HATS! HATS!!
SHIRTS! SHIRTS!!
Felt Hats from 1s. 9½d. to 4s. 11d.
Two-Peaked Caps, from 6½d. to 1s. 3½d.
Oxford Shirts, from 11½d. to 2s. 6d.
Splendid Union Shirts, 1s. 11d. to 2s. 9d.
Magnificent Wool Shirts, 3s. 9d. to 5s. 3d.
Gents' Linen Collars (extraordinary), at 3½d.
Ladies' Rink Collars, all at 1d. each.
Ladies' Jersey Gloves, 8½d. to 1s. 4½d.
Ladies' Pure Silk Gloves, 1s. 11d., worth 2s. 6d.
New Frillings, Laces, Ties, and Scarfs.
BAIN & CO'S
CHEAP DRESS AND DRAPERY MART,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
☞ No connection with any other Establishment.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

No. 1,377. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, December 31st, 1886. PRICE ONE PENNY.

THOUSANDS OF PIECES
Have already been sold of our now far-famed
WALL PAPER.
BEAUTIFUL, 1½d. to 3½d. per Piece.
ARTISTIC, 4d. to 8½ per Piece.
CEILING, 2d. to 6½d. per Piece.
LOBBY, 2d. to 6½d. per Piece.
BORDERING, 1½d. per Yard, sold elsewhere at 3d.
Also Marone, Blue, Scarlet & Green, for lining Shelves, Book Cases, Shop Windows, &c., only 2½d. per yd.
N.B.—About a 100 Patterns to choose from of the best and Cheapest in the North of England, at
BAIN & CO'S
DRESS AND DRAPERY MART,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

Money.

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

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LOAN & DISCOUNT COMPANY.—MONEY! MONEY!! MONEY!!! The above Company is prepared to make immediate Cash Advances to the General Public, Farmers, Cow Keepers, and others, from £5 to £500 on personal and other security, at reasonable interest. All transactions treated confidentially. Easy repayments taken; distance no object. Bills discounted.—Apply personally or by letter to A. NEUENBERG, Manager, 14, Dean Street, Newcastle. 234w

Lost.

LOST, between Blackhill and Derwent Cottages, [illegible] CLOAK.—Any one finding the same and returning it to Mr. JOSEPH PUMPHREY, Elm Park, will be rewarded. 253x

Found.

FOUND, on Pont Head Farm, a Piebald PONY, aged.—If not claimed in three days will be sold to defray expenses.—Apply, H. WHITE, Pont Head Farm. 247x

Wanted.

WANTED, a good strong Girl as GENERAL SERVANT; age about 18; good character required.—Apply at once, *Guardian* Office, Consett.

WANTED, a respectable Girl as GENERAL SERVANT; able to Wash and Bake; small family. Wage 3s.—State age and experience, by Letter, to Box X, *Guardian* Office. 230x

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

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

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

Under Distinguished Patronage.
MISS ANDERSON, Register Office for MALE and FEMALE SERVANTS, and GOVERNESSES, 9, Ridley Place, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 265w

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

WANTED, Young Gentlemen to Buy our Linen Collars, from 3½d to 6½d; also Ties, Scarfs, Braces, and Silk Pocket Handkerchiefs.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett.

WANTED, Mothers to Buy our Velvet and Cloth Boys' Sailor Caps, from 1s 2d to 2s 3d; also, Boys' Solo Caps, at 4½d; and little Boys' Sailor Collars, at 2½d and 3½d each.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 913w

WANTED, Young Ladies to Buy our Novelties in Frillings, from 1½d per yard; new Laces, from 1d per yard.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 908w

WANTED, Working Men to Buy our Shirts, from 11½d up to 5s 3d.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 909w

WANTED, Economical Housewives to Buy our Artistic Wall Paper, from 1½d up to 7½d per piece.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 910w

WANTED, Young Ladies to Buy our Jersey Gloves in Black and Colours, from 8½d per pair; pure Silk Gloves, 1s 11d per pair, worth 2s 6d.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 911w

WANTED, the Public to know that BAIN and Co. have no connection with any other Establishment in the North of England. Their onl address and where the advertised lots are to be foun is New Town Hall, Consett. 914

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

WANTED, for the above School an Assistant Ex. P. T. (Female). Salary, £35 per annum Musical, Tonic Sol-Fa, preferred. Duties to commence on the 17th January next. Applications (with one reference) to be sent to me on or before the 12th January next.—By Order,
W. W. THOMPSON,
Clerk to the Board.
Lanchester, December 16th, 1886. 207x

To Let.

TO LET, a good HOUSE.—Apply to M. FAWELL, Grocer, 40, Front Street, Consett. 149x

TO LET, a HOUSE of Two Rooms, situated Brewery Yard, Burnopfield. 2s. 6d. per week. —Apply, W. C. RIPPON. 232x

TO LET, POPLAR HOUSE, Shotley Bridge.—Apply to WILSON BROTHERS, or to Mr. WM. KEENLEYSIDE, Crookhall. 926w

TO LET, a HOUSE, situate at Templetown, Consett.—Apply to GEORGE BROWN, Railway Hotel, Consett; or to EDWARD PARKER, Iveston.

TO LET, a COTTAGE, containing Five Rooms, with good Garden, Pantry, &c. Rent, 3s 3d per week. If desired, can be let to two tenants at 1s 9d per week.—Apply at the Vicarage, Castleside.

TO LET, and enter upon at May next, HUMBER HOUSE FARM, near Lanchester, comprising 178 Acres, 84 of which are in Tillage. Mr. M. GIBSON, Newbiggen, near Lanchester, will show the Farm, and give any information that is needed.—Offers, stating Rent, to be forwarded to the Rev. J. WELFORD, 37, Warnette Hall Road, Oldham, not later than January 3rd, 1887. 110x

TWO COTTAGES TO LET, on Shotley Park Estate. Snows Green Park Lodge, containing Three Rooms; Cottage, at Whinney House, containing Two Rooms.—Apply to JOSEPH PUMPHREY, Elm Park. 176x

For Sale.

WASTE PAPER FOR SALE, at 1d. per lb.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, or 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett.

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

FOR SALE, Special lot of very superior Silk Pocket Handkerchiefs, extra large, from 1s 11½d to 2s 11d, white and coloured.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 85x

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, REWARD BOOKS, &c., at ROBERT JACKSON'S, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett. 147x

STRONG BROWN WRAPPERS, 5 ft. by 4 ft., One Penny each at the "*Guardian*" Office, and 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett. 654w

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

FOR SALE, a lot of magnificent and very rich Gents' Silk Mufflers, white and coloured, from 1s 11d to 18s 6d each. Young gentlemen should call and see these Goods.—BAIN and Co. 'The Exchange,' New Town Hall, Consett. 84x

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a Grey PONY, 14·2 h.h., in Foal to Forster's "Billy." Quiet in all yokes.—Apply JAMES TEASDALE, Red Ox Inn, Dipton. 238x

FOR SALE, Fourteen Fully-paid up SHARES in the Consett Water Company, and Fifty Fully-paid up SHARES in the Consett New Town Hall Company.—Apply at the *Consett Guardian* Office. 234x

FOR SALE, the following lots—guaranteed I.R. Braces—Boys, from 2½d to 6d. Grand value in Men's, from 6½d to 1s 2d. Also a lot of Gents' Coloured Polo Collars, all at 2½d each. Gents' Cuffs, cheap.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 86x

FOR SALE, just arrived, other Five Bales of Wall Paper, 2½d, 2¾d, 3d, 3½d, 3¾d, to 7½d per piece. Great array of Bordering all round, 1½d per yard. A few odd lots of former purchase from 1½d per piece.—BAIN and Co., "The Exchange," New Town Hall, Consett. 87x

A GOOD PLAN.

BY adopting the safe and reliable method fully explained in sixth edition of Guide Book (*sent Gratis and Post Free*) Stock Exchange investments of £10 to £1,000 are often doubled or trebled in a few days. Address GEO. EVANS & Co., Stockbrokers, Gresham House, London, E.C. Established 1881.

Business Announcements.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

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

F. A. AND E. WELCH,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 299

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A LARGE and Choice Assortment of Fancy and other Useful Goods, Presents, &c., suitable for the Season. Desk and Pocket Diaries, Annuals, &c., 1887, Account Books, Pocket Books, &c.,

TRY
J. COCKBURN,
GENERAL AND FANCY STATIONER,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

☞ Schools Supplied. Books Bound. Books not in Stock, may be had on a short notice. Newspapers &c., delivered to order. 248x

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; W. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law; J. JOHNSON, 95, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne. 65u

BRITISH WINES!
PORT, SHERRY, AND ALL OTHER KINDS,
AND OF
SUPERIOR QUUALITY,
ALWAYS IN STOCK,
AT
C. F. COOKE'S,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Agent for Messrs. J. GILLON & Co., and other Celebrated Makers.

ALSO, UNFERMENTED FRUIT WINE AND CORDIALS, AT 1s. PER BOTTLE.

Also, Peek, Frean, & Co., and Huntley & Palmer's Fancy Biscuits, &c. 219w

HENRY WALKER & SON
(LATE WALKER & EMLEY),
Beg to announce that they have OPENED
THE COUNTY STOVE, CHIMNEY PIECE,
AND
GENERAL IRONMONGERY SHOW ROOMS.
55, WESTGATE ROAD (OPPOSITE THE SAVINGS BANK),
With a large and very choice selection of Goods of the newest designs, marked in plain figures at Low Prices.

THESE SPLENDID PREMISES WILL WELL REPAY A VISIT,
And HENRY WALKER AND SON respectfully invite an early inspection!

PRESENTATION BIBLES.

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

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

ORDER
NESTLE'S
SWISS MILK
TRADE MARK
AND YOU WILL BE PLEASED WITH IT 550v

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

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

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

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(Over 60 Set-up to Select from).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND

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

DON'T FORGET THE OLD PLACE.
A LARGE STOCK OF BUILDERS' STORES, of all kinds, ALWAYS IN STOCK.

SANITARY PIPES, SINKS, GULLEYS, CHIMNEY TOPS, BRICKS, QUARLS, FLAGS, LIME, CEMENT, &c. Special Quotations for Two and Four Ton Lots.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—
J. F. ELTRINGHAM,
RAILWAY TERRACE, BLACKHILL (NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION.

BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT FOR THE HOLIDAYS.
Closed all day Saturday, December 25th (Xmas Day), and January 1st (New Year's Day. Open till 11·0 p.m. Friday Evenings, December 24th and December 31st.

1886. CHRISTMAS. 1886.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW AND CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL will be OPENED on SATURDAY FIRST, with a LARGE AND VARIED SUPPLY of
DOLLS,
TOYS,
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS,
GUNS, SWORDS, DRUMS,
XMAS CARDS, MOTTOES,
RAILWAYS, PERAMBULATORS,
TRAMCARS, BOX TOYS.
When we hope all will pay us a visit for inspection. Special terms for Bazaars, Xmas Trees and School Treats.

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR,
THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS,
9, 9A, AND 22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 155x

CHARLES F. SANDS,
42, GRANGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE (Adjacent to Art Gallery).
FOR LAMPS, CHANDELIERS, HALL LAMPS, GAS GLOBES, GAS AND OIL COOKING AND HEATING STOVES,
FURNISHING IRONMONGERY, &c.
Makers of the "DEXTER," and other LIGHTS, for Churches, Chapels, Public Buildings, Shops, &c.
EXPERIENCED WORKMEN SENT TO ANY PART OF TOWN OR COUNTRY. 658w

WATCH GIVEN AWAY.
PRIZE COMPETITION
AT THE CONSETT TEA HOUSE, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

ROBERT WILLEY, Tea Dealer, will give One Lady's or Gentleman's SOLID SILVER WATCH, Free to Buyers of a Quarter-Pound of his celebrated 3s. Tea, on the following terms, viz.:—

Purchasers of Quarter-pound of 3s. Tea guessing the Number of the Watch, or the Nearest Number to it, will receive the Watch Free.

P.S.—Any person may, by purchasing two Quarter-pounds of Tea, have two chances, or three Quarter-pounds, may have three chances, and so on.

The Competition will close on Thursday, January 13th, 1886.

The Number of the Watch, and Name of the successful Competitor, will be published in the *Consett Guardian* on January 14th.

In the event of there being more than one Competitor giving the correct number, the person who gave the first correct number will be entitled to the Watch, as no second prize will be given.

The competition is now open. Come in time. Buy Quarter-pound of Tea. Give your name, and guess he number of the watch. Get your name and number put into the Book.

THE WATCHES ARE NOW ON VIEW AT
R. WILLEY'S
TEA WAREHOUSE, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
☞ BASS'S PALE ALE, AND GUINNESS'S DUBLIN STOUT IN STOCK. ☜

TRY
JOHN HUME & SON'S
CELEBRATED
"GERM MEAL,"
THE BEST AND CHEAPEST FOOD
FOR
COWS, PIGS, AND POULTRY.
8d. PER STONE. 7s. 6d. PER SACK OF 12 STONES. 963w

SPECIAL CLEARING LOT OF MEN'S SUITS, AT 15s.
LATEST STYLES IN FELT HATS, FROM 1s. 11d. TO 6s.
SCARVES, TIES, CAPS, AND MUFFLERS, ALL PRICES.
CHEVIOT DRESS TWEEDS, FROM 3½d. TO 1s. 3d. PER YARD
DOLMAN ULSTERS IN A VARIETY OF COLOURING.
MUFFS AND BOAS, GLOVES, TIES, AND LACES

DOWSON'S, BLACKHILL.

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

☞ HALL'S is the RIGHT SHOP for all who want a good Article combined with Cheapness.
STARCHES, BLUES, PATENT MEDICINES, and all PACKETED GOODS 10 to 50 per cent Cheaper than the usual Price.

JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 289

Business Announcements.

FOR
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!
GO TO
THE 2 W.'S.
SEE THEIR SPLENDID STOCK OF SILK HANDKERCHIEFS, SILK MUFFLERS, GENTS' TIES, AND HATS AND CAPS.
SEE THE WINDOWS! SEE THEIR NEW STOCK OF CLOTHING!!
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, AND AT NEWCASTLE.

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

WHO has been acknowledged by his Annually-increasing Business to have gained the high reputation of always keeping a very Superior Class of Goods at prices which not only compare with any other House, but defy competition in the North of England.

LIST OF GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE FLOUR DEPARTMENT.

Best Fine	Crushed Oats and Beans, 12st. for 13s. 6d.
Best Superfines.	Indian Meal, 11d. per st., or 16s. 6d. per Sack of 20st.
Finest Hungarian Flour.	Hen Corn, Rough Barley, Maize. (All equally low in Price.)
Wheat Meal, Whole Meal, Granulated Meal, best Scotch Oatmeal, 1s. 9d. per st.	Boxings, 7s. 6d. per Bag of 12st.
	Bran.

GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE PROVISION DEPARTMENT.

Extra Choice Butter ...	1s. 4d. per lb.	Finest Hams ...	6d. and 6½d. per lb.
(This is the finest produced.)		Should ers, Whole ...	3½d. and 4d. „
Choice Danish Butter ...	1s. 2d. „	Finest American Bacon ...	4½d. and 5d. „
Choice Irish Butter ...	1s. „	(Whole and Half-sides.)	
Finest Butterines ...	6d., 8d., and 10d. „	Finest American Cheese ...	6d. and 7d. „
Small Bladders Lard ...	5d. and 5½d. „	Good Cheese ...	3d. and 3½d. „
Kit Lard ...	4d. „	Best Dutch Cheese ...	6d. „

LIST OF GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE GROCERY DEPARTMENT.

Excellent Sugar ...	1½d. per lb.	Finest Patna Rice ...	2d. per lb.
First-class Sugar ...	2d. „	Large and Small Sago ...	3d. „
Granulated Sugar ...	2¼d. „	USE SINCLAIR'S ROUGH-CUT SHAG.	
Crystalised Sugar ...	2½d. „	Matches (Bryant & Mays) ...	2d. per doz.
Finest Loaf Sugar ...	2¾d. „	Square Blue ...	5d. per lb.
Raisins ...	5d. „	Corned Beef, best ...	6d. „
Splendid Currants ...	3d. „	Brawn ...	6d. „
Sultanas ...	4d. and 4½d. „	6d. Tins Mustard ...	3½d. each.
Lemon Peel ...	4d. and 6d. „	Black Bullets ...	3d. per lb.
USE SINCLAIR'S BROWN TWIST.		USE COPE'S MIXTURE, 4D. PER OZ.	
Best Pale Soap (White Windsor	2½d. and 3d. „	Tea Biscuits ...	3d. per lb., or 9d. qr. st.
Best Grey Mottled Soap ...	2½d. and 3d. „	Mixed Biscuits ...	4d. per lb.
Brown Almond Soap ...	2d. „	Ginger Snaps ...	4d. „
Blue Mottled Soap ...	1½d. „	Arrowroot ...	6d. „
Dry Soap ...	2d. „	Toast ...	8d. „
Salmon ...	5½d. and 6d. per tin.	Huntley and Palmer's Biscuits of every description.	
USE SINCLAIR'S IRISH ROLL.		Best Coloured Sweets, all kinds (in Bottles ...	3d. and 4d. per lb.
Tapioca ...	2½d. per lb.	Pure York Mixtures ...	4d. „
Dip Candles ...	3½d. per lb., or 3s. 9d. per doz. lbs.	BRISTOL BIRD'S EYE, 4D. PER OZ.	
Wax Candles	4½d. per lb., or 3lb. packets, 1s. 1d.	A large Consignment of splendid Jam, which will be Sold at 3d. per lb.	
2lb. Tins Roast Beef ...	9d. per tin.	2lb. Bottles Plum Jam, 4½d. each.	
Tins Rabbit ...	1s. 0d. „	Vinegar, 3d. quart, or 10d. gallon.	
Tins Milk ...	4½d. „	Spiced Vinegar. Pure Cassia, 1d. per oz: Nutmegs, 2½d. oz. Pickles, Sauces, and all classes of Tinned Goods in great variety of Package, at a very small discount from cost price.	
Tins Sardines ...	4½d. and 9d.	USE SINCLAIR'S SEALED SHAG.	
Relish ...	3d. per bottle.	USE SINCLAIR'S TOBACCOS.	
Ketchup ...	3½d. „		
Pickles and Onions ...	4½d. „		
Ground Rice ...	2d. per lb.		
White Whole Rice ...	1½d. „		

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

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF.
HUNTLEY & PALMER'S FANCY BISCUITS OF ALL KINDS AND QUALITIES.
ALSO, A LARGE STOCK OF CHRISTMAS LOAVES, FROM ½LB. TO 4LB.
A SPLENDID STOCK OF CHEESE, INCLUDING ROCHEFORT, GORGONZOLA, STILTON, CHESHIRE, GLO'STER, DERBY, AMERICAN, AND EDAMS.
HOME-FED HAMS AND BACON. WILTSHIRE SMOKED HAM.

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

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

BRITISH WINES.—PER BOTTLE.

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

Splendid FRUIT WINES—Strawberry, Black Currant, Port, and Ginger, 10d. per Bottle.

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

	PER BOTTLE.		PER BOTTLE.
Whiskey, from	1s. 9d. to 3s. 6d.	Brandy, from	2s. 6d. to 5s 6d.
Rum „	1s. 9d. to 3s. 0d.	Port Wine „	1s. 0d. to 4s 6d.
Gin „	1s. 6d. to 2s. 10d.	Sherry „	1s. 0d. to [illegible] 6d.

GOODS DELIVERED DAILY TO ANY PART OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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

WOOD'S MUSIC WAREHOUSE.
ESTABLISHED 1870.

AMERICAN ORGANS, HARMONIUMS, PIANOS, and a variety of other MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, STRINGS, FITTINGS, &c.
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SPECIAL—THE "GEM" MELODEON,
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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, December 31st, 1886.

THE NEW YEAR.

Until the supreme festival of the year has passed into a memory, and Christmas, with all its festivities and presents, is well over English people do not bestow much attention upon the new year. January the first is not observed here as it is in France, and its importance is dwarfed by the great event we celebrate a week previously. It is probably not until the last evening of the old year that we realize that we are standing upon the threshold of a fresh epoch in our lives; and those solemn hours of darkness before the bells toll for the death of the last of the twelve months and their garland of days are more apt to be spent in retrospect than in anticipation. A fairy with a magic star-tipped wand steps forth from the night, whom we call by the name of the Past, and she weaves around us a spell of enchantment. The poet Laureate, among his volumes of golden cadences, never wrote a line more sweet and more intensely pathetic than that sad couplet:—

> "The tender grace of a day that is dead,
> Will never come back to me."

It is a sentiment we all understand in moments when, standing by the open window and listening to the solemn clanging of the distant church bells, we muse awhile over bygone joy and grief. A great French poet, forced by bereavement into an inspiration almost divine, roused by sorrow to sing with a simplicity and force such as he perhaps never again attained, asks passionately if "Eternity snatching our hours of rapture swiftly away from us, will give them back upon the cloudless shores of the promised land?" But there is no answer given to Lamartine's eager, hopeless questionings. After all, in this pessimistic age we are all much two apt to endue the past with the "glory and the radiance of a dream," and in these hard times of keen competition, and of a constant struggle for existence continual regretful reference to nearly non-existent good old times is made, and people fall into a habit of believing that they are in every respect worse off than their forefathers—a feeling stimulated by the adverse spirit which appears to have taken possession of us this Christmas, in rumours of war abroad, and a disquieting sense at home that the split in the Cabinet makes the question as to how the Queen's government is to be carried on one by no means easy to answer. People grumble at the present, and have very little faith indeed about the future, concerning which they raise the spirits of the rising generation by prophesying no desirable, but evil things continually. This ought not to be. When the old year has glided peacefully away like a patriach full of honours, and the bells change their note to one of merry welcome, we, too, ought to be content to say cheerfully "*Le roi est mort, vive le roi!*" and to look forward hopefully towards the dawning Jubilee, with a confident expectation that there is a good time coming. 1885 vanished into a mist of doubt and foreboding of misfortune; 1886 leaves us a heritage of brighter promise in the chances of a revival of trade and its consequent blessings. Let us cultivate a spirit of thankfulness and faith in the Providence that "shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will." If each man and woman having the power were to consecrate the new year wiih some act of kindly charity, greater or less according to themeans at disposal, such deeds would prove a talisman for securing the happiness for which so many of us waste life in a laborious search—unavailing because we go so falsely to work to attain what can never be ours without less selfishness and more brotherly affection one towards another. "Go forth to meet the future bravely and with manly heart," said a German writer in a passage adopted by Longfellow as the key-note of his best prose idyll. "Hyperion;" and though so often quoted as to be familiar to most of us, the advice is very salutary at the present beginning of the new year. To the young these doubts and misgivings as to the poor, much-abused nineteenth century are supposed to be unknown, but unluckily this is far from being the case. They, too, will feel their buoyant spirits, so inestimable in value to the untried soldiers setting out to fight the battle of life, dashed out with needless depression unless they are encouraged as well as warned concerning the issue of the battle. They were born in the present time, and it is for those older and wiser than they to teach them how to make the best of their lives, instead of damping their natural ardour by the fashionable cant about orr "degenerate days." The world stands sorely in need of a few laughing philosophers, and it is melancholy indeed to know that the resonant voice which thrilled the pulses of the youth of England fifty years since by proclaiming them the "heirs of all the ages" has sunk to a murmur of dreary complainings and useless protestations. To those, and there are many, who have set their lives to the Laureate's high poems, and who will lament that it is not possible to choose a motto for 1887 from the latest utterances of him who formerly called upon the bells so eloquently in a hymn that is almost a prayer, and of which almost every line has passed into a proverb, we may tender a few lines from a newer singer:—

> "Not in what has been, is, or is to be, the wise soul lives;
> But in a wider time, that is not any, but contains the three."

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY EVENING.

It is amusing to note the grave alarm at the resignation of Lord Randolph Churchill expressed by journals that not so long ago either pretended to regard him as the punch of politics, and therefore of no account in any grave appraisement of the situation. The Gladstonian organs take a juster view of the consequences of the severance than either the Liberal Unionist or Tory prints. The opinions of the last-mentioned must be individually discounted. It is not (to drop the conventional form) what they think, but what Sir A. Borthwick, Mr Mudford, Mr F. Greenwood, Captain Armstrong, and Mr Buckle have said all along in their differentiation between Lord Salisbury and his only potent representative in the House of Commons. In the rank and file of the Tories there is more than alarm, there is ill disguised panic, and (by implication) we get an expression of the feeling in the *Observer*. There are three sentences picked from Mr Dicey's gravely menacing article. "To speak the plain truth, Lord Randolph's resignation seems to us fatal to the existence of the Ministry as at present constituted. . . . The question at issue is not one of filling up Lord Randolph's post, but of reconstruction of the whole Ministerial fabric. . . . The downfall of the Conservative Ministry would involve the accession of the Liberals to office under Mr Gladstone and the consequent Repeal of the Union." This is what a Conservative journal of the highest intelligence says of the consequences of the withdrawal from the Cabinet of one who has ever been a law unto himself, and the ruler, defiant of discipline, of his own "party" fate.

A fivepenny Income Tax, a reduction of the duties on tea and tobacco, and a considerable abatement of local taxation were amongst the boons which Lord Randolph had designed for his inaugural Budget. Those, however, were impossible in the face of increased naval and military estimates. There is some truth in the report that he also demanded a drastic reform of the spending departments, with a view to saving millions, and that he had no sympathy with or belief in the necessity of our embroiling ourselves in a war on behalf of Bulgaria or any other oppressed nationality. But it is quite possible that he was supremely desirous of having a free mind and hand on the Irish question and the Local Government Bill. He was kept back by the Old Gang, and that chafed him. "Hence these tears." It seems to have escaped the calculations of those who are puzzling over the animated puzzle called Lord Randolph Churchill that he is just as capable of eclipsing Gladstone in respect of the Irish question as he was of bringing in a daringly Gladstonian Budget. Lord Randolph is a man of departures. To talk about his having dished himself is to talk nonsense. His withdrawal at this moment is a step nearer the premiership. The Old Gang will have to go, and the Whigs with them. There are two strong new parties in the course of formation, and Lord Randolph Churchill is at the head of one of them. Mr John Morley heads the other.

To be at a standstill with telegraph posts broken, wires snapped, and the great world keeping a forced holiday, this was the situation in London for the early half of this week. The same storm which made the roads impassible at home, reached also far down to what we call the sunny South, and so Lord Hartington has been delayed, and we have had to wait for his return to know what the end of the Ministerial crisis is to be. One fact only is certain, that unless the Unionist party close up their ranks, and Lords Salisbury and Hartington join hands, there will be a short carrying on session and another dissolution, giving us three Parliaments in less than two years.

The snowstorm which blocked up the holiday folk on Boxing Day will be long remembered. Bad weather is too often our fate on general holidays, and we take it with a kind of unite resignation. We are accustomed to do without the sun, and are not fire-worshippers, as a Persian once said, just because we so seldom see his solar majesty. But the behaviour of the elements on Boxing Day was so irregular and beyond precedent, that we could only suppose that it had been sent us in the interest of the public-house. It shut up the people; it stopped all traffic, and gave the working man, boxed up in a single room with a wife and six squalling children, the excuse he needed for taking refuge at the first public-house round the corner.

In the reign of Henry the Fifth it was solemnly enacted by Royal proclamation that the "Sergeants and other officers" of the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and the City should not "beg Christmas gifts." The year before the same monarch—one can hardly believe it of the whilom companion of Falstaff—inhibited all Christmas-tide mumming, plays, masks, and visors in the city." Yule-tide jollity had proved a cover for violence and for imposition in those early times. Things are better regulated now. Such mumming and masking as we do is done indoors, and the only outdoor nuisance which requires putting down by royal proclamation or otherwise is the "Waits." Our "plays" now-a-days only require supervision by the Lord Chamberlain to keep them within the bounds of decorum; and Christmas gifts are only looked for by inferiors, being as far established in amount and character by custom as to be regarded for the most part with complete complacency.

Where Christmas-boxes are not in vogue, New Year's gifts are *de rigeur* as in France and the United States. The toys and boxes of *bon bons* which are given away with such profusion in Paris are the polite and modern form of an ancient and more practical custom connected with the *Jour de l'An*. In Brittany it was formerly (and perhaps still is in some districts) the custom of the poor to go about from door to door with long wooden spits, crying out in the barbarous dialect of the country, "*Au guyane!*" "New Year's gifts!" and every person of any substance was expected to place a piece of salt beef or bacon on the spit.

Even the staunchest partisans of the so-called "good old times" would probably admit that in the matter of periodical publications, and especially of Christmas numbers, we are infinitely better off than we or our ancestors were in the year of the Queen's accession. I have by me a list—very nearly, I believe, a complete list—of the "Annuals" for 1837. The names bring back to one's mind many a tawdry volume which decorated old-fashioned drawing-rooms, in the days when drawing-rooms were funereal with horse-hair furniture. Here they are:—The Keepsake, The Landscape Annual, The Book of Beauty, Forget-me-not, Friendship's Offering, Christian Keepsake, The Biblical Keepsake, Drawing-room Scrap-book, Juvenile Scrap-book.

Correspondence.

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

THE VICAR OF CONSETT AND THE COLIN-CAMPBELL DIVORCE CASE.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Under the above heading you append to your own remarks certain comments from the *Auckland Chronicle*. I have sent the accompanying letter to the editor of the Auckland paper, and I shall be glad if you will print it, as it will serve the purpose of a reply to your own report, as well as the object for which it was written.—Believe me, faithfully yours,

Consett Vicarage, FRED. STEGGALL,
December 26th, 1886. Vicar of Consett.

To the Editor of the Auckland Chronicle.

Sir,—Under the above heading, certain comments which appeared in the *Auckland Chronicle* a fortnight ago are reproduced in the *Consett Guardian* of last week. These comments, it is alleged, arose from a report in the *Consett Guardian* of the observations made by the Vicar of Consett anent the conduct of certain newspapers in publishing *in extenso* the details of the Colin-Campbell divorce case. In the observations referred to, no mention whatever was made of the Colin-Campbell or any other divorce case; the [illegible] were altogether of a general character, and no reference was made to details of vice or scandal of any kind. The preacher was especially careful not to advertise any criminal proceedings either past or present. Great was the surprise on reading the paragraph which first appeared in the *Consett Guardian*; but it was deemed expedient not to notice it publicly. That it should have been favoured with so large a share of attention by the provincial press is a matter of still great surprise and regret, as, whether for the Vicar's credit or otherwise such attention [illegible] wholly undeserved. The remarks made by the Vicar were called forth from personal knowledge and observations of the pernicious effects of publishing *in extenso* the details, not of one, but of a series of cases such as are furnished by the annals of the Divorce Court. Surely, when the *Times*, in a leading article, speaks of the "flood of filth" which the Colin-Campbell case has "let loose upon the public," the pulpit may make a passing reference to so grave a condition of things, and offer a word of counsel to any whose moral welfare may be imperilled by the indiscriminate reading of those sensational, and often filthy, incidents which unhappily find unabbreviated record in so large a portion of the daily and weekly press.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

FRED. STEGGALL,
Consett Vicarage, Vicar of Consett.
December 27th, 1886.

WESLEYAN QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

Wolsingham Circuit.—The quarterly meeting of the Wolsingham Wesleyan Methodist Circuit was held at Tow Law, when the Steward (Mr T. E. Fenwick) reported a deficiency of about £4 on the quarter. The following circuit officers were appointed for the ensuing year:—Stewards, Mr T. E. Fenwick (Wolsingham) and Mr Hepburn (Tow Law); secretary to the quarterly meeting, Mr T. Batty; chapel secretary, Mr A. W. Emerson; treasurer to foreign missions, Mr C. Bainbridge; Sunday-school return secretary, Mr W. Steel. Mr T. E. Fenwick gave notice of motion for the March meeting, to the effect that the Wolsingham and Weardale circuits be reunited again. Only ten years have elapsed since they became separate circuits.

Weardale Circuit.—The quarterly meeting of the Weardale Wesleyan Circuit was held at St. John's Chapel, when Rev H. Beeson presided over a large and representative gathering. The reports showed general cause for satisfaction, after which the bequest of the late Mr C. Bainbridge, Wolsingham, to the circuit, occupied the attention of the meeting. Tea served by the local society concluded a pleasant and business-like gathering.

PAROCHIAL CHANGES IN THE HEXHAM UNION.

On Monday, at the fortnightly meeting of the Hexham Board of Guardians, the Clerk (Mr Isaac Baty) brought under the notice of the members three orders issued by the Local Government Board, under the authority of the Divided Parishes Act, 1876, and the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1879. The orders are dated 20th December, 1886, and affect a number of places in the Hexham, Bellingham, and Lanchester Unions. The principal changes which will be effected by these orders may be briefly summarised as follows:—Newbiggen township will be united with Blanchland (High Quarter), and the united townships will be called by the name of Shotley High Quarter; Anick, Anick Grange, and Sandhoe to be amalgamated into one township, and called Sandhoe; Prudhoe Castle township to be added to Master's Close, and called Prudhoe Castle; Apperley and Stocksfield Hall townships to be absorbed in Broomley and Mickley; Halton Shields to be added to Clarewood; Bywell St. Andrew, Bywell St. Peter, and East Acomb to be made into one township, and called Bywell; Humshaugh and Haughton to form one township, and be called Humshaugh and Haughton; part of the township of Chollerton (North Tyne), including a place called Gold Island, to be transferred to the Bellingham Union; that part of the township of Hedley Woodside lying on the south side of the Derwent to be added to the Lanchester Union, and transferred from the county of Northumberland to the county of Durham, and that part of the township of Hedley Woodside lying on the north side of the Derwent to be added to the township of Hedley, in the Hexham Union.—The Clerk said he had written to the Local Government Board to ask them if they would make orders as to the allocation of Guardians. It was quite clear, he thought, that the districts affected by the orders would require some readjustment as to the number of Guardians to represent them, and he would suggest that a small committee, composed of those who had taken a leading part in obtaining these orders, be appointed to consider the subject, and suggest to the Local Government Board what the readjustment should be. These changes came into operation on the 24th March next, and if they did not before that time get an order from the Local Government Board, fixing the number of Guardians, they would lose the representation of 10 or 12 Guardians.—After some discussion, the following Guardians were appointed a committee to consider and report upon the question of representation, namely:—Messrs S. Pattison, J. B. Lee, J. Lee, W. Trotter, J. Stephenson, and Ord—Mr Baty, convenor.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE NEAR EBCHESTER.

On Monday, in a cell at the Police Station, Hexham, Elizabeth Aynslie, single woman, 19 years of age, was charged before Mr J. J. Kirsopp, with attempting to commit suicide by taking match poison, at Alder's Bridge, near Ebchester, on Friday last. The prisoner was too ill to be removed to the Police Court, and only sufficient evidence was taken to justify the magistrate in granting a remand.—Robert Anderson said: I am a police-constable stationed at Hexham, and in charge of the lock-up. On Saturday last I received the accused into the lock-up at Hexham, and during the afternoon she stated to me that she steeped a box of matches amongst water in a cup, and that the cup was half full of water, and she drank it all. I said, "You would have done it to poison some one." She said, "No, I took it with the intention of poisoning myself." She said she had been pregnant, and that was why she had taken it.—Dr Stewart said: I saw the accused for the first time on Sunday morning. I found her suffering from pain in the region of the stomach, a headache, and a somewhat depressed pulse. She had vomited the food she took for breakfast, which was acid in its reaction. She said she had steeped a box of matches and drunk the contents of the cup.—Prisoner was then remanded for a week.

DEATH OF THE VICTIM.

The young girl, Elizabeth Ainsley, remanded on the charge of having attempted to poison herself by taking a solution of phosphorus, died in the hospital at Newcastle prison, on Tuesday night. She was conveyed to Newcastle prison on Monday last, there being no prison hospital accomodation at Hexham.

Epps's Cocoa.—Grateful and Comforting.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame." *Civil Service Gazette*.—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets, by Grocers, labelled—"James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Afternoon Chocolate Essence. 110x

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

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

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

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

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

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

A MAN FOUND DEAD NEAR WYLAM.

On Monday, Mr W. B. Eladon held an inquest at Harlow Hill, near Wylam, on the body of William Atkinson Errott Scott, basketmaker, living at 16, Shieldfield Green, Newcastle, and instructor in basketmaking at the Newcastle Blind Asylum, whose body was found on Saturday near Harlow Hill.—Ernest Gibson, shipbroker's clerk, Bensham Road, Gateshead, said the deceased was his grandfather, and was about 65 years old. Witness last saw him alive at his own residence in Gateshead on Saturday, 4th inst. He was in good health, but in rather depressed spirits.—Kate Scott, widow of deceased, said she had only been married to him a few months. He left the house on the morning of Friday, 10th Dec., and she had not seen him since alive. On that occasion he appeared to be in his usual health and spirits. On the 8th he had complained that he felt as if some person was twisting the hair off his head, but she had never heard him talk of suicide or of being tired of his life.—Rd. Gillespie, cattle dealer, deposed to finding the body lying on an embankment at the north side of the turnpike near Irensign. P.C. Robson had the body removed to a neighbouring stable. It was partly covered with snow and ice, and was lying in the dene about seven feet below the roadway.—P.C. Robson produced a silver watch and chain and other articles which he had found on the person of the deceased.—Dr R. J. Foulis, Wylam, had examined the body, which was covered with ice on the exposed parts. There were one or two injuries which might have been caused by a fall. The tip of the nose and the lobes of the ears had been eaten away by some animal. There was a slight furrow on the back of the neck as if from the pressure of a stick or some other hard substance, but there was no other marks of violence on the body. Parts of the body were decomposed, and the rest was completely frozen. He did not think the deceased had been frozen to death, nor did he think he had died from violence or the effects of poison. In his opinion death was due to some natural cause, probably apoplexy, accelerated by exposure to the weather.—The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

MR JOHN WILSON AND RAILWAYMEN.

Mr John Wilson, late M.P. for the Houghton Division of Durham, has written a long and stirring letter to the organ of the Railway Workmen's Association. "It was my good fortune (he says) to be invited to a meeting and supper in connection with your society. The gathering was held in the Cocoa Rooms kept by Mr Longley, at Durham. The proceedings consisted of a supper and an open meeting, at which several addresses were delivered, interspersed with songs. Being an outsider, it may not be unprofitable if I were to offer a few reflections on the meeting. To many of the gentlemen I was a complete stranger in body, but I was not long there before I felt that we were all of one spirit—having one aim—the raising of our class, and realising that that raising would be speediest and most enduring when affected by those most interested, viz., the workmen themselves. "The directorate," said one speaker, "is but the executive of a company or combination. The powers devolving upon it were delegated. The executive of the servants was the directorate of the men. If it were right for the directors of a company to meet (and who denied that right?), where was the wrong in the workmen meeting?" That position cannot be gainsaid. A power that is merciless might prohibit, but we are now speaking of justice. The 'Board' is interested in the paying of dividends and the care of the stock, yet its charge is materialistic. The executive has a charge far higher and more outreaching than theirs. If the interests of the company are identical, so are those of the men. The sooner companies (not only railway but others) recognise this right, and work with them the better. Conciliation is the pabulum of our trade. The jars and strifes of men and masters are death to it. It is therefore necessary that every means should be adopted to foster that kindly feeling. I found the A.S.R.S. was suffering from the same cause that all other associations are suffering from more or less, viz., indifference, isolation. One of the speakers said the railwaymen were cursed by the demon of indifference. Were they as earnest in this as in paying attention to horse racing a better state of things would soon exist. And with this view I entirely agree. The most foolish thing in this age is the coldness of workmen. But this indifference is the more surprising when we consider the objects of the A.S.R.S. and the benefits it guarantees; the first of these, as stated to the meeting, being the legal assistance rendered to the members. One case at Leeds had been taken to four or five courts, at a cost of £500, which would have been beyond the means of any single workman. Then there was the Protection Fund, from which a workman received £35, either in a sum or weekly instalments, to support him against official interference; the death benefit, superannuation grant, and the Orphan Fund, which was the chief fund, and had a balance of £20,000. I was glad to find such a desire for direct representation in the Commons. That desire has my hearty concurrence. I hope the idea may take root, grow, and bear fruit, and that ere long the railway servant will be found alongside of, and working with the miner and other representatives of labour. We may wear a different dress, but it is the uniform of labour, and we are brothers bound in the most delicate ties and relationship, and I should feel proud to be found on all occasions with them, because our interests are common."

NORTH-WEST DIVISION OF DURHAM.

THE LIBERAL COUNCIL MEETING AT CONSETT.

An announcement appears in our advertising columns setting forth that the annual meeting of the Liberal Association for the above-named Parliamentary Division will take place at Consett, on Saturday, January 8tl. The delegates from the various polling districts will meet in council in the ante-room of the New Town Hall premises, at 2·30 p.m., for the purpose of electing office-bearers for the forthcoming year; and also to transact other important business. Afterwards, a testimonial, subscribed for by the Liberals in the district, will be presented to Mr Atherley-Jones, M.P. in recognition of his valuable services in behalf of the cause. At the conclusion of the council meeting, a public tea will be served up in the Town Hall, tickets being obtainable at the charge of 1s each. At seven p.m. there will be a great Liberal meeting in the same building, at which it is expected that Mr W. Jenkins, J.P. (president of the Central Liberal Association), will occupy the chair, and addresses on political topics will be delivered by Mr Atherly-Jones; besides other Liberal members of Parliament. As there are indications of an early dissolution, the addresses of the hon members for North-West Durham will be especially opportune. The spacious Hall is sure to be well filled, therefore it will be expedient for the public to be in their places as early as possible before the commencement of the proceedings.

TANFIELD LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

A public meeting of Liberals in the above polling district took place in the Reading Room at Tanfield, on Wednesday se'nnight. Mr Wm. Armstrong, Tanfield, was voted to the chair.—The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—Chairman, Mr Wm. Armstrong; vice-president, Thos. Robson; secretary, Mr W. Bulmer, Tanfield Lea. The foregoing gentlemen were likewise elected to represent the district on the Central Council.

Holloway's Pills.—The Great Need.—The blood is the life and on its purity depends our health, if not our existence. These Pills thoroughly cleanse this vital fluid from all contaminations, and by that power strengthen and invigorate the whole system, healthily stimulate sluggish organs, repress over-excited action, and establish order of circulation and secretion throughout every part of the body. The balsamic nature of Holloway's Pills commends them to the favour of debilitated and nervous constitutions, which they soon resuscitate. They dislodge all obstructions, both in the bowels and elsewhere, and are, on that account, much sought after for promoting regularity of action in young females and delicate persons who are naturally weak, or who from some cause have become so.

Football.

FIXTURES.

Jan. 1.—Consett 2nd v. St. Cuthbert's (Durham) 1st, at Consett.
„ 1.—Crookgate v. Tantobie, at Crookgate.
„ 1.—Crookgate 2nd v. Tantobie 2nd, at Crookgate.
„ 1.—Burnopfield C.E.T. Rangers v. Burnopfield, at Burnopfield.
„ 1.—Medomsley v. Tanfield Lea, at Tanfield Lea.
„ 1.—Ouston v. City Harriers, on City ground.

Gateshead N.E.R. v. Swalwell (A).—Played on the former's ground, and after a hard match ended in a draw.

Consett Sexton 1st Team v. Leadgate 1st Team.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, resulting in a draw, scoring 1 goal each.

Wolsingham v. Spennymoor St. Paul's (A).—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for the home team by three goals to one obtained by the visitors.

Stanhope Association Football Club.—At a meeting of the members of the Stanhope Football Club, held in the White Lion Inn, the following officials were appointed for this season:—Captain, Mr John Walton; vice-captain, Mr T. Bainbridge; umpire for the first eleven, Mr N. Slack; secretary, Mr F. Walton; treasurer, Mr A. Elliott; and committee, Messrs T. Fairless, J. T. Watsog, A. Elliott, J. Pattison, and F. Walton.

Medomsley v. Milkwell Burn Royal Blues (A).—Played at Medomsley on Christmas Day. In the first half the home team scored three goals and their opponents none. In the second half Medomsley added two more goals to their score, the visitors also scoring two, the game ending in a victory for Medomsley by five goals to two. Little, full back for Medomsley, played a good game, putting in some hugh kicks. Teams:—Milkwell Burn—Proud, goal; Brodie (captain) and Wilkinson, backs; Miller, Wallace, and Dinning, half-backs; Bell, Cairns, Richardson, Hunter, and Stewart, forwards. Medomsley—T. Murphy, goal; A. Little and R. Campbell, backs; W. Cant, W. Taylor, and J. Hetherington, half-backs; E. Charlton, F. Archer, J. Hornsby, W. Walton, and G. Walton (captain), forwards.

Northumberland Challenge Cup: Prudhoe Rovers v. Milkwell Burn (A).—The former was reckoned as the coming club about three seasons ago, but somehow or other it failed to realise expectations, and last season it did not appear in the competition at all. It once had a good half back in J. Leonard, who played on one or two occasions for the county, but his retrogression was co-equal with that of the club. I understand that they have received reinforcements from the defunct Wylam club, and I expect them to make a respectable show in the ties. Their opponents hail from the neighbourhood of Ebchester. I always understood the latter place was in Durham, but I suppose the collective geographical knowledge of the County Committee will have proved the contrary. They are, so far as can be found out by inquiry, a new club, and for this reason cannot be expected to be more than apprentices at the game. The home team should experience little difficulty in getting into the next round.—*Newcastle Chronicle*.

Crookgate Rovers v. Burnopfield (A).—Mr Wm. Pace, treasurer of Burnopfield Club, writes as under:—"Sir,—Kindly allow me a small space in your valuable paper to say a few words in reply to Mr Gordon's letter. In the first place, he says I used language which was a disgrace to football playing. I strongly deny ever using foul language; but I admit I told our centre forward to play rough if their captain kept on jumping at him when he was going to play the ball. In the second place, he says the penalty of jumping at an opponent is a free kick. That we know without being told by him; but it was little use claiming a free kick as we knew we could not get it. In the third place, he says, if there was going to be fighting they had better leave the field. Again, he says he saw a mark on one of the Rangers' faces. If he did nobody else did, as no mark was to be seen. The way this dispute arose was, without doubt, the whole of the Rangers' fault, for ever since we defeated them in our first match they have been weeping to wipe out their defeat, but seeing they could not do it they left the field before the game was out, as we now began to play down the hill. In conclusion, let me say there is no one has the welfare of the Rangers more at heart than we have, as we wish them every success, but if they cannot beat their opponents fairly, they should not turn their backs on them, and treat them in the way they have treated us. I would, therefore, advise Mr Gordon to learn the football rules, as the people of the district told me he did not know the difference between a football and a snowball."

Competition at Chester-le-Street. — The annual Christmas competition in connexion with the Chester-le-Street Excelsior and Chester-le-Street Football Clubs took place at Chester-le-Street, in the presence of something like five hundred people. The regular field of the clubs having been flooded with water, and being now covered with ice, could not be played in, consequently another field had to be secured at the last moment. The selected ground was of the most unfavourable character, and made playing with anything like precision extremely difficult, and quite dangerous. The following is the result of the play:—Chester-le-Street Excelsior *v.* Ouston.—Played in two periods of twenty minutes each. The Excelsior had all the best of the game, and won by two goals to nil. Birtley *v.* Tanfield Lea.—Tanfield Lea was completely outmatched by the superior form of Birtley, who played with all their well-known dash and speed, and won by two to nil.—Chester-le-Street Reserve was beaten by Chester Moor by three goals to nil.—Second round: Chester-le-Street Excelsior *v.* Chester Moor.—The hopes of the Chester Moor men ran high after having so easily defeated the home Reserves; but although they struggled manfully against the first eleven, they were unable to score. The superior play of Crighton, Cuthbertson, and Hall for the Excelsior being really fine, and Excelsior ultimately won by two to nil. The light was very bad at this stage of the proceedings, and their now only remained Chester-le-Street Excelsior and Birtley, between whom exists a keen rivalry. It was ultimately agreed that the two teams should play off the final tie at Chester-le-Street on New Year's Day. The following teams will represent their respective clubs in the final tie:—Birtley—G. Smart, goal; H. Clephan and R. Ellis, backs; E. Bell (captain), J. Stewart (centre), and Day, half-backs; A. Stanley, J. Joyce, Jackson, P. McEvoy, and W. Murray, forwards. Chester-le-Street Excelsior—Jas. Wilson, goal; L. Grey and A. Grey and A. Kennedy, backs; J. Cuthbertson, D. Crighton, and A. Kennedy, half-backs; Jas. Porter, J. Laverick, J. Cowie, J. Hall, and W. Laverick, forwards.

Sporting Items.

Pigeon Flying Match at Crook.—A pigeon flying march for £5 took place from Elm Park to Crook between Turnbull's Sly Man and Naisbet's Rather Slow, the former winning an exciting match by two seconds only. Mr Peters was referee.

Sparrow Shooting Sweep at Wylam.—On Saturday afternoon, a shooting sweep for £5 at sparrows took place on the Wylam grounds, a large number of spectators being present. Mr Jos. Brown killed five out of eight birds; James Hawkins killed four, and Geo. Brown only killed one, the former winning easily. The conditions were the gun in any position.

Wrestling at Wearhead.—The second competition for the Weardale Athletic club's all-weight cup took place at Wearhead on Christmas Eve, and was won by Wm. Bell for the second time by dint of sheer merit. Results:—First round—Wm. Bell threw James Graham, Isaac Wearmouth threw Thos. Emmerson, Thomas Whitefield threw Thos. Rutherford, Wm. Wilkinson threw Jos. Watson, Nicholas Peart threw O. Featherstone, Wm. Rutherford threw J. Peart, Thomas Whitefield threw Thomas Rutherford, J. Peart threw George Graham, E. Rowell odd man. Second round—W. Bell threw E. Rowell, W. Wilkinson threw Thos. Whitefield, J. Peart threw Thos. Whitefield, W. Peart threw W. Rutherford, Wearmouth odd man. Third round—J. Peart threw Wearmouth, W. Bell threw Wilkinson, W. Peart odd man. Fourth round—J. Peart threw W. Peart, Bell odd man. Final—Bell threw Peart in the first and third falls and won.

Local Hunting Appointments.—Braes of Derwent Foxhounds—Saturday, Jan. 1, The Spen; Wednesday, 5, Whickham; Saturday, 8, Ryton Lane Head—10·30.—North Durham Foxhounds—Friday, Dec. 31, Hollingside, by invitation—11; Saturday, Jan. 1, Hill Top—10·45; Monday, 3, Cornsay; Wednesday, 5, The Kennels, Viewley Grange; Friday, 7, Pittington Hall Garth—10·45.

Sparrow Shooting at Leadgate.—A sparrow shooting handicap, promoted by Mr Geo. Marley, was commenced on Saturday, on ground adjoining the house of Mr J. H. Smith, Queen's Head Hotel, Leadgate, but was not concluded.

Pelton Fell Athletic Club.—The annual meeting of this club was held at Mr George Favell's, Colliery Hotel, Pelton Fell. Mr J. Robson presided, and there was a good attendance of members. Mr John Winn, hon. sec., read the report and financial statement, which showed a balance in hand of £12 7s 9d. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr George Favell; vice-president, Mr Jacob Robson; captain of football team, Mr W. Evans; vice-captain, Mr Joseph Robson; hon. sec., Mr John Winn; hon. treasurer, Mr J. R. Dixon; committee, Messrs D. Beadmore, R. Eudery, T. Harrison, W. Lowther, and W. Armstrong.

Trade Notes.

Usworth Colliery.—The men belonging to this lodge of the Durham Miners' Association have agreed to pay 3d levy towards the shifters who received notice about the house rent. Several deputations have waited upon the head manager with the view of effecting a settlement if possible. Some 20 men are affected.

Cleveland Blastfurnacemen and their Wages: Notice to Stop Work Handed in.—The Cleveland blastfurnacemen connected with the association have, through their secretary, Mr Snow, given fourteen days' notice to terminate all engagements, as the masters decline to give them an advance of 5 per cent. in wages. The masters at some of the works have refused to accept the notices, as being illegal. At a few of the works no action whatever has been taken.

DURHAM COAL TRADE: RETROSPECT FOR 1886.

In comparing the returns for this and the adjoining county of Northumberland for the year just ending, fortunately the Durham coal trade presents a more cheerful picture. In this branch of our Northern industry there has been a steady improvement, and to this must be attributed a great portion of the increase in the exports of coal for the year. The output of gas coal is probably in excess of last year, and had there been greater activity in the local manufactured iron trade the output would have been greater still, for the consumption of coal within the county for manufacturing purposes is enormous. Of this there is no account, and hence the difficulty in estimating the year's work; but whatever stagnation the Durham coal trade is suffering from is due to the lessened local consumption, and not to a decrease in the shipments, which are certainly in the aggregate as good as last year. Much of the improvement is attributable to the weather, which has favoured the consumption of gas and house coal in the London market. The shipments to London show a general increase upon 1885, especially during the early months of the year, when the cold, foggy weather tended not only to the greater consumption of coal for fuel, but also for gas. During the summer months trade fell off, and owing to a particular fine autumn the demand in the London market was not so brisk as usual, and the shipments showed a tendency to decline below their average quantity. With November, however, came a change in the weather, and during the last two months the trade has somewhat improved.

The number of collieries employed compares not unfavourably with last year. Those that have been unfortunate enough to be idle throughout the year are principally what are known as the second class collieries, and are for the most part situated in the more inaccessible localities of the county, where the expense of shipping the coal to port has militated against their activity. The collieries at present laid up are:—Byers Green, Chilton, Duke's Hartley, Low Bitchburn, Ludworth, Roddymoor, Thoraley, Woodifield, Tudhoe Grange, White Lea. These collieries have been idle all the year, solely owing to the stagnation. Tindale Colliery has been idle for nearly twelve months, and Houghall Colliery since March last, while Garesfield, Croxdale, and Lintz Collieries have been partially idle. Of course, the system of short time has operated at a number of collieries otherwise kept in employment. Not a few collieries have only been able to work half-time, and others have worked irregularly at intervals. But a large number have been well employed all the year round, and some almost to their full capacity. All things considered, the colliery owners of Durham have more cause to be thankful than their neighbours on the northern bank of the Tyne.

The amount of relief money paid to miners out of work is, of course, very heavy, but not proportionately so heavy as in Northumberland, where both the number of collieries and the density of the mining population are less than in Durham. The following tables show the amount of money paid to unemployed miners by the Durham Miners' Association and the amounts raised by voluntary subscriptions for the same purpose during the four quarters of the year:—

PAID BY THE ASSOCIATION.

	£	s.	d.
Three months ending March	£2,504	13	4
Three months ending June	3,878	16	6
Three months ending September	2,616	9	1
Three months ending December	2,419	7	4
	£11,419	6	3

RAISED BY VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Three months ending March	£2,428	12	0
Three months ending June	2,718	2	11
Three months ending September	2,325	3	6
Three months ending December	2,311	4	10
	£9,783	-	3
Total	£21,202	9	6
Total amount paid to unemployed miners last year	£21,000	0	0

This is an enormous sum to pay out to enemployed men, and shows at once that although the present year may perhaps have been a little better than the preceding one, how utterly inadequate is the present volume of trade to the demands of the county. Prices during the year have ranged from 6s to 6s 9d f.o.b. for best Durham coals (inferior qualities somewhat less), and show an improvement upon last year.

Although it was impossible to speak of the prospect for the Northumberland coal trade with any degree of assurance, it would perhaps be painting too dark a picture to say the same of Durham. There is a general opinion among the colliery owners of the latter county that the coal trade has seen the worst. As we have pointed out, both the London and oversea shipments of gas coal are improving. The great want in the trade at present is the small local consumption, and until that improves the trade must remain in a backward condition. Ironworks and shipyards are laid up, the manufacturing industries are lethargic, and the Durham coal trade, in sympathy with them, remains stagnant. With a general spurt in trade, the demand for this class of coal will quickly increase, and the mining industry will soon right itself. And it is because there are indications of an improved state of trade generally that the Durham colliery owners are expectant. Now languishing iron industries of the North have begun to stir, and there will be general disappointment if the coming year does not bring about a change for the better in the manufacturing, and with them the mining, industries of the county of Durham.

Sudden Death.—On Monday, Mr B. Eladon held an inquest at the colliery office, Eltringham, near Prudhoe, on the body of Thomas Joyce, aged 17 weeks, son of Edward Joyce, coalminer, Eltringham, who was found in dying condition in bed on the morning of the 24th inst.—The mother said the child, who was one of twins, had been delicate from birth, and for about a fortnight prior to death was fed on arrowroot and biscuit boiley.—The jury found that death was due to convulsions, accelerated by improper feeding.

Original Poetry.

"PAPA'S LETTER."

I was sitting in my study,
Writing letters, when I heard—
"Please, dear mamma, Bridget told me
Mamma mustn't be 'isturbed."

"But I'se tired of the kitty,
Want some ozzer fing to do.
Writing letters, is 'ou mamma?
Tan't I wite a letter too?"

"Not now, darling, mama's busy;
Run and play with Kitty now."
"No, no, mamma, me will letter—
Tan, if you will show me how."

I would paint my darling's portrait,
As his sweet eyes searched my face;
Hair of golden, eyes of azure,
Form of childish, witching grace,

But the eager face was clouded,
As I slowly shook my head;
'Till I said—"I'll make a letter
Of you, darling boy, instead."

So I parted back the tresses
From his forehead, high and white;
And a stamp, in sport, I pasted
'Mid its waves of golden light.

Then I said, "Now little letter
Go away and bear good news;"
And I smiled as down the staircase
Clattered loud the little shoes.

Leaving me, the darling hurried
Down to Bridget in his glee;
"Mamma's witing lots of letters;
I'se a letter, Bridget, see."

No one heard the little prattler,
As once more he climbed the stair,
Reached his little hat and tippet,
Standing on the table there.

No one heard the front door open,
No one saw the golden hair
As it floated o'er his shoulders
On the crisp October air.

Down the street the baby hastened,
Till he reached the office door—
"I'se a letter, Mr Postman,
Is there room for any more?

'Cause dis letter's doin to papa—
Papa lives with God, ou know,
Mamma sent me for a letter—
Does ou fink dat I tan go?"

But the clerk, in wonder answered,
"Not to-day, my little man."
"Dess, I'll find anozzer office,
'Cause I must go, if I tan."

Fain the clerk would have detained him,
But the pleading face was gone,
And the little feet were hastening,
By the busy crowd swept on.

Suddenly the crowd was parted;
People fled to left and right,
As a pair of maddened horses
At that moment dashed in sight.

No one saw the baby figure,
No one saw the golden hair,
'Till a voice of frightened sweetness
Rang out in the autumn air.

'Twas too late! a moment only
Stood the beauteous vision there,
Then the little face lay lifeless
Covered o'er with golden hair.

Rev'rently they raised my darling,
Brushed away the curls of gold,
Saw the stamp upon the forehead,
Growing now so icy cold.

Not a mark the face disfigured,
Showing where a hoof had trod,
But the little life was ended—
"Papa's Letter" was with God.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

Much sympathy is felt with Mr John Carrick, mining farmer, Ireshope Plains, on acount of the loss he has sustained by having his horse "laired" in a hole on the Fell, into which the poor animal had strayed.

A meeting of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' tenants in Weardale was held in Wearhead Board School to petition the lords of the manor for a *reduction of rent.*

We understand on good authority that the new work on geology, written by the late Mr Geo. Race, of Westgate, Weardale, and which is yet in unpublished manuscript, far exceeds anything yet published in ability and deep research.

We understand that Rev James Coseby, curate of Stanhope, had a serious accident on Christmas night. About ten o'clock he thought some one was knocking at his door, and on going downstairs and opening the front gate he fell heavily on his head, owing to the slippery state of the street, and received a nasty cut. The streets of Stanhope have lately become a disgrace to any country village, owing to the behaviour of a few roughs, especially on Sunday nights.

At a recent interview between Dr Arnison, J.P., the chairman of the trustees, and the deputation of the public, respecting the future management of Stanhope Town Hall, it was decided that matters should remain as they were until a document in the possession of the deputation, supposed to be a true copy of the deeds, has been examined.

Some funny things transpire up in the dales. An old woman in Weardale had a daughter who was a clever singer. A local chronicler says she was "likewise clever in many other things," and the old dame looked upon her with a little pardonable pride. A neighbour dropped in one day and, in Jinney's absence, told the old dame that although Jinney was a clever lassie, yet she could not whistle. The old dame did not relish this, and determined in her own mind that her Jinney should not be behind even here. So at the first opportunity she had of speaking to her on the subject she said to her:—

"Jinney, if thoo'll whistle aw'll gie thoo a hen."
"Mother," she said, "aw cannot if ye'd gie ma ten."
"Jinney," she said, "if thoo'll whistle aw'll gie thoo a cow."
"Mother," she said, "aw cannot if ye'll gie ma two."
"Jinney," said she, "if thoo'll whistle aw'll get thoo a man."
"Wye, then, mother," says Jinney, "aw'll dee the best aw can."

Mr Gladstone's Birthday.—Mr Gladstone completed his 77th year on Wednesday, and was the recipient of congratulations from all parts of the United Kingdom. Among those who sent messages were the Prince of Wales, the Marquis of Ripon, Lord Greville, Mr H. Fowler, M.P., Mr H. Broadhurst, M.P., the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the mayors of several provincial towns, religious bodies, schools, political associations, and private admirers. During the day, considerably over 700 letters and telegrams were received with numerous presents.

In the High Court of Justice, on Thursday week, Mr Justice Stirling had before him an action brought by Mr F. Clarke, on behalf of the Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, against William Geddes, Manufacturing Chemist and Wholesale Druggist, of Oldham, to restrain the defendant from infringing plaintiff's Trade Mark, No. 3,275, consisting of the words "Blood Mixture," and vending imitations of this Medicine. Mr J. Theodore Dodd, instructed by Messrs Seely and Son, Gray's Inn, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr Rosenthal for the defendant. The Lincoln and Midland Counties' Drug Company are the sole proprietors of "Blood Mixture," which has had an immense sale for the last 25 years, and the defendant had prepared and sold substitutes, owing to the popularity of plaintiff's well-known article. The judge granted a perpetual injunction against defendant, and condemned him to pay the whole of the costs.

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

Christmastide Festivities.

Christmas, 1886, has passed off quietly, and, to judge from the reports published below, very satisfactorily. We therefore enter upon the coming year with the expectation that it will be more prosperous than the year just expiring. Though, in the majority of cases, Christmas has been a green one in the North, it has hardly been an unseasonable one, for a severe frost prevailed, and the weather was quite cold enough to cause the cheerful fireside and the hearty Christmas cheer to be thoroughly appreciated. No novel feature in the observance of the great holiday was introduced, but all the old customs were carried out. On Christmas Eve, treats to school children were held; social gatherings of many different kinds were held; and entertainments to suit the tastes of all classes were provided. Later on, choir parties and other bands of youths and maidens went their rounds, ushering in Christmas to the sound of carols and hymns. On Saturday morning, the wonted services at all the places of worship in the town and neighbourhood took place, many of the churches being prettily adorned for the occasion. In the afternoon and evening, soirees, parties, concerts, bazaars, lectures, &c., were given, all of which passed off successfully. Outdoor sports received a large patronage, and skating was indulged in to a very great extent. The entertainments on Christmas Eve were tolerably successful, though it would have seemed likely from the crowds who continually thronged the streets outside, and the large number of persons who from principle spend the evening of the 24th at home, that this could not be possible. The charitable events of Christmastide were far from few. Below will be found reports of gatherings held in our own district:—

Salvation Army: Consett Corps.—The Consett contingent of the Salvation Army, have commemorated the Christmas festival by holding a large number of festive gatherings. A novel feature of one of the entertainments was the "killing of the fatted calf."

Consett Baptist Church.—In connection with the above church, the annual bazaar and Christmas tree were held in the church on Christmas Day. The tree, which was decorated with a quantity of useful and ornamental articles, as also the stall, were well patronised, being presided over by Mesdames Lowes, Mathieson, Wilkinson, and Miss Dick. In the evening, a coffee supper was held, when a goodly number sat down and partook of the good things provided. The tables were presided over by Mrs Durant, Misses Dodds, Farnsworth, and Appleton, assisted by Mrs Bird and Mrs Mathieson and Messrs Lowes and Hay. During the evening selections of instrumental music were rendered by Messrs W. Davison and W. Hoe and his son; also vocal music by Miss Turner, Mr W. H. Lewis, and the choir. The church was very beautifully decorated with holly, &c., by a large number of willing hands, for the occasion. The gathering was a great success.

Consett Wesleyan Sunday School.—The teachers and scholars of this school celebrated Christmas by holding their annual tea and in the evening a service of song. The tea was provided in the Gibson Street (Wesleyan) Schools, and the richly-laden tables were gracefully presided over by the Misses Hall, the Misses Carey, the Misses Routledge, the Misses Carr, the Misses Watson, and Misses Harwood and Coates. A goodly number sat down to tea. The service of song, entitled "City Sparrows," was rendered in the evening, in the chapel, by the scholars, assisted by the choir. The chair was occupied by Mr V. Dunn, who opened the service by prayer; Mr R. C. Foster ably read the connective readings; Mr M. Fawell conducted; and Mr C. Stelling presided at the organ. There was a large audience considering the numerous counter-attractions. Everything passed off pleasantly, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.—On Sunday, the children were again on the platform, and sang suitable hymns, &c. A lovefeast was held in the afternoon when there was a good company present.

Highgate Baptist Church.—The anniversary services of this church were held on Christmas Day and following Sunday. On Christmas Day, there was a public tea which was well-attended, and in the evening, a public meeting, presided over by the pastor of the church (Rev E. W. Jenkins), at which interesting and instructive addresses were delivered by Messrs Thomas Ridley, James Edwards, William Raw, J. Stelling, and the Chairman. Mr M. Hall also gave a reading in excellent style.—On Sunday, the Rev Wesley Keyworth, of Shotley Bridge, preached with great acceptance to good congregations, and the choir discoursed excellent music at the services.

Service of Song at Blackhill.—On Christmas Day, a service of song, with readings illustrative of the life of John Wesley, the rise and progress of Methodism, and brief notices of the pioneers of the Methodist body, entitled "John Wesley," was given in the United Methodist Free Church, Blackhill, by the chapel choir, ably conducted by Mr James McWilliams. The reader was Mr Alexander McPherson, who performed his part of the programme in a most efficient manner. Mr Maddison presided at the harmonium, to the entire satisfaction of all hearers. A specially interesting feature of the work arises from this, that the words of the hymns interspersed throughout the service are all set to old Methodist tunes, so that in song and speech the whole is a most agreeable reminiscence of the early Methodist times, with their trials and struggles, but with the religious fervour and earnestness that these later days sadly lack. Beginning with such a grand hymn as "All hail the power of Jesu's name," and ending with "Lo He comes with clouds descending," the intervening hymns being of equal merit. Owing to the numerous other attractions in the neighbourhood the same evening, the attendance was not large, but the audience was thoroughly appreciative.

Medomsley Wesleyan Chapel.—The members of the above place of worship celebrated their annual missionary services on Christmas Day. In the afternoon, a service was held in the chapel, when Mr Luke Fenwick, of Bewick Main, preached to a good congregation. After the service, a tea party took place, when a good company sat down to an excellent repast. The tables were gracefully presided over by Misses Brown, Teasdale, Henderson, and E. Robinson.—In the evening, a public meeting was held, presided over by Mr William Hogg, of Westwood. After a few opening remarks by the Chairman, a violin solo was given by Mr Isaac Robson. The next on the programme being a quartette, "Pilgrims of the night," by Messrs J. Adamson, W. Robinson, J. Robinson, and the Miss M. Robinson, which was given in a very creditable manner, and barely escaped an *encore.* The chairman next called upon Mr James Armstrong (Westwood) to address the meeting. Mr Armstrong, on rising, said he was very glad to be there on that occasion. He believed that the missionary cause was a grand and noble work, and he urged all Christians present to do their utmost in order to further the home, and especially the foreign missions. After speaking for about fifteen minutes, he sat down amidst loud applause. Then came another violin solo by Mr Isaac Robson, "When the mists have rolled away." After a short speech by the Chairman, during which he urged the necessity of our living to promote the cause of Christ, both in our own country and in the mission fields abroad. The next on the programme was a quartette, "What a friend we have in Jesus," by Messrs John Adamson, Wm. Robinson, J. Robinson, and Miss M. Robinson. Then came an address by Mr Luke Fenwick, who also spoke of the grand work in the mission fields. He was glad to find the Medomsley society working to further promote the Gospel in heathen lands, and he urged them, and all present, to labour on, as there was a great work yet before them to be accomplished. After a hymn had been sung by the congregation, Mr W. Robinson moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, speakers, singers, and those ladies who had presided over the tea tables, which was seconded by Mr James Henderson.—In reply, Mr Fenwick said he had never been at Medomsley before, nor had he any friends there, but he could assure them that he had found many friends that day, and would go home benefitted by his visit. He thanked them very much for the kindness they had shown towards him.—After singing the doxology, the company dispersed, after a most enjoyable meeting. Collections were taken after each service in aid of the mission funds.

Kyo Wesleyan Mission.—A public meeting was held here on Christmas Eve—Mr J. Bellerwell in the chair—when suitable addresses were given by Rev F. G. Chesters (Annfield Plain), Messrs T. Cowey, J. Macpherson, and other gentlemen. Appropriate hymns and pieces were sung at intervals by the choir. Subsequently, a ham-and-tongue coffee supper was provided. The money realised will go towards paying the rent of the mission room.

Tanfield Lea Wesleyan Society.—On Christmas Day, the above society celebrated their Christmas festivities by holding a public tea and concert in the evening, when there was a good attendance. The concert was presided over by Mr John Bailey, who made some very appropriate remarks relative to the birth of Christ, also making reference to the cheering effect that music had on the dying. He quoted a story of a dying lad with much effect as an illustration of what he had said. The concert was conducted by Mr Hy. Sanders, Miss Donald presiding at the harmonium. The singers were Misses Keakeys, Jeffery, Donald, Greener, Fawcett, and Messrs Jos. Greener and Sons, Jno. Jeffrey, and Sanders. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Geo. Nicholson, and seconded by Mr John Pringle, which brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

Durham.—Fine, bracing weather, with just a sufficiency of frost in the air to make it seasonable, characterised the Christmas holidays in Durham. There were no gatherings of a public nature in the city, and whatever festivities there were, were confined to the home circle of its residents. The streets of the city were thronged with sightseers on Christmas Eve, who viewed the displays in the shops. Numbers of carol-singers and waits kept up the old custom of welcoming in the anniversary of the Nativity with sacred songs. The railway traffic to and from the city was scarcely so heavy as in previous years, though numbers of people availed themselves of the three consecutive days' cessation from business to visit their friends. On Christmas Day, special services were held in the places of worship in the city, the majority of them being tastily decorated with holly and evergreens. A very large congregation was present at the Cathedral in the afternoon, where the Hallelujah Chorus was given as the anthem. At the Workhouse and County Hospital the inmates were regaled with the customary luxuries incident to Christmastide. For those who delighted in the exhilarating pastime of skating there was every facility, splendid sheets of ice covering portions of land, flooded during the recent storms, at Houghall, Hollow Drift, and other places near the town.

Wolsingham.—On Christmas morning, service was held in St. Matthew's Church, Wolsingham. The prayers were read by Rev M. B. Sharp and the Rev T. E. Espin, and the lessons by the Rev T. H. Eales, head-master of the Grammar School. The sermon was preached by the rector, the Rev Chancellor Espin. The church was profusely decorated with holly and evergreens, and across the entrance to the chancel an arch was made, on which was an inscription bearing the words, "Unto us a Child is born." The offertory was to be given to the poor.—At the Baptist Chapel the Sunday-school anniversary services were held. In the afternoon there was a sale of work, which realised about £7, after which the annual tea was provided in the school-room. At night, a public meeting was held, under the presidency of the Rev R. Scott. An address was given by the Rev A. G. Barton, of Hamsterley; recitations and dialogues by the scholars, and anthems and glees by the choir. The services were continued on Monday.

Greencroft Cottages Primitive Methodist Society.—The singers in connection with the Primitive Methodist Society of the above place commenced carol singing early on Christmas morning. Although the atmosphere was cold and bitter, the young people, under the leadership of Mr G. Stott, did their work well, and pleased many who were waiting their approach. After perambulating several places, and meeting with very fair success financially, they retired to the preaching-room, where a public breakfast was provided, ample justice being done to the good things displayed. The tables were presided over by the following ladies:—Misses M. Bell, M. Reynoldson, G. A. Shark, and T. Dobson. The other part of the work was done in a satisfactory manner by Mrs Reynoldson, Mrs Ward, and Mrs Plews. The making of the tea and coffee was carried out in an efficient style by Mrs J. A. Stott and Mrs Purdy. On Christmas Day, there was a public meeting held in the preaching-room, when addresses were delivered by Messrs B. Muse, T. Gatiss, jun., and J. Waters, to a large number of young people. The whole of the proceeds were in aid of the new chapel, which many are anticipating.

Marley Hill Primitive Methodist Chapel.—A well patronised Christmas tree and stall were held on Christmas Day in connection with the Primitive Methodist Chapel, at Marley Hill. The opening ceremony was performed by Miss Berkley, of Marley Hill House, assisted by the Revs M. P. Davison, of Durham, and J. Gill, circuit superintendent, White-le Head; Messrs C. Berkley and T. Brabban. The chapel was crowded throughout the day, and the entire stock of articles disposed of, upwards of £40 being taken, which, together with some £30 previously raised by social teas, makes a total of about £70 as the result of this effort. The proceeds will be devoted to contemplated improvements in the chapel. Special sermons were preached in the chapel on Sunday to good congregations. The Rev M. P. Davison officiated in the morning and evening, and Mr J. W. Taylor of Dipton, in the afternoon.

Chester-le-Street.—Christmas morning broke bright and cheery. In the afternoon an Alpine village fair for the sale of useful and fancy goods was opened in the Primitive Methodist Chapel by Mrs Barker. A goodly sum was raised during the day, which will be devoted to the trust funds of their new chapel, now rapidly approaching completion. The Wesleyans at Beamish held their annual tea. The Good Templars of Edmondsley had their annual *soiree,* which this year took the form of an illuminated Christmas tree. A successful entertainment was given in the evening. The inmates of the Workhouse were provided with a substantial dinner of roast beef and plum pudding. A considerable number of Guardians were in attendance. On Christmas Day, Mr George Pickering, Chester-le-Street, gave over one hundred half-crowns among the necessitous poor in the town. On Christmas Eve, the Chester-le-Street Church Choir, under the leadership of the choirmaster, Mr D. Francis, visited the houses of the resident gentry, clergy, churchwardens, and other prominent parishioners. Shortly before 8 A.M. they ascended to the lofty clock terrace of the parish church, and sang hymns and carols. The Chester-le-Street parish church was, as usual, appropriately decorated for the Christmas services. —A Christmas tree and sale of work were opened in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Monday night, and concluded on Wednesday night, having been most successful. A coffee supper was held afterwards to conclude the events, and a handsome sum has been obtained towards the trust funds.

Weardale.—During Christmastide in Weardale the weather was seasonable, but the frost rendered the roads exceedingly slippery for travellers. At the Church of St. Thomas, at Stanhope, which was neatly decorated, services were held; and special services took place at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, where a bazaar and tree were opened, and at the Wesleyan Chapel. At High Street Mission Chapel special services were held by Miss Earl, the building being elaborately decorated for the occasion. At the Workhouse, eighty inmates sat down to roast beef and plum pudding. They were afterwards entertained by a concert given by the Wesleyan choir. Wesleyan Methodism benefited by a bazaar and Christmas tree at Westgate, opened by Mr Thos. Nattrass (Appleton & Co.), Stockton-on-Tees; and at Lanehead by a *soiree* and musical *fete.* The Primitive Methodists were not lagging. The annual lecture was given by the Rev J. Taylor on "The Philosophy of Dreams." A bazaar and Christmas tree monopolised attention on Christmas day.

Crook.—At Crook, the pinch of hard times showed itself severely, nothing of a special nature beyond the general holiday being noteworthy. Of course, looking to the number of collieries in the immediate district lying idle, this could only be expected, and, under the circumstances, it is somewhat surprising, and gives room for congratulation, on the brave show the various tradesmen made.

White-le-Head.—The Primitive Methodist Choir, under the leadership of Mr W. J. Long, choirmaster, gave a concert in the chapel on Saturday evening. A select programme was skilfully rendered, and evoked the hearty applause of the large company assembled. The principal soloists were Miss Bates, Miss Sanderson, Miss Gill, and Messrs Long and Lake. Mrs Gill presided at the harmonium. Mr J. Johnson occupied the chair. At the close of the concert a supper was provided, of which a large number partook. The proceeds were in aid of the chapel fund.

Burnopfield.—Tea and Ball.—The members of the Burnopfield lodge of Oddfellows (B.U.) held a tea and ball in the Co-operative Hall, Burnopfield, on Saturday, when about 200 members with their wives, &c., sat down to tea, which was supplied by Mr Rowe, Leadgate, in his usual first-rate style. After the tables were cleared, a ball was held, when over 50 couples tripped it upon the light fantastic toe to the ever green tune of the "Keel Row." The music for both tea and ball, which was of a first-class quality, was supplied by the Byer Moor Amateur String Band, under the able leadership of Mr Gregory, and will supply a want that has long been felt in the locality. Messrs T. Dent and J. O'Neil were indefatigable as M.C's.

Birtley.—The Primitive Methodists held their annual tea and entertainment in the chapel, and the events were successful.—The members of the Wesleyan choir with their friends were treated to their annual supper in the school-room adjoining the chapel.—The congregation of St Joseph's Catholic Church held a tea and entertainment in their schools, which were a complete success.

Lanchester Wesleyan Chapel.—On Christmas afternoon, Mr John Robinson, of Kirby Moorside, preached in the above place of worship. In the evening, there was a public meeting, presided over by Mr John Buckham, at which addresses were given by Messrs J. Robinson, Geo. Buckham, and T. Barnes. Collections were taken in aid of the chapel funds.

Allendale Cottages Primitive Methodist Chapel.—Special services were held here on Christmas Day in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Allendale Cottages, conducted by Mr Nairn (Scottish evangelist), who preached a most powerful sermon in the afternoon, taking as his text Daniel xii. 3. After the service, an excellent tea was served in the school-room, presided over by Mesdames Richardson, Wigham, Bewley, Fenwick, and Robson, assisted by others. In the evening, Mr Nairn delivered his thrilling lecture on "Peter Cartwright." The chair was occupied by Mr J. Smith, architect, Shotley Bridge, who, in a racy and interesting speech, introduced the lecturer. Mr Nairn entered fully into his subject, gave a graphic description of the life and times of the eminent backwoods preacher, and kept the large audience in rapt attention for about two hours. The lecture teemed with humorous and instructive anecdotes. The choir, under the able leadership of Mr Bewley, rendered some excellent pieces of music, and Miss Dawson presided at the organ. Mr Nairn preached on the Sunday to large congregations, a divine influence resting on all the services, and souls were converted.

Stanhope.—Christmas Day broke over Weardale fine and clear, a bracing air, a crisp frost, and a fine day gave zest to skating, which might be found almost anywhere. The roads were one complete sheet of ice. The hills all around were covered with a considerable depth of snow, but in the valley it had melted and then frozen again. The day was observed as a general holiday at the various mines and quarries. At Stanhope, Christmas morning was ushered in by a merry peal of bells from the old Church tower. The Nonconformist choirs also sang around, and the band played during the day. Services were held at the Church, the Wesleyan, and High Street Chapels, and at the Primitive Chapel a Christmas tree and bazaar were held. The Wesleyan Methodists of Westgate had also a bazaar and Christmas tree, and at Lanehead a soiree and musical *fete,* whilst the Primitives of Lanehead had their annual lecture this year by Rev J. Taylor, on "The Philosophy of Dreams." Upon the whole it was a dull Christmas throughout the dale. St. John's Church, Weardale, was very artistically and beautifully decorated by the ladies and others of the parish for Christmas Day.—An excellent entertainment was given in the Wesleyan Day school-room, Stanhope, on Christmas Eve, by the Stanhope Wesleyan Band of Hope, Rev T. Whitfield presiding. Songs, readings, recitations, duets, quartettes, &c., were given at intervals, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

Burnhope Colliery.—The Wesleyan Methodists of this place held a Christmas tree and sale of work, which extended over two days. The tree, which was abundantly filled with useful and ornamental articles, was opened on Christmas Eve by Mr J. T. Forster, of Burnhope House, in the presence of a good company, and was continued on Christmas Day, on which occasion the school children were admitted free. The proceeds will be given to the trust funds.

Shotley Bridge.—Sale of Work.—The members of the Shotley Bridge Wesleyan Society held a sale of work on Christmas Day in the Temperance Hall. The goods offered were articles left over from the bazaar last Easter. The choir rendered a choice selection of music during the evening. A substantial coffee supper was likewise provided. A nice sum was realised, the proceeds being in aid of foreign missions and the trust funds.

Annfield Plain Primitive Methodist Church. —On Christmas morning, the choir in connection with the above Church celebrated the birth of Christ by singing several Christmas carols through the place in an efficient manner. A public breakfast was held in the chapel at eight o'clock, and was well attended. In the afternoon, a sermon was preached by Mrs Errington, of Sherburn Hill. In the evening, a miscellaneous entertainment and fruit banquet was held, when the place was well filled. The chair was ably occupied by Mr P. Reay, and solos, songs, recitations, readings, and addresses were given by the members and others of the congregation.—On Sunday, Mrs Errington preached morning and evening, and in the afternoon an experience meeting was held, conducted by Mrs Errington and Mrs Colpitts. The proceeds were good, and go towards the trust fund.

Tenants' Dinner at Chester-le-Street.—On Wednesday morning, over 70 half-crowns were distributed among the deserving poor of Chester-le-Street by Colonel Fife-Cookson. In the afternoon, the tenantry on the estate and the principal tradesmen of Chester-le-Street were entertained to dinner at Whitehill. Mr M. Watson, the agent to the estate, occupied the chair, and Mr L. Reed, Waldridge, the vice-chair.—After the usual loyal toasts, the Chairman proposed the health of Col. Fife-Cookson, which was most enthusiastically received.—Col. Cookson said he was extremely obliged to them for the cordial manner in which they had drunk his health.—The Vice-chairman then gave the health of Mr Mason Watson.—On responding to the toast, the Chairman said that he was extremely thankful for the amicable and friendly manner in which all business between himself and the tenantry had been conducted. During the 15 years that had passed since he first came among them no quarrel had ever taken place between them, and the relations between landlord and tenants were of a most satisfactory character. —Mr C. Robson and Mr J. Mitchell replied on behalf of "The Tradesmen;" and Mr George Pickering on behalf of "The Ladies."—Other toasts followed.

Tantobie Jottings.—Soon after six o'clock on Christmas Eve, the quiet little village of Tantobie had a busy appearance. The first attraction for the youngsters was a greengrocer's cart, which was attacked in good style while the owner was "spooning" over a barmaid of Mrs Langtry's type of beauty and figure. The next event was a grand singing contest, for which the host of the Commercial Hotel gave £2 in prizes, which promised to be a financial success, and is of a novel character, as the parties are singing in heats, and it will take a proper stayer to win, as a lot of leather-lunged customers are engaged. A Christmas tree competition, for which the host gave £1, brought five entries, and caused many a merry debate as to which was best. The trees were of the grandest ornaments, and were nicely arranged, and are a credit to the competitors. The greatest event of the evening, however, was a fancy dress ball got up by a few local gentlemen for the benefit of Tanfield Lea Brass Band, for which 90 invitations were sent out.

Hamsterley.—The annual Christmas tree and stall in connection with the Primitive Methodist Church in this place took place on Christmas Day. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr W. Allen, resident viewer. The effort was well patronised by the public, and the financial results were satisfactory.

Prudhoe.—On the afternoon of Christmas Day a bazaar was opened in the Methodist Free Church by Mr H. Jamison. The stalls were presided over by Mrs Raine, Mrs Armitage, Miss Philipson, Miss Ridley, and Miss Nesbitt. In the evening the Rev F. Raine's collection of waxworks was exhibited in the schoolroom, and was largely patronised. Violin solos and duets were given by Messrs Reay (Stamfordham) and Barnes (Wylam). Selections were likewise given by the choir under the leadership of Mr J. Leathard. The affair was quite a success, and will leave a substantial balance in the hands of the circuit stewards.

CHRISTMAS TREE AT WEST STANLEY.

An effort was made on Christmas Day to reduce the debt on the Primitive Methodist Chapel, West Stanley, by holding a Christmas tree and sale of work. A considerable reduction was made by means of a bazaar three years ago, but unfortunately through pitfalls further expenses have occurred since then, necessitating another effort to raise funds to clear off a new, as well as reduce the old debt.

Rev J. Magee briefly introduced Dr Mantle to open the proceedings, wishing every success to their undertaking.

Dr Mantle, who was received with applause, said he felt his first duty that day was to wish them all a very happy Christmas. He regretted, that he noticed a continued diminution in the heartiness with which the people of this district looked forward to and received Christmas. He sincerely hoped that they would continue not only to commemorate the event in a Christian manner, but that the old English custom of spending it merrily and happily with good will towards all, would not be allowed to die out. He was sorry that they had been obliged to leave their family circles that afternoon to make a renewed effort to clear off the debt from their chapel and school. He remembered when opening their bazaar three years ago, making some remarks, the purport of which was, that he thought a debt on any place of worship had a more or less harmful effect in retarding the work of the church. Their minister who at that time was Mr Bowe, surprised him afterwards, by telling him that he thought debt was often beneficial, inasmuch as it stimulated the people to take an interest in their chapel. Whilst respecting Mr Bowe's opinion, he ventured to predict that if they could only be so fortunate as to get free of debt, they would never care to return to their former condition, and he believed higher motives would lead them to continue the same interest in the church. He had recently noticed a paragraph in the daily papers stating that a movement was on foot to bring about a re-union of some of the Methodist bodies. It struck him at the time that this would be a great boon to such a place as Stanley. They had seven Dissenting places of worship in their parish, and when they remembered that three-fourths of the population never go to a place of worship, it was impossible for them to be very successful, or keep clear of debt, when so divided. He understood that they were divided merely on a matter of church government, and were united on doctrine. It would be far better to sink their differences for the good of all. Their minister had been telling him since he came into the room, that they as a church were very flourishing at the present time, and that a number of young men had joined them. He was pleased to hear it. He was told there was difficulty in retaining the young. If he might be pardoned as an outsider for making a suggestion, and he did not intend to be personal, for it concerned all churches alike, he should like to say that he thought the young were frequently treated too narrowly and with too little consideration from the older people. He referred to the asceticism which he was sorry to say still prevailed. There were many people who thought that the young who had determined to lead right lives, must give up *all* the pleasures of the world, even the lawful pleasures. Nothing could be more depressing to a young man perhaps fond of cricket or football than to be told that he must give these enjoyable games up. It was to such young men that they should look to keep up the tone of the football and cricket ground in this district. He thought that people who spoke thus seemed to forget that the Creator had endowed us with faculties for enjoyment and amusement, from which we might infer that they were meant to be exercised. Giving a case in point of the narrowness of some people, he said some months ago, a young man who was once in his employment turned over a new leaf, and certainly lived a very different life. He had joined a religious body, but he was excommunicated. Taking an interest in him, he made inquiries as to the cause of this treatment, when nothing could be brought against him more than his having been so wicked as to drive the Stanley cricketers to a match. (Laughter.) He (the speaker), though not now a player, happened to be the president of the club, and he was pleased to support such a manly and scientific game, at the risk of receiving the same condemnation as the young man he mentioned. They might say of him as did a very good woman a few weeks ago after discoursing that he shaved on the Sabbath, "She thought he was a different man." (Laughter.) Dr Mantle remarked that whilst condemning asceticism, he was fully alive to the fact that good companionship was essential to any young man's welfare. He had been asked his opinion some months ago as to the probability of success for a young men's institute for Stanley, where they might get recreation for mind and body. If the young men of the place cared to take it up, and it were unsectarian, he would give it his warmest support and endeavour to get that of others. He would detain them no longer, for he thought the stall-holders were anxious and ready to exchange the articles on the stalls for their money, and he had pleasure in declaring the sale open. (Loud applause.)

Mr Pickering, in moving a vote of thanks, remarked that he thought they had been too narrow with the young as Dr Mantle had told them. He himself remembered the time when he considered it wrong to whistle on the Sabbath.

Mr Atkinson, in seconding the vote, said that Dr Mantle, though belonging to the Church, was by no means narrow, for he had helped them and others on several occasions.

The vote was carried by acclamation, and suitably acknowledged.

The proceeds of the sale of work and tea amounted to the satisfactory amount of £43, with subscriptions.

During the afternoon and evening a band and the choir enlivened the proceedings with selections of music.

SERVICE OF PRAISE AT LEADGATE.

On Christmas night, the choir of the Leadgate Wesleyan Chapel again favoured the members and friends with a vocal and instrumental treat of a varied nature, consisting of anthems, choruses, solos, and quartettes, in the shape of a Service of Praise. Mr E. B. Forster, Leadgate, occupied the chair. Amongst the members of the choir, the Misses Annie and Meggie Bell figured conspicuously. The Misses Whitfield and Power also did good service in the rendering of several of the pieces, a number of the leading bass and tenor singers likewise taking prominent parts in various pieces. Mr J. W. Hedley ably presided at the organ, and Mr G. Hedley rendered good service in his office as conductor. The programme gone through was as follows:—Anthem, "O come let us sung" (*Rice*), parts by Misses Annie and Maggie Bell, and Mr Usher. The whole of the piece was well rendered, the parts being excellently sung and taken with. Solo, "Fallen is thy throne" (*Martini*), Mr R. Bartle. This piece was well sung, and created loud applause. Chorus, "With what resplendent beauty" (*Guest*). Parts by Misses Whitfield and Power, and Mr P. Hedley, who took the place of Mr Birtley, who was unable to attend through family affliction. The piece was rendered in capital style, the whole of the performers seeming to take great interest in the singing of the chorus. The parts were also well executed, and the audience seemed to relish the music, which they loudly applauded. This was followed by a solo, "Saviour of sinners" (*Cherubini*), Miss Annie Bell. This was rendered in a creditable manner, and was heartily applauded. Quartette, "There is a green hill" (*F. R. Thomas*), The Misses Annie and Maggie Bell, and Messrs Stewart and P. Hedley. The whole of the parts were well taken, the different voices of the Misses Bell forming an agreeable contrast. The two male singers also deserve praise for their singing, which received well-merited applause. The solo, "He wipes the tear" (*Alex. Lee*), was sung in fairly good style by Miss Whitfield, and loudly applauded. The "Hallelujah chorus" was the next on the programme. The piece was sung with great effect, the organ part being well performed. The audience listened with great attention and made the place ring with applause at the finish of the piece. The rendering of this piece did great credit to the singing powers of the choir. During the interval the chairman made a few suitable remarks upon the season, and the reason we had for rejoicing. He also passed a few suitable remarks on the advent of Christ, and the cause we had to rejoice thereat. Part II.:—Chorus, "The good Shepherd," (*Guest*), was well sung and applauded. Solo, "He was despised" (*Handel*), Miss Maggie Bell, whose style of singing was much appreciated by the audience. Chorus, "O clap your hands," (*Guest*), was well taken with. Organ solo, Mr J. W. Hedley. The rendering of the piece did great credit to the player, and was well received by the audience. Recit and solo, "Arm, arm, ye brave" (*Handel*), which was well sung by Mr George Hedley. Quartet, "Come thou fount" (*F. R. Thomas*), the Misses Annie and Maggie Bell, and Messrs Burnhope and Hedley. The whole of the performers sung their parts well, and were received with loud applause. Solo, "Lead Thou me on" (*Blockley*), Mr J. Stewart, who was received with applause. "Salutation" (*Guest*). The choir, in the singing of this, the last piece on the programme, were fully equal to the occasion, and finished amidst the applause of an appreciative audience. The service was brought to a close by the singing of the doxology. The proceeds were in aid of the choir funds. The attendance were not as good as the concert deserved, and those who were not there certainly missed a treat.

LANCHESTER WORKHOUSE DINNER.

On Christmas Day, the inmates of the Union Workhouse at Lanchester, who number at present over 200, were entertained through the generosity of the Board of Guardians with their usual Christmas dinner, consisting of roast beef and plum-pudding, followed with a distribution of tobacco, oranges, sweets, nuts, toys, &c. The toys were presented by Mr W. M. Annandale, of Lintzford, Mr W. Logan, Langley Park, and Mrs Thomas Taylor Smith, Greencroft Park; and the oranges and sweets by Mr T. D. Dryden, Consett, Mr John Hall, Mrs Wall, Mrs Cumming, Post-office, and Mrs Reed, Lanchester. The dining hall, in which the repast was served, had been decorated with wreaths, holly, and evergreens, the walls being graced with a variety of mottoes, devices, and pictures, and the whole presented a most cheerful appearance. Indeed, the interior of the spacious room was never observed to better advantage, and in attaining such a standard of perfection must have involved a vast amount of industry and perseverance. Amongst the company present were Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, Broadwood Park, chairman of the Board of Guardians; Mr Wm. Logan, Stobillee House, vice-chairman, and Miss Logan; Mr T. D. Dryden; Rev F. W. Glyn, vicar of Lanchester; Mr T. Sadler, Lanchester; Mr John Cumming, treasurer to the Guardians; Mr T. Wilson, and others. Before leaving the dining hall the master (Mr W. Brotherhood) called for three cheers for the Guardians, which were heartily given; and three more for the visitors brought the pleasing and enjoyable proceedings to a close.

BALL AT TANTOBIE.

The second annual fashionable ball, in connection with the Tanfield Lea Brass Band, was held in the Co-operative Hall, Tantobie, on Christmas Eve, when over 30 couples were present. Mr J. Steel, White-le-Head, and Messrs H. Fawcett and H. Donald acted as M.C.'s. The ball commenced about ten o'clock with a country dance, "Keel Row," led off by Mr J. Steel and Miss Turnbull, White-le-Head, and Mr H. Fawcett and Miss Turnbull, Tanfield Lea. During the evening, a first-class supper was partaken of by the company, who did ample justice to the good things provided, and was ably presided over by Miss Allan, Dipton, and Misses M. Gladders and A. Storey, Tantobie. Mr G. Todd attended at the refreshment stall with his usual affability. Great credit is due to Mr Dundas for the success of the evening, who was kindly assisted by Messrs G. Robson, C. Fawcett, and J. Hall, and also Miss Gladders for the satisfactory manner in which the Hall was decorated. Mrs Rowell kindly attended to the ladies' cloak room, and superintended the preparations for the supper. The music was supplied by Mr Jos. Atthey's (Tantobie) string band, and gave general satisfaction. Dancing was kept going till early morning, when the band played the National Anthem, and the company returned to their homes highly pleased with their evening's entertainment. The company present were:—

Mr Heppell and Miss Turnbull.
Mr Turnbull and Miss Calvert.
Mr J. Gladders and Miss Smailes.
Mr N. Storey and Mrs Storey.
Mr R. Proudlock and Miss Swinburn.
Mr J. Humphrey and Miss Proudlock.
Mr W. Hall and Miss Dyson.
Mr J. Hall and Mrs Hall.
Mr H. Donald and Miss Hall.
Mr H. Fawcett and Miss Turnbull.
Mr J. Steel and Miss Turnbull.
Mr S. Marshall and Miss Marshall.
Mr R. Burdon and Miss Cornforth.
Mr F. Mole and Miss Beattie.
Mr T. H. Smith and Miss Robinson.
Mr W. Callendar and Miss Smith.
Mr H. Callendar and Miss Wilkinson.
Mr J. Fawcett and Miss Watson.
Mr J. O'Neil and Miss Kelly.
Mr W. Robinson and Miss Smith.
Mr W. Gladders and Miss Watson.
Mr F. Goodfellow and Miss E. Robinson.
Mr W. Braidford and Miss Gladders.
Mr R. Forster and Miss I. Gladders.
Mr J. Cawthorn and Miss Dunn.
Mr T. Cawthorn and Miss Black.
Mr T. Howdon and Miss Henderson.
Mr — Green and Mrs Green.
Mrs J. Smith and Miss White.
Mr J. Bowman and Miss Maughan.
Mr J. Dixon and Mrs Mulldoon.
Mr J. Johnson and Miss Whittaker.
Mr H. Pattison and Miss Johnson.

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Local Free Methodism.—Various ministerial arrangements will take effect at the close of the present Connexional year, having been made at the recent December quarterly meetings, or as in most cases some time previously. The following are the local changes:—Rev T. B. Saul remains at Gateshead for a third year. Rev W. T. Symons removes from West Stanley; Rev F. Raine remains remains at Prudhoe for a third year; and Rev James Martin at Consett a second year.

District Primitive Methodism.—The following are the local ministerial invitations given and accepted for the next Connexional year:—*Sunderland and Newcastle District.*—Durham, Robert Hind, Matthew P. Davison; Shotley Bridge, John Alderson, John Moffat; Mickley branch, Thomas Wood; Allendale, Thomas Elliott; Gateshead, James Young, John G. Binney, John M. Dawson (sup.); Thornley, Edward Cairns, William Raistrict; Stanley, John Magee; Chester-le-Street, John Taylor; White-le-Head, Matthew Johnson. *Darlington and Stockton District*:—Westgate, James Jaylor, Emerson Phillipson; Crook, William Baitey, John Forster, John Wilkinson, Ed. Rust (sup.)

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Business Announcements.

FOURTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

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

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FRATER'S MAHOGANY VARNISH.

Moses! bring me a BOTTLE OF FRATER'S MAHOGANY VARNISH. We are going to CLEAN THE FURNITURE, and there is no other any use. For quantity, quality, and popularity, there is nothing like it in the Market.

GEORGE FRATER

179, PILGRIM STREET, NEWCASTLE.

JOSEPH SIDDLE, NEWMARKET STREET, LOCAL AGENT.

THE COVENTRY CYCLE CO., LIMITED,

WHITEFRIARS LANE, COVENTRY.

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

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

PRICE LISTS, 3 STAMPS. 876v

A SEASONABLE SALE.—CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

AT

G. KINDRED'S,

4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

TOYS IN ENDLESS VARIETY, FROM 1d EACH.
PRESENTS SUITABLE FOR EVERYONE AT CUTTING PRICES.
CHRISTMAS CARDS IN NEW DESIGNS.
NEW STOCK OF STAFFORDSHIRE WARE TO CLEAR.
BASINS, PLATES, EGG CUPS, WINE GLASSES, &c., 1D EACH.
DRAPERY ALL REDUCED FOR CHRISTMAS SALE.
PILES OF CHILDREN'S AND WOMEN'S ULSTERS, AT ONE-HALF COST PRICE, &c., &c.

☞ LOOK HERE! ☜

WHERE SHALL IT BE PLACED! WHAT?
THE TEN THOUSAND (10,000) PIECES OF

WALL PAPER

THAT ARRIVED AT

J. W. DAVISON'S,

6, 8, AND 67, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
ON THE 7th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1886.
SPLENDID CHOICE OF PATTERNS. PRICES FROM 2d. AND UPWARDS.

After this tremendous arrival no walls need look bare or shabby. 141x

---

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!! CHRISTMAS!!!

MARSHALL & SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
CONSETT AND BLACKHILL.

BEG to announce that they have opened a BRANCH SHOP in the NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, where they are now showing a fine assortment of CLOCKS, WATCHES, & JEWELLERY suitable as PRESENTS for the Xmas and New Year. Ladies and Gentlemen's Silver Watches from 20s, and upwards. All kinds of Repairs will be executed at Moderate Charges, combined with Good Workmanship

KINDLY NOTE ADDRESS:—

MARSHALL AND SONS.
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
NEW TOWN HALL, FRONT STREET, CONSETT, & HIGHGATE, BLACKHILL. 955w

---

ATTENDANCE AT CONSETT EVERY MONDAY FROM 12 TILL 3.

DENTISTRY.

MONS. VAN GELDEREN AND SON,

SURGEON DENTISTS,
OF 17, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

MAY BE CONSULTED AT CONSETT EVERY MONDAY from 12 till 3, at No. 10, MOUNT PLEASANT.
SUPERIOR DENTISTRY and REASONABLE CHARGES.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH from 3s, 5s, and 7s; on GOLD, 10s per TOOTH. Complete Upper or Lower Sets, 30s, 50s, 70s; on GOLD, £5.
All Work Guaranteed and Maintained FREE OF CHARGE FOR FIVE YEARS. 829w

ADDRESS; 10, MOUNT PLEASANT CONSETT.

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

GEORGE HOBSON,

WHOLESALE

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

HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF

PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.
INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.
OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.

THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED:
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

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

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

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

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

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 437?

CONSETT MUSIC WAREHOUSE.

JESSE DEXTER'S,

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, CONSETT.

PIANOS,
HARMONIUMS,
AMERICAN ORGANS,

AND

OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, STRINGS, FITTINGS, &c.

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR PURCHASING BY INSTALMENTS.

Instalment Arrangements to suit Customers' Convenience,

CONSEQUENTLY,

NO ONE NEED BE WITHOUT A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

WEEKLY, MONTHLY, OR QUARTERLY PAYMENTS.

PIANOS TUNED, REPAIRED, OR TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.

PIANOS FOR HIRE.

JESSE DEXTER,

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

FREE EDUCATION.

THE

SCHOOL BOARDS SUPERSEDED.

GRAND CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

5 GUINEAS IN PRIZES.

BLUE BANNER TEA

PRIZE

SPELLING BEE.

Prizes to the value of Five Guineas will be awarded according to merit to Four Competitors obtaining the largest numbers of correctly-spelt English Words (plurals, proper names, and names of places excepted), from the letters contained in the words—

TRY NESTLES MILK.

FIRST PRIZE	....	£3 3s. 0d.
SECOND „	....	£1 1s. 0d.
THIRD „	....	£0 10s. 6d.
FOURTH „	....	£0 10s. 6d.

CONDITIONS.

In the event of four or more competitors each giving the same number of words, the Prizes will be divided equally.

The names of successful Competitors will be published in the "Blue Banner Railway Guide" on February 7th, 1887.

Chambers' Dictionary to be regarded as the standard.

The competitive lists are placed before a professional gentleman for adjudication, and his award, as published, is to be accepted as final and beyond appeal. For obvious reasons, no correspondence with reference to the same can be entertained.

The competitive lists (words being arranged in alphabetical order) signed with competitor's full name and address, to be forwarded by post (prepaid) to

BLUE BANNER TEA DEPOT,

30, CLOTH MARKET,

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

BY JANUARY 5, 1887.

Each competitor must enclose with his list the outside wrappers of four packets of BLUE BANNER TEA.

It is imperative that each competitor should mark on the back of the envelope enclosing his list, the number of words obtained.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Competitors are particularly requested to note that the USE OF EACH LETTER OF THE ALPHABET is only allowed AS MANY TIMES AS IT OCCURS in the SUBJECT GIVEN FOR COMPETITION.

BLUE BANNER TEA

2s. 6d. PER LB. IS 2s. 6d. PER LB.

UNSURPASSED.

Business Announcements.

ORNAMENTAL MOTTOES AND EMBLEMS.

TISSUES OF ALL SHADES.

FOR REQUISITES FOR SEASONABLE DECORATION,

GO TO

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

G. AND W. PAIRMAN,

113 & 115, PILGRIM STREET, NEWCASTLE.

MANUFACTURERS OF SCALES, WEIGHING MACHINES, and all kinds of GROCERS' and BUTCHERS' FITTINGS.

☞ REPAIRS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION DONE ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

COFFEE MILLS RE-CUT EQUAL TO NEW

EMIGRATION TO AMERICA.

LOOK HERE. £2 10s. ONLY.

NEWCASTLE QUAY to NEW YORK or PHILADELPHIA, Mail Steamers every Tuesday.—Apply to H. J. FLETCHER, 12, Scotswood Road, Newcastle; or JOHN RICHARDSON, 30, Blackett Street, Newcastle. 995w

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OIL & GAS-COOKING STOVES, PARAFFIN LAMPS, AND GAS-FITTINGS.

THOMAS DOYLE

(Late with J. C. HALLIDAY),
3, NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE.
NOTE THE ADDRESS, AND SEE PRICES IN WINDOW.

ROBERT JACKSON'S

CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENTS,
59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

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

ROWATT'S	Highest Award, International Exhibition, Edinburgh, 1886.	LAMPS
ROWATT'S	Rowatt's Patent Lamps, the Split-Wick Anucapnic and the Lorne, give the best and most economical Light yet obtained from Paraffin or Petroleum Oil. No Chimney required, and no Smoke or Smell. For the best Lamp in the market, buy "Rowatt's" make. None Genuine unless stamped Rowatt's Patent.	LAMPS
ROWATT'S	Rowatt's "Gordon" Hurricane Lamp — Best and Strongest Outdoor Lantern.	LAMPS
ROWATT'S	Rowatt's Fire-proof Large Bulge Cylinder Chimney—unbreakable. Insist on having Rowatt's.	LAMPS
ROWATT'S	Retail from Lampdealers. Wholesale — ROWATT AND SONS, London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.	LAMPS

THOMAS MILNER,

DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,
☞ THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT

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

A Consett Gentleman says:—"I have found your New Season's Cod Liver Oil to be most beneficial in preventing hoarseness and relieving the strain on the chest, consequent on prolonged speaking in the open air, whilst the administration of it is not accompanied by the nausea resulting from many oils I have tried, and I can confidently recommend it."

1s. and 2s. 6d. per Bottle.

MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON ARMY MIXTURES

WINE, PRIME PORT, RASPBERRY, ORANGE, &c.

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

MILNER'S DANDELION AND PODOPHYLLN STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.

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

BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.

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

SARSAPARILLA BLOOD PURIFYING MIXTURE.

1s 6d and 2s 6d per Bottle.

HOP BARK AND TONIC BITTERS, in 1s Bottles and 6d Packets.

MILNER'S HAIR RESTORER, 1s per Bottle.

SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

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

HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES & PREPARATIONS in great variety. Prepared by the Best London Makers.

WILSON'S CANADIAN PIG POWDERS, in 6d and 1s Packets.

DENNIS'S PIG POWDERS, in 5d & 10d Packets.

HORSE, CATTLE, AND DOG MEDICINES of every description.

BELL & RIDDLE'S, McDOUGALL'S, NESS & CO.'S, LITTLE'S, WILSON'S, KITCHEN'S, COOPER'S, JEYE'S, and BAINBRIDGE'S SHEEP DIPS.

CARBOLIC ACID and other DISINFECTANTS.

MILNER, CHEMIST, CONSETT.
☞ POSTAL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

LAMONT'S MAGNETIC BELTS,

LUNG INVIGORATORS, &c., are still receiving the marks of continued and increasing favour. They need no attention, give no shocks, are as comfortable to wear as an ordinary garment, and as they last for several years, are RE-MAGNETISED FREE EVERY YEAR, and are RE-MADE, equal to new, at ONE-HALF THE ORIGINAL COST, they are, without exception, the most economical, effective, and pleasant remedy extant.

RECENT TESTIMONY—LUMBAGO.

Low Westwood, Ebchester,
November 1st, 1886.

MR D. LAMONT,—Dear Sir,—For many years I was a great sufferer from lumbago, and at times attacks of sciatica, and all remedies seemed of no use, except for a short time. Towards the back end of last year I was off work three weeks, quite unable to do a hand's turn, at which time I got one of your Magnetic Belts, and was able to go to work in three days. I gradually improved, my back got stronger, and to-day, after fully a year's use of your Belt, my back is altogether free of ache or pain. I have the greatest pleasure in recommending your Belts.—Yours truly, GAWIN LIDDLE.

RECENT TESTIMONY—BRONCHITIS.

9, Atkinson Terrace, Low Teams, Gateshead,
September 18th, 1886.

MR D. LAMONT,—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that I have received very great benefit from the Magnetic Lung Invigorater supplied by you. I was so weak in the chest, and suffered so much with pains in the chest and nervousness, that I could not go about. The effect of the Invigorator has far exceeded what I expected, and I bear this testimony with the greatest pleasure.—Yours, &c., MRS YOUNG.

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

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

D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT
(Permanent and only Address),
44A, BLACKETT STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 972w

Business Announcements.

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

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

EDUCATIONAL.

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

☞ PUPILS ATTENDED AT THEIR OWN HOMES.

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

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

WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER, BLACKHILL.

H. GUTTERIDGE,

SCALE, BEAM, AND WEIGHING MACHINE MANUFACTURER,
BUTCHERS' STEELYARDS, MINCING MACHINES, &c.

REPAIRS DONE ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

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

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16th THOUSAND. 6d., BY POST 7 STAMPS.

DR. ELLIS'S POPULAR LECTURE, "THE EAR AND ITS CONNECTION WITH THE THROAT."

"It gives a thorough and succinct account of the causes of noises in the head and deafness, with suggestions of means as to their avoidance, as well as for the preservation of good hearing in those who are fortunate enough to possess it."—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*

London: WALTER SCOTT, Paternoster Row; Newcastle: W. E. FRANKLIN, 42, Mosley Street; or from the AUTHOR, 100, Rye Hill, Newcastle. 709v

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TEETH!

MR. SUTCLIFFE, DENTAL SURGEON, 4, Nun Street, Newcastle. Dental Surgery in all its branches, Teeth Scaled, Dressed, Stopped, and Extracted, Painful Teeth Treated, Children's Teeth Regulated, &c. ARTIFICIAL TEETH at all prices, made so as to attain the natural functions in all cases, at 2s 6d, 5s, 7s 6d, and 10s per Tooth. Nitrous Oxide Gas for painless operations.

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

XMAS PRESENTS.

A FIRST-CLASS going Nickel-Silver WATCH, Fashionable Pattern and Size, at 7s. 6d. each. If with Mexican Silver Albert and Seal, 9s. 6d., sent to any Address, Post Free, 4d. extra. Post Office Orders made payable at Catchgate, and money returned, if not approved of, in three days, at

WILLIAM WILKINSON'S,
WHOLESALE CLOCK AND WATCH ESTABLISHMENT,
CATCHGATE, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN.
CLOCKS FOR 2s. 6D. EACH. 124x

CONSETT JEWELLERY EMPORIUM.

1887. 1887. 1887.

JOSEPH MARSHALL begs to return thanks to the Public of Consett, Blackhill, and District for the support which they have given him since he opened his Branch Shop at Mount Pleasant, and is now prepared with a large and well-selected Stock of CLOCKS, WATCHES, and JEWELLERY, of most Fashionable Designs, and Lowest possible Prices, to accommodate Customers. GOLD KEEPERS, from 8s. 6d. GOLD DRESS RINGS, splendid value, from 7s. 6d. WEDDING RINGS, from 10s., with which is given a present of Half-a-Dozen Best Nickel-Silver Tea Spoons.

NOTE.—Repairs neatly executed, with Moderate Charges.

PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS—
15, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, AND BURNOPFIELD. 241x

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

MAPPING BOOK.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

EXTRA LARGE SIZE
AS RECOMMENDED BY
SCHOOL TEACHERS.

TO BE HAD ONLY OF

ROBERT JACKSON,
GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET,
AND
9 and 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

☞ SOMETHING FOR HARD TIMES.

GREAT CLEARANCE SALE

IS NOW GOING ON,

SWEEPING REDUCTIONS IN THE PRICES OF

DRAPERY GOODS,

READY-MADE CLOTHING, &c.

SEE OUR SPECIAL

MEN'S BLACK WORSTED SUITS, AT 16s. 11d.

BOYS FROM 2s. 6d.

SOME RARE BARGAINS TO BE OBTAINED

AT

C. F. COOKE'S,

CHEAP DRAPERY WAREHOUSE
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES MANIFESTED.

J. HEPWORTH AND SON

Are meeting the desire of the public (to avoid the Profits of the Middleman, and obtain the utmost value of money) by Selling the PRODUCE OF THEIR FACTORY at 25, WELLINGTON ST., LEEDS,

DIRECT TO THE CONSUMER,

At their various Branches.

Branches in nearly all important Towns.

OVERCOATS FOR THE EAST WINDS.
CLOTHING TO KEEP THE BLOOD WARM.
6/6 SAVED IN EVERY £1 SPENT.
LARGEST STOCKS IN THE KINGDOM.

HEPWORTHS, for 20 years SUPPLIED the PRINCIPAL SHOPKEEPERS in your TOWN, NOW SELL ONLY AT THEIR BRANCH,

12, SHAKESPEARE STREET,

CONSETT.

Business Announcements

THOMAS HENRY KIRKUP,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

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

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PIANOFORTE TUNING.

EDWARD J. SLOANE

Having completed a COURSE OF LESSONS upon PRACTICAL TUNING (under Mr. WATSON Newcastle-on-Tyne), is now PREPARED TO ATTEND ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY.

ADDRESS:—
POST OFFICE, BLACKHILL. 136w

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

SPECIAL NOTICE AS TO PRICES.

Mr. G. RICHARDSON, SURGEON DENTIST, Inserts his well-known "Superior Quality" of ARTIFICIAL TEETH (by a New Painless Process) at less prices than usually charged for common quality and inferior workmanship. For comfort, durability, and natural appearance they are unsurpassed. Every Tooth Guaranteed.

☞ Please Note the only Address—
6, BLACKETT STREET, NEWCASTLE,
Third door from Northumberland Street.

NOTE.—Rail Fare allowed to Country Patients.

CONSETT MAGIC SOAP DEPOT.

PRESENTS! PRESENTS!! PRESENTS!!!

Just arrived a Large Supply of Beautiful Toilet Sets, which are the most useful Present for the Present Season—6d, and 1s. each.

HARRISON'S

MAGIC ARIZONIC SOAP;

AND

FURNIVAL'S MAGIC WASHING FLUID
Still stand unrivalled as the Magic Cleansers.

All the BEST TOILET SOAPS in Stock.

J. W. BERRY,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT. 194x

CHURCH PRAYER BOOKS
AND
CHURCH HYMN BOOKS
IN
GREAT VARIETY
AT

ROBERT JACKSON'S,

9 and 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

SPECIAL INFORMATION!!

YOU GET BEST POSSIBLE VALUE IN BOOTS AND SHOES, &c., BY BUYING FROM

JOHN GIBSON,
PRATICAL BOOTMAKER,
CORNER OF
FOUNDRY ROW AND BESSEMER STREET,
BLACKHILL (near the Railway Station),

All kinds made to Measure.
Special and Personal Attention to Fitting all kinds of feet.

REPAIRING:—
Only Leather of most durable Quality used.
Gentlemen's Boots Soled and Heeled, from 2s 9d.
Ladies „ „ „ 1s 9d.
Best Elastics put in—Gents., 1s 8d; Ladies, 1s 2d.

GIFTS!
GIFTS!!
GIFTS!!!

ROBERT JACKSON, Bookseller and Stationer, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett, has just received a Choice Selection of Goods suitable for Gifts. Among these will be found the following—

ALBUMS,
PHOTO FRAMES,
PURSES,
POCKET KNIVES,
STATIONERY CASES,
MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS,
CHURCH PRAYER BOOKS,
HYMN BOOKS,
BIBLES, &c., &c.,
A LARGE STOCK OF GOODALL'S
PLAYING CARDS,

The Largest Stock in Consett to choose from.

Those contemplating making Presents should visit the Establishment of

ROBERT JACKSON,

BOOKSELLER & STATIONER,
AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET,
CONSETT. 81x

Public Notices.

37 IS the WINNING NUMBER of the Quilt Raffled at Redwell Hills. 238x

CANON BODY, D.D., of Durham, will PREACH on Sunday, January 23rd, 1887, Morning and Evening, in CONSETT PARISH CHURCH. 239x

42. 164, 261, 167, 37, 136, 199, 29, 187, 163, 36, and 203, are the WINNING NUMBERS of the Christmas Drawing at Consett, on Christmas Eve. 243x

ALMANACK SHOW.

W. J. CAWTHORN, Black Horse Inn, Burnopfield, will GIVE A GOLD MEDAL, Value 30s., for the BEST ALMANACK for 1887. Entrance Free. 244x

CONSETT & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY.

2ND QUARTER commences Thursday Evening, 6th January, 1887, in the Gibson Street School Room, Consett.

CHAS. STEPHENSON, Conductor.
245x ALEX. RUSSELL, Jun., Hon. Sec.

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

THE 94th QUARTERLY MEETING will be held on January 8th, 1887, in the Society's Reading Room. Chair to be taken at 6·30 p.m. All Papers will be removed from the Tables during the Meeting. 227x

THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

CONSETT HABITATION, No. 385.

THE NEXT MEETING of the above will be held on Monday Evening, January 10th, 1887, in the Conservative Club Room, Consett, at 8 p.m.—By order,
232x WILLIAM SHELL, Hon. Sec.

NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

TO THE INHABITANTS OF SHOTLEY BRIDGE, BLACKHILL, CONSETT, AND DISTRICT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I, your humble servant, feel bound at the shutting of the old year's curtain, and opening of the new, which I hope will be a Happy Year for all, to return thanks for the kind patronage you have bestowed upon me the many years I have been in your midst, and respectfully solicit a continuance of your support. I am informed of a movement being on foot to do me out of that patronage and support, as they thought I would never sweep again. But, thank God and my medical gentlemen, I am here yet.

Detractors' schemes cannot me lick,
Let their broom be e'er so new;
For something might onto it stick,
That never was in a flue.

Compliments of the Season to all.

Faithfully yours,
J. J. HARRISON, Sweep, &c.
Mansion House, Mayor's Chambers,
Shotley Bridge. 187x

Public Notices.

THE LIBERAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION OF THE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Association will be held in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Saturday, January 8th, 1887.

The Meeting of the Council will be held at Half-past Two o'clock in the Afternoon, for the Election of Officers for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of other business, after which a TESTIMONIAL will be Presented to L. A. ATHERLEY-JONES, Esq., M.P., by the Liberals in the Division.

At the close of the Council Meeting, a PUBLIC TEA will be provided in the Large Hall, and at Seven o'clock in the Evening, a PUBLIC MEETING will be held, which will be Addressed by L. A. Atherley-Jones, Esq., M.P. (Member for the Division), J. C. Stevenson, Esq., M.P., and other Members of Parliament, and prominent Local Liberals are also expected to be present.

Tickets for the Tea, One Shilling each, may be had from Mr. William Bell, Bootmaker, Middle Street, Mr. Daniel Smith, Druggist, Front Street, and Mr. C. Routledge, Sherburn Terrace, Consett; from the Local Secretaries in the various Polling Districts, and from

ADAM BRODIE,
Registration Agent,
Town Hall, Consett.
251x

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH CHOIR, BLACKHILL.
SECOND ANNUAL
CONCERT,
AGRICULTURAL HALL,
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 31st, 1887.

NOTICE to the Inhabitants of Shotley Bridge and District.—WILLIAM BUTCHER, who has COMMENCED SWEEPING CHIMNEYS and BILL POSTING, will receive your kind orders, and will complete them on the shortest notice.—Address, William Butcher, No. 8, Messenger Street, Shotley Bridge. 215x

CONSETT MIDDLE CLASS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.
Conducted by Miss Tait.

THE DUTIES of the above School will be Resumed (D.V.) Monday, January 3rd, 1887.

REDUCED FARES TO AMERICA.

AMERICAN, and other Lines, £2 15s. 0d. Luggage and Passengers taken Free to Railway Station.—Write or call upon A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 176x

Re ROBERT DAVISON, of Lane Ends, Castleside, Deceased, Innkeeper and Farmer.

HAVING been appointed by the Executors under the Will of the above-named deceased, to COLLECT THE ACCOUNTS OWING TO THE ESTATE, all Persons indebted to the same are requested to pay the amount of their indebtedness to me, the only person entitled to receive the same, at my Office, as below, without delay.

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A.,
Town Hall, Consett.
188x

Re THOMAS PICKERING, of Whickham Grange, near Cold Rowley, Deceased.

ALL Persons to whom the above-named deceased stood indebted at the time of his death, are requested to send in the amount of their Claims to me, the undersigned, at my Office, Town Hall, Consett, on or before Monday, the 10th day of January, 1887, so that they may be liquidated.

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A.,
Public Accountant.
Town Hall, Consett, Dec. 23rd, 1886. x

ALL Persons having Claims against the Estate of ELIZABETH PEACOCK, Shield Row, Deceased, are hereby requested to apply to me, on or before the 8th day of January, 1887. Also, all Persons Indebted to the same are requested to Pay their Debts to me without delay.

THOMAS PEACOCK, Administrator,
White-le-Head, via Lintz Green. 211x

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND, BLACKHILL.

The Management of the above Church beg to announce that arrangements have been made for the following

SERIES OF LECTURES
To be Delivered in this Church, by a Number of Eminent Lecturers.

"Notes on a Run to Constantinople and Back."
Rev. JAMES S. RAE, M.A., Sunderland,
JANUARY 17th, 1887.

"Vesuvius and Pompeii, with Pictorial Illustrations."
Rev. Mr. TASKER, North Shields.
JANUARY 31st, 1887.

"Scottish Wit and Humour."
Rev. WM. STUART, M.A., B.D., Wallsend.
FEBRUARY 14th, 1887.

"Tour in Australia."
Rev. SYLVESTER M. McCLELLAND, South Shields.
FEBRUARY 28th, 1887.

"The Literary Monarch—Dr. Samuel Johnson."
Rev. A. BAILLIE, Blackhill.
MARCH 14th, 1887.

Chair to be taken at 8; Doors open at 7:30.
Single Lecture, 6d.; Ticket for Series, 1s. 6d.

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1887.
13 Cows and Heifers, Calved and to Calve.
12 Fat Cattle.
20 Fat Sheep.
A quantity Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs, Poultry, &c.
2 Very Superior Young Sows, about half gone in Pigs.
2 Bolls Barley, &c.
1 Chaff-cutter, with 3 Knives.
Sale at 12 o'clock prompt.
249x NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

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

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

WEEKLY SALE, Monday, January 3rd, 1887.
Present entries comprise—
A Draught Mare, in Foal.
A number of choice Dairy Cows and Heifers.
22 Fat Cattle.
225 Fat Sheep.
2 Tons of Old-land Hay.
Half-a-Ton of Cattle Spice.
A New Sheep Block.
Sale at 10 a.m. with Cows and Store Cattle, Fat Stock to follow.
Entries to day of Sale. Trucks at Station.
246x J. VICKERS, Auctioneer, Tow Law.

TO PARTIES EMIGRATING.
ASSISTED PASSAGES TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
CHEAP FARES TO AMERICA & CANADA

AND lowest possible fares to Queensland, New South Wales, Melbourne, Victoria, New Zealand, Cape Town, Natal, or any other part of the world.

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station free of charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer and Emigration Agent, Dipton. 494w

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.
Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

PEOPLE that are leaving the District can have their FURNITURE TURNED into CASH, at once, by applying to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 291u

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Valuable and Well-built Freehold Properties for Sale.

MR. ADAM BRODIE respectfully intimates that the following PROPERTIES NOT HAVING BEEN SOLD at the Auction at Mr. George Brown's, Railway Hotel, Consett, on Thursday, December 16th, 1886, may be Treated for Privately—

1.—FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, in Delves Terrace, Consett, containing Five Rooms and Kitchen, with Stable and Cart Shed behind, as occupied by Mr. S. D. Cooper, as Tenant.

2.—FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, in Medomsley Road, Consett, containing Five Rooms, with Large Yard, Front Garden, and every Convenience, occupied by Mr. Graham, at a Rental of £20 a-year.

Apply to the Auctioneer, Town Hall, Consett.

NORTH WEST DURHAM EMIGRATION AGENCY.

ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, is the Sole and only Agent in Consett for the following First-class American Lines of Steamers—The Cunard, White Star, Inman, Guion, Beaver, Allan, Dominion, and American Lines, of Steamers to New York, Quebec, and Philadelphia; and the Orient and Queensland Royal Mail Steamers for Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and other Australian Ports. He is also the only Authorised Agent for the Queensland Government in North-West Durham, and is specially appointed to Book Assisted Passages at £7, including Ship's Kit, for the rising Colony of Western Australia. The public are informed that as the rates in all cases are fixed by the various Companies themselves, and not by any Agent or Sub-Agent, no person can, consistently with the conditions of his appointment, book passengers for less than the advertised rates. Full particulars and every information relating to the different fields of emigration may be had on application.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—ADAM BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT. 577w

SPECIAL EMIGRATION NOTICE.

ALL STEERAGE FARES by the Conference Lines of First-Class American Steamers are reduced to £2 15s. 0d. and £3 0s. 0d. to New York and Philadelphia.—Apply to Adam Brodie, Town Hall, Consett. 189x

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

GEORGE R. HOBSON,
AUCTIONEER & VALUER.
OFFICES:—
CATCHGATE, VIA LINTZ GREEN. 320v

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.
Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed periods.
438u ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

TEETH AT ALL PRICES.
MR. D. POWELL,
SURGEON DENTIST,
NUN STREET (Corner of Clayton Street),
NEWCASTLE,
May be personally Consulted every Week Day, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
CONSULTATION FREE.

IMPORTANT ADVICE.—Before seeking the aid of the Dental Profession, ask the people where to go, and have the recommendation of the many, they are the best judge. Don't go by one or two persons, or paid agents; have the advice and experience of at least a dozen individuals, then you may consider you have got to the right man.

OBSERVE LARGE BLUE LAMP AND SEE THAT YOU GET INTO THE RIGHT DOOR.
Over 20 Years at the same Address. 186

HOW TO GET STRONG AGAIN!
BY USING
GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT
30s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage Paid on 6 Bottles and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,
IMPORTER OF PURE WINES,
9, GRAINGER STREET (between Nun Street and Newgate Street), NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
Established 1780.
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET,
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold & Silver GUARDS ALBERTS, &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.
MR. T. C. CAMPBELL
SURGEON DENTIST,
9, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH AT REASONABLE PRICES
COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET
From 30s. to £4 10s.
PARTIAL SETS OR SINGLE TEETH
From 3s. to 10s. per Tooth.
Every Set is adapted to the mouth on the most improved principles, without extraction of Stumps or other painful operation, guaranteed to fit perfectly and warranted.
Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas.
Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.
Country Patients visiting Mr. Campbell's Establishment in Newcastle will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare.

NEW REMEDIES
FOR
COUGHS,
COLDS,
BRONCHITIS,
ASTHMA,
AND ALL
CHEST AFFECTIONS.
ROBERTS, CHEMIST, NEWCASTLE.

The Local Catholic Bishopric.—The Rome correspondent of the London *Chronicle* telegraphs:—"It is now nearly certain that the Pope will nominate Monsignor Edward Consitt to the Catholic bishopric of Hexham and Newcastle. The eloquent prelate in question is, it appears, remarkably popular both amongst Northern Catholics and Protestants. He has laboured for many years in every part of the diocese which he will be called upon to rule, and of which he is now the temporary chief during the vacancy of the see. No candidate for an English Catholic mitre has ever been more strongly recommended to the Propaganda, and it is not likely that the Holy See will pass over such high qualifications."

TO ADVERTISERS.

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

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

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

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

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

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1886.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCUDO."]

THE NEW YEAR.

"Hail! New-born year!—yet perhaps whilst we're greeting thee,
Many a mission of sorrow is thine,
Which would dispel all the joy of our meeting thee,
Could we their wisely-sealed secrets divine."

This, it must be confessed, is the universal experience of mankind, and to draw the curtain and dispel the intervening shadows baffles the philosophy of the ancients and the wisdom of the moderns. It is better thus, for it has been well said: "The veil that conceals the future is a veil of mercy." It is recorded that during a sea fight in the first decade of the present century, one of our tars had a most miraculous escape from death, and referring to the incident afterwards, his shipmates are reported to have assured him that he had providence to thank for the timely deliverance, to which Jack replied: "Then God bless providence!" The sentiment is one that many will be echoed all round, without respect to time or season; but as the end of the year is set apart by common consent as an appropriate reckoning time, the man and woman wise enough to sum up, to employ a legal phrase, will, without doubt, profit by the exercise of the divine faculty of reflection. Stokes states, in his work on "Memory," that man is the only animal who is capable of transmitting his experiences to posterity; but as the record of the past has demonstrated times without number, that posterity is not always so thankful for such favours as it might be, it is one's first duty to extract whatever nectar the serrated cells of experience afford. This could not obviously be done at a more opportune time than when the footfalls of the departing year are echoing down the corridors of time. Man's life has been divided by Shakespeare into seven ages, but men live fast in these latter days, and although the poetical division may have done service in the old coaching days, the order of our times is for short accounts and ready settlements. If a year is not an age, it is at least a stage, and a very marked one in the eventful journey of life. We have all read of the Prince who in times of anguish is reported to have exclaimed: "I have lost a day." It is to be feared that some of us are much greater sinners in this respect than his majesty; but to know ourselves diseased, says the author of "Night Thoughts," is half our cure. Every man and woman ought to place before him and herself a well-defined object, or a series of them for that matter, and to strive from henceforth to regard the self-imposed introductions as coming within the stereotyped lines of duty. It does not follow that resolves of an ambitious character should be formed. All men are not fitted for undertakings necessitating unremitting and laborious mental toil; but the humblest can do something to gladden some heart in their own individual sphere. Many an honest housewife would rejoice did the man with whom her happiness on earth is linked turn over a new leaf, and strike one on a path entirely new. That would be a moral victory of which any man might well be proud, and the beginning of a new year is the best possible time for making a renewed effort, irrespective of former failures, whether they may or may not refer to moral or intellectual resolutions. Rome was not built in a day, as the saying goes, and men do not usually grow either great or good without putting forth immense strength of will and well-directed concentration. To fall short of the coveted height is the fate of all, except the favoured few, but to aim at attaining a higher level, whether of morals or intellectual acquirements, is in itself a certain gain. This will be apparent when it is remembered that—

"The reward is in the race we run, not in the prize."

MUGGLESWICK.

The recent restoration of the parish church of Muggleswick, referred to in the last issue of the *Guardian*, recalls the substance of a conversation which I had some sixteen years ago with an old district standard, now deceased. The old man took exception to the particular way in which the edifice had been built, the gables, as he alleged, not being pointing in accordance with the orthodox rules of due east and due west. He laid no little stress on the point, assuring me that he had remonstrated with the builders in vain. Like most old men, he spoke of the good old times with pride, interspersing his observations with an occasional sigh, as much as to say, "Alas! we'll never see their like again." The persistent refusal of the masons to slue the new church a few points of the compass he ascribed to the deplored degenerency of the present age. Had the good man lived now he would in all probability have discovered a connecting link between the leakage in the roof of this comparatively new structure and the wilful disregard of his conscientious objections. Muggleswick and that quarter used to be a favourite resort of mine. I was wont to repair thither in the week-end, crossing the Derwent near the Sneep, and meditating among the tombs in the sequestered churchyard of Muggleswick. On one of the gravestones was the head of a cherub, which used to interest me greatly. It is said to have been the handiwork of Lough, the famous sculptor of that name, and is reported to have been executed whilst he was serving his apprenticeship as a mason at Shotley Field. Not far from the churchyard is the remains of what appears to have been an old castle, now roofless and dilapidated. There was always an air of desolation about the spot, the silence broken only by the chattering of sparrows in the ruins overhead, and the murmuring cadence of the wind as it forced its way through chink and cranny.

TRADE.

To the inhabitants of North-Western Durham the condition of the coal and iron trades is of the first importance; and to some extent the one industry is linked with the other. Notwithstanding this relationship, however, the fortunes of the twain does not seem to run in the same groove. The iron trade is supposed to have reached its lowest ebb, to have sunk below zero, and to have latterly attained what nurses call "the turn," while the local coal trade is, on the other hand, under a cloud. I believe the proposed reduction of the wages of the Northumberland miners to be uncalled for and unjust. Whatever may be said with respect to the laws which regulate supply and demand, the fact that the men are already under-paid is indisputable. Few people would grudge to pay even more for their coals than they are doing now, were they assured that the miner would get his rightful share of the profits. The outlook in the steel and iron trades has been more hopeful of late than it has been for some time past. The leading Tyne shipyards will be better employed in the ensuing spring than they have been at any period during the past two years. I am not in a position to assert that the change will be permanent, and on that point I am not without my doubts and fears; but that there is a good deal of work in the near future I have the best possible opportunities of knowing.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

To every purchaser of the *Consett Guardian* of next Friday, January 7th, 1887, will be presented a POCKET DIARY AND ALMANACK for the ensuing year.

SEE THAT YOU GET IT!

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

We are requested to remind our musical readers that the second season of the Consett and District Choral Society commences on Thursday evening next, in the Gibson-Street Wesleyan Schools.

Scraps for Scribes.—An excellent assortment of scraps at one penny, and also at sixpence each, are to be had of Robert Jackson, 9 and 10, New-market Street, Consett.

During the week, the practice of tobogonning has been indulged in to a large extent in Consett and district; and several slight accidents have been reported, the worst being broken limbs, broken legs, &c.

On Wednesday night, Mr Adam Brodie offered for sale by auction, at the Reading and Recreation Rooms, Consett, the whole of the newspapers, magazines, periodicals, &c., taken in during the next six months. There was a large attendance of buyers, and the sale realised a few shillings over the total sum in the previous half-year.

Death of Mr Jos. Cuthbertson.—We regret to have to announce the demise, at the age of 70 years, of Mr Joseph Cuthbertson, of 3, Office Place, a blastfurnace manager at the Consett Iron Works. Deceased had been employed there over 30 years, and was consequently widely known throughout the whole district. He was following his usual employment up to a few weeks ago, when he was laid ill with bronchitis, and he eventually expired about one o'clock on Wednesday morning.

The Wheelbarrow Man.—The Consett wheelbarrow man, James Sparks, ironworker, arrived at Leeds on Christmas night from Barnsley. He left Leeds on Monday for Borobridge, arriving at Yarm at ten o'clock on Tuesday night—a distance of 31 miles. Yesterday (Thursday) morning, he started for Middlesborough, Stockton, and Sunderland, and to-day (Friday) will come to Jarrow. On New Year's Day he intends to be in Newcastle, where he hopes to arrive about noon, and will remain until Monday morning, when he will set out for Consett. He asks us to remind his fellow-workmen that he has a wife and family at West Hartlepool, and that he could "do with a sprinkling of coppers" in his barrow.

BLACKHILL.

Royal Auction Mart.—On Monday, Messrs Nicholson and Murray held their weekly sale, which was rather of a holiday character, on account of the butchers laying in an extra supply on Christmas week. There were forward:—14 fat cattle, 9 cows, 60 fat sheep, 11 pork pigs, 1 bacon pig, 13 small pigs, 3 calves, a quantity of geese, poultry, &c. Although prices were not so good as the previous week, yet a fair trade was done. Beef to 7s 6d per stone, mutton to 8½d per lb, pork to 6s 6d per stone, cows, to £15 5s, geese, 9s each.

STANHOPE.

Lecture on "The Tongue."—An interesting lecture on "The Tongue" was delivered in the High Street Mission Chapel, Stanhope, on Friday evening by Miss J. P. Earl, of London. Mr W. Egglestone presided.

Runaway Trucks on the Incline.—On Friday afternoon last the socket of the rope end which draws trucks up the self-acting incline into Newlandside limestone quarry gave way just after the trucks had passed at the meetings, and the consequence was that two full trucks of limestone, containing 10 or 11 tons each, came off down the incline at lightning speed. The trucks kept on the rails until they collided violently with a number of full trucks that were standing at the bottom of the incline, smashing several of them and doing considerable damage to the rolling stock of the North-Eastern Railway Company. Fortunately no one was hurt.

WEARDALE.

St. John's (Weardale) Church Institute.—The annual general meeting of the Church Institute and Reading-room was held on Friday evening. There was a large gathering. The Vicar (Rev R. Shepherd) was in the chair. The following officers were elected for the coming year:—Secretary, F. W. Shepherd; treasurer, John Harrison; committee, Sergeant George, P.C. Watson, John Peadon, John Hewitson, and T. E. Blenkiron.

CORBRIDGE.

National Schools.—Miss Bacon Grey has become an annual subscriber of one guinea to the Corbridge National Schools, and she has also given two guineas to the playground fund. Mr Sheldon has contributed £1 to the fund.

News Room and Library.—On Thursday night the annual meeting was held at the Rooms at Corbridge—the president (Dr McLean) in the chair. There was a large attendance of members. The accounts, which were read and passed, showed a balance in hand of £11. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

Sudden Death of a Nonagenarian.—On Thursday se'nnight, Mr John Bowman, of Corbridge, died very suddenly, in the 93rd year of his age. The deceased, who had gone to the back of the house, fell down, but succeeded in getting up, and held on by some railings, and in that position he was found by some of his grand-children. He was assisted into the house, and Dr McLean was immediately sent for, but medical aid was of no avail, and Mr Bowman died about an hour afterwards. Deceased, who had previously been a healthy man, was a market gardener, and had been at work up to the day of his death.

SWALWELL.

The Water Supply.—Last Friday afternoon, a Christmas tree was opened in the Board Schools, Swalwell, in aid of the fund which is being raised for improving the Swalwell water supply. There was a good of seasonable articles, and a considerable company was present at the opening. In the evening, a coffee supper and concert were held.

PELTON FELL.

Pelton Fell Colliery.—In addition to the forty men who, as previously reported, had received their notices, which expired last Friday night, other thirty men have received the usual notice to terminate their engagements, making seventy in all.

Late Advertisement.

TO LEND, £100, £200, £300, to £400.—Apply Box X, Blackhill Post Office.

TOW LAW.

On Wednesday se'nnight, the members of Mr Crawford's (Bishop Auckland) Quadrille Party held a ball in the Mechanics' Hall, at Tow Law, but the dancing was only of a moderate description.

A Farmer Robbed.—On Tuesday night, a farmer named Sunderson, of Muggleswick, who had been attending the Tow Law Cattle Mart, missed his train homewards, and was making his way back into High Street when he was accosted by two men, who tripped him up, and relieved him of his watch and four or five pounds. Later in the evening the police arrested two men named Muir and Baty on suspicion, and lodged them in the lock-up.

Fatal Accident to a Miner.—On Wednesday, at the Tow Law Hotel, before Mr Dean, coroner, an inquiry was held, touching the death of a miner named Richard Proud, aged 28 years, who was seriously lamed at West Thornley Colliery, on December 21st, and who died on Sunday.—Dr G. Johnston, who attended the deceased, drew attention to the great need that existed for ambulance appliances at the various collieries. He wished to do away with the conveyance of injured men to their homes in jolting carts, which caused additional pain to the sufferers.—The jury recommended that an ambulance waggon should be provided for the conveyance of injured persons.—Evidence showed that the accident was one of those which defeated all the usual precautions, and a verdict was entered accordingly.

DURHAM.

In Durham county there is a great diminution of cattle disease, there being now only two cases of swine fever and nine of sheep scab existing.

Dinner to Poor Children.—By the exertion of Mr Hall of the Old Elvet School, Durham, and other friends, about 800 of the poorer children of Durham were provided with a substantial dinner of roast beef and plum pudding in the Durham Town Hall. They were on leaving the hall presented with an orange, and the toys on a large Christmas tree were distributed amongst them. They afterwards assembled at the hall where an entertainment was given.

A Publican's Defence.—*Robert Dryden*, landlord of the King's Arms, Durham, was yesterday (Thursday) fined 10s and costs by the magistrates for having his house open during prohibited hours early on Sunday morning. The defence was that four men whom the police found in the house were friends whom the landlord was himself entertaining to a Christmas supper.

Pepper Adulterated with Sand and Clay.—At Durham County Police Court, on Wednesday afternoon, *Robert Taylor*, grocer, &c., Tudhoe Grange, was charged with selling adulterated pepper on the 26th of November. On the day named, Sergeant Elliott purchased from the defendant an ounce of black pepper, for which he paid 2½d. He divided the pepper into three parts, left one with the defendant, and took the other two to Superintendent Dunn, of Durham. One sample was sent to Mr Stock, the county analyst, and the other to Somerset House. The report of Mr Stock certified that the sample submitted to him was adulterated to 5 per cent., whilst the Somerset House sample was returned as containing 13 per cent. of mineral matter, of which 6·71 per cent. was sand and clay.—Defendant's excuse was that he thought the pepper was genuine, and sold it as he had received it—never touching it himself.—The magistrates pointed out to defendant that they had to deal with him for selling adulterated pepper, and that, if he liked, he had his remedy against those who supplied him.—Fined 5s and costs.

Fatal Result of a Quarrel.—An inquest was held on Monday last at the Durham County Hospital, before Mr John Graham, coroner, on the body of Wm. Burns (42), who died in that institution on Christmas Day from the effects of a broken leg. Deceased resided at Gilesgate Moor, Durham, and was a man of independent means.—P.C. Hall, Durham County Constabulary, stated that on the night of 4th Dec., about ten o'clock, he saw deceased come out of his house swinging a dustpan round his head. He was in a state of great excitement, and appeared to be deranged in his mind. At that time a man named Pattinson, who resided next door to deceased, came out of his house, and as soon as deceased saw him he rushed at him with the dustpan. Witness went in between them, when deceased seized witness by the collar, and a struggle taking place they both fell to the ground. It was afterwards discovered that deceased's leg had been broken by the fall, and after having it bandaged and the bleeding stopped, he was conveyed to the hospital.—Sergeant Burrell, who was on duty at Gilesgate Moor at the time of the occurrence, gave confirmatory evidence, and stated that a fortnight previous to the accident deceased had summoned Pattinson, his neighbour, for threatening him. Pattinson was bound over to keep the peace, and in default of paying the costs went to gaol for seven days. On coming out of prison Pattinson applied for police protection, and asked that an officer might be sent out to Gilesgate Moor on the night of the occurrence, as he was apprehensive that deceased would use violence.—Dr Walker, house surgeon, gave evidence as to the nature of deceased's injuries, and stated that it was found necessary to resort to amputation, but deceased steadily refused to be operated upon. Death was due to the continued loss of blood caused by the frequent hemorrhages.—The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and exonerated the police from all blame.

CROOK.

Threatening to Kill a Wife.—Robert Hodgson was before the Bench on Monday for threatening his wife. Going into his own bar, defendant, as alleged by his wife, knocked her over a chair, threatened to shoot her, and said "I will be hung for you in Durham yet." The case was adjourned for defendant's solicitor, and meantime defendant was provisionally bound over to maintain the peace.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

Board of Guardians.—The usual fortnightly meeting of the above Board was held on Thursday week, Mr T. Robson chairman.—Letters were read from Mr T. Robson, chairman of the Board; Mr H. W. Derrick-Walker; and Miss Gibson, Chester-le-Street, asking the Board to accept apples, oranges, tobacco, and Christmas cards for the inmates.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded for the seasonable gifts.—The Chairman said that if the inmates derived as much pleasure in enjoying the gifts as he had in giving them he would be perfectly satisfied.—After other business, the Board adjourned.

An Unmanageable Boy.—On Wednesday, at the Chester-le-Street Police Court, *John Cade*, 12 years of age, was charged with wandering about without any visible means of subsistence, at Waldridge.—His father appeared and stated that he had taken the lad to school many a time, but he always ran away from home; he had a comfortable home, and wanted for nothing. If their Worships would make an order for an Industrial School, he would willingly contribute to the lad's maintenance there.—The police said there was no end of trouble with the boy, who seemed utterly unmanageable.—An order was made for the lad to be sent to an Industrial School for four years, and for the father to pay half-a-crown a week.

Ratepayers' Meeting.—A meeting of ratepayers was held on Monday night at Chester-le-Street, for the purpose of electing a waywarden for the township, in the place of the late Major R. F. Gibson, Mr F. Harle in the chair. Mr R. Bell moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting offer their deepest sympathy and condolence to the widow and family of our late respected waywarden, Major R. F. Gibson."—Mr Hay seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.—Mr Pickering then proposed, and Mr R. Bell seconded, that Mr John Mitchell be waywarden.—Mr M. Nicholson moved, and Mr Carruthers seconded, that Mr Peter Hay fill the vacant office.—There being no other nominations, then Mr Hay was elected by a majority of three votes.—A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Oddfellowship.—The annual meeting of the Chester-le-Street District of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows was held on Wednesday week, at the Loyal Prosperity Lodge Room, Shiney Row, the Provincial Grand Master (Mr R. Johnson, Bud of Hope Lodge, Pelton), presiding. The auditors' report was accepted. The corresponding secretary's balance-sheet showed that there were 1,614 members good on the books of the respective lodges in the district. The income from the incidentals fund for the past half year was £35 10s 6d; from the childs' fund, £34 3s 4d; and from the funeral fund, £130 14s, making a total income of £250 16s 10d. The total expenditure during the same period was £246 13s 5d, leaving a balance of £4 3s 5d. A motion having for its object the establishment of proxy voting at district was (after a long discussion as to whether the motion was legal, viewed in the light of the 19th general rule of the Unity) rejected by a decisive majority.—The following officers were appointed:—D.G.M., Isaac Smiles, Chester-le-Street, to be Provincial Grand Master; Past Pro. G.M., James Cara, Chester-le-Street, relieving officer; and P.G. Pearson Hall, Chester-le-Street, examining officer for the ensuing year. After a substantial dinner, the Grand Master-elect informed the delegates present that next year would be the jubilee year, not only of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, but also of the Loyal Laurels of Chester Lodge, and that it had been decided to celebrate their jubilee at Chester-le-Street on Whit-Monday in a manner worthy of the occasion.—A vote of thanks to the district officers for their services during the past year brought the proceedings to a close.

DURHAM QUARTER SESSIONS.

The Epiphany Quarter Sessions will be commenced in the Assize Courts, on Monday morning. The following local cases are for trial:—

Daniel Iveson, forgeman, unlawfully wounding Deborah Coleman, at Whickham.

Elizabeth Stokoe, housekeeper, stealing one overcoat and one jacket, value £1 6s, the property of Wm. Smith, at Castleside.

James Bradley, puddler, and Thomas Conville (on bail), unlawfully wounding Robert Blackett Stankley, at Consett.

Sarah Gibbon, charwoman, stealing three bottles of scent and one piece of soap, value of 3s 9d, the property of William Anthony doorer Newby, at Wolsingham.

Elizabeth Cranston, servant, breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Andrew Hall, and stealing therein one dress, one pair of boots, and other articles, value £1, the property of Margaret Brown, at Dipton.

Mary Ann Thornton (on bail), unlawfully and maliciously did administer to George Thornton a certain poison or noxious thing produced by matches steeped in liquid, with intent to injure the said Geo. Thornton, at Burnhope.

Matthew Robinson (on bail), Edward Jackson (on bail), George Thompson, labourer (on bail), and Frederick Smith, labourer, unlawfully did assault, beat, and ill-treat John Armstrong, without cause or provocation, at Dipton.

Matthew Robinson (detained), Edward Jackson (detained), George Thompson (detained), and Fred. Smith (detained), unlawfully and maliciously did commit damage to and upon certain real and personal property of a private nature, to wit, to and upon certain doors, locks, windows, shutters, bars, forms, pictures, pots, and glasses, to an amount not exceeding £5, to wit, £4 17s 9d, the property of Robert Armstrong, at Mountsett.

At the Theatre Royal, Consett, a variety music hall company is engaged in giving performances this week.

The Consett Wheelbarrow Man.—James Sparks, who is on his return journey from Wolverhampton to Consett, with a wheelbarrow, arrived at Sunderland about ten o'clock last (Thursday) night. He had travelled from Stockton during the day, and seemed in a very exhausted condition. Some stir was created by Sparks' presence in the principal streets, a small crowd following the wheelbarrow man as he proceeded down High Street. He proceeded to Jarrow this (Friday) morning.

Sudden Death at Castleside.—A boy named William Lowrey, aged 4 years, living at Coombfield House, near Castleside, expired suddenly on Monday last. He enjoyed good health up to that day, when he complained of a pain in his bowels. A doctor was sent for, but the lad died before his arrival—about 10·30 p.m. Convulsions is supposed to have caused his death.

Sudden Deaths in Weardale.—Mary Geddling, wife of Mr John Geddling, Horne Feld, Frosterley, died very suddenly on the 22nd inst. She was apparently hale and strong, and fetched water in the morning from the village spring. She expired during the forenoon, it is supposed from apoplexy. She was interred at Middleton church on Friday.—Tamah Wall, wife of Mr John Wall, Rookhope, also died suddenly on the 21st inst.

Warning to Miners.—The following warning was issued yesterday (Thursday):—The passing away of the disturbances which have recently given us such unsettled weather is being followed by a brisk increase of pressure, with a tendency to lower temperature. The barometer now exceeds 30·4 inches over the whole of the British islands, and is still rising. While the change is progressing miners are advised to be on the watch for indications of danger from gas and coal dust.

Stanhope Evangelistic Mission Entertainment.—An entertainment was held on Tuesday evening, in the Hope Street Mission Hall. An interesting programme of songs, solos, duets, and instrumental pieces, along with high-class readings and recitations, were given by efficient performers from Middlesbrough, Matlock, London, Stanhope, Frosterley, and Rookhope. Miss Earl also gave an instructive address. The Hall was neatly decorated with festoons, evergreens, and appropriate mottoes, and presented a charming appearance. The audience, although large, was very select, many of the *elite* of the place being present.

Ice Accidents in Weardale.—The state of the roads in Weardale is the most dangerous ever witnessed, rendered so by the alternate thaws, frosts, and snowfalls. The steep approaches to the bridges on the main road are daily the scenes of serious mishaps to man and beast. Yesterday (Thursday) a little boy named George Hindmarch fell on Ireshope Burn and broke his leg. Isaac Dawson, carrier, Weardale, while proceeding down the valley towards Stanhope, slipped and fell in front of his cart, which passed over his chest, injuring his shoulder. Fortunately the cart was empty, or the result would have been much more serious. Transit to the outlying districts on the hillsides is wholly impracticable by the ordinary means, and sleighs have been resorted to. The scant hay crops are rapidly diminishing, and the farmers have a gloomy outlook.

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

A Slight Mistake.—An accident having occurred the other day in a shipyard on the Tyne, two labourers were at once despatched to assist the injured man to his lodgings. The trio proceeded some distance along the turnpike, but the invalid finding that he could go no further, his mates laid him softly on the grass, and hastened to the yard with the avowed intention of getting a horse and cart. The ambulance gig was immediately brought out, and a detachment of the sailor squad being detailed for the duty, proceeded to the spot, accompanied by a foreman, who had been given to understand that the man lay "near the top o' the bank." The dry land tars stepped out with a will, and having reached the spot indicated drew up at a signal from the foreman. "Adjust that cushion there, and lift him gently, the man has fainted." "Aye, aye, sir," was the ready response, and in a twinkling the recumbent figure was laid at full length on the ambulance. The necessary strapping was being deftly executed when suddenly the man opened his eyes and gazed around him with an air of bewilderment. "Aisy, now, be aisy," whispered a sympathetic son of Erin. Uttering a wild yell, the supposed invalid, making one convulsive bound, overturned the machine, and wriggling clear of the straps, dashed along the turnpike. "Faith, thin, an' that's a quare bhoy, it's surely the wrong man we've got." Paddy was right. A tramp had fallen asleep among the wayside flowers, little thinking that he would waken to find himself on a stretcher. The real invalid reclined on the sward at a short distance; but he was near enough to see that his friends had made a slight mistake.

A STORY IN A STORM.

BY

GEO. MANVILLE FENN.

CHAPTER I.

"I SAY, old fellow, what a storm! The snow's drifting furiously, coming in through the key-hole; there's a heap on the mat, and it's driving in under the edges of the glass in the hot house."

"Won't kill your plants, I hope."

"Not it, old boy; it's melting as it comes in. There's a roaring fire in the big stove, and it'll last till this time to-morrow night without touching. We shall be snowed up, and you won't get away for a week."

"All nonsense," cried Jesse Grange, laughing. "It would take a good deal of snow to keep me back."

"I don't know so much about that," said John Verschoyle, thoughtfully. "A deep snow is a dangerous enemy, old man."

"Yes, I suppose so under some circumstances. Phew! what a puff!" said Grange, as the wind roared round the house, and the sparks from the wood fire circled about, and then rushed up the wide chimney. "I say we have not had such a sharp storm since the big one ten years ago this Christmas."

"Eh! What?" said Verschoyle, starting. "Do you remember that?"

"Of course I do," replied Grange. "Why, I spent the whole of the next day digging out sheep, where they were huddled together, poor brutes; some of them in the drift ten feet deep."

"Oh, yes," said Verschoyle; "but what an awful storm! I hope it won't be so bad to-night. Well, it shan't be indoors at all events," and he went to the door of the snug study, opened it, and took up a couple of oak logs from the big basket outside, and was coming in again as the sound of a piano was heard, and a sweet, rich voice came softly mellowed through the curtained doorway of the drawing-room singing a plaintive old English ballad.

"Don't shut the door for a minute, Jack," said Grange.

"Get out, you love-sick old gander," cried John Verschoyle heartily, as he closed the door, laughing, and thumped down the two logs upon the glowing fire. "You shall go in there presently, and listen to the music, and we'll have a jolly good round game. The idea of a great rough, bluff fellow like you, past forty, thinking so much about a woman."

Jesse Grange leaned forward, and laid his hand upon his host's shoulder, and said quietly:

"Jack, old fellow, wouldn't it be better if you, too, a rough, bluff fellow of forty, thought a little more about a woman?"

"Who? Me? Eh? No. Nonsense! Here, have a cigar, and then we'll join 'em in the other room. Br-r-r-r-r, what a night!" he cried, speaking hastily, as if to change the conversation, and for a few minutes the two fine, manly-looking fellows, each in the prime of life and robust health, now sat on in silence, listening to the roar of the storm.

"And in the nights of winter
When the cold north wind blows,"

said John Verschoyle, suddenly.

"And the long howling of the wolves
Is heard amidst the snows,"

said Jesse Grange, smiling.

"Ah," said his host, glancing up at a rack upon which hung a couple of guns and some fishing rods, "I only wish we could hear 'em, Jess, old fellow; we shouldn't be sitting here. I should like to shoot a wolf. Woman, indeed! Isn't it enough for one of us to be bitten in that way, you old humbug? Just as I'm as comfortable as can be here, you want to get Grace away. What am I to do for a housekeeper then?"

"There's no fear of your being troubled," said Grange, sadly, as he glanced round the snug oak-pannelled room with its pictures, showing the loving touches of a woman's hand, in the sprigs of glistening holly stuck here and there. "No, Jack, I don't seem to get a step farther, and I may as well give it up."

"Give it up? Of course you may," said the other, testily. "I don't know what you can be thinking of. There, what a thorough humbug I am! Jesse, old fellow," he cried, reaching over, and laying his hand affectionately upon his friend's knee. "I always liked you when we were boys at school, and somehow the old friendship has held together."

"It has, old boy," said Grange, shaking hands heartily.

"It has," repeated Verschoyle; "and if Grace will have you, why, God bless her, I think she will have done a wise thing."

"But she will not," said Grange, moodily. "I don't understand her; she is always the same to me—gentle and kind, and that sort of thing. Nothing more. Jack, old fellow, there always seems to me as if there had been a cloud over her life—as if she had had some disappointment."

"Well," said Verschoyle; "perhaps she has."

"Has she then?"

John Verschoyle remained silent for a few minutes, and then said in an altered tone—

"Yes; and she has never forgotten it."

There was a silence for a few minutes, during which, in the intervals of the roaring gusts, which seemed to drive the snow against the windows till the sharp crystals struck the panes like whip lashes, the sounds of the piano and the soft, sweet voice were heard. Then John Verschoyle spoke so suddenly that his friend started from his listening attitude with his cigar held between his fingers.

"It was all kept very quiet. You were in Yorkshire at the time; but it's very curious that you should speak about the snow storm ten years ago. You were not thinking of anything particular, were you?"

"No, only what a similar night this is."

"Yes, isn't it? Makes me shudder sometimes. Hark at that!"

They both sat and listened, and as the wind rushed round the house there was a keen hissing noise as the flakes of snow descended the chimney, and then rushed away in the form of steam.

"I haven't spoken about it since to a soul," said John Verschoyle suddenly. "I ought to tell you now;" and, leaning forward with his brow knit, and the fire shining upon his bronzed face, he said:

"Grace was engaged when she was twenty to James Hartley. He was as fine and handsome a fellow as ever stepped. His father had Langmeads—you know, five miles yonder over the hills."

"Yes, yes, of course," said Grange, uneasily.

"The thing went on very quietly, though I didn't like it. I had no reason for not liking it; but I did not like it all the same. He was handsome and attractive and well to do, and poor Grace idolised him. Everything seemed suitable. Old Hartley used to come over and almost court her himself. I say, court her, but as a father might do; and he used to say to me—'It'll be the making of my Jem, John Verschoyle—the making of him. Give him ballast; make a steady married man of him. God bless her! I couldn't have wished for anything better.'

"I used to tell myself it was prejudice, and that I ought to be glad for Grace's sake, but I wasn't, and though I used to hunt and shoot with James Hartley, and go to and fro, I never felt my heart open to him, though he was everything that was friendly to me.

"I used to tell myself, too, that the reason why I disliked him so, was that he was so successful in his love affairs, while I was so miserably unlucky in mine."

"You, Jack?" said his friend, leaning forward.

"Yes, old fellow. There, the cat's out," he said, laughing bitterly. "My love affair. I once loved a woman with all my heart. And, yes," he added, softly, and dreamily, "and with all her faults I love her still."

"Jack!" said Grange, softly.

"Her memory, old fellow," said Verschoyle, quietly. "She is dead."

The wind seemed to have lulled just then, and the silence was almost oppressive, while the sparks seemed to crackle as they fled upwards, and the sharp crack given by one of the logs sounded painfully loud as it roused John Verschoyle, and he resumed:

"Matters went on for a long time, and it was settled at last that James Hartley and Grace should be married in the coming spring; but even then I had not warmed towards him, though for Grace's sake I used to try very hard. You see, our father had been dead many years, and I had always been my mother's right-hand man, and had been more like father than brother to little Grace, who quite looked up to me."

"And does even now," said Grange, softly.

"God bless her! Yes," said Verschoyle, tenderly. "Well, old fellow, I'm a very poor story teller, but I'll give it all to you as plainly as I can, and I must tell you how that, about half a mile from Hartley's place, there lived a [illegible] old half-pay officer with his daughter. The old fellow was a great gardener, and [illegible] in his way, and [illegible] him with fruit trees and plants of different kinds—for his daughter's sake, of course, for she seemed to me everything that a man could wish for, and I wished—yes, I longed and prayed, that I might find the way to her heart. How I used to try! What presents I used to send, and how readily I used to go with Grace when she went to call!

"It was quite a grief to me that the two girls were never warm and affectionate to each other as young girls generally are. They never kissed and gushed over each other, but were only pleasantly formal, and the intimacy never seemed to grow any warmer.

"'It's your pride,' I said, angrily, to Grace one day. 'You seem to repel her, and keep her off. Why, what girl could be sweeter and kinder?'

"'I don't know, Jack,' she said, with the tears in her eyes, 'and I do try to love her for your sake; but somehow I can't, and—and—don't be angry with me, Jack dear, but she doesn't like me.'

"'It's all nonsense,' I said, 'and I hope you will be warmer to her next time you meet.'

"She promised she would, and the time went on, but those two girls never got a step closer together. For women are cleverer in such matters than we are, old fellow, and there's a natural instinct as well that seem to act like negative electricity, and keeps them apart in cases like this.

"I used to sit at church and watch Mary Lane till I was ashamed of myself, and night after night I used to walk right across country so as to see the house she was in, and remain, till one night as I was standing in the shade of some bushes at the bottom of their garden, I heard a quick step, and someone brushed close by me whistling softly, and I had hard work to keep from starting and speaking aloud, for I felt sure it was James Hartley.

"My heart seemed to stand still, and then I began to think, that I could hear the heavy beats, while I felt fixed to the ground. For what did he want there—my sister's lover—there in Captain Lane's garden?

"'It is a mistake,' I said to myself. 'It cannot be James Hartley;' and then I turned sick with misery, for what mattered who it was if he had come there by appointment?

"Then I recovered myself again, setting my teeth and clenching my hands, as I called myself idiot and fool, and disgrace to humanity, for supposing that it was any one come to see Mary. It was some lover of one of the servants, and that was evident, for, directly after, I heard a few shots rattle up against a window, and I determined to go back, for I said that if it had been any one to see Miss Lane, he would have gone to the door in a straightforward way; but I could not go. I could not move, and I stood here fixed to the spot, as if Fate had determined that I should see and hear everything.

"There was five minutes or so of waiting, and then I saw a door suddenly open, and a woman glided out. There was not much light thrown by that open door, but enough to show that it was Mary Lane, and the outline of the man who stepped forward to meet her was that of James Hartley.

"'It is impossible,' I said to myself as I held my breath; and there I stood hearing him approach—some man whom I did not know, some woman from the house—closer and closer to me, till there was only a low hedge between us, and then they stopped, and I heard every word that was uttered—every word that crushed down my hopes, and made me wish that I was dead.

"For it was Mary—the woman I worshipped—tight in the embrace of the man pledged to be my sister's husband, and for a long time so stricken was I by my own misery, that I forgot my sister; and it was not until they had gone back towards the house that the hot indignant rage came bubbling up, and I stood there till the door had closed, and he was coming back silently over the soft lawn.

"I had no claims on Mary—I had no right to consider this handsome scoundrel my rival, for she had never given me words of encouragement; but I had a right, as the brother and protector of Grace Verschoyle, to call him to account, and I stood there waiting till he came within reach, meaning to take him by the throat and bring the villain to his knees.

"How well I remember that soft, sweet autumn night, with the scent of the decaying leaves all around, and their later companions falling and pattering down from twig to twig in the solemn darkness that seemed so thick that it could be touched.

"I expected that he would leap over the hedge close by me, and stood ready for him; but he turned off and leaped over a dozen yards away, and went off at a rapid pace.

"Half blind with rage I followed, and in my fury I sprang upon him; but he was too quick for me. He must have heard my steps, and with the dread of one who was evil, he feared danger, and struck at me so fiercely that I fell back stunned.

"I must have lain there some time before my senses returned, and when they did it was in a strangely confused manner, the pain of the blow keeping me from suffering the mental agony that came later on.

"I strode back home trying to come to some determination, for I could not tell poor Grace; and at the same time, I dared not let James Hartley continue his visits at our house, and trifle with the poor girl's feelings as he did.

"That night I lay awake, and in the morning I walked across to Hartley's; and, as it happened, I met him, evidently coming to our place.

"'Hullo, Jack,' he cried, in his careless bluff way. 'Why, what's the matter with your forehead?'

"'I was struck by a scoundrel last night,' I said; 'and he stunned me. There, you need not hide your knuckles, man. I know that it was you.'

"'What do you mean?' he said, quickly—'that I struck you?'

"'To be sure I do,' I replied.

"'Then it was you, old fellow,' he said, laughing. 'Ah, well, don't be cross about it. Of course I could not tell in the dark that it was you. I thought some blackguard meant my watch.'

"'James Hartley,' I said, 'how can you be such a scoundrel?'

"'Scoundrel! What do you mean?' he cried, turning pale.

"'What do I mean?' I said angrily. 'You need no telling. Ask your own heart.'

"'My dear Jack,' he cried again. 'What does all this mysterious talk mean?'

"'Do you want me to tell you what a blackguardly trick it is, then, for a man to be vowing eternal love to one woman, while he is engaged—no, not engaged now—to another?'

"'I really don't understand you, Jack Verschoyle,' he cried.

"'Then you are a coward and liar, as well as a scoundrel,' I said.

"'Look here, Jack,' he cried, 'if you were not Grace's brother I should take more notice of this; but as you are I shall let your madness, or tipsiness or whatever it is, pass.'

"'As I shall let you pass,' I said, 'as we shall let you pass; for mind this, James Hartley, if you ever dare to speak to my sister again, I'll thrash you as I would a dog.'

"He fired up at this, and caught me by the breast. In my rage I did the same, and for a few moments we stood gazing into each other's eyes. Then he let his hands drop, and his whole manner changed.

"'Look here, Jack,' he said, 'what's the good of being so straitlaced. It was only a bit of a flirtation.'

"'Call it what you like, sir,' I said; 'the man who can behave like that is no husband for my sister.'

"'Oh, nonsense, man,' he said. 'What's the good of being so awfully particular. It's only a bit of fun. Nothing serious, you know. Polly Lane's a pretty girl, and likes a bit of chat with a fellow. Nonsense! shake hands! You and I must not quarrel.'

"I believe if he had known what was passing in my breast, he would have either tried to strike me down, or have turned and fled; for it was as if all the blood in my body was making towards my head, and driving me mad. I felt as if I could not bear it, to hear this handsome, careless scoundrel speaking in his cool, indifferent way of his flirtation, as he called it, with the woman I had worshipped. Jess, old fellow, there had been something almost holy in my love for that woman, and to hear him speak of her as he did made me long to seize him by the throat, and strangle him where he stood.

"'What!' he said. 'You won't shake hands? Oh, I say, Jack, don't take it so seriously. Have you no sense of shame in you?' I cried, in such a choking voice, for I tried hard to smother my rage, and thinking of what my poor sister would suffer for this man's sake.

"'Shame? Yes, if you like,' he said, laughing. 'There, I'm ashamed of myself, and I'll be a good boy, and won't do so any more. There, will that do?'

"I turned away, for I felt that if I stopped I should go forth into the world with the curse of Cain upon my brow.

"Before I had gone many yards, though, he was at my side.

"'Jack,' he said, 'stop! What are you going to do? Do you hear me? You are not going to say anything about this stupid business to Grace?'

"'I am going to take care that you do not speak to her again,' I said, sternly.

"'Nonsense, Jack! Here for Heaven's sake be reasonable. I wouldn't have Grace know it for the world.'

"'No,' I said bitterly, 'I suppose that would make you feel what a scoundrel you are.'

"'Hang it all, man! Don't be so fond of throwing hard words at a fellow. Well, there, I am a scoundrel if you like. It was very wrong and thoughtless of me. I own it—there. Now are you satisfied?'

"'No,' I said, sternly.

"'What am I to do, then?' he cried. 'Why, Jack Verschoyle, you are harder than a judge.'

"'I am my sister's protector, sir,' I said; 'and I am your judge over this last outrage.'

"'Don't—for goodness sake, don't go away, Jack,' he said, clinging to my arm. 'I do love Grace—I do, indeed. If you told her, it would break her little heart. She must not know.'

"'I am the best judge of what she must know,' I said, sternly.

"'Oh, but Jack, old fellow, for our old friendship's sake.'

"'Our friendship is dead,' I said, bitterly.

"'No, no! It is not,' I answered. 'Be reasonable. I'll promise anything. There, I'll give up Mary Lane altogether. I mean I'll never speak to her again. Will that suit you?'

"Call me contemptible if you will, but those words of his sent a thrill of joy through me, and my heart gave a great throb as I seemed to see the past forgotten, and Mary Lane turning to one who loved her so truly and so well.

"It was but a momentary sensation, and my heart sank again with a weary feeling of despair, for the idol I had set up was not the pure gold I had believed, and I knew that I could never again think of her as in the past.

"I turned once more to go, but he clung to me in agony.

"'No, no; don't go, Jack,' he cried. 'For her sake don't treat me like this, man. I'll go down on my knees to you if you like.'

"'You should have thought of this before,' I said, bitterly.

"'I should, I know I should,' he cried; 'but I have been in the wrong, and now I see it all, Jack; for Grace's sake spare me.'

"'For Grace's sake spare me.' Those words made me pause, for I saw my poor little darling pining and pining away from the effects of this terrible blow, and said to myself if any one is to suffer let it be me alone.

"'James Hartley,' I said, 'will you swear to me never to see Miss Lane again?'

"'Yes, yes, I do swear,' he cried. 'She's a frivolous, [illegible]'

"'Silence!' I roared, as I caught him by the arm, for I could not bear to hear him speak in this way of the woman I had loved. 'Promise me then that all this wretched business shall be at an end, and that you will never deceive and insult my sister again.'

"'I swear, I do swear, Jack,' he cried. 'It shall be a lesson to me, old fellow; it shall, indeed.'

"'Then, for her sake, I will be silent,' I said.

"'Heaven bless you, Jack!' he cried; and I shrank from him hurt and ashamed, for he burst into tears. 'I can't help it, old fellow,' he cried. 'There, we are friends again?'

"'For Grace's sake I shall say no more,' I replied; 'but I look to you to keep faith with me. Now good-bye.'

(To be continued.)

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

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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 affects 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.

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.

THROAT AFFECTIONS AND HOARSENESS.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of "Brown's Bronchial Troches." These famous "lozenges" are now sold by most respectable chemists in this country at 1s. 1½d. per box. People troubled with a "hacking cough," a "slight cold," or bronchial affections, cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious Pulmonary and Asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government Stamp around each box.—Prepared by JOHN I. BROWN & SONS, Boston, U.S. European depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road, London.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Being Warnings and Counsel to Young Men, on Marriage, the Cause and Cure of Consumption, Loss of Flesh, Spitting of Blood, Weakness, Local Debility, Loss of Memory, Lassitude, Lowness of Spirits, Languidness, Incapacity for Exertion, Study, or Business, the Mind Irritable and Desponding, Palpitation of the Heart upon the least excitement, want of Vital Energy, Nervous Debility, Dimness of Sight, Premature Decay, and other fatal Diseases, which generally result from unskilful treatment and ignorance of nature's laws, with clear instructions to regain robust health and vigour once more. Sent free on receipt of 2 stamps. Address, Messrs. WILLIAMS & Co., 3, Baker's Hill, Pitsmoor Square, Sheffield, Eng.

1830. ESTABLISHED 1830.

TO THE WEARY.

"Throw Physic to the dogs,
I'll none of it."—Shakespeare.

DO

TRUTH. READ THIS. TRUTH.

No Person Need Despair

A SPEEDY RESTORATION TO HEALTH AND STRENGTH,

If he or she will carefully peruse the following, and learn that the great

SELF-RESTORER,

OR

DR. BELL'S

PATENT VOLTAIC BELT,

[illegible] ever known for the cure of all Bodily ailments arising from indiscretion and other causes. To those afflicted with Nervousness, Nervous Debility, Loss of Physical Power, Weakness of Body and Mind, &c., this invention presents a means of cure of so unfailing a character that the greatest sufferers from any of the above distressing complaints may, with confidence, rely upon being quickly restored to a sound state of health and strength. In fact, the many marvellous cures performed by the "Self-Restorer" (UNDENIABLE PROOF OF WHICH CAN BE GIVEN) at once places these extraordinary Instruments far beyond anything of the kind hitherto offered to the public. In order to prove that these Belts are all they claim to be, it would be as well to mention the following circumstance:—

IN the High Court of Justice (Queen's Bench Division) an injunction was granted on January 24th, 1884, restraining several unprincipled persons from selling any colourable imitations of the "Self-Restorer" Belt, the Jury giving the proprietor a verdict with costs and damage, for such infringement. The belt was also explained, and its Electrical powers fully tested in open Court, both before Mr. Justice Hawkins and the Jury, upon the same occasion.

CAN any other Manufacturer of Electric Belt produce evidence of SO SEVERE A TEST. Surely, after such a proof as this, the most sceptical will believe that it really possesses the great restorative powers ascribed to it.

IT may be as well to mention that the action of the "Self-Restorer" is gentle but exceeding effective. The mild, but beneficial current generated by its use, braces the system, and by its benign influence gradually builds up the frame until the mind begins to get brighter, the natural functions become stronger, the elastic spirit of youth once more apparent, and so the progress towards recovery steadily goes on until the patient ultimately realises the fact that he is *once more young*. In cases of weakness, arising from any of the before-mentioned causes, these Belts are at once the most simple and at the same time the most certain remedy ever invented or discovered. They are entirely self-acting, and NO ACIDS being required, can be worn at any time without any wetting process or inconvenience to the patient, the salt contained in the insensible perspiration being sufficient to keep it in action.

THE Cures performed are not of a fleeting character, but permanent, providing the instructions sent with each instrument are carefully adhered to. It speedily removes the most miserable feeling, "lowness of spirits," so often experienced; and, after being worn a short time, enables a man to look at the future in a more hopeful light, as the certainty of a rapid cure relieve the mind of a great burthen.

HOW many persons who, by living too generously, have become prematurely old, and consequently have these wretched, morbid feelings? They have an idea that nature is decaying, and the pleasures of life have departed. In nine cases out of ten this is far from being the fact. Nature has not decayed: it is simply lying dormant, and needs but a little assistance to once more assert its presence. "The creaking gate requires oil, or it will continue to creak." So it is with the human frame. Assist it where weak, put it in a position to recover itself, and you will find that after all life has its pleasures, and you the restored inclination to partake of them.

THE beneficial action of these truly life-giving Belts upon the human frame has been proved so conclusively, by thousands of unsolicited testimonials, that no shadow of doubt remains as to their extraordinary efficacy. They can be worn by either sex with the greatest ease and comfort, without fear of discovery, and by a delicate arrangement can be adjusted to act directly upon the weakened parts, so that immediately upon contact with the body an electric current is at once produced of a mild, but withal of so efficacious a character, that an almost instantaneous improvement becomes noticeable. The heavy hanging feeling wears off, the eye becomes brighter, the brain clearer, until at last the patient feels in his own mind that he is once more in the possession of the greatest blessing upon earth, viz, HEALTH, STRENGTH, ENERGY, and MANLY VIGOUR.

IN cases of Gout, Rheumatism, Paralysis, &c., there is no cure in the world to be compared to these Belts. Nature required assistance in all these complaints, and that assistance, to be thoroughly effective, must be obtained from Nature herself—this, by calling into operation Electricity, a natural ally, congenial to all constitutions, is obtained, and the result is, in almost every case, permanent cures are effected. Again in case of Consumption, these belts have been the SOLE MEANS of restoring thousands of both sexes to a healthy and vigorous existence when that fell disease "Consumption" had in the opinion of many eminent medical men, marked them as its victims. These are facts which can be proved to be absolutely true.

TO persons desirous of further information, instructions will be given away, in 130 pp pamphlet, showing sufferers how they may be restored to Health, Strength, and Manly Vigour without the *Aid of Medicine*, or will be sent, post free, together with all particulars as to regimen, diet, &c. Address—W. WRIGHT, Esq., Secretary, Volta House, 175, Wardour Street, Oxford Street, London W.

THOUSANDS OF TESTIMONIALS MAY BE SEEN AT THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The Prices of Dr. BELL'S MEDICO-MAGNETIC or VOLTA BELTS are

£2 2s., £3 3s., AND £5 5s EACH,

According to Power.

The instrument can be sent to any part of the known world, through the Post, securely packed, upon receipt of remittance. P.O.O. made payable to Mr W. Wright, at the Charing Cross Post Office London.

Measurement round the body, just below the hips, must in all cases be sent.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—

VOLTA HOUSE,

175, WARDOUR STREET, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Having been asked upon many occasions how it is that our Belts are higher priced than those now being advertised by new firms (with whom we have no connection whatever) we beg to call attention to following:

This Appliance is POSITIVELY WHAT IT PROFESSES TO BE—an "ELECTRIC BELT," which may be proved before purchasing by the Galvanometer, &c. It was explained and fully tested before Mr Justice Hawkins and a Jury in the Court of Queen's Bench, January the 24th, 1884. Moreover, it ENTIRELY DIFFERS from anything of the kind advertised.

A perusal of which will at once show the most dubious that our Belts are without doubt, infinitely superior to anything of a like character extant, and are as beneficial to exhausted nature as represented.

They having stood the test for 30 years, is still further guarantee of their genuineness [illegible]

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS.

It was a wild, stormy night. The air was full of flying snowflakes, while the branches of the trees creaked and groaned before the wind, as it swept in fitful gusts through the wood and out on to the open moorland beyond. There, as if dissatisfied with the lightness of the spoil he had borne off from the sky, the wild rover seized on the loose snow that lay in drifts and mounds in his path, and, whirling it aloft, flung it in blinding masses before him. Many of these heavy flakes were dashed against the front of the little lodge wherein dwelt Carl Werner, the forester, and clung there in trembling patches. Others were carried high over the roof and away, while ever and anon some, attracted, maybe, by a gleam of rosy light that streamed therefrom, escaped into the chimney, down which they dropped, only to perish ignominiously with hiss and sputter on the burning logs beneath.

Had those unfortunate flakes had time to look about them they would have seen a pleasant room with a semicircle of bright faces round the hearth, reflecting the ruddy glow from the fire. First there were the comely features of Frau Werner, who was seated in the centre of the group with little six-year-old Freda on footstool by her side, resting her flaxen head on her mother's knee. Then on the left were Gretchen, the eldest daughter, a brown-eyed impulsive girl of 14, and next to her, Fritz—a thoughtful looking lad about two years younger. On his mother's right hand sat Julius, the tall soldier son and pride of the family. He was but lately come home on furlough, and had been relating some stirring incidents of the campaign through which he had passed, much to the delight of Master Hans, aged eight, who had just boastfully declared that when he was a man he would be a soldier too, and fight for king and fatherland.

"Father's late to-night," remarked Gretchen Werner. "I wish he were here."

"So do I," said Fritz. "But before he arrives, I must fetch another log from the shed. This one is nearly burnt through, and we must have a good fire when he comes in." So saying he caught up his cap and started off.

"Stop, Fritz!" cried his mother. "Ah! 'tis too late!" and she added under her breath, "*I hope he'll not find out.*"

But Fritz had not far to go, and he soon appeared within the doors again with a big log which he carefully placed on the hearth.

As he stepped back from the fire his mother touched him on the arm and said, "Why, Fritz, my boy, what makes you look so pale?"

"Oh, nothing, mother," he replied, "except that I have been startled a little. When I went out just now a light was shining through the window of the shed. As I approached, it seemed to go out, and I saw coming towards me a venerable old man with a long flowing beard. I crouched behind a bush, and as he passed I felt his long cloak brush across my face. Who is he, mother?"

"Peace rest upon this household!" said a deep voice from the further end of the room.

All the family started. Fritz caught his mother by the sleeve, and pointing to the door, exclaimed, "See, there he is!"

Sure enough, just within the doorway stood an old man habited like a friar, in a long cloak, girdled round the waist with a rope. The cowl was drawn over his head, but beneath it was just visible a single lock of white hair above his wrinkled brow. His snowy beard reached nearly to his waist. From his right hand hung an old-fashioned lantern, and in his left he carried a long pole, or staff, twined with holly and evergreens.

The moment she saw him the Frau exclaimed, "Why, 'tis St. Nicholas!" and she immediately dropped a low curtsey, saying as she did so, "Good evening, good St. Nicholas." The others followed her example, the girls curtseying, the two little boys bowing, and Julius saluting in soldier fashion with his hand to his forehead.

The old man having set his lantern on a chair near the door, and stood his staff by it, came forward with a bow and said politely, "I wish you all good evening in return." Then turning to the Frau he inquired, "Are these your children, worthy dame?"

"Yes, venerable sir," she replied, "and *good* children all."

"Oh ho! indeed!" replied the saint, "you must leave *that* to me. Where are my spectacles by which I can see the thoughts and characters of children through and through?" And thereupon he fumbled in a side pocket of his cloak and brought out an immense pair of goldrimmed spectacles which he put on his nose and then took a long particular look at each of the young people. Sometimes he smiled a little, sometimes he shook his head a bit, and sometimes he frowned. He seemed best pleased when he came opposite little Freda.

"Hum! Ha! very good," he said, stroking his beard, and then he suddenly exclaimed, "Where's Hans?"

Where was Hans? Shameful to relate, the saint's "long white beard and glittering eye" had been too much for Master Hans, and he had hidden himself behind his little sister, who now pulled him forward into the light, saying as she did so, "Oh Hans, you silly boy!"

"Come hither, little man and don't be shy," said St. Nicholas, and he took a parcel from out of a great wallet that hung by his side and read the label on it: "A toy for a brave boy." "Why, that cannot be for you?"

"Oh yes," said Hans eagerly.

"Ah," said St. Nicholas as he handed the parcel over, "Hans can be brave when he is sure of a reward. Bravo, my children, must all be who would gain the greatest and best of life's prizes."

"Something for Bright Eyes," continued the saint, and he nodded his head at Freda. Freda wasn't shy, not a bit of it. After looking a moment at the brown paper treasure put into her grasp, as if to make sure she really had it, she held up her little hands and actually asked Saint Nicholas for a kiss. He could hardly believe his ears, but finally he said, "Well, well, dear, a kiss you shall have, only not just yet!"

To each in turn St. Nicholas gave a parcel, and finally he produced from somewhere—where it came from no one saw—a great chest of tea, which he handed to Frau Werner, who exclaimed on receiving it, "O, *thank* you, *kind* St. Nicholas!" with such delighted emphasis that the good saint was seized with a most unsaintlike fit of laughter. On recovering himself he asked the company to sing him a Christmas carol, and under Julius's direction they formed into line and sang the new carol which Herr Voss, the organist at the church, had taught them. At its close St. Nicholas came forward, and thanking them all, bade them "Farewell." But the little folks did not at all like parting with their new friend. Rushing forward they formed a ring and danced around him, declaring that they "could not let their dear St. Nicholas go." Suddenly a shower of bon-bons fell about them. Down on their hands and knees went the boys and girls to pick them up. St. Nicholas, unnoticed, stepped quietly to the door, took his lantern and staff, and just turning on the threshold to lift his hand in blessing, passed out. Just then, the children rose, ran together again, and then looked about them in bewilderment, till they caught sight of the still partly open door through which the end of the saint's staff was that moment disappearing. Thither flew the eager young folks, but e'er they could reach the threshold a stinging gust of snow blew in their faces and almost at the same moment the door was pulled to with a bang.

"St. Nicholas has gone," said the good mother, "and now you had better see what he has left behind him."

One cannot stop to describe what the parcels were that were revealed when the different papers were opened, save that they were just such as the owners had each wished for. The young people had been deep in their examination for some time, when a familiar voice remarked:

"Hillo! How's this? You children not in bed?"

It was Herr Werner. He had lifted the latch and entered so quietly that they had not heard him, for the storm without had ceased now and the moon was riding majestically in the heavens.

"Papa," said Freda, "St. Nicholas has been. See what he's brought for me."

"And me!" "And me!" "And me!" exclaimed the others, holding up their prizes for inspection.

"And has he nothing brought for me?" asked the Herr.

"Why, no!" they all responded.

"Ach, that's too bad!" said their papa. "Well, never mind," he continued as he lifted Freda up in one of his strong arms. "I have far better gifts. This little housekeeper"—and here he placed one hand on Gretchen's head—"my noble boys, my darling Freda. Eh! but this gift is a heavy one," and he gave Freda a kiss and set her down again.

Then he and mother and Julius kissed the younger ones good night and they went off to bed, but as they went Gretchen imparted to Fritz that while she was leaving the room she heard mamma say, "O Carl, I can't forget that chest of tea!" and then papa laughed. What did it mean?

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1. Vera, Grace, Amy, Nora, Kate. 2. S-cat, w-ash, f-our, s-hoe, c-oat. 3. Quarter-n, grate-r, fur-l, avers-e, rapid-s, saddle-r. 4. "Nothing venture nothing have." 5. Geranium.

6.	7.	8.
T W I T	H A I L	C R A B
W A D E	A I R E	R A R E
I D E A	I R O N	A R E A
T E A L	L E N S	B E A T

GORDON'S EXTRACT

Is as much a Curative for Dyspepsia (Indigestion), Liver Complaint, and Kidney Diseases, as Bread for Hunger, or Water for Thirst.

Cures Coated Tongue, Dizzy Head, Bilious Vomit, Stomach Miseries, Agonies after Food, Accidental Indigestion, Chronic Dyspepsia, and a Hundred other Disagreeable and Painful Symptoms. "Gordon's Extract," Two Shillings, at all Chemists.

"GORDON'S EXTRACT" saved her children from being motherless as well as fatherless.

November 28, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—I write to thank you for the two bottles of "Gordon's Extract" you so kindly gave me, and I am happy to say I am much better. I was suffering from a dreadful form of indigestion. I could not drink a drop of tea or coffee for months, if I did I suffered dreadful with the wind. At times I have been almost choked, continually belching up wind until my throat swelled so much I have had to struggle for my breath. Then I was seized with a dreadful trembling in my inside and all my limbs, with an awful sensation as though I was going out of my mind, and kept bursting into tears. I felt afraid to be left alone. No one but the Lord and myself knows what I have suffered; I also got very irritable. I am happy to say the above symptoms I have described have nearly all disappeared, and I have only taken one bottle and half the second bottle, and I do hope by the time I have finished taking that I shall be quite well, but if I had the means, I should always keep some by me, for this is the second attack I have had, and the second time your valuable medicine, "Gordon's Extract," has saved my life. I can now take a cup of tea and enjoy it without feeling any pain. I have given all your books away, and have and shall continue to recommend it to every one I know. You are quite welcome to make what use you like of this letter, or anyone can come and see me or write to me, and I will tell them that your "Gordon's Extract" has twice saved my life, and my poor children from being left motherless as well as fatherless.

Yours truly grateful,
MRS. PHILLIS HUMPHREYS,
3, Briggs Row, Lower Richmond Road, Putney.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

A SONG.

When the summer sun was shining
In the lovely azure sky,
And the flowers were blooming brightly,
Then they took me home to die.

Thinking ere the flowers were faded,
Or the summer on the wane,
Quiet and for ever silent
I should be released from pain.

Little knowing "Gordon's Extract"
Would renew my life once more,
And the toy they loved and cherished,
Should be merry as of yore.

Thanking God for every mercy,
And the heaven-sent cure renowned,
Which restored my life fast waning,
Making me both strong and sound.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

What a Ladies' Fashion Journal, of large circulation, says:—

"'Gordon's Extract' has been highly commended to me by a friend who appears to have derived great benefit from it, and who, having arrived at the last hour of despair of ever curing a long course of sick headache, took the 'Extract' without any faith in its efficacy at first. This opinion, however, was speedily changed, as a gradual but steady return to health testified to the genuine good done by a regular course of the medicine. At present my friend cannot speak too highly of the excellence of 'Gordon's Extract' in curing sick headache and biliousness. It also appears to be beneficial for many of the complaints to which flesh is heir, but which are not so serious as to need the doctor's aid. The 'Extract' is sold by all chemists at 2s. per bottle, and is by no means disagreeable to the taste."—*Myra's Journal* (*The Silkworm*), August, 1885.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

A CASE.

They said that he was dying,
I watched him day and night,
I fancied every moment
The spirit would take flight.

His life was hanging merely
Upon the faintest breath,
Physicians told me sadly
It was the approach of death.

But a dear friend I cherish,
A medicine famed did bring;
He soon began to flourish,
As blossoms [illegible] spring.

'Twas "Gordon's splendid Extract,"
Which I now gladly bless,
Restoring life and health to him,
To me true happiness.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

LUMPS AS LARGE AS A MUSSEL-SHELL.

34, King George Street, Greenwich, S.E.
November 11th, 1885.

DEAR SIRS,—May I be allowed to add humble testimony in praise of your valuable "Extract," which by God's blessing did me more good than all the medicine I got from two hospitals and three other doctors. I was suffering from extreme weakness, which brought on skin eruption, and on some parts of my body rose up in lumps as large as a great mussel-shell, that I could not bear myself for irritation. After suffering some months I read of a man who had suffered from a similar complaint. I had not taken half of one bottle before I found great relief. Before I had the "Extract" I was constantly rubbing myself with ointment, but since taking it have not wanted to use it. I have since bought and taken two bottles, and am happy to say I am so far well as to be able to work—I am, dear sir, Yours respectfully,
CHAS. PARKER.

Business Announcements.

POSITIVE REMEDIES.

[illegible]

May be had Direct from the Publishers,
H. & E. SMITH & Co., Positive Remedy Laboratory,
26, Southampton Row, London, W.C.

MEDICAL ADVICE AND MEDICINE FREE!

LOSS OF VITAL POWER,
NERVOUS DEBILITY,
AND ITS CONSEQUENT TRAIN OF EVILS,
TREATED FREE OF CHARGE.

A TRIAL COURSE OF MEDICINE
Will be sent free to any sufferer from any of the above on receipt of full statement of case, by

PROFESSOR EASTBURN, A.M.S.,
13, CAMBRIDGE STREET, GLASGOW.

Prof. Eastburn has had a thorough training in the great American Eclectic College, whose mighty superstructure of medical knowledge is based upon the wise principle of selecting, by sifting allopathy, homœopathy, and hydropathy, rejecting their errors, and retaining all that is sound, rational, scientific, and truthful. His splendid knowledge of the vegetable kingdom added to that, and blended with the results of his study while travelling through the universities and towns of Europe, lift him to the apex of the medical profession. Prof. Eastburn knows that it is in his power to build the weak, restore the nervous, renovate and strengthen the decaying tissues of the body, and give the vigour and elastic robustness of healthy manhood again, to the feeble and debilitated. He wishes to have the power of exercising his good. Public prejudice against medical parvenus and charlatans is strong. An earnest and honest practitioner has to contend with it. To gain the confidence of the public, Prof. Eastburn has determined, for a limited time, to send to all victims of the above diseases, on application, a TRIAL COURSE OF MEDICINE FREE! knowing his success will speak for itself trumpet-tongued, and that his reward will be reaped by his name being passed from lip to lip, and dwelling to dwelling, as the safest and most reliable specialist.

Diseases of this class are sought to be exploited by quacks and pretenders who trifle with the constitution, and instead of remedying and renovating, they, in ignorance of pathology (their only desire being gain), administer potions and lotions whose only tendency is to add further injury to the organs of the body, and, in many cases, make the ruin of the physique complete. Prof. Eastburn's vegetable compounds are not patent or proprietary medicines, and no claim is laid for their being panacea. They are scientifically prepared, in accordance with Prof. Eastburn's diagnoses, and are exactly suited severally to the particular complaints, and stages of those complaints, from which the patients may be suffering.

Prof. Eastburn's special remedies have cured tens of thousands.

Prof. Eastburn has just issued a Medical Treatise, comprehensive, and most useful as a guide to the afflicted. This valuable work will be sent free to any address, on receipt of [illegible] stamps.

Address:—PROF. EASTBURN, A.M.S.,
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BENSON'S
"LUDGATE"
SILVER. WATCH. GOLD.

£5 5
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GOLD MEDAL, INVENTIONS 1885.
GOLD MEDAL, INVENTIONS 1885.

ENGLISH LEVER, Patent No. 4658.

The highest class of watch at HALF THE USUAL PRICE. Plate ENGLISH THREE-QUARTER PLATE LEVER, BEST LONDON MAKE throughout, fully jewelled, chronometer balance, patent protection from dust and damp, warranted to keep perfect time, and last a lifetime; [illegible] adapted for hard and rough wear. In massive SILVER hall-marked cases, £5 5s. Sizes to suit all classes. Small for GENTLEMEN, Medium for WORKING MEN, Large for RAILWAY MEN. In GOLD cases, 18 carat, from £12 12s. Sent free on receipt of cash or P.O.O.

Book with prices, explaining advantages of this Watch, post free.

Benson's Illustrated Pamphlets of WATCHES from £2 2s., Clocks and Jewellery, Post free.

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The Steam Factory,
62 & 64, LUDGATE HILL,
25, OLD BOND STREET, LONDON.

BENSON'S CLUBS.—Agents wanted to form Clubs for Benson's Ludgate Watch, [illegible] Agents, and others.

SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL INQUIRY [illegible]

[illegible] PLASTERS, a safe and sure [illegible]

SEA VOYAGES for HEALTH'S SAKE

FINE MAIL STEAMERS of the ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY. Brazil, River Plate, Portugal, West Indies, and Pacific from Southampton. Return and tourist tickets. Apply at the offices of the Company, 18, Moorgate Street, London. N.B.—Passengers can proceed to the West Indies, and thence, via the Isthmus of Panama, to San Francisco, under through tickets.

DR. SCOTT'S BILIOUS & LIVER PILLS. [illegible]

DR. SCOTT'S PILLS [illegible]

DR. SCOTT'S PILLS [illegible]

DR. SCOTT'S PILLS [illegible]

DR. SCOTT'S PILLS [illegible]

DR. SCOTT'S PILLS [illegible]

DR. SCOTT'S BILIOUS & LIVER PILLS [illegible]

ABERDEEN GRANITE MONUMENTS [illegible]

PARENTS or GUARDIANS SEEKING [illegible] TELEGRAPHIC [illegible]

SOOTICIDE; or, London Soot & Sewage Manure. [illegible]

Business Announcements.

NOTICE.
Post Free, with Sketches and Details for Self-Cure (in sealed envelope), 6 Stamps.
From J. WILLIAMS, 22, MARISCHAL STREET, ABERDEEN.

THE POCKET MEDICAL ADVISER for Self-Treatment of Nervous Ailments, Functional Derangements, Excesses, and other enervating influences, and their Associated Evils, by the NEW LOCAL TREATMENT.

"*A boon to all desiring 'self-cure' without recourse to physic or the family doctor.*"—Medical Review.

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WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE

Trade Mark, "Blood Mixture."

THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER AND RESTORER.

For cleansing and clearing the blood from all impurities cannot be too highly recommended.

For Scrofula, Scurvy, Skin Diseases, and Sores of all kinds, it is a never-failing and permanent cure.

It Cures old Sores.
Cures Ulcerated Sores on the Neck.
Cures Ulcerated Sore Legs.
Cures Blackheads, or pimples on the Face.
Cures Scurvy Sores.
Cures Cancerous Ulcers.
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases.
Cures Glandular Swellings.
Clears the Blood from all impure matter,
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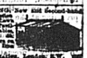

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LADIES' COLUMN.

The busiest days of the whole year are upon us now. Whether our lives are most given up to domestic concerns, to philanthropy, to professional engagements, or to society, women find a sudden need developed of several additional pairs of hands, fresh relays of feet, to carry them about from shop to shop, and the loan of some good quiet brains, some that have not been at all taxed for a couple of weeks past. If science could only make such an arrangement for us, devise some means by which the idle folk could share the work of the busy ones, what a pleasant Christmas time we might all spend. There may be possibly some Mariannes away in moted granges with no more occupation than looking out of window from time to time and saying, "I am aweary, I wish that I were dead." In the bustle of London streets there would be no leisure, even if there were inclination to indulge in such unprofitable meditation. The very difficulties attending the crossing of a crowded street are a healthy tonic. Far from wishing to get rid of life, it seems to become very valuable, and exceedingly well worth preserving in the carriage way, where on one side hansoms are rushing, and on the other the four-wheelers crawling, threatening to sandwich the poor *pedestrienne* between them.

At no season of the year do commissariat considerations press so heavily upon the minds of housekeepers. The other members of the family have interests to bestow on Christmas cards, time to write sentimental letters, thoughts to bestow on holly and ivy decorations, and calculations as to the mistletoe and its results, but the house mother must not indulge in sentiment. Her duty it must be to think of how many days the markets will have closed gates, and how the home garrison must be provisioned in preparation; the number of days in advance which each tradesman requires if he is to send home the goods, each universal provider having his Medo-Persian laws as to vans and carts. The peradventure visitors have to be taken into account as well as the members of every family, and there are the servants, and the servants' friends to be reckoned with in anticipation.

This year the promoters of the Food Exhibition made a new departure. Considering that the economical development had been thoroughly worked out, and that the cheap dinner question had fully established itself, the originators of the idea soared into higher regions, where cookery takes rank among the fine arts. In this country we never had a Brillat Savarin, who raised his theme in the estimation of the world by the tone in which he wrote of it. Great chefs were always imported from the Continent, and a broad gulf separated the fields in which the two nations worked. The South Kensington Cookery School never treated cookery as an art, never approached, even by a whole flight of steps between, the continental platform. There exists no reason why women should not be quite as accomplished cooks as men, but the opportunity was never afforded them. If ever there was a profession in which women's rights might be claimed with justice, it is in the culinary. It was worth a visit to the exhibition at the Aquarium last week, where all the great chefs of London had competed for honours, to see what first-class chefs can do. Passing from dish to dish, and seeing our familiar friends, meat, game, fowls, fish, entrées, entremets, &c., turned out by skilled hands so wonderfully that we required special introduction by name to each dish, we murmured first, and grumbled aloud afterwards, at our inferior position as a nation, and the weak resignation to accept mediocrity by our highest professors at the so-called National School. It is certainly time that Englishwomen qualified themselves for the *cordon bleu.*

Space would fail to describe the variety of the exhibits. There were 27 sections into which the competitions were divided, and in which a jury awarded prizes, beginning with *grosse pieces*, dishes of fish, meat, fowl, game, &c., going on to entrées, sweet entremets, dishes of meat and poultry, ornamental trophies, cakes, blocks for elevating fancy dishes on tables, sweet entremets of farinacious food, stands of fruit, Christmas cakes, fancy breads, novel culinary inventions, dinner-tables laid out, display of folded serviettes, and winding up with a sauce competition, a section instituted by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, and in which she gave gold and silver medals. The jury was composed of gentlemen, with one lady only, Miss Mary Hooper, accomplished as a literary, as well as practical, authority on the great question. It was comforting to the inferior nation that at least one woman could be found able to take a position of equality with the successors of Brillat Savarin. One only wonders why there should be no more. Thirty-five years ago, Alexandre Soyer took the Countess of Blessington's house at Kensington Gore, now improved off the face of the earth, and lectured to visitors to the Great Exhibition of 1851. But we cannot even yet supply cooks to the great London club houses, not even to a first-class officers' mess. Most of the honours fell to the foreigners, and even where the English competitors were successful it was by closely studying and following French methods. The Baroness Burdett-Coutts has endeavoured to wipe out the memory of the Frenchman's disgust at English melted butter. "What a nation," said the bewildered foreigner, "they have forty religions and only one sauce!" There were 13 competitors in this section who brought their masterpieces all hot, in silver or china sauceboats. The first prize fell to the chef of the Queen's Guard, St. James's Palace, for six varieties—two for fish, two for entremets, bread sauce for roast, and melted butter. To a young lady—an Englishwoman—the second prize fell. Her sauces were bread, melted butter, hollandaise, oyster sauce, wine whip sauce, and orange sauce.

What condition of palate these jurors must have had when the day's work was over, when they had gone through all this great collection and tasted most of the dishes!

We begin to understand some of the speeches made recently at the Poor-law Conference at Exeter Hall and at the Mansion House, that too great care cannot be taken to avoid holding out inducements in London which might draw labourers away from the country, where they have a chance of work for which they are qualified, and are known to local employers of labour.

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CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, December 27th.—Before JAMES ANNANDALE, Esq. (chairman), J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq., and W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Dinning was charged by P.C. Sanderson with being drunk at Dipton, on the 10th inst.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Thomas Doughty was charged with a like offence committed at Blackhill, on the 11th inst.—P.C. Philipson preferred the charge.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Matthew Nattrass was mulcted in a penalty of 5s and costs for being drunk at Leadgate, on the 12th inst.—Sergt. Norman preferred the charge.

Edward Clifford was charged by P.C. Lindsay with being drunk at Consett, on the 18th December, and was fined 5s and costs.

Robert Vinnicombe was charged with a similar offence, committed at Castleside, on the 19th inst.—P.C. Lewis preferred the charge.—A fine of 5s and costs was imposed.

Patrick McGovern was mulcted in a fine of 5s and costs for being drunk and disorderly at Blackhill, on the 24th inst.—Sergt. Tate prosecuted.

Thomas Elliott was charged by P.C. Turnbull with being drunk at Consett, on the 17th inst.—He was fined 5s and costs, or seven days' hard labour in default.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

Matthew Swainston, fishmonger, Blackhill, was charged by Mr Alex. McKean, school attendance officer under the Benfieldside School Board, with allowing his son to be absent from school.—Defendant appeared to answer the summons, and said that he thought he was justified in keeping the boy off school. He was 13 years of age, and had passed the fourth standard, which, according to the bye-laws, was all that was required. He had a large family, and this being the oldest boy, was the only one that was of any use.—The Chairman: Have you the certificate to show that the boy has passed the fourth standard?—Defendant said he had not the certificate with him.—The Chairman: Then we will adjourn the case till you obtain it.

Thomas Johnson was charged by Mr McKean with allowing his daughter to be absent from school.—Defendant's wife, who appeared, stated that the child had not been at all well, and she therefore had not sent her to school.—The Bench agreed that an attendance order should be granted.

Thomas Henderson, of Blackhill, was also charged by the same officer with a similar offence.—Defendant was fined 5s, including costs.

ALLEGED THEFT AND ASSAULT AT DIPTON: MORE CANNIBALISM.

John Waite, a miner belonging South Medomsley, was charged by Sergt. Thornton with larceny at Dipton, on the 19th inst.; also with assaulting him at the same time and place.—The Sergeant deposed that he was in the vicinity of the Red Lion Inn, Dipton, at about 4·45 p.m. He saw the prisoner come out of the public-house, and, after walking up and down the street to ascertain if anyone was looking, take some goods from the cart of Mr John Mallaby, fruiterer, Catchgate, which was then standing at the door of the inn. The fruit and vegetables were produced. He went up to the prisoner and asked him if he had any authority to take the goods? Defendant told him that he (the sergeant) had nothing to do with it; and also told him that he was wanting a "cop." He then asked the proprietor if he had given the man leave to take the fruit. Mr Mallaby said he had never given him any leave to do so, and he would bring him up for stealing. The sergeant then told the prisoner that he should arrest him for stealing the fruit, whereupon the defendant took off both his coats and put himself in a fighting attitude. When the sergeant attempted to put the handcuffs on the prisoner struggled violently. He then knocked defendant down with his left hand, and upon the prisoner kicking him on the leg, he struck him over the shoulder with a stick he had in his hand. In the fray the defendant "bit" the sergeant's little finger.—Defendant, who acted for himself instead of having counsel, stoutly denied ever assaulting the sergeant, but he admitted taking the goods, but not with a felonious intent. He scornfully repudiated the charge of actual larceny, asking the Bench if they could imagine a man in his position stooping so low as to steal a few paltry oranges and a poor-looking carrot, such as they saw before them.—The oranges were very small, and valued at a half-penny each, and the carrot was a mere stump of a thing. Defendant was charged with stealing twelve oranges and two carrots. — Defendant (proceeding) said he was coming out of the house to go to the urinal, when he saw some boys climbing about Mallaby's cart, and when they saw him they cried out, "Give us a orange," and they pointed to a box in the cart. He handed them a potato out, but they refused to take it. He thereupon (in fun) took out some oranges, and gave them each a one. He said that what the sergeant had said concerning the assault were gross mis-statements. Defendant (to the sergeant): Are you allowed to carry a stick with you when you are on duty?—Sergeant: I do so when it suits me.—Defendant: I don't see your stick to-day. I suppose it did not suit you to bring it?—Sergeant: I had no necessity to bring it.—Defendant: You couldn't very well bring it when you broke it over me.—Sergeant (warmly): Yes, I broke it over your shoulder when you kicked me.—Defendant said he had the impression that it was the usual custom to use the regular "stave," and not a walking-stick.—John Mallaby, fruiterer, Catchgate, said that on the day in question he was at Dipton serving his customers. He called at the Red Lion Inn, and left his cart standing at the door. The sergeant called his attention to the fact that defendant had taken some fruit from his cart, and asked him if he had given him leave to do so. He told him he had not given him any leave, and he would bring him up for stealing.—In answer to the defendant, he denied ever having seen the sergeant strike or kick him. He said he was getting on his cart, and had his back turned towards them.—In answer to the Bench, Mallaby said the fruit, &c., would be worth about 7d.—The Chairman: At that rate the oranges would be worth 2d each, and the carrot 1d.—[There were three poor-looking oranges and one small carrot produced.]—Mallaby: There were twelve oranges at ½d each, and two carrots worth 1d.—Robert Ewart (for the defendant) spoke to seeing the sergeant knock Waite down with his fist, strike him with a stick, and kick him several times.—The Bench dismissed the charge of larceny, but found the prisoner guilty of committing an assault on the sergeant in the prosecution of his duty, for which he was fined 5s and costs, or seven days' in default.—Defendant (humorously): If it had not been so cold, I should certainly have done seven days. (Loud laughter.)

FUNERAL OF MR. R. RAMSAY.—The remains of the late Mr Robert Ramsay, postmaster and newsagent, of Blaydon, were interred on Christmas Day, at Blaydon Cemetery, in the presence of a large number of sympathetic and sorrowing spectators. The Rev Mr Green, rector of Stella; Rev A. B. Tebb, of Winlaton, and other gentlemen delivered appropriate addresses.

THE LIBERAL LEAGUE.—At a meeting of the Provisional Committee of this new organisation, held on Wednesday night, the general secretary reported that provisional registers had been applied for and issued to lodges in Surrey, Lincolnshire, Cheshire, Oxfordshire, and Derbyshire, and that others were being formed in Norfolk, Suffolk, and other counties, and in the metropolis. One association in the North had applied for affiliation. Arrangements are being made to form a head lodge in connection with the headquarters of the League in London, to the weekly meetings of which, for discussion, &c., country members will have the *entree*. It was announced that a number of presidents of Liberal Associations and clubs and others had agreed to be vice-presidents of the League, and a larger number of members than could have been anticipated had already been enrolled. In many of the rural districts the League is being heartily taken up, and it is the intention of the committee to establish a lodge of the League in every parish and village in the kingdom, and thus perform a work that has been hitherto much neglected. The new League is meeting some opposition from quarters where it ought not, and would not if the opposers knew the deep need there is for its existence. Provision was made in the bye-laws, which were adopted last night, for the appointment of organising secretaries for each county, whose duty it shall be to periodically visit every parish to organise and generally promote the Liberal cause. A literature sub-committee is to be appointed in every lodge to undertake the efficient distribution of leaflets, &c., forwarded from the Supreme Council. The County, Divisional, and District Councils are to arrange through their respective lodges for meetings, lectures, entertainments, and Liberal work (including assistance in registration), and periodically report to the Executive Council the general political condition of the county, division, or district, and any need for special assistance. The offices of the League are for the present at 18, Cockspur Street, S.W., where the secretary will be glad to give any information.—*Liberal Home Ruler*, Dec. 25th, 1886.

THE RATING OF MEDOMSLEY EDGE COLLIERIES.

RATEPAYERS' MEETING AT BLACKHILL.

Last (Thursday) night, a vestry meeting of the ratepayers and inhabitants of the township of Benfieldside, was held in the Board Schools, Benfieldside Edge, for the purpose of "considering the expediency of prosecuting an appeal to the Quarter Sessions against the assessment of the township of Benfieldside, made by the Assessment Committee of the Lanchester Poor Law Union." Mr James Annandale, J.P., Shotley Bridge (chairman of the Benfieldside Local Board), was voted to the chair, and there was a fair attendance of ratepayers.

The CHAIRMAN, having briefly stated the object of the meeting, called upon

Mr HENRY CARSS (assistant-overseer for the township), who said: The contention between the overseers and the Assessment Committee is as follows:—First, the facts of the case are that the Consett Iron Company are the owners of the coal mine known as the Medomsley Edge Drift. The drift mouth and colliery plant are in the township of Medomsley. But the Consett Iron Company have for the years 1882-3, 1883-4, 1884-5, 1885-6, the several years beginning on the first day of July, and ending June 30th. Respectively for the years 1882-3, 365 chaldrons were returned by the Consett Iron Company, or—

	Chaldron	Rateable Value	Assessed
1882-3	365	£ 22	Oct. 8th, 1883
1883-4	229	£ 54	Oct. 6th, 1884
1884-5	3039	£175	Oct. 6th, 1885
1885-6	5856	£342	

This latter sum the Assessment Committee refuse to assess. The following is a copy of a resolution passed by the Assessment Committee:—"The committee is satisfied that the Benfieldside Parish lost in 1883 £21 rateable value, owing to the system of rating collieries being defective. But in justice to the Consett Iron Company they cannot ask them to levy any rates on this colliery so long as it is laid idle." The meeting will see from the resolution that the justice the committee writes of is all on one side. They have no objection to the Consett Iron Company working a year and paying no rates, but they object also when their attention is called to the fact that the Consett Iron Company are in arrears for one year's rates for the coal vend of this mine. To sum up the case, the Consett Iron Company have paid the rates £22, £54, £178 —1883, 1884, and 1885, but none for the year 1886, the rateable value amounting to £342, at 4s in the pound to £68 8s, of which the ratepayers of this township is defrauded. The present rateable value of the township being £15,73[illegible] 10[illegible], at 1d in the pound, gives £65 11s 2d, so that the ratepayers in the Union and township have to make this amount up for the Consett Iron Company. The law of the case is this: that the overseers must rate on the annual value. That value can only be known by the amount of coal wrought in any year, so that all rates on coalmines must of necessity be on the vends of the preceding year. Furthermore, the coals wrought in each township must be returned to the overseers of the several townships out of which the coals are got, so that the full rateable value referred to in the resolution, above will have to be paid to this township if we win our case. From the nature of the subject matter of rating, the overseers cannot assume a supposed or hypothetical quantity, that not being practical on account of the quantity worked varying so much, so that the system adopted is analagous to assessing for income tax, allowing a year's income to be made before taxing. Moreover, there is no shaft or drift in the parish, therefore the overseers do not know when they are working in this township. The overseers wish to urge the importance of the case, as the Consett Iron Company have three coal-mines working in this parish. The rateable value of the whole of the three mines represented something like £3,080, and if this money was lost the deficiency would have to be made up by the ratepayers. To take the case to the Quarter Sessions would not be a very hard matter, and the question was of such importance that it affected the whole of the Union.

Mr W. RAW, one of the Overseers, in giving his views, asked the ratepayers to dismiss from their minds any imputation against the Consett Iron Company, and said their dispute rested entirely with the Assessment Committee in refusing to assess the colliery. Mr Hedley, the Company's representative, retired from the room along with the Overseers, when the subject was discussed.

Mr RD. MURRAY, also an overseer, stated that the arguments advanced by Mr W. H. Hedley, for the Company, were that they took a hypothetical amount for rating the colliery during the first year, and subsequently the colliery was assessed on the coal vend during the preceding 12 months. Mr Hedley could not state any definite time when the colliery would re-commence operations, but stated that should they do so, they would pay the rates on the 5,856 chaldrons already wrought out. The speaker pointed out to him that in case the colliery did not start till ten years had elapsed, the ratepayers then might be a different class of people, and it was rather hard that the present ratepayers should suffer loss, and the benefits be reaped by their ancestors.

Mr CARSS: We cannot rate them, according to law, ten years hence.

Mr MURRAY: Certainly not; because the colliery drift is not actually situate in our township. The matter is left entirely in the hands of the ratepayers to say whether the overseers shall be deputed to take legal proceedings to enforce the payment of rates upon the last vend of coal, or whether the township shall lose the rates due on a rateable value of £342, which the overseers maintain the township is justly entitled to.

Mr CARSS said the doctrine of a hypothetical quantity could not be applied to that township, inasmuch as a drift was situate in the adjacent township of Medomsley. He had read a law case that afternoon, wherein the Judges laid down that wherever coal was wrought in any particular township, that coal must be for the benefit of the township above. The Medomsley Edge Colliery had worked for 30 years—long before Mr Hedley was connected with it, and prior to the formation of the Assessment Committee—therefore nobody could come forward and declare in a Court of Law that the owners thereof paid rates upon a hypothetical figure for the first year's operations. The Act only came into force in 1862, previous to which the collieries were taxed upon assumed quantities.

The CHAIRMAN: Is this the usual way the collieries are assessed in the Union?

Mr CARSS: I cannot say. It is the case with the collieries in our own township.

Mr J. S. MURRAY said the matter seemed so plain and simple, that the ratepayers could not have the slightest objection to the overseers taking steps to recover the money. It seemed just like a person ordering his goods fortnightly, and refusing to pay for the last fortnight's articles because he was not working. (Laughter.) It was evident the Consett Iron Company had worked that amount of coal out of the Medomsley Edge Pit—[Mr WILSON: They admit so]—and he failed to understand why the Assessment Committee had refused to assess the colliery.

Mr RAW: That is what nobody can understand.

Mr J. S. MURRAY then proposed the following resolution:—

"That the overseers of the township of Benfieldside is instructed by vestry meeting to prosecute an appeal against the Assessment Committee of the Lanchester Union upon the ground of the ommission of the assessment made by the said Committee of the vend of a coalmine known as the Medomsley Edge drift, the said vend being returned to the overseers by the Consett Iron Company at 5,856 chaldrons, rated in this township; also to take any other steps that the overseers may deem necessary, to incur any cost or costs in the matter, and obtain such legal assistance they may require."

Mr JOHN GIBSON, Blackhill, in seconding the motion, asked if the Assessment Committee gave any reason for their conduct?

Mr CARSS replied that the only reason was embodied in the letter from the clerk (Mr Ritson) already referred to by him.

Mr GIBSON inferred that it was quite clear that the system adopted by the overseers in assessing was imperfect.

Mr CARSS: No, no. The overseers have nothing to do with it. The Assessment Committee makes all the assessments.

Mr WILSON: We have really no *locus standi* in the matter, because the Committee refuses to assess the Consett Iron Company. Had the Committee assessed the colliery, and allowed the question to be fought out between the Company and the overseers, it would have been a different matter.

Mr CARSS remarked that it had been suggested that the overseers take first of all counsel's opinion, which would cost about £10. If the system of rating was defective, then the proceedings would lapse, if the overseers have a good case, then they would go on.

Mr RAW was adverse to taking legal opinion at all, as the matter was so plain to every sensible person.

Mr PATTINSON OSBORNE: I suggest that we do not bother with counsel's opinion. Let us take our own opinion and dive right in. (Laughter). According to what I have heard, we have a capital case. The Consett Iron Company is not everybody. (Mr WILSON: No; it's the Assessment Committee, not the Company, that's to blame.)—Well, the Assessment Committee are not everybody. They are supposed to be the sentinels of the ratepayers; but they are generally the sentinels of somebody else. (Laughter).

Mr RAW suggested that as the Assessment Committee themselves were divided upon the question, they should give the Committee another chance of rectifying their error before taking counsel's opinion.

Mr T. SNOWDON said he intended to make a similar suggestion, as the letter from the Assessment Committee implied that the system of rating was defective.

Mr CARSS observed that the Assessment Committee could not defend the appeal without first obtaining the sanction of the whole of the Guardians. When the special meeting of the Board was called therefore, it might be that a different complexion would be placed upon the matter, and they would never go into court at all.

Mr RAW: If we have to stand on account of taking counsel's opinion, I make a proposition that we all resign at once. (Laughter).

Mr OSBORNE: Certainly. You have all been in office far too long. (Loud laughter).

The CHAIRMAN also considered there was a very clear case in favour of the overseers. There were two other collieries in the township assessed in the same way. The chief point, however, was the legal view as to the *modus operandi* of rating collieries.

Mr MURRAY explained that there was no way by which the overseers could rate that drift except by accepting the returns furnished by the overseers. They had heard, however, that the drift was not closed till the latter part of July or the beginning of August, therefore it was just possible that some chaldrons were wrought in July. The last return of coal vend was up to June 30th, 1886.

Mr OSBORNE: Let us go on without counsel's opinion. We are entitled to the money, and if you cannot get it, you can levy for it as I have done many a time. (Laughter.)

Mr RAW: If we take counsel's opinion there is an end of it. They always say there is a case, or their occupation would be gone. (Laughter.) Mr Hedley had told him that they had previously paid rates upon collieries which had been laid idle.

Mr OSBORNE was of opinion that there were far too many agents of the Consett Iron Company on the Assessment Committee. He moved that the matter be left entirely in the hands of Mr Raw (roars of laughter); and he would not fail to bring it to a successful issue. (Laughter.)

Mr CARSS said a technical point was involved in the dispute, and it would be absolutely necessary to take counsel's opinion.

The resolution was ultimately carried without opposition.

On the motion of Mr WILSON, seconded by Mr RAW, a vote of thanks was tendered to the chairman, and the proceedings concluded.

LANCHESTER HIGHWAY BOARD.

The Waywardens held their general meeting at Lanchester yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, when there were in attendance: Messrs Geo. Hobson, J. Town, M. Coupland, R. Robson, J. Cumming, W. Fawcett, the Clerk (Mr Grafton Maynard), the Surveyor (Mr W. Dixon), and the assistant Surveyor (Mr Hy. Dixon).

THE STATE OF THE ROADS.

The Surveyor reported that there had been some snow-cutting on the road across the common from Edmondbyers, Bay Bridge, &c. Fortunately no serious damage occurred. The whole of the roads were covered with ice at present, and were in a slippery and dangerous state.

On the motion of Mr ROBSON, seconded by the CHAIRMAN, the Surveyor was authorised to sprinkle a covering of ashes upon the steep and dangerous roads.

THE DAMAGED HIGHWAYS.

The Surveyor also announced that the Overseers of Hamsteels Colliery, Tanfield Colliery, and East Castle Colliery had not done anything towards repairing the damaged roads, caused by pitfalls.

THE PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY.

Plans of the new line, proposed to be constructed by the North-Eastern Railway from Annfield Plain *via* Pit Hill, &c., were laid before the Board.

The Surveyor stated that in every case the railway would cross their roads by archways, and therefore level crossings would be avoided.

Mr HOBSON and other members thought the railway would be of great benefit to the district, and would likewise prove advantageous to that Board.

It was decided not to offer any opposition to the application for Parliamentary powers to make the railway.

WIDENING A DANGEROUS ROAD.

A communication was read from Mr J. Turnbull, of Chester-le-Street, with reference to the widening of the road at No Place, near West Stanley—where there is a steep incline. The letter stated that Messrs Fenwick, the adjoining landowners, had given their consent to the alteration, but before being definitely arranged, he (Mr Turnbull) would like to confer with their Surveyor. The assent of the tenant (Mr Geo. Turnbull) would also have to be obtained.

DESTROYING FOOTBRIDGES.

Mr FAWCETT drew attention to the fact that several footbridges in the neighbourhood of Satley were in an unsafe condition. The first, between Satley and Butsfield, had been damaged by the floods, and required replacing by a new bridge. The second, situate between Satley and Rare Dean, had been cut to pieces and injured by some malicious persons, and required repairing; while the Wind bridge was between Satley and Broadwood Hall, and had been damaged by the excessive rains.

The Surveyor stated, with reference to the first-named two bridges, that they would be put into proper order as soon as possible, while the Clerk pointed out that the latter was a private bridge, and advised Mr Fawcett to speak to Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P.

FINANCIAL.

The paybill for the month, amounting to £356 6s 11d, was ordered to be paid; the Clerk reporting a balance of over £1,200 to the credit of the Board.

The Board then arose.

ADVICE.—Philanthropic Gent: "Do you ever wash your face?"—Mendicant: "I wash it every morning with great regularity, sir."—P. Gent: "I would advise you to wash it with soap, too."

AND DOES EXECUTION.—"Is he a man of much calibre?" said a Connecticut avenue girl to a Dupont Circle belle about a certain gay and giddy Congressman. "Oh, yes," was the confident reply: "he is the greatest bore I ever saw."

WHAT THE COACH WAS FOR.—"I noticed in the paper that the Yale and Harvard crews had coaches at the race," observed Mrs. Snaggs. "Yes," replied Snaggs. "I suppose they had coaches to ride home in, in case their boats should sink or anything."

"Doctor," said a patient, "I suffer a great deal with my eyes." The old gentleman adjusted his spectacles, and, with a Socratic air, replied, "I don't doubt it, my friend; but then you ought not to forget that you would suffer a great deal more without them."

Christmas Festivities.

BLACKHILL PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—The usual festive gatherings were held in connection with this place of worship this Christmas-tide.

CONCERT AT CONSETT.—On Monday night, a concert of a miscellaneous description was held in the New Town Hall, Consett, in aid of the funds of the Roman Catholic Chapel at Byer Moor, near Burnopfield. A number of first-class artistes were engaged for the occasion, the principal being Madame Hall-Atkin, Newcastle; Miss Cairns, Consett, &c., who gave every satisfaction in the rendering of their pieces. Able recitations were given by Mr Bernard Ward, of Consett, besides vocal and instrumental selections by various other musicians. There was a good audience, and the concert was fairly successful.

CATCHGATE UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH.—A miscellaneous entertainment was given in the Greencroft Board School, on Christmas Eve. Recitations by Mr H. Williams, Thos. Bainbridge, and William James; an address by Mr Joseph Chapman; and a reading by Mr Thomas Robson. The meeting was enlivened by the strains of the Mission Band.—On Christmas Day, a Christmas tree and stall of work made by the ladies of the church and congregation, were exhibited and offered for sale. The band was also in attendance during the evening, and contributed largely to the enjoyment of the large assemblage. Mr Smith, of Annfield Plain, gave a series of exhibitions with his magic-lantern, which was well patronised. The proceedings throughout were of a most enjoyable character, and realised the sum of £31, which will be devoted to the liquidation of the trust funds and the further improvement of the Chapel.

TOW LAW.—Christmas morning was ushered in by the members of the Primitive Methodist, Wesleyan, and Good Templar choirs proclaiming the message of "Peace and good-will to men," the last-named choir receiving contributions in aid of the annual "Old Folks' Tea," which takes place on New Year's Day. The Wesleyan Vigilance Band held their anniversary on Christmas Day, closing with a successful public meeting, addressed by the Rev J. Duff and Mr W. Gibson, the chair being occupied by Mr Norwood. A well-attended coffee supper terminated the proceedings.—The Primitive Methodists also held their annual teachers' conference in their chapel, and had tea together, at the close of which a public entertainment was given, the meeting being addressed by various teachers and friends.—Major Rapkin conducted very successful meetings during the week-end in the Barracks of the Salvation Army.—The weather was fine, but very cold, and a numerous company of skaters patronised the various ponds in the neighbourhood.

ENTERTAINMENT AT TOW LAW.—A most enjoyable entertainment was given by the Wesleyan Day School children on Monday night, in connection with the distribution of Government and school prizes. The chair was occupied by the respected head-master, Mr W. T. Brewer, and the programme, which consisted of piano solos and duets, a cornet solo, recitations, dialogues, and songs, with several excellent pieces by the school choir, reflected great credit on all concerned. Honourable mention must be made of the debate on "Woman's rights," presided over by Master J. Temperley, which was really a treat to the audience. The prizes and certificates, a large increase on the previous year, were distributed to the owners by Mr Brewer, whose ability and success as a teacher, and kindly demeanour, is rapidly winning the confidence and esteem of the public of Tow Law. There was a crowded and enthusiastic audience of parents and friends.

LANCHESTER PARISH CHURCH.—This ancient edifice has been decorated this year in an exceptionally artistic fashion, the adornment of the interior being most pleasing and attractive. There was a very large congregation at the service on Christmas Day.

SEASONABLE BENEVOLENCE AT LANCHESTER.—Mr Wm. Hedley, J.P., of Burnhopeside Hall, has with characteristic generosity gladdened the hearts of his poor neighbours by a most liberal distribution of meat, so that Christmas may be celebrated with good cheer in the cottage as well as the hall. The princely gift of five sheep and an ox took some little time in dividing amongst its recipients at Lanchester, Craghead, and South Moor. May this fine old Englishman—one of the olden time—live long to cheer and gladden the hearts of those around him, and to enjoy the esteem and respect in which he and his family have always been held in the neighbourhood. It falls to the lot of few families to exercise so beneficient an effect on the age in which they live. The father, by his invention of the locomotive engine, has been the means of producing untold wealth and prosperity to the country. This grand invention was appropriated by Stephenson to the prejudice of Hedley, who was of a modest and retiring disposition, but time has at length done justice to the memory of Wm. Hedley the elder, whose genius planned and carried out this great invention. Mr Thomas Hedley, his son, was the founder of the Newcastle Bishopric, which is carried into effect through the munificence of his brother William, who might have delayed the execution of this good work until his death, but like his brother George he likes to do the good he can in his lifetime.

CORBRIDGE.—Miss Edwards, of Bythorn, Corbridge, has, during the last few days, presented to a number of poor people, tea, sugar, and coals.—Mrs Straker, of Stagshaw House has also made gifts of tea and sugar and a quantity of warm clothing to the poor of Corbridge.—On Tuesday, the children of the Corbridge Parish Church Sunday school had their annual treat in the National Schools. After tea, an entertainment was given, consisting of magic lantern and singing by the children. The magic lantern was exhibited by Mr Maling, Warkworth. On leaving school the children were presented with oranges, buns, &c. The newly-appointed curate (Rev. Mr Richardson), in the absence of the vicar, who is indisposed, returned thanks to Mr Maling for kindly showing the lantern, and to the ladies for presiding at the tables.

BLAYDON HAUGHS PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On Sunday, December 19th, Rev Andrew Latimer preached two excellent sermons to highly appreciative congregations. On Christmas Day, the annual tea was held, the tables being presided over by Mrs Biggers, Mrs Bateman, Mrs Wood, Mrs Spence, Mrs Clark, Mrs Blackburn, Mrs Bell, Mrs Gadders, Miss Annie Bateman, Mrs M. J. Baggott, Miss E. Robinson, Miss Hands, Miss Reay, and Miss Rutherford. After tea, a public meeting was held. Addresses were given by Rev J. W. Allison, and Messrs J. Watson and R. Moody. The report read by Mr Wm. Biggins showed that, after paying all demands for the year, there was a good balance in hand to start the New Year. Duets were sung by Miss Phillips and Miss M. Baggot. The Mission Brass Band in connection with the chapel was in attendance, and rendered great service. The chair was taken by Mr R. Carr. After votes of thanks had been given, the doxology was sung and brought a happy meeting to a close.

ST. IVES CHURCH, LEADGATE.

The annual parochial gathering in connection with St. Ives Church, Leadgate, took place in the Redwell Hills School-room, on Wednesday evening. The *reunion* this year took the form of an amateur dramatic entertainment, in which several local gentlemen took a prominent part, while the second half of the programme consisted of selections of vocal music by well-known artistes, the whole forming an attractive and pleasing "bill of fare." The audience was a very large one, the room being comfortably filled. The proceedings opened with a representation of a laughable farce, entitled, "Raising the Wind," written by Mr Jas. Kennedy. A temporary stage had been especially constructed for the performance; but the scenic effects were of somewhat primitive character. The parts were most admirably sustained by the undermentioned:—"Plainway," Mr F. Lee; "Fainwood," Mr J. James; "Jeremy Diddler," Mr J. M. Nicholson; "Sam," Mr J. H. Parker; "Richard," Mr R. Twitchard; "Walter," Mr J. Robson; "John" (servant to Plainway), Mr J. MacIver; "Peggy," Miss L. Todd; "Miss Laurelia Durable," Miss F. Lee. The leading character of "Jeremy Diddler" was faultlessly and faithfully pourtrayed by Mr Nicholson, and he displayed considerable ability as an amateur theatrical. Mr Lee, as "Plainway," gave a capital representation of a country squire, and his acting was all that could be desired. Mr James figured on the stage as "Fainwood," and his histronic efforts were excellent. The female *caste* of "Peggy" and "Miss Laurelia Durable" by Miss Todd and Miss Lee were given in the highest order of merit; and Messrs Parker, Robson, and the other characters excelled themselves in their several performances. The reproduction of the piece, which was enacted in several parts, gave unalloyed satisfaction to the audience, who testified their approval in spontaneous outbursts of applause. Considering the short while the performers have had at their disposal in getting up their different parts, and also taking into account the disadvantages under which they laboured, the piece was performed throughout in a highly creditable manner, not the slightest hitch occurring during the representation. An orchestral accompaniment between the acts was much needed. The light was also defective; the gas pendants interfering with the view of the stage.

The second part of the programme was taken up with musical selections by local artistes. The chair was occupied by vicar (Rev J. W. Mitchell). Miss Mitchell opened with a pianoforte solo, which she executed with great skill. She also accompanied the various singers. Messrs C. Davison and P. Surtees (Consett) appeared in the duet, "Love and war," which was tolerably well rendered, though there was something defective at the commencement. Mr J. Anderson (Blackhill)—until lately a parishioner—seemed quite at home in his song, "The blue Alsatian mountains," and his efforts were rewarded by rounds of applause. The well-known song, "The village blacksmith," was sung in excellent style by Mr C. Stephenson (Blackhill), and secured the universal approbation of the auditory. Mr C. Davison gave an excellent rendering of "Afton water," and his singing was much appreciated by those present. Miss L. Parker (Leadgate), who made her *debut* in public, possesses a sweet, charming voice, and the selection of "Laddie" as her song was a most happy one, inasmuch as she was heard to the utmost advantage. At the close she received an *encore*, which she gracefully acknowledged. Dr Allen (Leadgate) favoured with a humorous recitation, which provoked peals of laughter. In the song, "Fading away," Mrs Brears (Leadgate) gave abundant evidence of her high vocal abilities. Mr C. Stephenson reappeared in the song "The white squall;" and the part song, "Come where my love lies dreaming," which was contributed in an admirable way by Messrs Stephenson, Davison, Anderson, and Surtees, completed the programme. The vicar, on behalf of the promoters, tendered his warmest thanks to all who had rendered assistance, especially the friends from Consett and Blackhill, and the vote was carried by acclamation. The singing of the "National Anthem" closed the proceedings. The amount realised will be devoted to the school funds. The entertainment may be regarded in every respect as a brilliant success.

COUNTY COURT FIXTURES.

His Honour E. J. Meynell, Judge of Circuit No. 2, has appointed County Courts to be held at the following hours and places during the next six months:—

Consett.—Wednesdays, Jan. 5th, Feb. 2nd, March 2nd, April 13th, May 14th, and June 8th, at 10 a.m.

Wolsingham.—Saturdays, Feb. 5th, April 16th, and June 11th, at 11 a.m.

Durham.—Mondays and Tuesdays, Jan. 17th and 18th, Feb. 14th and 15th, April 18th and 19th, May 9th and 10th, and June 20th and 21st, at 10 a.m.

His Honour Judge Holl has ordered Courts to be held at:—

Gateshead.—Tuesdays, January 11th, Feb. 12th, March 8th, April 19th, May 17th, and June 7th, at 10 a.m.

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

STATIONS.		WEEK DAYS.					
	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NWCASTLE Dep.	6·10	9·40	11·0	12·20	2·38	5·30	7·30
Scotswood ,,	6·17	9·47	11·7	12·27	2·37	5·37	7·37
Swalwell ,,	6·24	9·54	11·14	12·34	2·43	5·42	7·44
Rowlands Gill ,,	6·34	10·4	11·24	12·44	2·52	5·51	7·54
Lintz Green ,,	6·40	10·1[illegible]	11·30	12·50	2·59	5·57	8·0
Ebchester ,,	6·53	10·20	11·40	1·0	3·12	6·6	8·13
Shotley Bridge ,,	6·59	10·24	11·44	1·4	3·18	6·10	8·19
CONSETT ... Arr.	7·5	10·30	11·50	1·10	3·23	6·15	8·25
CONSETT Dep.	7·10	10·32	...	1·12	3·25	6·33	...
Knitsley ,,	7·21	10·43	...	1·23	3·36	6·44	...
Lanchester ,,	7·30	10·53	...	1·32	3·45	6·53	...
Witton Gilbert ,,	7·38	11·1	...	1·40	3·53	7·1	...
Aldin Grange ,,	7·45	11·9	...	1·47	4·0	7·9	...
DURHAM ... Arr.	7·50	11·15	...	1·52	4·5	7·15	...
	A.M.		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
DURHAM . Dep.	7·25	...	11·45	2·35	...	5·25	8.10
Aldin Grange ,,	7·32	...	11·52	2·41	...	5·32	8·17
Witton Gilbert ,,	7·40	...	12·0	2·48	...	5·40	8·25
Lanchester ,,	7·50	...	12·10	2·58	...	5·50	8·35
Knitsley ,,	8·2	...	12·20	3·8	...	6·0	8·45
CONSETT ... Arr.	8·12	...	12·30	3·18	...	6·10	8·55
CONSETT ... Dep.	8·15	9·10	12·33	3·25	...	6·15	9·2
Shotley Bridge ,,	8·20	9·15	12·38	3·30	...	6·19	9·7
Ebchester ,,	8·24	9·19	12·42	3·34	...	6·23	9·12
Lintz Green ,,	8·34	9·29	12·50	3·44	...	6·32	9·22
Rowlands Gill ,,	8·39	9·34	12·55	3·50	...	6·36	9·28
Swalwell ,,	8·47	9·42	1·3	3·57	...	6·41	9·36
Scotswood ,,	8·54	9·49	1·9	4·4	...	6·48	9·43
NEWCASTLE Ar	9·5	10·0	1·20	4·15	...	7·0	9·53

SUNDAYS.

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE ...	7·30	7·20	CONSETT ... dep.	8·35	8·20
Scotswood	7·37	7·27	Shotley Bridge ...	8·40	8·25
Swalwell	7·44	7·34	Ebchester	8·44	8·29
Rowlands Gill	7·54	7·44	Lintz Green	8·54	8·39
Lintz Green	8·0	7·50	Rowlands Gill	8·59	8·44
Ebchester	8·13	8·0	Swalwell	9·8	8·53
Shotley Bridge	8·19	8·4	Scotswood	9·14	8·59
CONSETT ... arr.	8·25	8·10	NEWCASTLE ar.	9·25	9·10

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.
NEWCASTLE ..	7·10	4·15	DURHAM ...dep.	7·55
Scotswood	7·17	4·22	Aldin Grange	8·1
Swalwell	7·24	4·29	Witton Gilbert ...	8·9
Rowlands Gill	7·34	4·40	Lanchester	8·20
Lintz Green	7·40	4·46	Knitsley	8·32
Ebchester	7·53	4·59	CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8·45
Shotley Bridge	7·59	5·5	d	8·50
CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8·5	5·12	Shotley Bridge ...	8·55
d	9·20	...	Ebchester	8·59
Knitsley	9·32	...	Lintz Green	9·9
Lanchester	9·41	...	Rowlands Gill	9·15
Witton Gilbert ...	9·50	...	Swalwell	9·22
Aldin Grange ...	9.59	...	Scotswood	9·29
DURHAM ... arr	10·5	...	NEWCASTLE dp	9·40

SALTBURN, STOCKTON, & DARLINGTON BRANCH

STATIONS.			WEEK DAYS.				
	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASLE dep.	...	6·10	...	...	12·20	...	5·30
CONSETT	...	8·20	...	...	2·0	...	6·20
Rowley	...	8·30	...	...	2·10	...	6·29
Burnhill	...	8·40	...	...	2·20	...	6·38
Tow Law	7.20	8·53	...	...	2·33	...	6·51
CROOK ... arr.	7·32	9·5	...	...	2·45	...	7·3
dep.	7·35	9·7	11·23	1·5	2·52	5·30	7·18
Bishop Auckland	8·0	9·31	11·43	1·29	3·12	6·3	7·32
Darlington	8·30	10·0	12·10	2·0	3·50	6·45	8·5
Stockton	8·56	10·21	12·40	2·29	4·18	7·18	8·32
Middlesbro'	9·5	10·41	12·50	2·38	4·25	7·31	8·51
SALTBURN	10·10	11·15	1·25	3·12	5·2	8·5	[illegible]

STATIONS.			WEEK DAYS.				
	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
SALTBURN dp.	5·50	8·5	9·52	...	1·4[illegible]	[illegible]	5·40
Middlesbro'	6·27	8·40	10·25	12·50	[illegible]	[illegible]·13	6·15
Stockton	6·37	8·48	10·32	12·57	[illegible]	4·26	6·22
Darlington	7·20	9·20	10·55	1·30	[illegible]	5·5	7·20
Bishop Auckland	7·49	9·45	11·21	1·58	[illegible]	5·33	7·46
CROOK ... arr.	8·10	10·6	11·42	2·16	[illegible]·47	5·55	8·10
,, ... dep.	8·13	...	11·49	[illegible]	...	6·0	...
Tow Law	8·25	...	...	[illegible]	...	6·15	...
Burnhill	8·40	...	...	2·45	...	6·30	...
Rowley	8·50	...	...	2·55	...	6·40	...
CONSETT ... arr.	9·0	...	...	3·5	...	6·50	...
NEWCASTLE ...	10·0	...	[illegible]	4·15	...	9·53	...

For a wonder, a bank president left a New Jersey town the other day, for ever, without taking a cent of the bank's money with him. He died.

"This beer is beastly bad to-night." "Beastly bad! Whatcher mean? No beer's bad; some is better nor others; but I never tasted none as was bad."

In Colorado, when a boy shows unusual cleverness at drinking and gambling, folks begin to be good to him, as they regard him as a coming Senator.

"Have I not offered you every advantage?" said a doting father to his son. "Oh, yes," replied the youth: "but I could not think of taking advantage of my father."

An Irishman, who had on a very ragged coat was asked of what stuff it was made. "Bedad! I don't know," said he: "but I think the most of it is made of fresh air."

"No idiot," said Fenderson, "was ever bald-headed." "That's generalizing," replied Fogg. "We know you are not bald-headed, Fenderson, but [illegible] don't [illegible]."

LANCHESTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting took place yesterday (Thursday) morning, under the presidency of Mr J. Buckham.—The following report was read:—

To the Chairman and Members of the School Attendance Committee of Lanchester Union.

GENTLEMEN,—Since my last report 476 absentee visits have been made in your district, viz:—108 in Tanfield, 126 in Consett and Knitsley, 9 in Ebchester, 69 in Lanchester, 36 in Esh, 18 in Cornsay, 72 in Iveston, and 29 in Hedleyhope. Eleven notices to attend school have been served at Consett, 4 at Lanchester, 5 at Leadgate, 3 at Stanley, 5 at Burnhope, and 3 at East Hedleyhope. One has been served at Tanfield, 1 at Tanfield Lea, 1 at Quebec, 1 at Pickering Nook, 1 at Hobson, 1 at Barcus Close, 1 at Maiden Law, and 1 at Broomhill; total, 39. John Davison, of West Stanley; John Hardy, Havanna; John Daley, Holmside; Wm. Hamilton and Matthew Liddle, Burnhope; John Johnson, South Moor; Joseph Dinnick, William Gregory, Thomas Boyle, and James McGee, Consett; Joseph Gibson, Delves Lane; and Michael Hynes, Crookhall, have been summoned for failing to send their children regularly to school. The first six cases were heard at Lanchester, on the 9th inst., and the remainder at Consett on the 13th inst., with the following results:—Davison, Hardy, Daley, Boyle, and Hynes were fined 5s each; and Hamilton and Johnson 2s 6d each. Liddle was fined 3s, and attendance orders were made in each of the other cases (that on McGee being under Section 11 of the Act of 1876).

The children who have been habitually absent on Fridays are receiving my special attention.

The attendance at East Hedleyhope School has, in a short time, fallen 20 per cent.

Owing to the prevalence of measles, Cornsay Colliery School was closed on the 10th inst. for a month.

Twenty-three cases, embracing 36 children, are entered in the report book to be laid before you.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WARD.

Iveston, December 29th, 1886.

LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting was held at Lanchester yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, under the chairship of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P.—The following is the medical officer's report:—

To the members of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board.

GENTLEMEN,—At the date of my last report, four patients were still in the hospital. Since then, one only, viz: Sarah McIver, from 6, West Row, Blackhill, has been admitted on December 7th, suffering from scarlet fever. Of the four then remaining, three, viz: John Million, Elizabeth Wright, and Ernest Frederick Davison, have been dismissed cured. The fourth, Susannah Tooner, after having apparently recovered from a most serious attack of scarlet fever, subsequently developed inflammation of the coverings of the brain, from which she died on December 12th. In connection with this death, the necessity for a screen or screens to surround the bed and isolate it from the rest, was painfully apparent.

There now remains in the hospital, one patient, viz: Sarah McIver.

As there seems to have been some misunderstanding relative to the time Bell has had to devote to necessary duties at the hospital, I beg to state that, at my request, he has assisted in the nursing, &c., from August 16th to September 10th; from October 12th to November 16th; and from November 20th to December 12th. I have been perfectly satisfied with the manner in which the work of the hospital has been performed.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Blackhill, Dec. 29th, 1886. GEO. RENTON, M.D.

—It was decided to allow the caretaker £3 for extra services performed in nursing at the infectious hospital while the fever was epidemic last October.—Mr Collinson reported that the Consett Parliamentary Debating Society had presented two water bottles and glasses to the Leadgate Infectious Hospital, and a vote thanks was passed to the donors.—A long conversation ensued regarding the charges to be made for the treatment of patients in the Institution, but no proposals of a definite character were arrived at.—This concluded the business.

NEWBOTTLE.—The 17th annual treat was given to the whole of the old people and others receiving outdoor relief in Newbottle, Philadelphia, Sunniside, and other places, in the parish of Newbottle, on Thursday se'nnight. The meeting was held in the Board Schoolroom, Newbottle. Tea was on the tables at three o'clock, and presided over by the following ladies, viz:—Mrs Lishman, Mrs Young, Mrs Brodrick, and Mrs Wardle. After tea, each guest received a piece of meat and a packet of tea and sugar.

CONSETT LIVERY STABLES.
T. C. RAWES & Co.,
PROPRIETORS.
All Horses and Carriages of every description for Hire.
HEARSES & MOURNING COACHES.
UNDERTAKERS AND FUNERAL FURNISHERS.
228w

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

TOW LAW.—Station House, 24th inst., the wife of John Dodd, of a son.

RYTON-ON-TYNE.—Hedgefield House, 21st inst., the wife of John Bell Simpson, J.P., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

WOLSINGHAM.—At the Register Office, 18th inst., Mr George McMillan to Miss Jane Bostock, both of Rookhope.

OAKLAND.—Nov. 24th, Nicholas Wilson, son of Thos. Wilson, of Blackhill, to Jennie M. Anderson, daughter of the late Robert Anderson, Esq., Pittsburg, America.

DEATHS

CONSETT.—10, Mount Pleasant (the residence of her sister, Mrs Lamb), 10th inst., aged [illegible], Miss Mary Hogg.

[illegible] Office Place, on the 29th inst., aged 76 years, Joseph Cuthbertson, blastfurnace manager. Deeply lamented. Interment at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Sunday, January 2nd, at 3 o'clock. Friends, please accept this intimation. 229

BLACKHILL.—36, Roger Street, 25th inst., aged 5[illegible], Hannah, wife of Joseph Brodie.

LEADGATE.—St. Ives Road, 24th inst., aged 84, [illegible] Noble, grocer.

DERWENTCOTE.—23rd inst., Hannah, wife of John Turnbull.

MILKWELL BURN.—(At the residence of her son-in-law, Thomas Wheatley), aged 72, Ann, widow of the late Wm. Jewett, Stargate.

BURNOPFIELD.—At the residence of his mother, 25th inst., aged 33, John March.

STANLEY.—25th inst., aged 16 years, Esther, youngest daughter of Geo. and late Catherine Sanderson.

BLAYDON-ON-TYNE.—(At the residence of her son-in-law), 25th inst., in her 78th year, suddenly, Hannah Thompson.

GREENSIDE.—27th inst., aged 10 months, Beatrice Emma Dunn, infant daughter of Geo. Greener.

CORNSAY.—24th inst., aged 92, John Bowman, market gardener.

WYLAM-ON-TYNE.—Blue Bell, 26th inst., aged 85, Elizabeth, wife of George Wilson, late of Wylam Wood.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—29th inst., aged 26, John Wm. Hope.

MOURNING GOODS.—HUGH MORTON and CO., 55, Grainger Street, Newcastle, directs attention to their Immense Stock for Men, Youths and Boys, ready for immediate wear, in all the Newest Materials and Latest Styles. Men's Black Worsted Suits, from 21s. to 42s. [illegible]d.; Youths' Suits, from 16s. 11d.; Boys' Suits, from 6s. 11d. Single Garments at proportionate prices. Suits made to order in a few hours. 94w

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

Printed and Published by [illegible], at the [illegible] Printing Works, [illegible], Front Street, Consett.—Friday, December 31st, 1886.