambassador will leave Washington. It is stated that a Cabinet meeting was held yesterday upon the Mexican question, at which General Grant was present. The *New York Times* contains a rumour that General Logan will shortly resume relations with Juarez, proposes a treaty of commerce between the United States and Mexico, guaranteeing to American citizens the same rights and privileges on the transit lines from the Mexican Gulf to the Pacific Coast, and opening the Mexican ports to American manufactures in exchange for these privileges, which could be guaranteed, if necessary, by military intervention. The Fenian Brotherhood have subscribed two million dollars on Corporation Mexican Bonds to that amount. Gen. Logan dined with Secretary Stanton in Washington on Wednesday.

The House of Representatives at Washington have adopted the resolution concerning the admission of Southern members as amended by the Senate. The Senate subsequently passed a resolution declaring a portion of the resolution which the Senate had rescinded, whereby it was provided that the delegates from states of the Southern members shall be referred to a committee without debate, and that no member shall be admitted until Congress shall decide entitled to a representative. The House has unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that slavery cannot and ought to be punished.

The Secretary of the Treasury has announced that Gold will not be permitted to bring prizes into Federal ports.

In the Senate, Mr Wilson's bill, declaring null all laws of the Southern States recognising any inequality in civil rights on account of colour, was called up and discussed.

Oregon has adopted the constitutional amendment.

President Johnson has recognised the Provisional Governor of Georgia that, while sanctioning the inaugeration of the Government, the inaugurator will not terminate the duties of the Provisional Governor, who will be informed of the time when he will be needed.

A communication has been received by the New York Chamber of Commerce recommending that a national convention be assembled in New York, to take measures to raise the cotton crop next year equal to that of the year preceding the war—namely, five million bales.

The Fenian President, Roberts, has issued an address to his countrymen, calling upon the Fenians to be ready promptly. England must meet privateers on every ocean, and must be struck wherever she is most vulnerable, and where the Irish at home can be best assisted. The Fenians are said to have over two million dollars in voluntary bank subscriptions on hand.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE NICHOLAS WOOD, ESQ.

Hetton Churchyard, on Saturday, received within its precincts the remains of one whose name will ever be associated with its rights and ecclesiastical interests in the North of England. Besides from his great aid to the chance in befriending Stephenson, the late Nicholas Wood, Esq., of Hetton-le-Hole, had acquired a high social position as a practical colliery viewer, engineer, and eminent geologist, and the announcement of his death, which took place on the 19th inst. at London, was felt to be a serious loss, falling upon the Church and country. In accordance with the deceased gentleman's desire, the mourners of his family took the remains of their relative from London by the corpse might be conveyed to Hetton. The body, in a hearse, and accompanied by a number of relatives, left London on Tuesday morning and more intimate friends, arrived at Leamside at a late hour on the same evening, where it was met and conveyed to Hetton Hall. The day on which the obsequies would take place having been fixed, a notice was sent to every person more or less connected with the coliieries of which deceased was proprietor, their the old or corpse arrangements had to be hastily made for solemn occasion. Without exception, every window in the United States, and every house of Hetton-le-Hole was drawn down during the whole day, the collieries were laid off, and groups of pitmen standing about the streets, in their Sunday apparel, looking sadly indicated that one who had been their friend had passed away. Between one and two o'clock, there was a large number of miners and others began to congregate in the village, and the colliery officials assembled in the grounds of the residence of Mr Wood to take part in the procession. Excellent arrangements for the formation of the procession were made by Mr Ralph Thompson, the agent of Mr Bunting, the Court undertaker of St. James's, London, the hearse being of the finest kind, and ladened in the hands of that firm. Before the corpse of the deceased left the residence, many of the gentlemen, who were assembled, had to make a hearty glance at the coffin enclosing the remains of their old and attached friend. The coffin was constructed as follows:—In the inner shell was placed the body, next followed another coffin of lead, finally an outer one of panelled oak, and covered with rich black cloth, with brass nails, and surmounted with massive brass handles. On the lid was placed the Greek emblem of immortality, and the following inscription:—

NICHOLAS WOOD, ESQ.,
Born 24th April, 1795; died 19th December, 1865.

Precisely at a quarter past one o'clock, the mourning and private mourners, and the large number of persons attending the ground, were formed into procession, and left the house of Mr Wood, for the place of interment. About one hundred and fifty clerks, managers, overmen, and others of the Hetton Collieries.

HEARSE
(Drawn by four plumed horses).

Mourning Coaches.

1st.—Messrs C. L. Wood, Nicholas Wood, jun., John Wood, and Lindsay Wood, sons of deceased.
2nd.—Messrs J. B. Davidson, D. E. Lockhart, and Anthony Lockhart, nephews, all of whom have been staying at Hetton Hall for the past few days.
3rd.—Messrs Ralph Thompson, undertaker; Right Hon. Lord Ravensworth, Ravensworth Castle; J. Mounsey, Esq., London; Rich. Ord, Esq., Hetton, Esq., Eudick; H. D. Morton, Esq., Biddick; Rev. John Eagles, Hetton Vicarage; A. Fitzroy Lambton, Esq., Biddick; Wm. Brae, Hawick, N.B.; E. P. Philipson, Esq., Clerk of the Peace for the county of Durham; Colonel Parkinson, Durham Hall, Darlington; Major A. H. Cochrane, Langton Grange; R. S. Shaft, Esq., Chester-le-Street; R. W. Boldrick, Esq., Newcastle; Rev. Canon Tristram, Durham Hill; C. M. Webster, Esq., Pallion Hall; H. Webster, Esq., Morton House; T. E. Forster, Esq., Newcastle; J. Johnson, Esq., Tynemouth; Edward Potter, Esq., Darlington; Charles W. Anderson, Esq., Chester-le-Street; J. Clayton, Esq., Town Clerk, Newcastle; C. U. Laws, Esq., Tynemouth; T. Salting, Esq., Fenwick Hall, Durham; E. F. Boyd, Esq., Moorhouse, Durham; Joseph Dixon, Esq., Sherburn Hill; R. P. Edgar, Esq., Durham; John Buston, Esq., Hetton-le-Hole; J. T. Woodhouse, Esq., Lord's Wharf, Newcastle; Rev. Canon Martin Dunn, Esq., Newcastle; C. Berkeley, Esq., Marley Hill; J. Thompson, Esq., Bishop Auckland; Rev. Canon J. Blackett, Esq., Durham; J. Laing, J.P., Sunderland; Fraser, Esq., Newcastle; George Hopper, Esq., Fence House; J. J. Atkinson, Esq., Government Inspector of Mines for Durham; besides various fitting agents of the Hetton Collieries, and many other gentlemen.

Then followed the private carriages of the late Mr Wood, and the general public.

The rear of the procession was brought up by between 150 and 200 pitmen, in their Sunday apparel.

Arrived at the church-gates, which are situate a short distance from the grounds of Hetton Hall, and at one time belonged to the Bishop of Durham, the incumbent of the parish, the Rev. J. S. Nichol, and the curate, entered the church, where the body was placed in the porch while the service of the Church of England for such occasions was gone through. Mr Hopper, the organist, played the funeral dirge, played at the organ, and played, whilst the procession proceeded to the vault, the impressive and favourite hymn Wesleyan. The procession re-formed; and the corpse, with Henry Morton, Esq., R. P. Philipson, Esq., Colonel Parkinson, A. E. Lockhart, Esq., J. Daglish, Esq., and Dr. Bealey officiating as pall-bearers, was borne through the churchyard to the newly-prepared vault, adjoining the grave of the late Mr Wood. The burial service was then gone through in the presence of many hundreds of persons, old and young, and not one of whom but seemed sorrowfully impressed with the ceremony, closing the career of the old and old esteemed occupant of the new and only vault in Hetton churchyard.

THE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT COMMISSION.
The report of the Capital Punishment Commission, which has just been published, contains some important recommendations. First, it is suggested that there should be an amendment of the law respecting the period of some few anomalies, and make treason and murder the only offences for which capital punishment can be inflicted. The abolition of capital punishment for treason unaccompanied by overt acts of rebellion, assassination, or other violence is recommended, and the Treason-Felony Act under which the Fenians are being tried is pointed to as a model for a new law. The death penalty is to be retained, however, for over 1 acts of rebellion and violence. The Commissioners also advise that the cases in which malice aforethought in cases of murder be restored in the courts in a very general sense, and they recommend that the punishment of death be only retained only for all murders deliberately committed or express malice aforethought, and for murders committed in or with a view to the perpetration of escape after the perpetration, or attempt at perpetration, of any of the following felonies—namely, arson, rape, burglary, robbery, or piracy. All other murders are to be punished with penal servitude for life, or for any period not less than seven years. With respect to infanticide, it is recommended that it should be made an offence punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment ministeriously to inflict injury on a child during its birth or within seven days afterwards in one the child should have subsequently died; and no proof that the child was completely born alive should be required. Concealment of birth may not be found under an indictment for murder, but must be charged separately; but there is to be a presumption that if a woman is on her trial that the offence amounted to murder or manslaughter. The power of recording sentence of death is to be restored to the judges. Where the death penalty is inflicted the commissioners recommend that it shall be carried out in public, but with rules to prevent the practice of the prize. Finally, the commissioners point out that the law as to criminal insane of appeal, the exercise of the Queen's Crown, and as to insanity in criminal cases, requires modification and amendment. The commissioners have signed this report, but some of them have signed a separate paragraph to the effect that the punishment of death might safely be wholly abolished.

THE ALABAMA CORRESPONDENCE.
The correspondence between Mr Adams and the British Foreign Office down to December 2, is published in Friday night's *Gazette*. Though very voluminous—and even the *Gazette* has not been able to find room for the whole of the papers—it is substantially a repetition of the arguments already used on both sides, and leaves the question as been very much where it was before. In the first letter of the present series, dated October 21, Mr Adams complains that the crew of the *Alabama*, after being secured by the *Tuscarora*, were allowed to be kept together, on fresh hostilities against the United States; and that when the *Shenandoah* escaped so as "by eluding the vigilance of the British authorities" on a point which Mr Adams does not care to press very hardly against us—the transaction was not denounced by our Government. On this complaint, under these circumstances, as an honest belligerent, we did; in Mr Adams's opinion, ample consideration for the damage which Britain afterwards committed. That offence against the United States was aggravated by the fact, that, by the fact that the despatch of the *Shenandoah* was the last of a series of enterprises planned and executed exclusively within the limits of the kingdom. Mr Adams does not seem satisfactory that the *Shenandoah* on reaching Liverpool had been a peaceful vessel, with a British Consul, but says he is disappointed that the crew were released. Lord Clarendon's reply is that in respect to the crew both of the *Alabama* and the *Shenandoah*, her Majesty's Government could act only in accordance with the law. The men were in a neutral port, and there was no evidence that they had committed any offence which would justify their detention. Mr Adams's rejoinder (from the *Sea King*) from England, no evidence and he information of a violation of the Foreign Enlistment Act was given while she was at Melbourne, and afterwards she was beyond British jurisdiction. Lord Clarendon points out that the Government of the A's cases effectually prevent individuals from acquiring a vessel with the secret intention of making hostile use of the country, and then cruising against a State with whom her Majesty is at peace. Then comes the old ex parte argument that it is high hypocrisy on this subject is to fictient, it is at least as good as that of the Government of the United States in allowing the recognition of the *Shenandoah* as a belligerent. Mr Adams repeats the question already fully detailed in previous letters, and Lord Russell, in his reply, gives such a recognition being given to the Confederates in Europe, and the Government of the United States, in official controversy, and we have over again all about the Spanish and Portuguese, and the Mason and Slidell case, with which the public is now so familiar. And then the end is that our proposal of a commission is respectfully declined, and Lord Russell, in his concluding paragraphs, not seeing that any good can come from prolonging it.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE ENGLISH ORDER OF ST. BENEDICT.
The brethren of the English Order of St. Benedict at Norwich have been at considerable pains to celebrate Christmas in accordance with their principles. On Sunday morning, the conventual mass was chanted at seven p.m., and at midnight holy communion being administered—or, to speak more correctly, as indicated by the "blessed sacrament" being exhibited—on the latter occasion. On Monday morning the mass was again held in the chapel, which was decorated in an almost entirely different manner from last year. Thus the walls were draped with some red and white material, the pillars alternating, and being divided as it were, into panels by lines of white paper roses. The east-iron pillars supporting the low roof of the poor room, which the brethren still use as a chapel, were also wreathed and encircled, building has now made considerable progress—was also decorated with evergreens, while over what was formerly the principal entrance was a transparency of angels with a figure of the infant Jesus between them. The altar was covered with a white cloth, and the super-altar was an ivory crucifix. The super-altar was dressed in white satin, and white may be said to have been the prevailing colour adopted for the altar, for, besides the two alcoves with a lesser number of candles, and with which the real St. Benedict's Chapel, the candlesticks have opened his eyes in amazement. The brethren entered the chapel from another part of the building in procession, a large brass crucifix being carried before them by one of the choir boys, who wear red and blue cassocks covered with lace, and surplices, and followed by the procession—viz., Brother Placidus, Brother Maurus, Brother Emmanuel and Brother Philip. The three first named wore very rich gold embroidered vestments—a portrait of a saint being adroitly introduced on the back of one of them. The second mentioned portions of the Book of Common Prayer jumbled together in rather an odd fashion, and the last mentioned bowed to the visitor by greater distinctness of intonation than the other two prevailed under the influence of the Rev. J. Ousely, whose connection with the monastery as chaplain has now ceased. The service was almost entirely sung, and towards the close all the candles on the altar were lighted, the blaze of light being afterwards dimmed, however, by clouds of incense. Then Brother Placidus ascended the pulpit, and with the exordium, "In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," plunged at once into the subject of his discourse, the subject. His manner is less fervid and impassioned than that of Brother Ignatius, but, nevertheless, he brought ability and earnestness to bear upon his task; and such an unrestrained tendency to Mariolatry, there was no doubt in his discourse to shock the feelings of a Protestant could have taken exception. He said the night was the night on which it was ordained that God should be a merry Christmas it must be a time of spiritual thanksgi

New Years' Stories.

THE MOORLAND SNOWSTORM.

A STORY FOR THE CHRISTMAS HEARTH.

[From *Our Own Fireside*]

In summer time there is beauty in the wildest moors of Scotland, and the wayfarer who turns aside off for an hour's rest beside some little swing that flows unheard through the tricksheed moss and watercresses, feels his weary heart revived by the clear, cool, and solitary peacock. On every side sweet rusty spots of verdure nestle towards him from among the moorland, and from unexpectedly in the solitude a stray sheep, it may be with its lambs, starts half-alarmed, half-curious, the mutterings of the grouse, the bright, and beautiful, come carcering by him through the desert air. Nor does the Wild want its own summer day. Every inch of land of the blooming forest, and now and then the lark mounting up to heaven above the sunnier of the green mountain hills. During such a sunshiny hour, the lonely cottage on the waste seems to stand in a paradise; and as he rises to pursue his journey, the traveller leaves behind him in it with a mingled emotion of delight and envy. There, thinks he, freed from the turmoil and excitement of the busy world, contentment, the child of faith, should surely dwell.

But other thoughts arise in the mind of him who may chance to journey through the same scene in the desolate winter. The cold bleak wind sweeps the moors with a belt of ice—life is frozen in air and on earth. The silence is not of repose, but extinction; and should a sudden human dwelling catch his eye, it will bewilder him, now, he said for the sake of them whose destiny it is to abide far from society, and to be cut off and solitary and poor

Poets' Corner.

HYMN TO THE NEW YEAR,

ON ITS RING IN" BY CHURCH BELLS ON NEW-YEAR'S EVE.

Hail to the Infant of the Age! hail!
Shew with the pole star conscious his birth;
Time's youngest born! we claim thee in the gale
That bears thee on thy strong wings to earth.
Thou from the womb of fair eternity,
Of the joy of brotherhood, hast sprung to light,
Child of the past! hail! hail! thy lineage high
O, be thy sojourn, as thy advent, bright!
We claim thee, Stranger—claim thee, for life will
And in His name, whose work are we and thou:
Angels, be near our purpose to fulfil
And stamp the impress of God upon thy brow!
By broken vows and penitential tears,
By sighs forlorn, by joy and sorrows flown,
By voices of the past, by ruly fears,
By trembling hopes, we claim thee for our own.
Young, hasty Infant! bind him as he lies,
Ere the first sunbeam, with a chaun of prayer:
Cast flowers of love on his unspotted eyes,
And crown with wreaths of hope his fragrant hair.
With wreaths of hope—but such as shall not fade
When the brief prime and summer days have sunk to rest;
With flowers of love,—but let their scents be made
Of aire breathed from the gardens of the blest.
As he on us, so we on him will smile;
All thanks to Him by whom such grace is given;
His face of love shall no true heart beguile
The dreams that float above his walking eyes;
That, all unscathed, the Angel child may soar
With added glories back to Paradise.
Dread child, ev'n thus thy new-born brother lay
Whose parting sigh, all mild, smote on the ear;
His race is run, his form is passed away;
But Memory speaks to him, and lays in thee,
She speaks of mercies, gladdening as the light,
Rich as their thirst, free as heav'n above;
Of softened griefs and darkened hearts made bright,
Of hopes fulfilled, and life-redeeming love.
She speaks in warning; let her voice be heard,
Her still, small voice; it may not sound in vain:
Sad tones are mingled in that solemn Word;
Catch the dear accents of the magic strain.
Hath it no sound that tells of guilt or fear?
No evil written on this virgin page?
No frown upon the brow of Time, no tear
Shed for past sin, more and than earthly grief?
Outward, still outward! diffuse yet the same,
Shall this Year's story but the last repeat?
Pray for love, for faith, for hope, for shame,
Guide we in straighter paths our warring feet!
Then come what may of pain, or toil, or woe,
Ev'n lower yourself, ye sinful sphere,
Our earthly Sun shall only set below
To rise in Light on Israel's Eternal Year.

—G. E. PRICHARD in *Good Words*.

Literary Guardian.

THE MISTLETOE.—The gathering of the mistletoe was anciently observed with many rites; it especially belongs to the new year. Pliny, in his "Sylvæ," gives the following particulars: "When the end of the year approached, the Druids searched with great solicitude to gather the plant, in order to present it to Jupiter, inviting all to assist in the ceremony thus—

The New Year's a hard; gather the mistletoe.'

The sacrifice being ready, the chief priest ascended the sacred oak with a golden hatchet, and cut the mistletoe which was received in a spotless cloth. Two milk-white bulls were then sacrificed." The branches of the sacred plant were dipped in water and distributed among the people, as preventives of disease and as charms against witchcraft. If by accident, the branches were permitted to touch the ground the direst calamities to the whole people were prognosticated. Pliny is so authentic a record of the mistletoe having been found growing on the oak in modern times. It is common enough on the lime, thorn, apple, &c. In the only true parable tree we have. Jesus says that the mistletoe grown on the apple tree is prized by farmers as a cure for all cattle diseases. The Druids named the plant *pres ongar*, or the heavenly plant, believing that it descended from above, as it would not grow on earth; and that it was an efficacious remedy for many diseases, especially if gathered from the oak. Culpepper mentions "the oak bearing mistletoe, of virtue that grows upon 'oaks' I know not, unless because it is rarest and hardest to come by." Tee plant is proper to the oak, and is called the golden bough. It is not a parasite, and therefore it does not sap the oak, but it may increase himself in his sort, and so kill the oak. It rather counts it a certain moisture and substance gathered together upon the boughs and joints of the tree through the harbor which the sparrows do bring, seeding, brought forth the mistletoe." It was customary in the feudal ages to gather the mistletoe on Christmas or New Year's Eve, when

"Forth to the woods did the merry men go
To gather in the mistletoe."

for decking the great baronial halls, when fun and frolic ruled the hour, and the yule log, and the yule cake, and the mistletoe has been excluded from most of our churches, as too intimately associated with idolatry. It was anciently called in Saxon "mistel and kissing under the mistletoe was only privileged, but there was no hope for the maid being married during the ensuing year unless she were saluted under the charmed plant. There are many legends connected with the mistletoe. It has been sacred in some districts "The Spectre's Wand," from a belief that, with the appearance of a spectre, and disappeared, leaving this incantation, a branch held in the hand would compel the appearance of a spectre, and require it to speak.—*The Every Day Book of Natural History.*

ALMANACKS.—"Time," says Rosalind, in *As You Like It*, "trots in divers paces with divers persons," and the associations which it may bring with it are diverse too. The pleasure of time, from which the prospect of another year seems capable of being contemplated, and the feelings with which complaint of shortness of time is uttered, are sufficiently various. That a certain fixed number of months, weeks, and days, are necessary for the completion of the yearly period is admitted by all, but here agreement ends. With each the number of days varies and page, print a different record and adorn a different tale. As winter gives place to spring, there are some who consider it labor lost to pay any attention to the progress of vegetation, and, to suggest to the horticultural mind the various operations which it is well at the particular time to perform. Others, who recognise principally in the change of seasons the necessity of some change of diet, will consult the occasional almanacks, for information as to the time when the delicacies of the season are in perfection. With the change of the year, the display of indifferent literature, for the delight of indifferent readers, is renewed. The almanacks, which

THE CONSETT GUARDIAN.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

The *Consett Guardian* contains all the News of the Week, Reports of Local and Police Intelligence, &c., and all the Latest Foreign and Home News.

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The *Guardian* Office, Front-street, Consett, is open till ten o'clock on Thursday evening, for the reception of news and advertisements. Orders may be left at the Library, Blackhill, up to 7 30 on Friday morning.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

OUR AGENT (MR. R. JACKSON) intends Visiting the Places during the Next Week, and will be happy to receive Orders for Advertisements, &c., for the *Consett Guardian*:—

Tuesday, Jan. 2	.....	Leadgate.
	.....	Consett.
Wednesday " 3	.....	Shotley Bridge.
" "	.....	Blackhill.
" "	.....	Consett.
Thursday " 4	.....	Dipton.
" "	.....	Castleside.
" "	.....	Annfield Plain.
" "	.....	Lanchester.
" "	.....	Leadgate.
" "	.....	Consett.

The Consett Guardian.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1865.

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

EBHATUM.—In a paragraph in our last impression, relative to the sudden death of the late Rev. Henry Ebenezer Hodgson, we unfortunately named that gentleman Mr. W. Pearson, instead of which it should have been Mr. W. Oliver. We regret that this has occurred, as the name of the present teacher is Mr Pearson.

WING to a pressure of news at this festive season, we have been compelled to hold over reports of the Guisborough and Hightway Board Meeting at Lanchester on Thursday.

ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, BENFIELDSIDE.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.—DEC. 31, 1865.

MORNING.—Psalms 144-145; First Lesson, Isaiah 37; Second Lesson, Acts 28. Hymns 2 and 216.

EVENING.—Psalms 147-150; First Lesson, Isaiah 38; Second Lesson, 1st. Anthem—"I have every upon upon you, O Lord"—Winter. Hymn 269.

The Hymn Book used is "Mercer's Church Psalter and Hymn Book."

THE PASSING YEAR.

"THAT great mystery of Time" (to use CARLYLE's term) is an old theme for poets and preachers—"the thimtable, silent, never-resting thing called Time, rolling, rushing on, swift, silent, like an all-embracing ocean-tide, on which we and all the universe swim like exhalations, like apparitions which are and then are not." But we borrow their texts to-day, for the "passing year," with its events of moment, and lessons of experience, it is topic for the journalist's pen. We who have, *dies per diem*, unrolled out the the threads that form the web of Time may at the closing of the year sum up its results, and try to find how far we have advanced towards the accomplishment of that blessed era, when the motto of the glad Angel anthem of Christmas-tide shall be the one and universal rule of the world. The year of 1865 will be found as crowded with great events, as pregnant with lessons of wisdom, as any that have gone, and been numbered with the forgotten past.

And in reviewing the events of the year whose wands are fast running out, one event stands out distinct from the rest, no less by its interest and magnitude than by the nature of its issue. The war in America, that for four long and weary years raged, has been concluded, and peace reigns once more within the borders of the American continent. The last act of that great and grim tragedy which had torn America's heart for four years was played out, and after struggles as long and brave, and a war as cruel and bloody as the world has ever seen, the South was conquered, and the banner of the stars and stripes floated over Richmond. On the 26th of April, when Richmond fell, and there was no hope of stemming the tide of Northern success, GENERAL JOHNSTON surrendered the last army of the Confederacy, and thus the course of events which the Northern press has been going quickly forward. With a celerity unequalled in CÆSAR'S conquests the States once rebellious have been restored to the Union, and slavery, the curse on the American name, the one foul blot on her escutcheon, has been wiped away. Now (to use one of LUTHER'S phrases) not "all the devils in hell" can restore or extend the area of slavery in America; the institution is dead, buried with the past, and living only as a memory and a shame. And need we recall the tragedy which overshadowed the Northern triumph, or tell how it lifted every meridian of his success, when he was about to behold the full fruition his labours, ABRAHAM LINCOLN fell by the hand of the assassin? But he died in harness and the moment was well for his fame. He was in the words of the Latin poet, *fitis alium opportunitate mortis*. He lived to see the end of his place, the reward of his labours, and then the task fell to other hands. His was a wondrous life: in youth a rail-splitter, in manhood the chief of one of the greatest empires in the world. He owed his rise to no graces of speech, no flowers of rhetoric, no meretricious eloquence. He was only an honest man of unflinching resolution, of pure and lofty aim, and noble purpose. He wore like ARTHUR'S Knight the white flower of a blameless life, and therefore all men mourn his death, and memory will long be fragrant, if only by his one act of emancipation. FRANKLIN, it was, emancipated America more by his pen than WASHINGTON by his sword, and ABRAHAM LINCOLN, a worthy follower in their footsteps, completed the glorious work and gave liberty to the slave. Since his death, ANDREW JOHNSON has established the high office, and so far has not proved unworthy of the all-important trust confided to him. The re-construction is going on rapidly and well, and the South, that lost a year ago, from its parent stem floated like a log on the wilderness of waters, now form a part—a flourishing part—of the United States of America.

There is little else of interest on the American continent to notice. The republics of South America, who change their leaders as readily as we do a coat, are being now and then embroiled with each other, and Spain has made an effort to recruit her shattered finances from the treasuries of her former colonies. As yet she has had no great success, and it is doubtful whether she will gain either glory or fame from her expedition. The empire of Mexico, supported by the arms and revenues of France, still halts in its march of progress. Much as the news varies, it is not difficult to see that the task which devolves upon MAXIMILIAN is no light or easy one. Uneasy must be the bond that wears the crown of Mexico, for the empire is disordered in trade and finance, and the people wavering in their allegiance and fidelity to their purpose. The intervention of France in this empire at one time seemed likely to lead to a rupture between the Emperor and the United States. Many who strongly supported the doctrine of the Monroe creed urged that the French should be driven from Mexico *vi et armis*; but the people of America have had enough of war, and have steadily allowed the question to remain as it is for a time. We only be sure that the Emperor will abandon his false position—a position which costs him much trouble and treasure, and yields him no glory or honour—when he can reasonably or decently do so.

Reverting to Europe we find but little for the contemporary historian. Austria has done nothing to retrieve her shattered fortunes, except by trying to conciliate the Hungarian people. How far the experiment will succeed the event must show. Of France it may be said in Napoleon's terse and famous speech, *l'empire c'est paix*; the war in Schleswig-Holstein is over, Poland is quiet; and altogether Europe enjoys as profound and undisturbed a peace as it is likely to see for many years. The question of Italy and Rome is the only cloud on the horizon. Italy is not yet *Italia Unita*, Rome is still the festering sore in her midst, and the goal appears still in the distance. As yet there is hardly the dawn of the day of Italy which proclaims the coming dawn; the present time appears the mid-winter of Italy's prospects, very dark and barren now, but the precursor, let us hope, of a bright and glorious spring-tide. Still the thing is moving—advancing slowly it may be, but still advancing—and the withdrawal of some of the French troops from Rome is the first sign of the coming deliverance. And the poet of the good faith of the September Convention, Italy's finances, too, are disorganised and disordered; she has a burdensome debt, a heavy taxation, and traditions which she seems to have shaken off and forgotten. But spite of all, we have hope in her future: to look back now would be madness. She must look forward hopefully and fearlessly, and prepare herself for the coming task.

Turn we to topics nearer home we find the same record of peace and prosperity. In England and in her dependencies there is everywhere peace; in all the vast dominions upon which the sun never set there is not the slightest of England's red roses, there is no need to deepen it anywhere into the crimson of war—not even in the foreground of New Zealand, the slopes of the Himalayas in Bhoosa, the face of the beautiful West Indian island—where the stain of blood lay broad; for the Maori war is said to be over; and the Bhootealas, whether they keep it or not, have made a peace of some sort. The tongues of LAND are still this Yule-tide, and peace reigns within and without our borders. The year has been signalised by few events of importance or interest, and there are questions which stand out conspicuously by their proportions or issues. The Fenian folly has been checked, and its wretched victims have received the just punishment of their deeds. In America the President of the Fenians still talks of action and warns his brethren to be ready, but in Ireland the organisation has never been feared and very generally despised. Indeed Fenianism in minds for one of those old fretwork pictures that when looked at from one side present a painted clown with cap and bells, and viewed from the other shows a grinning death's head and crossed bones. Now, one side is the ludicrous—on the other all is deep tragedy. The tragic side is in Ireland and the comic side is in the United States. In Ireland we see a set of deluded enthusiasts sacrificing themselves to the pains and penalties of laws they profess to deny, whilst in America the lazy agitators were kept in official stations at the expense of those who are the tools of their chicanery. Let us hope that the wretched bubble may soon collapse, and the people come to know the grand truth, that their freedom and advancement are in their own hands. Jamaica has been the theatre of a sad and sickening drama, the story is too fresh to need recapitulation or repetition here; but it must be some satisfaction to us to know that every effort will be made to stop the recurrence of such a tragedy, and to place those to whom the crime is chargeable. A commission has been appointed, whose duty will be to apprise no less than the grievance of the poor black, into the atrocities of a few days ago; and the issue of their labours must be beneficial and of good result. The year has been noticeable, too, for the wonderful and mysterious murder of the Marchioness of Hastings and other cattle, and decimated the herds of many districts. Science has as yet been powerless to stay the plague, and all that has been suggested is the rigorous use of the slaughter-pen, lest where the disease appears, and the exercise of every precaution against contagion or infection. The country has happily escaped the ravages of cholera. The disease has skirted our borders, but passed us by untouched, and thus given us the opportunity to ward off an attack by prudent sanitary measures. Fortunately the authorities appear impressed with the necessity for prompt and earnest action.

1865 has also witnessed two great struggles between capital and labour. The lock-out in the iron trade was in the early part of the year brought to a close, and the masters recognised the work which had been so long closed. The Cramlington strike, however, still continues, but the places of the Union men have been almost fully supplied by men from Berwick and Cornwall, so that the contest may be said to be virtually over, and the masters victorious. But these contests are altogether to be regretted, and in them no party can be truly victorious. Masters and men have, too, suffered, and no remedy for the evil, and the contest must, it appears, be fought by the rough and unjust principle of a strike. In the early part of the year the silent mills, the idle machines and the lingering groups of able-bodied men were eloquent examples of the evils of this method of deciding a disputed question. Industrial exhibitions are among the brightest signs of the times. These exhibitions of the industry and enterprise of the working classes have been organised in many parts of the country, and have been almost universally successful, financially as well as morally. At Gateshead, it is expected, an exhibition will be shortly opened, and the mechanics and artisans of Tyneside will, then have an opportunity of showing that they are not lagging behind in the march of progress. Another pleasing sign of the times was the meeting of the French and English fleets at Cherbourg and Portsmouth, in which the sailors vied with the other in hospitality and friendly courtesy.

Every Englishman looks to the High Court of Parliament with interest and hope. He is brought up in the belief that there is no constitutional grievance that cannot be redressed, no evil at source from which all remedies must proceed. But the Parliamentary Session of 1865 was as dull and unprofitable as well could be. When good LORD PALMERSTON died, regretted and lamented by MR PORNIAM, what had passed in Parliament, the Speaker replied, "So please your Majesty just seven weeks." And if we were asked what the late Parliamentary Session had done we should be unable to state much that would commend it to the gratitude of the nation. But amongst the measures of last Session was the Union Chargeability Bill, which LORD JOHN MANNERS called "an absolute social revolution in the country," and which promises to be a useful and altogether satisfactory measure of Poor-law Reform. During the year, however, a new Parliament has been elected, and a new Premier called to the councils of HER MAJESTY. The time is fast approaching when the Parliament will enter on its task. And what will be its task? Reform, we cannot much longer be shelved, and which will doubtless occupy the attention of Parliament in an early stage of the session. There is, too, a large and ample field for freedom in religion, retrenchment in the national expenditure, and for a complete overhauling of the laws and traditions of the Foreign Office. The new Parliament will, indeed, enter into power with great responsibilities—with a heavy legacy of unaccomplished designs and unfulfilled hopes—but it will be composed of men full and strong in liberal opinions and in the support of the people.

But leaving politics and parties, let us again ask, what is of the year? Sad and shocking indeed has been its catalogue of crime in this fair England of ours. Enough to recall the dreadful tragedy of TRITTON; the confession wrung by a tortured conscience from COMPANION-KEAT; the dark deeds of violence in Yorkshire, and that foul deed which has shadowed the festivities of Christmas-tide, and given to the little village of WEARDALE, Cumberland, a sad renown. Crime still (to MILTON'S mind) is

"Comes creeping by in secret pace,
and no true-hearted Englishman can think of our social sins, of the vice and ignorance and drunkenness which prevail without a shudder and a sigh. Let it be seen, let it be felt, that crime, vice, intemperance and struggle that society around us may be the better and not the worse for our having minded in its festivals and delights.

And then the year has its obituary, rich in illustrious names. Death has been busy with his sickle, reaping down high and low, rich and poor, and gathering them into his garner. Among these are some names the world cannot let die. LORD PALMERSTON, the NESTOR of our councils, the statesman who guided the bark of England through a sea more stormy than ever before and the honour of England, is among the dead—1865, and with him RICHARD COBDEN, the apostle of Free Trade. He served his country faithfully and fearlessly, and died beloved and respected for his pride, patriotism, and independence. Let his clearness, power and irresistibleness of intellect, for his indomitable energy, pliable spirit and manfulness of purpose, be a lesson to us, and we swell the list of the dead are the KING of the BELGIANS, who, in the fullness of age, has departed to his rest; the Duke of ARGYLL and LANDS, whose name as ALEXANDER THE GOOD, will live in the memories of the people of this country; Father Smith, of Oscott, the learned scholar, the beloved Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, the Nestor of the Catholic Priesthood, the honour of England, in among the dead—1865, and with him RICHARD COBDEN, the apostle of Free Trade. He served his country faithfully and fearlessly, and died beloved and respected for his pride, patriotism, and independence. Let his clearness, power and irresistibleness of intellect, for his indomitable energy, pliable spirit and manfulness of purpose, be a lesson to us, and we swell the list of the dead are the KING of the BELGIANS, who, in the fullness of age, has departed to his rest; the Duke of ARGYLL and LANDS, whose name as ALEXANDER THE GOOD, will live in the memories of the people of this country; Father Smith, of Oscott, the learned scholar, and a host of others whose names are enrolled on the page of history.

"Those fallen leaves that keep their green
The noble letters of the dead."

And at this festive season, when families are gathered around the hearth-stone, trimming anew home affections at the lamp where these were lighted, and renewing the old ties that bind together in one family, and every chain there will be a missing link—but let us not try to banish, let us let us welcome the sweet sorrow, so that it may be hallowed and enthalmed by the recollections of this sacred and life-common-rallying season.

And now having thus reviewed the past let us look around, and we find the present filled with materials for joy and congratulation, and the future brightened with hope. Peace prevails on the earth, and plenty and prosperity rule at home. Our land abounds with ameliorative influences, and our people are blessed with early and good-will. But there is still room for the vivifying look, the cheering word, the helping hand. There is still poverty, and vice and wrong in the world, and we need an apostle to preach a new crusade against the evil around us. Come yet let us find for the poor the oil of sympathy and charity and love; more earnest yet let us be in our work of gradual reformation, more the prophet, the coming year shall find us older it may find us better too. The present seem becomes a shadow, and there is much of truth in the poetic vision of

"Life swiftly treading over endless space,
And, as it flies, a shadow, cast behind
The ocean-past, which, with increasing wave,
Swallows the vast Plutonian grave."

Let us then do good while we may, and when the glad bells ring in the advent of the new year, let the joyous peals of the chimes ring in the sweeter manners, purer laws, the love of truth and right, the larger heart and kindlier hand of which the poet sings.

Local and District News.

LEADGATE CHURCH.—On Christmas Day, a full choral service was given in the above place of worship. The choir sang the following pieces:—Jackson's Te Deum, Mozart's chorale on My Jackson (under) and Mr Horn (organist), in the service in E flat, Mr Horn's anthem, "Behold I bring you good tidings," by Goss. The Rev. J. W. Mitchell officiated. The choir, with much feeling and effect. The church was tastefully decorated with evergreens by the Sunday School teachers and scholars.

LEADGATE PENNY READING.—The second of a series of these meetings was given on Wednesday, in the Boys' School-room, Leadgate. The room was occupied by the Rev. J. W. Mitchell, who opened the night's proceedings by a short address. He alluded to the "Penny Reading" as a benefit to be derived and the security there was in investing their money in such entertainments, of which one was Leadgate. He also read Cowper's celebrated poem of "John Gilpin." The Rev. Gentleman's address, "Pleasures in the Wood" with good effect. The songs were all successful, and the evening was long.

LANCHESTER WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—On Sunday, two powerful sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Lanchester, by Mr Jonathan Wardle, of Witton Gilbert, in the afternoon from Phil. i. 21, and in the evening from Eph. iv. 1-3. On Christmas Day, there was a breakfast party at nine o'clock, consuming of tea, coffee, and cakes, and the masters received the good deed. The abundant supply of fruit cake of various kinds, was duly appreciated, and the morning passed away. It was spent in a most cheerful and happy manner. In the afternoon, Mr Thomas Whinney, of Witton Gilbert, gave with characteristic ability and earnestness, having for his text "The Prodigal." In the evening, after the usual bill, the tables being presided over by Miss Jane Robinson, Miss Jane Stafford, Miss Whinney, and Miss Wilkinson, dispensed "the cup that cheers," with its accompaniments, to 300 persons, who had assembled in the school. A public meeting was held in the evening, under the presidency of Mr. J. Robinson, when addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Mann, of Consett, Mr. Wardle, Mr. John Bell, and Mr. Moss. Each of the preceding services was largely attended; but on the evening of the public meeting, the inconvenience to many of the congregation being obliged to stand, of the heavy rain, and the unpleasantness of the roads, on Sunday school, the present anniversary has been, numerically, financially, and spiritually, the best.

LIVER FOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—The anniversary of this institution, which is connected with the Primitive Methodists at Liver Ford, took place on Sunday, the 17th inst. the Rev. W. Ord delivered an address to the children, teachers, and parents, which was fraught with sound counsel, and was listened to with eagerness by the children, and the cardinal truths of the Bible. Mr W. M-Pateson, of Consett, preached in the evening an appropriate sermon from Proverbs viii. 17., and the children sang and recited hymns, pieces, of poetry, &c. The services were well attended, and the collections good. On Christmas Day a tea party was held, which was also well patronised, upwards of 120 persons sitting down to partake of the good things which the teachers had provided. A public meeting was held after tea, presided over by Mr W. J. Price of Consett. Effective addresses were delivered by the chairman and the Rev. Gentlemen of the neighbourhood. Pieces by Mr. Hoole, son, of Consett, on "The Blessings of Religion" by Mr. J. Alcock, of Blackhill, on "Time and Eternity" by Mr W. M. Pateson, on "Home;" and Mr T. Carlick, on "Was Christ born in a Stable?" were delivered, and listened throughout with marked attention and interest, and the speakers were highly complimented on the ability with which they had acquitted themselves. The meeting was a very successful one, and the proceeds will be devoted to the Sunday School.

GRAND EVENING CONCERT.—On Friday evening a grand vocal and instrumental concert was given in the Town Hall, Bridge, under the auspices of the Town Hall Company. The artistes were—Mrs. Thompson, Miss Thompson, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. T. Hodson, tenor; Mr. D. J. Hall, bass; and Mr. J. Hall, pianist. The hall was well filled, and the music was of a high order of excellence. The Messrs. Bond played the piano, and Mr. Burrows gave great satisfaction on the violin. The