The Consett Chronicle

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM ADVERTISER.

NO 107, VOL. 3. [REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.] FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1897. PRICE. ONE PENNY WEEKLY.

Business Announcements.

NATHAN ELSDON,
MINERAL WATER MANUFACTURER,
ALE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
AND GENERAL AUCTIONEER,

THANKS his friends for past patronage, and, in soliciting a continuance of their confidence, assures them that it will always be his endeavour to give them the utmost satisfaction in all Branches of his Business.

SALES CONDUCTED ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS.

OFFICE:—DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

FOR GOOD VALUE IN HOME-MADE FURNITURE BEST SHEFFIELD CUTLERY, and SILVER-PLATED GOODS, try

JOHN LOWES,
JOHN STREET SQUARE, CONSETT
(Back of British School, Medomsley Road).
The House for Musical Instruments by Best Makers.
PIANOS BY PFEIFFER, STRAUSS, LANGE, &c.
AMERICAN ORGANS BY STERLING.
MELODEONS from 4s. 6d. upwards.
A Large and Varied Stock of WALLPAPERS.

Five Minutes Walk from Consett Station.

JOHN T. WESTON, JUNR.,
Auctioneer and Commission Agent,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND ESTATE AGENT.

SALES CONDUCTED WITH CARE, EFFICIENCY, and on the most REASONABLE TERMS.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ENQUIRIES INVITED.

PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

Sale Office:
CORNWALL HOUSE, ANNFIELD PLACE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.

JACKSON GREEN,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER AND COMMISSION AGENT,
SATLEY, TOW LAW.
FURNITURE, STOCK, AND ALL CLASSES OF SALES TAKEN.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

PAINTS, OILS, AND COLOURS.

GEO. PATTRICK,
CHEMIST, SEEDSMAN, WINE MERCHANT,
5, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
IS THE CHEAPEST HOUSE IN THE DISTRICT.

Paints, own make, 4d per lb, 4s per stone. All colours.
Tin Paints, 4d. per lb.
Varnishes, oak, 1s 6d; carriage, 2s; mahogany, 2s; Japan, 2s.
French Polish, 2s; Knotting, 1s 6d.
Brush Polish, 2s. All per pint.
All kinds of Stains, 6d. per bott [illegible] 1s. 5d.
Aspinall's Enamels, 6d.
Dry Colours, blue and green 4d. per lb; red, yellow, and brown, 2d. per lb.
Paris White, 1s. per stone.
Brushes, Size, and all other Goods at Cheapest Rates.

ROBERT STOKER,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT.

FURNITURE, STOCK, and all Classes of SALES Solicited.

CLIENTS WILL RECEIVE EVERY ATTENTION.

VERY GOOD & VERY CHEAP ARE THE

BOOTS & SHOES

AT

FAWCETT'S,
WHITE-LE-HEAD.

A Large Variety Always in Stock.

SIX GOLD MEDALS AWARDED, 1896-97.

KER'S ALE The Beverage of the Future.
KER'S ALE Purely Hop Bittered.
KER'S ALE Non-Alcoholic.

Contains all the Tonic and Refreshing Qualities of Beer.

Can only be had from the Brewers, J. KERSHAW and SONS. We can now supply the Public with our Gold Medal Mineral Waters—

Fermented Stone Ginger	"Verdo"
Dandelion Stout	Syphons Soda Water
Champagne Cider	" Potass Water
Jubilee Drink	&c., &c.

LEMONADE, &c., &c.
Awarded Six Gold Medals for PURITY, CLEANLINESS, and QUALITY.
Can be had from the Makers—

KERSHAW & SONS,
PLANTATION STREET, LEADGATE, AND GATESHEAD.

MARTIN BECK.
BILLPOSTER,
21, RAMSEY STREET, STANLEY,
GOOD PRIVATE STATIONS.

NEW LAUNDRY
FOR THE CONSETT DISTRICT.

THE CHESTER-LE-STREET STEAM LAUNDRY COMPANY have OPENED an AGENCY for CONSETT and DISTRICT.

AGENT:—MR. J. COCKBURN,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

PARCELS FORWARDED WEEKLY.

To post your bills
Just take the train,
See GEORGE MCNEAL
At Annfield Plain.

GEORGE MCNEAL,
BILLPOSTER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN AND WEST STANLEY,
CO. DURHAM.

JOSEPH ROBINSON,
DISPENSING & FAMILY CHEMIST,
STANLEY and ANNFIELD PLAIN,
Directs attention to his seasonable supply of
PURE DRUGS and CHEMICALS.
PERFUMERY.
ÆRATED WATERS.
HORSE and CATTLE MEDICINES.
SHEEP DIPS, &c.

Agent for Glendenning's Beef & Malt Wine.

ROBINSON'S LUMBAGO PILLS
The Surest Remedy for Lumbago, Sciatica, &c.

TRY ROBINSON'S CIGARS.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY'S

ESTABLISHMENTS

AT

CONSETT,
BLACKHILL,
LEADGATE,
STANLEY VILLA,
AYNSLEY'S BUILDINGS,
WEST STANLEY,
AND
BLACKHALL MILL,

ARE REPLETE WITH AN

Assortment of Suitable Goods

FOR THE

FESTIVE SEASON,

Second to None in the County,

COMPRISING A CHOICE SELECTION OF

CHRISTMAS CHEESE:

	Per Pound. s.	d.
Prize Medal Cheshire		10
Finest Gloucester		9
Wensleydale Flat		9
Wensleydale Stilton		10
English Stilton	1	3
Choicest Gorgonzola		9
Cream Edams		6
Finest Gouda		6

Finest American, 5½d., 6d., & 7d.

Hams for the Season:

PERFECT HAMS, Sweet and Mild, about 9 and 10 Pounds,
Fivepence-Halfpenny per Pound.
Boned and Rolled, Halfpenny per Pound Extra.

Bacon:

Wiltshire Smoked, Irish, Cumberland, and Selected American.
Cooked Hams, 1s. per Pound.

CAMBRIDGE & GERMAN SAUSAGE.

Choicest Pure Lard, 4d. per Pound.
English Lard, 5d. per Pound.
Danish Butter, 1s. 1d. per Pound.
Choicest Butter, 1s. per Pound.
Margarines, 4d., 6d., and 8d. per Pound

CAKES:

A Large Assortment. Over Twenty Kinds to Choose from, including the Royal Chelsea, 6d., 8d., 10d., and 1s.
Very like Home Made.

Huntley and Palmer's Reading Biscuits. A Good Selection.

Bread and Pastry of every Description.

ROWNTREE'S CHOCOLATES,

7d per Qr., or 4s. per 2lb. Box.

FLOUR:

FAMILY PRIDE, 1s. 10d. per Stone.
Makes Perfect Pastry.
Seatree's Health Meal, 11d. per 7lb Bag.

Prunes, Dates, Muscatels, Figs, Almonds, and Tinned Fruits of Every Kind.

See WINE LIST.

Christmas, 1897.

JOSEPH MURRAY,

Wholesale and Retail Grocer,
Flour, Provision, and Wine Merchant,
CONSETT, HIGH SPEN, & CRAGHEAD.

IN presenting our Christmas List of Goods for the Festive Season, we respectfully desire to thank our numerous patrons for their kind support and liberality through the previous years. Our aim in the future, as in the past, will be to give value for money, and by buying in the best markets on the best terms, we can claim our goods to be as cheap, if not cheaper, than any establishment in the district. Customers may rely on being carefully and attentively attended to, and, by having good stocks to select from, we feel sure that our already extensive trade will be still further advanced and developed in the future, to the advantage of all. Orders by post or otherwise carefully attended to, and goods delivered over the district.

CAKES.

We have a Splendid Stock of Iced and Ornamented Cakes, &c. We make Slab Cakes a speciality, and are prepared to quote for any quantity, and guarantee the quality. Splendid lines in Fruit, Rice, Seed, Sultana, Cherry, &c., &c.

BISCUITS.

From the best makers: Huntley and Palmer's, Peek, Frean, and Co., Jacob and Co., Walker and Co., Powell and Co., &c., &c. Special Lines in Fancy Tins of Biscuits from 6d upwards.

CHOCOLATES.

We have a very nice assortment of Fry's Fancy Boxes, at all prices, and a large variety of loose Chocolates from all makers, at lowest prices.

FRUITS, &c.

We have a first-class selection. Currants cleaned and packed in cardboard packets, ready for use. Splendid new Valencia and Sultana Raisins. A few old Valencias, in good condition, to clear out at 2½d per lb. Muscatels, "the very choicest," in clusters, Lemon, Orange, and Citron Peels, Jordan and Valencia Almonds, Apples, Oranges, Figs, Prunes, Dates; Barcelona, Brazil, and Walnuts; Table Jellies, &c., &c.

PROVISIONS.

"We are noted for choice PROVISIONS." In Provisions of every description our selection is of the finest, and at prices that are bound to draw the attention of buyers who require a really good article at a moderate price. See the windows for Choice Cuts, and then buy; you won't regret it.

Cumberland, Smoked Wiltshire, Irish Rolls, Square Shoulders, Rolled Shoulders, Cumberland Cut, Sides; Hams from 5½d per lb., and a special line in dainty little Hams at 6d per lb.

BUTTERS, PAIL AND BLADDER LARD.—We guarantee to be pure, and of the finest quality. Our finest Danish Butter is simply [illegible]n.

[illegible]orgonzola, Gouda, Edam, Cotherstone, [illegible]nd American Cheeses at all prices, from [illegible]

[illegible]HIRE CHEESE.—We have secured a very rich Prize Dairy Cheshire Cheese, [illegible]e would recommend to those who like a good Cheshire. 10d per lb.

[illegible]'s Refined Beef Suet, Tinned Beefs, [illegible], Lobsters, Salmon, Pressed Tongue 1s [illegible] Potted Chicken and Tongue, and other Plumtree's Potted Meats, Pickles, Sauces, [illegible] Bottles Pickles, 1s 3d per bottle.

[illegible] line in 3-gill Bottles Worcester Sauce, [illegible]ottle.

[illegible] line in 3-gill Bottles Capt. Currie's [illegible]d per bottle.

TEAS. COFFEES. COCOAS.

Splendid Value in Teas, from 1s 2d per lb. Our 1s 10d Tea is a Speciality, and cannot be beaten at the money. Our 2s 6d "Tiger Brand" Pure Ceylon, is a Tea which will please the most particular.

With our 2s 6d Presentation Blend, we are giving splendid presents, both useful and ornamental, consisting of Cases of Carvers, Cases of Knives and Forks, Spoons, Ladies' and Gent's Watches, Clocks, Striking Clocks, Opera Glasses, Barometers, Nickel Silver Teapots, Bronze Ornaments, &c., &c. N.B.—This Tea and Presents show the most exceptional value ever offered to the public, and are not to be beaten in any shop in the district.

Fresh Ground Coffee. Coffee mixed with finest Chicory.

Dr. Tibble's Vi-Cocoa. Fry's, Van Houten's, Suchard's, Cadbury's, and Sirius Cocoas.

FLOURS.

Our selection of Flours is tip-top, as we only buy from the most noted Makers by the Patent Process, and at cheap prices, considering the advances.

Whole Meal in ½ and ¼ stone Bags.

English and Scotch Oatmeals. Quaker Oats.

"Union Jack" Rolled Scotch Oats.

Bran, Baxings, Cakes, and all Feeding Stuffs, at lowest market prices. Prices on application.

SWEETS.

Bottled Sweets, Box Sweets, ¼d, ½d, and 1d lines for retailers, at wholesale prices; Cokernut, Scotch, a real treat.

TOBACCO.

R. Sinclair's Golden Twist Tobaccos. Packet Tobaccos of all kinds. Cigars and Cigarettes.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN WINES.

British Wines — Port, Sherry, Ginger, Rasp, Raisin, Tent, Cowslip, &c., 1s per bottle.
Foreign Port Wines, 1s 4d, 1s 8d, 2s 1d, 2s 6d, and 3s per bottle.
Fine Old Tawny Port, 3s 6d per bottle.
Foreign Sherry Wine, 1s 4d, 1s 8d, 2s 1d, 2s 6d, and 3s per bottle.
Clarets, 1s 4d and 1s 6d per bottle.
Champagne, [illegible] per bottle.
Burgundy, "Oomoo" Brand, 2s per flagon. (Flagon 6d, returnable.)
Glendenning's Beef and Malt Wine, 3s 9d and 2s per bottle.
Glendenning's Invalid Port, 3s per bottle.
Glendenning's Cocoa Wine, 3s 9d large bottle.

Syphons of Soda, Potass, and Lemonade.

A SPECIAL LINE IN 1-lb. JARS MINCEMEAT, 6d PER JAR—LIKE HOME MADE.

JOSEPH MURRAY,
Consett, High Spen, and Craghead.

A RECORD SEASON IN A RECORD REIGN.

JAMES DALY & CO.,

RETURN Thanks to the many Thousands of kind Friends who this Season have entrusted them with their esteemed Orders, and respectfully beg to draw the Attention of the inhabitants of Consett and surrounding District, to their large and carefully Selected Stock of Flour, Groceries, Provisions, Ales, Wines, and Spirits, for XMAS and NEW YEAR, at very lowest possible prices.

Our Celebrated Yorkshire Flour is still to the front. Increasing Sales of Tons Monthly testify that it stands A1 on the Market.

PURE CEYLON TEA,

AT 1s, 1s 4d, 1s 6d, 1s 8d, and 2s per lb. Finest obtainable, 2s 6d.

SUGARS:—Moist, Crystals, Castor, Lump, &c., from 1½d to 2d per lb.

Currants, Raisins, Spices, Candied Peel, Almonds, Jam, Marmalade, Tinned Meats, Tinned Fruits, &c., in great variety at Lowest Prices.

BACON AND HAM:

DALY'S BREAKFAST BACON and BELFAST ROLL cannot be equalled.

A Choice Selection of HAMS, ROLLS, and SHOULDERS.

CHEESES:

Dutch, Edam, American, Cheshire, Wensleydale, Gorgonzola, &c., in Prime Condition for Christmas and New Year Trade.

Pure DANISH and IRISH BUTTERS, MARGARINE, and Mixtures.

We are the Proprietors of the Celebrated "DREAMLAND" Bland, the Cream of Scotch Whiskey; also "FAIRYLAND," or Irish Cream, and we are the Sole Wholesale Agents in this District for the "ROYAL" Blend, as supplied to the Prince of Wales. COLERAINE—Pure Malt as supplied to the House of Commons, and John Jameson and Sons' Famous

OLD IRISH WHISKEY.

IRISH WHISKEY.

	Per Bottle.
Fine Irish	2s 0d
Old Malt Irish	2s 3d
Kinker, Greer and Co's	2s 6d
Dunvilles' V.R.	3s 0d
Fairyland (10 Years Old)	3s 2d
Coleraine (Pure Malt)	3s 6d
John Jameson and Sons	3s 6d

Quarts at 3s, 3s 6d, 4s, and 4s 6d.

SCOTCH WHISKEY.

	Per Bottle.
Good Scotch	2s 0d
Old Matured Scotch	2s 3d
Old Highland	2s 6d
Renowned Highland	3s 0d
Roderick Dhu	3s 0d
Old Glenlivit	3s 0d
Glenadam (8 Years Old)	3s 2d
Dreamland (10 years Old)	3s 2d
Robinson's Strathvegan	3s 4d
Royal Blend	3s 6d

QUARTS at 3s, 3s 6d, 4s, and 4s 6d.

BRANDY.

	Per Bottle.
Fine Brandy	3s 6d
Old Do.	4s 0d
Very Old Vintage Brandy	4s 6d
30 Years' Old Vintage Brandy	6s 6d

CHAMPAGNE AND OTHER WINES.

GIN.

	Per Bottle.
Good Gin	1s 9d
London Gin	2s 0d
Special Gin	2s 6d
Extra Special Gin	2s 9d
Holland's Gin	2s 9d
Old Holland's Gin	3s 0d

Quarts, 3s and 3s 6d.

RUM.

	Per Bottle.
Good Rum	2s 0d
Old Jamaica Rum	2s 6d
Very Old Jamaica Rum	3s 0d

Special Rum, 3s and 3s 6d per quart.

BURGUNDY WINE.

Emu Brand, 2s per flagon.

PORT WINE.

Spanish Port, 1s, 1s 3d, and 1s 6d per bottle.
Fine Old Port, 2s per bottle.
Very Fine Old Port, 2s 6d per bottle.
Extra Special Port, 3s per bottle.
SHERRY WINE, 1s 6d, 1s 9d, 2s, and 2s 6d per bottle.
CLARET, 1s 3d, 1s 9d, and 2s per bottle.
GINGER WINE, 1s and 1s 3d per bottle.

Agents for VAUX'S PALE ALES and Highly Nourishing STOUT. Pints, 2s 9d per dozen; Gills, 1s 9d per dozen.

ALLSOPP'S ALES AND STOUTS, 2s 6d per dozen pints.

MELVIN'S ALE, in casks of 9 Gallons, from 8s each.

MCEWAN AND YOUNGER'S ALES on Draught.

FOR DETAIL PRICE LISTS, APPLY TO

JAMES DALY & CO.,
2, SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
THE
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER,
VALUER AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
ROYAL AUCTION MART SALE OFFICE,
BENFIELDSIDE.

Appointed by His Honour JUDGE MEYNELL, to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.

THE SUNDERLAND WORKING MENS BUILDING SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1853.

MORTGAGES granted on approved Security. Investments received at 4 per cent. Interest. Ordinary Shares issued, payable by Instalments.

For particulars apply to J. W. [illegible], Ironmonger, Shotley Bridge (Agent in succession to the late Mr Joshua Lax); or to J. W. CAMPBELL, Secretary, Sunderland.

FRED. CABLE,
NEWGATE STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
WHOLESALE
MANUFACTURING TINSMITH.

LARGE STOCK of DAIRY GOODS and MILK BOTTLES, from 1 Gill to 20 Gallons, and all kinds of KITCHEN UTENSILS kept or Made to Order.

BAKERY GOODS Made to Order.

Established 1854. Workshops—130 Haymarket.

FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON,
A SPECIAL LOT OF DELICIOUS

HAMS

At Lowest Market Prices. Best Value for Money at all times, at

G. D. POWELL'S,
CASH PROVISION STORES,
4, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.
Goods delivered anywhere in the district.

JAMES PALLISER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
TEA MERCHANT,
47 & 48, PARK ROAD,
BLACKHILL.

THE NOTED GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS STORES AND FLOUR WAREHOUSE.

JOHN LOWES,
AUCTIONEER & VALUER, STANLEY, R.S.O., Co. Durham.

Valuations effected for Probate. Auction Sales of every description undertaken on most reasonable Terms. RENTS AND DEBTS COLLECTED. Agent for Castle Line Shipping Company, also North British and Mercantile [illegible] for Fire and Life and Ocean Accident Company.

MUSICAL TUITION.

MISS F. L. STELLING, A.L.C.M.,
GIVES LESSONS on the Pianoforte and in Theory. Pupils prepared for Examinations.
Terms on application.
ROGER STREET, BLACKHILL.

VIOLIN PUPILS WANTED.

T. H. WOOD, CONDUCTOR,
NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

FOR TERMS AND PARTICULARS
APPLY 3, FOSTER STREET, DELVES LANE.

M. FAWELL,
GROCER PROVISION MERCHANT, TEA DEALER, AND DRAPER,
FRONT STREET & DELVES LANE,
OPPOSITE THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE" OFFICE.
CONSETT.
VANS CALL IN ALL PARTS OF THE DISTRICT.

LUMLEY'S
IS
THE NOTED SHOP
FOR
CHEAP SUITS.
6, SHERBURN TERRACE,
CONSETT.

MUSICAL TUITION.

GEORGE DRYDEN, A.L.C.M., SILVER MEDALLIST (Organist of Medomsley Church), gives LESSONS on the ORGAN, PIANOFORTE, HARMONIUM, and THEORY OF MUSIC.

G.D. devotes particular attention to the Preparation of Candidates for Examinations, his Pupils having gained over 50 Certificates, including THE SILVER MEDALLIST for 1890; also FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD-CLASS HONOURS IN EVERY GRADE.

TERMS ON APPLICATION.
ADDRESS:—No. 40, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

CARDS! CARDS!! CARDS!!!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS.

FOR above visit ARMSTRONG'S SHOW ROOMS, at Rear of Shop. Splendid Assortment, unequalled in the District.
Note the Address—M. G. ARMSTRONG, West Stanley Post Office.

THE NORTHERN
ACETYLENE GAS & CARBIDE CO.,
ACETYLENE GAS AND LIGHTING ENGINEERS,
79, HIGH BRIDGE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

Sole Agents for Kay's Patent Acetylene Gas Generators.

The only Safe and Reliable Acetylene Gas Generators for the Manufacture of Acetylene Gas on a Commercial Scale.

INSTALLATIONS executed on our System up to any number of Lights.

SPECIAL Acetylene Gas Generators for the Lighting of Towns, Street Lighting, Railway Stations, Collieries, Workhouses, Hotels, Engineering and Boiler Works, Private Mansions, Halls, Schools, &c.

SPECIAL Portable Gas Generators, with or without Acetylene Gas; Wind-proof Arc Lamps for lighting Shipyards, Dockyards, Railway Yards, Contractors' Purposes, Examining and Working Inside of Boilers, Tunnels; Discharging Ships' Cargo, Docks and Wharves.

Complete Catalogues on application.

Christmas Advertisements.

Established in 1868.

T. J. MUSE,
PROVISION MERCHANT, DRAPER, AND GENERAL DEALER,
CASTLESIDE HOUSE, CASTLESIDE,

BEGS respectfully to Thank his numerous Friends and Customers for the grand support that they have been pleased to give him for such a great number of years. He heartily wishes all the Compliments of the Season, and, in hoping for a continuance of their valued and esteemed Orders, he desires to say that he is still determined to supply them with

GOODS OF THE BEST QUALITY,
AND AT THE
CHEAPEST RATE.

BURNOPFIELD.

W. DODDS,
BLACK HORSE INN,

BEGS to return Thanks to his Friends and Customers at Burnopfield and the surrounding neighbourhood, for their kind support, and has much pleasure in wishing them a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Everything in this Establishment is of the Best.

SPARKLING MILD AND BITTER ALES.
Scotch and Irish Whiskies.
PRIME STOUT.

Salter & Salter
6, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

BEG to return Thanks for past patronage and if you want a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—

Keep your Feet Warm and Dry!

TRY OUR

Men's Waterproof Boots,
WARRANTED.

LADIES' BOOTS,
SPECIAL LINES FOR WINTER.

Boys' and Girls' Boots,
FROM 1s 11d

DANCING SHOES, SLIPPERS, GAITERS, LEGGINGS, GOLOSHES, SNOW BOOTS.
USEFUL PRESENTS.

A PICTURE GIVEN TO EVERY PURCHASER ABOVE 4s.

SOUTH MOOR, HOTEL.
THOMAS OXLEY,
Proprietor.

BEGS to announce to the inhabitants of South Moor and District that his New and Commodious Premises are now open, and trusts by constant attention to meet all the requirements of the public generally.

ALES, WINES, AND SPIRITS.
CHOICE TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

WALTER ROCHE,
WHEAT SHEAF INN,

THANKS the Inhabitants of Shotley Bridge and vicinity for their support during his occupancy of the above well-known Hostelry, and hopes for a continuance of the same.

SPLENDID BEERS AND WHISKIES
Of the Finest Blends.

THOMAS JAMES,
MILLINER AND DRAPER,
DURHAM ROAD, WATERHOUSES.

DIRECTS attention to his Christmas Specialities in FANCY GOODS, TOYS, and CHRISTMAS CARDS. GENT.'S HATS, CAPS, and TIES. BOOTS and SHOES in Great Variety.

MRS A. WARD,
BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER,
QUEBEC.

THANKS her Customers for their kind patronage during the time that she has been in business, and invites attention to her

GRAND CHRISTMAS DISPLAY.

REMEMBER!

Walter Willson's

TWENTY-THIRD ORIGINAL
AND
Only Genuine
GREAT ANNUAL
Christmas Sale.

Walter Willson

BEGS to Thank his numerous Customers for their increased Patronage at his well-known Store,

FRONT STREET,
WEST STANLEY.

CROOKGATE, BURNOPFIELD.

WILLIAM CUTHBERTSON,
BUTCHER,

BEGS to inform the Public that if they wish to obtain a Prime Joint of the
BEEF OF OLD ENGLAND
this Christmastide, they are to call at his Shop. Splendid MUTTON and Dairy-Fed PORK.

ESH CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

BUTCHERING DEPARTMENT.

JAMES DAVIS

BEGS to announce that his purchases at the Christmas Sales include 1 of the Frst Prize Black Polled BULLOCKS and 1 of the First Prize Blue Grey HEIFERS from Gateshead Auction Mart; 1 very neat Black Polled BULLOCK, bought from Mr S. Troldohl, Newcastle; 4 West Highland Kyloe HEIFERS, bred and fed by Mr R. Crowe, Cornsay House; 4 Prize Black-faced SHEEP, from Mr Crowe; 5 HOGGS, from Mr John Suddes, Biggen; and 20 Home-fed PIGS.

J. HAMMELL,
DIRECT IMPORTER OF TOYS & FANCY GOODS,
GLASS, CHINA, EARTHENWARE, &c.,
ESH WINNING, NEAR DURHAM.
Wholesale and Retail; Trade Supplied.
13 Cwt. of Dolls already sold this Christmas.

THOMAS PALLISTER,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, LANCHESTER,

THANKS his Customers for the Patronage bestowed upon him during the many years that he has been in business, and begs to solicit an inspection of his

GRAND DISPLAY
OF
PRIME ENGLISH BEEF AND MUTTON.

A. C. HANNING,
PLUMBER & GAS-FITTER,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to tender his hearty Thanks to the people of Consett and neighbourhood for their support, and trusts, by strict attention to business, to ceive a continuance of the same.

"CONSETT CHRONICLE"
PRINTING WORKS.

GEORGE NEASHAM

DESIRES to direct attention to the facilities he now possesses for the Speedy, Accurate, and First-class execution of Every Description of

Letterpress
PRINTING.

The "CHRONICLE" OFFICE

Is one of the finest and most commod us buildings of the kind in the Provinces, and the

LETTERPRESS
DEPARTMENT

Is replete with a Choice and Carefully-selected Stock of

NEW TYPE,

Suitable for the following Classes of Work:—

BALL PROGRAMMES,
MENU CARDS,
WEDDING CARDS,
MEMORIAL CARDS,

PAMPHLETS & BOOKWORK,
FRIENDLY SOCIETY RULE BOOKS,

MEMORANDUM FORMS,
TRADESMEN'S BILL HEADS,
BALANCE SHEETS,

FLOWER SHOW SEHEDULES,
AUCTIONEERS' CATALOGUES
AND
CONDITIONS OF SALE,

SCHOOL AND OTHER REPORTS.

COLLIERY WORK
OF
EVERY DESCRIPTION,
INCLUDING

SPECIAL RULES,
REPORT BOOKS, AND
PAY BILLS,
BALANCE SHEETS.

'CONSETT CHRONICLE'
Printing Works,
NEW STATION ROAD, CONSETT.
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LETTERS to the EDITOR.

As it is desired to make the *Consett Chronicle* a medium for intelligent discussion to its readers, Correspondence is invitec from all who have useful information to communicate. But contributors must distinctly understand that all communications sent will be subject to the Editor's revision, and that all statements of a personal, offensive, or impolite character will be unhesitatingly expunged. Correspondents should always criticise the action or the practice complained of, and not the person whom they consider to be at fault. Communications from working men on matters of public interest are frequently the most valuable, and Correspondence of this class is especially invited. The Editor will most willingly revise the letters of those who favour him with their contributions.

The name and address of the writer must accompany all communications. These will not be given where the writer does not wish his identity to be known; nor will they, in any case or under any circumstances whatever, be given to inquirers. Correspondents replying to letters which have appeared in the *Chronicle*, bearing the names and addresses of the writers, are expected to do so over their *bona-fide* names.

Letters ought to be forwarded as early in the week as possible. Communications of this description will be received up to nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, but on no account can they be inserted if sent after this hour.

FOOTPATH AT CROOKGATE.

SIR,—Allow me a small space in your valuable paper to draw the attention of the members of the Whickham and Tanfield Urban District Councils to the deplorable state of the footpath that runs along the boundary line of the two districts from Crookgate to Raglan Place. The dirty state of the footpath is caused by the water running off the main road from Crookgate and Crook Bank, down a large culvert, which empties itself a short distance down the footpath into an open drain, which soon gets filled up with grass and mud, and the water then runs on to the footpath, which at times is impassible to the public whose duties compel them to use it. Hoping the proper authorities will take the matter up, and make it passible to foot passengers, which will be a boon to many in the district.—I am, yours, &c.,

PRIMUM MOBILE.

Busty Bank, December 24th, 1897.

TRUE MORAL FORCE.

SIR,—With your consent, and impartial dealing with the various questions which engage the public mind, I will express myself, briefly, pertaining to the question termed "Moral Force." A short time ago, I applied for a license for public premises at the Lanchester Brewster Sessions, and was opposed by the Rev. D. W. James, Vicar of Beamish Parish Church, his objection being that my premises were too close to the Church Institute, and that public-houses were a drawback to morals. Now, what I request of the Vicar is this: Are we to understand that fortune-telling by cards, also palmistry, coupled with lotteries at bazaars, are in harmony with, and conducive to, moral force? Those who attended the recent speculation to augment the Church funds know full well that Zingara, the Gipsy fortune-teller, and palmistry, were in operation to entice the young men and maidens to have their fortunes described, which is not tolerated by law, and which is punishable or otherwise. A charge was made, and many patronized it. Lottsries as well were resorted to in order to dispose of trifles in the goods line, although Christians denounce it outside the church walls. I don't write this from prejudice, but to ascertain whether or no moral force is depreciated by their use, especially within the provinces of a Church, which at least ought to embody moral principles and careful discrimination of the tendencies to good and evil. If these things are good when used by churches to raise money, how can they be bad at otlier times, when resorted to by the public? It would seem that the so-called moral force held by the Church has an elastic constitution, which is capable of being expanded to considerable length to suit certain purposes. However, I shall appreciate an explanation of the matter from the Vicar, whose office is to lead the children of men into the paths of righteousness.

THOMAS TURNBULL.

West Stanley.

CONSETT TRADESMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND THE MARKET SCHEME.

DEAR SIR,—I find it somewhat difficult to reply to your article of the 10th inst., referring to my letter of the same date on the above subject, not because it is difficult to understand, as a whole, but because it is not easy to differentiate between the playful and the sedate. You admit your remarks are playful. Well, so they are, and your logic appears to be rather frolicsome, for, in order to prove the wildness of my parallel between a Technical Institute and a covered Market, in the interests of the town itself, you create a probably accepted national enthusiasm in favour of the Technical Institute, and place that in parallel with the good to be derived from a covered Market in Consett. I admit the aggregate national good of Technical Institutes will outweigh the good of a covered Market in Consett alone, but I am not persuaded by your article that our Technical Institute will be so certainly beneficial to the general welfare of the town itself as a covered Market would be. I agree with you most heartily in applauding those gentlemen who are so earnestly working for such an Institution in Consett. But, after nearly forty years' experience in trying to persuade young men to take advantage of the facilities placed within their reach for mental improvement, and seeing so few avail themselves of them, I am bound to confess my faith is not so strong as my hopes with regard to them, because I passed through an enthusiastic period in connection with Mechanics' Institutes many years ago. But this I submit is not the subject in hand; and with reference to my inconsistency with regard to the business capacity of Consett tradesmen, surely it is not inconsistent to suppose a town may grow together with its inhabitants until it needs a Town Hall, and proceeds to grow until it needs a covered Market, without depreciating the efforts of those who gradually built it up; and to say Consett flourished in spite of a Market when there was no Market in competition with it is, to say the least, playful. Permit me to say I am not carried away with the influence and size of the town, or by the scheme for a covered Market. In my letter, I merely stated a fact, namely, that Consett is the most central and important town of the surrounding district, and on that fact based my suggestion that a covered Market would be beneficial. But, if it is to be carried out, in accordance with your playful advice, by mixing up the Guardians and cabbage-mongers with the magistrates and toffee dealers, our respectable members of the Urban Council with the scrap-iron men, &c., I don't wonder that, if this is the way such institutions are conducted in the north, they have been, as you assert, a failure; but Consett, I think, would not so blunder, in spite of such example, but take a wise lesson from other failures by so conducting their Market as to ensure success.—Yours, &c.,

C. WEAVER.

Consett, December 13th, 1897.

GUARDIANS AND BEER.

SIR,—In perusing last week's issue of your interesting paper, I was surprised to come across a paragraph relating to Guardians, Beer, and Good Templars. Your correspondent must have a short memory, for twelve months ago no vote of censure was passed, but it was during the Jubilee festivities that the Good Templars had the boldness to censure. Now, Sir, I am afraid you and others do not fully understand Good Templarism. The Good Templars are not engaged in a sham fight, or in a full dress parade. They are not satisfied with merely repulsing the attacks of the enemy. They are pledged in a life-long battle with the drink traffic, and will accept no compromise. "War to the knife, and the knife to the hilt," was their motto years ago, and is their motto still. Coming to the point, "Stanley Guardians and the Beer Question," your correspondent is very wishful to know what action we will take with reference to the absentees at the Board meeting. Now, I would give your correspondent a little advice—not to try and force upon a society certain methods which they are able to carry out themselves. Whatever we have done in the past as Good Templars and Christian workers against sin and drunkenness, we are still the same in our attitude against strong drink, whether it is used in a Workhouse or out of it; and we don't need your correspondent to urge us on in our work in the manner in which is indicated in the paragraph, knowing full well that he goes heart and soul for the drink traffic and its use in the Workhouse. We regret the action of our Guardians, and will remember them in the future. But, Sir, if there is one thing that I am puzzled about it is professing Christians, local preachers, going in favour of strong drink, another absenting himself, and another being neutral. A Christian who is neutral in the fight against the liquor traffic is either ignorant of the issues at stake, or is not aware that the drink question lies at the bottom of all the great social problems that are claiming attention. Before closing, I would ask those professing Christians to look at their Bibles (Cor., 8th chapter and 13th verse, and Romans, 14th chapter and 21st verse), and then ask themselves the question—"Have I done right in voting?—have I done right in being neutral?—have I done right in staying out of the room?"—Yours faithfully,

GOOD TEMPLAR.

Stanley, Dec. 13th, 1897.

THE FLOGGING OF CRIMINALS.

SIR,—May I call the attention of your readers to a resolution of local interest passed by the Council of the Criminal Law and Prison Reform Department of the Humanitarian League at their last meeting, which is a follows:—

"This Committee, having remarked the presentation made by the Grand Jury at the Durham Autumn Assizes in favour of the extension of corporal punishment in cases of assaults upon women and children, most earnestly protest against any extension whatever of this most brutal and degrading form of punishment."—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.
Wolsingham, R.S.O. Hon. Sec.

CONSETT WESLEYAN CHURCH

SOCIAL GATHERING AND CONCERT.

The annual concert, this year erroneously designated a "symposium," was held in the Schoolroom, on Christmas Day, and was well attended. The commodious room was beautifully decorated with evergreens and mottoes. Festoons of evergreens were flung across the room in various directions, while the platform was ablaze with appropriate embellishments. The Rev. Joseph Bacon presided, and in opening the proceedings, wished them all, in the highest sense of the word, a merry Christmas. He was glad to find so many met together in such pleasant surroundings. Christmas time was associated with a great deal of pleasant social enjoyment, and domestic love was fostered by the re-gathering and re-union of those who had been scattered perhaps throughout the whole of the year. It was also associated with what they might call universal goodwill and charity. He thought if they traced back they would discover that many of the things associated with the Christian festival were altogether heathen in their character, the evergreen decorations having their origin in the early Druids. He also mentioned that revelry and gluttonness and drunkenness were also heathen practices. There were some people who regretted a falling off of this hilarity in England; but so far as he was concerned, if that was what they meant by merry England, he was glad that the change was taking place. They had an opportunity that night of shewing that Christian joy and happiness and cheerfulness were much better things. (Applause.) With regard to the title of that entertainment, he did not know who the genius was who had used the word "symposium." If they went back a little, he thought they would not be pleased with it, for it meant a "drinking together," but he pointed out that recently there had been clerical and other symposiums, at which subjects of interest were discussed, so that if the word in days gone by meant a "drinking together," in these days it might mean a "thinking together." (Applause.)

The musical programme was one of exceptional excellence. A recitation, "The Scottish Lassie," was rendered by Miss Eva Scott in a manner which indicated elocutionary attainments of no mean order. The piece was given with appropriate effect, and was enthusiastically received by the audience. The juvenile choir gave the carol, "Ring, ye gladsome bells," and this item was also given in a manner which elicited the warm commendation of the audience. Mr E. Hurman, violinist of the Royal Academy, was advertised to take part in the concert, but was prevented by illness from fulfilling his engagement. Mr John Swainston contributed two violin solos, and his efforts were very favourably received. Perhaps the boat song by two little mites, Miss H. Davison and Master Holday, was one of the most popular items of the evening. The little couple were shown seated in a boat, and as the very young gentleman rowed his young companion over the laughing waters, the little maiden sang her song very sweetly. The audience were so pleased with this effort that they demanded an encore. The juvenile choir next gave the carol, "O, Angels Bright," in a very pleasing manner. The Maypole exercise, although hardly in keeping with the Christmas season, was performed in a way which showed the great care that had been exercised in the preparation of the little ones. Miss Eva Scott gave a guitar solo, which was very sweetly played, and the same young lady also contributed a solo, "Tyrolese Evening Hymn," in a very pleasing manner. The carol, "I heard the bells on Christmas Day," was given by the children in a highly creditable style. A capable orchestra rendered invaluable service, and Mr R. C. Stilling proved himself a competent conductor. The duties of secretary were carried out with efficiency by Mr J. Lowdon. At the close of the concert supper was served and partaken of by a numerous company. The waiters were:—Miss Jackson, Miss Salisbury, Miss Best, Miss L. Watson, Miss Spedding, Miss Grieveson, Miss M. Lowe, Miss Clement, Miss Carey, Miss Milburn, Miss C. Milburn, Miss Sager, and Miss Holday. The kitchen arrangements were attended to by Miss Dunn, Miss E. Lowrie, Miss Hand, Miss Lamb, Miss Dunn, Miss Grant, Miss Lowes, and Miss Hobday.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the above Board was held at Tanfield, on Tuesday evening, sen., Mr Wood, J.P., presiding. There were also present the Rev. T. H. Archdall, the Rev. James Thompson, Mr M. G. Armstrong, Mr W. Bulmer, Mr B. Mason, Mr J. Green, and Mr W. H. Ritson (Clerk).

The Rev. JAS. THOMPSON drew attention to the case of a teacher at St. Joseph's School, who had been engaged by the Board, remarking that it looked strange that the managers of St. Joseph's School had not been consulted before she was engaged. The Education Department as much as stated that the girl had passed her examination in a most unsatisfactory manner.

The CHAIRMAN: We have never seen the Government report.

Mr THOMPSON thought it was right that the Board should have made inquiries from the proper authorities before deciding to engage the girl. The rev. gentlemen then read the Government report, which stated that the girl was qualified by attainments for a full term of apprenticeship.

The Clerk stated that the girl was now engaged at the Stanley Central School. He had informed the Education Department that the Board required the girl for the Mixed Department.

Mr Meddick reported that the attendances had dropped considerably during the past month, largely owing to the prevalence of whooping cough and measles.

A proposition by the Rev. T. H. Archdall, seconded by Mr B. Mason, to grant Mr Abbott, of Leazes Board School, an allowance for the papering of his house, was carried.

Mr Armstrong proposed that the salary of Miss R. A. Stanford, East Stanley, be increased from £52 10s to £60 per annum.—Mr Archdall seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the discussion which took place at a recent meeting of the Board, and stated that the true circumstances of the case were that he (Mr Wood) had had a meeting with Mr Ward at Causey, and asked him if he would allow the Board to divert the footpath, which had been already approved by the Educational Department. Mr Ward had evidently been accused at the meeting, according to the reports in the newspapers, of having upset something done by the Department. It was not a fact that Mr Ward had objected to plans which had been confirmed by the Department. The Deptrtment approved, and the Board wished for sanction for a deviation, which Mr Ward refused to allow. He simply confirmed what the Education Department had approved. He (Mr Wood) quite agreed with Mr Ward's decision.

A communication was received from Mr Ward, H.M. Inspector, stating that the suggested transference (temporary) of the central class from Tanfield Lea to Tanfield was inexpedient.

An application from the East Stanley Primitive Methodist Society for the use of the East Stanley Board Schools for bazaars on Christmas and New Year's Day, and an opening tea on Jan. 22nd, was granted. The Society gave notice to terminate their possession of the school for public worship, their chapel being nearly completed. The young men connected with the chapel were granted the use of the school for a Sunday class meeting.

STANLEY

SACRED CONCERT AT STANLEY.—A grand sacred concert was given in the Victoria Theatre on Sunday night, by the members of Messrs Gilbert and Neilson's Opera Company. Several selections were rendered by the Company, including "The Hallelujah Chorus," which was most favourably received. Mr T. H. Wood, who is an old favourite with Stanley audiences, sang "The Village Blacksmith" and "Queen of the Earth," in both of which his fine contralto voice was heard to splendid advantage. Mr Fred. Wade, who possesses a sweet tenor voice, sang "The Star of Bethlehem" with great acceptability: but was scarcely so successful in his rendering of "The Holy City." A violin solo, by Mr Hugo Rignold, was very warmly applauded; and the singing of Miss Constance St. Bride was so good as to warrant the hearty encore she received. Messrs Gilbert and Neilson sang "Excelsior" in duet form with great effect.

STANLEY.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—"Forgive us our Trespasses," which has been performed at the Victoria Theatre during the past week, is a piece in which, as may be judged by the title, the pathetic element is strongly in evidence. The leading characters are ably portrayed. The popular Irish drama, "The Wearing of the Green," is to be staged on New Year's Eve.

CHURCH MATTERS.—The Rev. P. Duckworth, the new curate of St. Andrews, has arrived at Stanley. The church was decorated for the Christmas Day services, and the attendances were large, the preachers being the Rev. D. W. James (morning), and the Rev. C. H. Fleetwood (evening). A watch-night service is to be held on Friday evening.

CONCERT.—A concert was given in the Methodist Free Church on Christmas evening by the members of the mission band and other friends. A supper and social followed, the attendances at which were large. The Sunday services were conducted by Mr. Geo. Harris of Stanley; and at the evening service recitations were given by severaly Sunda-school sch o'ars.

ACCIDENT IN THE EAST STANLEY COLLIERY.—A coalhewer named Alex Rowell (32), residing in Joicey Square, was following his employment at the East Stanley Colliery on Tuesday afternoon, when the crossing balk broke, and the pressure on the roof caused the stone to fall, with the result that Mr Rowell was completely buried under about five feet of stone. Efforts were at once commenced to extricate him from his perilous position, though but faint hopes were held out that he would be alive Happily, however, the injuries proved much less serious than had been expected; and on being examined by Dr. Benson, after having been conveyed home, it was found that no bones were broken. Hopes are entertained of a speedy recovery.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—During the past quarter, the sales of the local Society amounted to £41,033 0s 1d, being an increase of £2,840 12s 10½d over the corresponding quarter of last year. The total sales for the year amount to £144,229 13s 1d being an increase of £13,593 6s 8d over the amount taken in 1896. The total number of members is 2,983; and the share capital is £58,339 1s 8d. The net profit for the past quarter is £7,229 12s 11d. It is proposed to issue a dividend of 2s 6d in the pound. The attendances at the committee meetings during the past quarter are as follows:—Wm. Hewison, 20; T. Armstrong, 20; T. W. W. Ritson, 20; Jos. Snow, 20; Wm. H. Kelly, 20; N. Yarrow, 20; Henry Mudd, 20; Wm. Simpson, 19; Robt. Reed, 19; John Curry, 14; and Edward Hughes, 6.

THE LODGER ENJOYING HIS CHRISTMAS.—boy named Waugh has hit upon a brilliant method of celebrating the festive season, free of expense to himself; but the result has scarcely been so successful as to encourage other boys to follow his example. It appears that Master Waugh recently secured lodgings at the residence of Mr Matthew Gowland, of No Place, representing himself at the time as being employed at the Louisa Colliery. On Monday last, he returned to his "diggings" with his face well blacked, presumably the marks of honest toil, and informed the good lady of the house that he had been liberated from work earlier than he had expected. He afterwards journeyed to Stanley, and shortly after his departure it was found that a sovereign was missing. Information was conveyed to the Police Station, and ere long Master Waugh was discovered standing in front of Mr Wadge's shop, apparently contemplating the purchase of a quantity of fruit. He was searched, and had in his possession the sum of 19s 1½d, also a new musical instrument. Upon appearing at the Police Court on Tuesday, he was remanded.

PRESBYTERIAN BAZAAR.—The third annual bazaar in connection with the Stanley Presbyterian Church, was held in the West Stanley Board School on Christmas day, and proved a huge success. The bazaar was opened by Dr. Morison of Catchgate, who was accompanied by the Misses Morrison, and who, in the course of his remarks, expressed sympathy with the object of the bazaar. He was glad to find a branch of the Presbyterian Church established in such a thickly populated and rising neighbourhood as West Stanley. As one who had himself come from over the borders, he thought that Presbyterians always carried with them something which made them feel a desire for their own church and their own mode of worship. The stalls were presided over by:—(1) drapery, Mrs Wood, Mrs Laws, and Mrs Morland; (2) toy and stationery, the Misses Crofton, and Miss Brewis; (3) sweets and confectionery, Miss Castle; (4) christmas tree, Mr Wilson and Mr Murphy. A public tea was held during the afternoon, the tables being presided over by Mrs Wilson, Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs Murphy, Mrs Knox, Mrs Robson, and Mrs Eltringham. Musical selections were given by Mr Cull's string band and Mr Wm. Laws, and during the evening an entertainment was held at which selections were given by Mr Cull's band, and songs by Miss L. Welsh, and Miss E. Ritson, Miss D. M. Welsh acting as accompanist. Amongst those present were Mr Wm. Welsh, Holly Terrace; Mr A. Kuhlman; Mr and Mrs D. M. Spence, Hare Law; Mr and Mrs Wood; Mr and Mrs R. Eltringham; Mr and Mrs Laws, Holly Terrace; and Mr Knox. The clubs were successfully worked by Mrs Murphy, and realised over £10. A piano was kindly lent for the occasion by Mr Hartley.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST BAZAAR.—In connection with the East Stanley Primitive Methodist Society, a bazaar was held on Christmas Day, in the Board School, the proceeds, which amounted to the sum of £46 15s 10d, being devoted to the building fund. The Rev. Wm. Gelley, resident minister, opened the bazaar with a racy speech, in the presence of a good company. The stallholders were:—(1) Mrs Summerbell and Mrs Appleby; (2) Mr and Mrs Liddle; (3) Mr and Mrs Anderson; (4) Society Stall, in charge of Mrs Heel and Mrs Curry; (5) Sunday School Stall, in charge of Miss E. Watt and Miss J. Watt; (6) Young Ladies' Stall, in charge of Miss Snaith, Miss E. Shield, Miss A. Yarrow, Miss H. Westgarth, and Miss Whitfield; (7) Sweet Stall, presided over by Mrs Johnson. A tea was provided, to which about 140 sat down. The bread was baked by Mrs Watt, and the spice bread by Miss Ashburn. The tables were presided over by Miss E. Smith, Miss A. Morton, Miss J. Barker, Miss A. Barker, Miss M. Atkinson, and Miss S. J. Anderson. During the course of the proceedings, several interesting selections were given by the Chapel Choir; whilst the galvanic battery in charge of Mr Strachan attracted considerable attention. It may be mentioned that Mr Thomas Waig kindly made ten doormats, which were sold at the bazaar. Amongst the young men subscribers to the bazaar fund were Messrs John Bell, Geo. Harvey, B. Johnson, A. Petty, J. Watt, M. Yarrow, J. M. Liddle, B. Clough, J. Barker, George Hudson, Robert Potter, and Ralph Slater. The lady subscribers included Mrs Whitfield, Mrs W. Johnson, Mrs B. Johnson, Mrs Summerbell, Mrs Liddle, and Mrs Heel. The young lady subscribers included Miss Jane Summerbell, Miss E. Shield, Miss I. Barker, Miss H. Westgarth, Miss E. Watt, Miss I. Snaith, Miss M. Johnson, Miss J. Watt, Miss A. Yarrow, and Miss M. Atkinson.

TEACHERS' SOCIAL.—The second annual social promoted by the pupil teachers employed by the Tanfield School Board, was held on Wednesday evening last, in the Co-operative Hall, Stanley, when about 80 couples spent a highly enjoyable evening. The room was neatly decorated by Mr Bell, of the Co-operative Society, and the refreshment department was in the capable hands of Messrs Murray, of Dipton. Music was provided by Mr Travena's accomplished band, and the M.C.'s were Messrs A. Bolam, R. W. Little, E. S. Dawson, J. A. Hodgson, J. H. Leighton, and J. Wilson. Dancing was commenced about eight o'clock on Wednesday evening, and was kept up right merrily till four o'clock on the following morning. Amongst the company present we noticed Mr and Mrs A. Bolam, Mr and Mrs R. W. Little, Mr and Mrs J. A. Hodgson, Causey; Mr, Mrs, and Miss McKay, Catchgate; Mr Lowe, Holmside; Mr Dixon, Catchgate; Mr and Mrs Hogarth, Burnopfield; Mr and Mrs Smith, Pickering Nook; Miss Storey, Stanley; Miss Davison, Kyo; Miss Davison, Pickering Nook; the Misses Armstrong, White-le-Head; Miss Swinhoe, Stanley; Mr J. H. Leighton, Stanley; Mr E. S. Dawson, Tantobie; Miss Dixon, South Moor; Mr W. Welsh, Mr Thos. Welsh, Miss L. Welsh, and Mr D. M. Welsh, Holly Terrace; Mr Jos. Fairley, Mr Jas. Fairley, and Mr Wm. Fairley, Shaftoe House, Craghead; Mr Davis, Dipton; the Misses Kellett, South Moor; Mr J. T. Castle, Stanley; the Misses Robinson, Barcus Close; Mr W. Forster and Mr J. A. Jones, Stanley; Miss Brown, Miss Sanderson, Mr Geo. Sanderson, Mr H. Green, London; Miss Kelly, Miss Patterson, Mr and Mrs Turnbull, Miss M. J. Shield, Miss C. Shield, Miss Hardy, Miss Gloanding, Mr and Mrs J. T. Bolam, The View; Miss Henderson, Tantobie; Miss Errington, Burnopfield; Mr and Mrs Reay, Mr Dal[illegible] Stanley; Miss Starford, Beamish; Miss Burnip, Miss K. Robson, Mr G. Patterson, Newcastle; Mr W. Aynsley, Stanley; Mr J. Thirlwell, Marley Hill; Mr Harvey, Miss Le[illegible], Pelton; Miss M. Tarbett, Mr Geo. Murray, Dipton; Mr G. Hope, Miss M. Braidford, Leazes; Miss Coulthard, Dipton; and many others.

STANLEY.

A STANLEY WEDDING.—Last week, a wedding was solemnized at the Register Office, Lanchester, between Mr James W. Coulter, of North Shields, and Miss Dorothy Moore, of West Stanley. Mr Wm. Blackburn, of North Shields, acted as best man; and Miss Mary Pickering, of North Shields, was bridesmaid. The bride was dressed in a navy blue costume, trimmed with white silk, and hat to match; and the bridesmaid wore a dress of fawn shot satin, with hat to match. Numerous presents were received, and subsequent to the ceremony, an enjoyable party was held at the residence of the bride's father.

VISIT OF MR WALDRON TO STANLEY.—Mr Waldron, who recently engaged in a public debate at Stanley with Mr Charles Watts, the eminent Secularist, has been revisiting the scene of conflict, and on Sunday last he lectured twice to large audiences, the subjects being "The Devil and Women," and "Does God answer prayer?" Questions were put by Messrs Hall, Nicholson, and Horatio Johnson, but none of the local "searchers after truth" ventured to ascend the platform and cross swords with the lecturer. Mr Waldron had a pretty busy day on Sunday, for in addition to the lectures in question, he conducted morning and evening services in the Oxhill Primitive Methodist Chapel.

MEDOMSLEY.

ENGINEERS' YEARLY FUND DINNER.—The members of the Durham Engineers (Leadgate Branch) held a successful social and dinner on Saturday evening last, at Mr Armstrong's Hat and Feather Inn, Derwent Cottages. The tables were sumptuously spread, and about thirty persons partook of the excellent repast. Mr R. Wilson was elected to the chair, whilst Mr McCue occupied the vice-chair. A most enjoyable evening was spent with toast and song.

MEDOMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.—The monthly meeting of this body was held on Wednesday evening, Councillor H. Palmer, J.P., presiding. The Chairman said that he had waited upon Mr Vasey, with a view to asking him to visit the Council meetings with regard to the telegraphic facilities, and had arranged with him to come to Friday's meeting.—Mr Crawford drew attention to the lighting of Allendale Cottages, stating that the distance between the lamps was too much. After a short discussion, it was agreed to inform the General Purposes Committee, to erect lamps where they thought them necessary.—Mr Armstrong directed attention to the insanitary houses at Derwent Cottages. He had visited the houses during the week, and found that they were unceiled, persons in some instances having to nail wood on to keep the rain from coming in. He moved that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Sanitary Inspector, to have an inspection of the houses.—Mr Milligan seconded, and this was agreed to.

LANCHESTER.

A SUCCESSFUL BENEFIT FUND.—A most enjoyable social evening was spent on Saturday, December 18th, in connection with the Yearly Sick Benefit Fund held at the Black Bull Inn, Lanchester, when members and friends to the number of forty sat down to a supper which was pronounced by one and all an unqualified success, reflecting the greatest credit on the culinary skill and management of the worthy, hard-working hostess, Mrs Littlefair. Very gratifying indeed it must have proved to her and her staff of capable assistants (Mrs Hunter, Misses Wilson, Pallister, and others) to hear the spontaneous outbursts in praise of the cooking and serving as course succeeded course; whilst the artistic decoration of tables and room spoke volumes for the refined taste of the daughter of the house, Miss Lily. After supper, an adjournment was made to the Club-room, where an excellent programme was drawn up. Returning to the long room, Councillor Champney was elected Chairman, with Mr Walton in the vice-chair. A letter was read from Mr Wm. Gray, of Jesmond, regretting his inability to preside, he having to officiate in that capacity the same night for Burnhope, who had a prior claim; but with his widely-known generosity he enclosed a very handsome remittance. Genuine regret was expressed by all present to miss his genial face, and a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded him, his health being also drank with musical honours. The Secretary (Mr Alfred Dixon) then read the balance sheet, showing the gross income for the year, the disbursements in sick relief, and the net amount in the Treasurer's hands, which resulted in 12s being returned per member out of 13s per member paid in for the year. The books and papers relating thereto having been audited and certified correct by Messrs John Raine, F. Blackmur, and W. Wall, the statement of accounts was unanimously passed as eminently satisfactory, a vote of thanks being accorded to the Secretary for the manner in which he had performed his duties. The rest of the evening was spent in harmony, songs being contributed by Mr Tom Pallister (who was in splendid form), Mr Fred. Chinnery and others. That beautiful piece, "Mary Queen of Scots," was given by Mr J. J. Thompson (Clerk to the Parish Council.); "Geogeghan's tournament," by the Secretary; while the Chairman kept everybody in good humour by a running fire of racy remarks on all the proceedings. Twenty new members were enrolled during the evening.

CASTLESIDE.

BONE MILL COMPANY ANNUAL PAY DINNER.—On the evening of the 17th inst., the annual pay dinner was held at Mr E. Wylam's Smelters' Arms Hotel, Castleside, when there was a good company present, including Mr G. Curry, manager; Mr Watson, agent, Stockton; Mr W. W. Hudson, Castle Dean House; Mr S. Temperley, Delves Lane, agent in the surrounding district; Mr Bean, Snods' Edge; Mr Anderson Whitehall; Mr W. Thompson, Sunniside; Mr J. Haughan, Knitsley Grange; Mr George Beveridge, Wharnley Burn; Mr W. Johnson, Delves Lane; Mr E. Wylam, Consett; Mr T. C. Rawes, Consett; Mr J. Walker, Castleside; Mr A. Fewster, Bradley Farm; Mr Parker, Consett; Mr J. Harper, jun., Iveston; and many others. After full justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr Curry was voted to the chair, and a most enjoyable evening was spent with toast and song.

BENEFIT CONCERT.—On the evening of the 18th inst., a successful benefit concert was held in the Board Schools, on behalf of Mr William Davison, of Vine Cottage, Maud Villa, Castleside, who has been unable to follow his employment for upwards of twelve months. Mr Davison has been a hard-working, industrious man, and the number of people who patronised the concert showed evidence of the respect and esteem in which he and his family are held by the villagers and a wide circle of friends. The schools were filled to excess. A few months ago a subscription list was opened by Messrs William Foster and John Rutter, which was heartily supported. The organisers of the above concert were the Stephenson Family, a family widely known for their musical and artistic ability, being assisted by the Ripley Family. The entertainment was presided over by Councillor T. C. Elliott, who in a graceful manner introduced each artiste. A delightful and varied programme was submitted, the artistes rendering their respective parts in a pleasing and effective style, which gained the applause of the large audience. The concert was opened by the noted Castleside Brass Band rendering the march "Mount Washington," under the able leadership of Mr G. Raine, jun. This was followed by the well-balanced singing of the part song, "The Belfry Tower," by Miss Stephenson, Mrs Leithead, Messrs G. Stephenson and J. A. Ripley. The two songs entitled "The Two Cities" and "Queen of the Earth," by Miss Wearmouth, Frosterley, who is the possessor of a fine voice, were sung with much effect. Miss Turnbull, of Stanhope, also sang "The Holy City" and "Sweet Genevieve" very beautifully, she having a sweet voice. Miss Raine, Castleside, who is always a favourite at local concerts, rendered her song, "The Dear Homeland," splendidly. Mrs Leithead excelled in her solo, "Dream of Home;" and the duet by Mrs Leithead and Mr G. Stephenson was also very much appreciated. Mr J. Raine (humourist), Hebburn, sang "Jones' Wedding," "Waiting there for me," "In our backyard," and "Chilly Man" (by request). He was loudly applauded, Mr Raine is a host in himself. The pianoforte solos and duets by Miss Stephenson and Mr J. Bell, Stanhope, were delightful. Each of the last-named lady and gentleman accompanied the different soloists in turn. Mr Bell is a special favourite in the village. Mr G. T. Ripley gave a splendid recitation in an effective manner, named "Smiting the Rock." Last, but not least among the artistes, was Mr Foreman, St. John's, Weardale, violin soloist. He performed his part with such masterly effect, and fairly electrified the audience. A pleasant entertainment was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the organisers, artistes, and chairman, moved by Mr Wm. Pattinson, and seconded by Mr Joseph Proud, and the singing of the National Anthem.

Christmas Advertisements.

A CHOICE ASSORTMENT
OF GOODS
(SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS)
AT
R. C. FORSTER'S
IRISH LINEN WAREHOUSE,
AND
GENERAL DRAPERY, CLOTHING, AND OUTFITTING
ESTABLISHMENTS
11 and 12, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

Pure Linen Cambric HANDKERCHIEFS, at 3½d to 1s. each.

Hemstitched Cambric HANDKERCHIEFS, pure Linen, from 4½d. up.

A Great Variety of Silk Squares, Mufflers, Aprons, Pinafores, &c., bought specially for Christmas.

Dent's GLOVES in the Leading Qualities. A Special Fur Top, lined, Kid Glove, at 1s. 11½d.

Real Irish TWEED SUITS, Men's size, 21s. 6d. up. The best value ever known in Consett.

THE CHEAP CLOTHIER AND PEOPLE'S FRIEND.

CHRISTOPHER LUMLEY,
SHERBURN TERRACE, CONSETT,

EMBRACES the opportunity which the *Consett Chronicle* affords him to Thank his customers for their liberal patronage during the long period of 22 years. He takes credit to himself for being the first to introduce really CHEAP CLOTHING for the Working Classes, and, having given up the Pawnbroking Business, so long carried on by his late father-in-law, Mr Calvert, he is now in a position to devote all his attention to the Ready-made Department.

CLOTHING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
☞ SUITS MADE TO ORDER FROM 25s. UPWARDS

THE RAILWAY INN,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

JOSEPH LUMLEY

DESIRES to thank his Customers for the very encouraging support that he has received during his occupancy of the above Hotel, now upwards of 22 years; and he hopes, by assiduous attention to business, to merit a continuance of public favour and Patronage. He wishes his Friends and Neighbours the compliments of the Season, and begs to intimate that he has provided for their Refreshment and Entertainment during the Festive Season.

SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES
Of the most noted Blends.
SPARKLING BITTER AND MILD ALES.
CHOICE WINES, CIGARS, AND TOBACCO.
Good Stabling.

JOHN HALL AND CO.,
GROCERS, DRAPERS, & TEA DEALERS,
FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN,

TENDER their heartiest Thanks to the people of Annfield Plain and the surrounding District for the encouraging support that they have hitherto received, and which they have always endeavoured to merit by supplying Articles of the best quality and at the very lowest prices. They wish them

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR,

And beg to refer them to the Bill of Fare which they have prepared during the Festive Season.

G. E. AND M. T. MILBURN,
BUTCHERS,
MEDOMSLEY,

DESIRE to thank the inhabitants of Medomsley and District, and wish them the Compliments of the Season. They beg to intimate that they have built a new and commodious shop near to their old premises, and state that they have purchased

A GRAND SELECTION OF FAT STOCK
For the
CHRISTMAS SEASON.

BEEF—1st prize at Hexham, the property of W. Ridley, Esq., Shillford, also from W. Thompson, Esq., Capheaton. Prize Sheep from Blackhill Mart. Dairy fed Pork.

HAT AND FEATHER,
MEDOMSLEY.

JOHN GEORGE ARMSTRONG,

HAS pleasure in Thanking his numerous Customers in Medomsley and District for their esteemed patronage, and wishes them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He begs to invite a trial of his First-rate Liquors, which he has specially obtained for the Christmas and New Year Season.

WINES, WHISKIES, AND BRANDIES OF THE FINEST BLENDS.
Mild and Bitter Ales.
CHOICE TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

FORSTER, RUSSELL, & CO.,
GROCERS AND DRAPERS,
FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN,

BEG to thank their Friends and Customers for their liberal Patronage in the past, and wish them very heartily, the

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.
See the Splendid Display of
CHRISTMAS AND GENERAL GROCERIES
Of the Best Quality.

Special Drapery Show for Christmas and the New Year.

You may depend on obtaining Good Value for your money at
FORSTER, RUSSELL, & Co's ESTABLISHMENT.

THE ANNFIELD PLAIN BOOT SHOP.

STRAWBRIDGE'S NEW BUILDINGS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

JAMES STRAWBRIDGE,
BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER,

BEGS to thank the inhabitants of Annfield Plain and District for their very generous Support during the past year, and wishes to inform them that he has a New and Varied Stock of BOOTS and SHOES, in all the leading Lines and Latest Fashions of the day.

REPAIRS Neatly and Promptly Executed as heretofore and at the old Prices.

JANE WARD,
STIRLING CASTLE, CONSETT,

BEGS to return her sincere Thanks to the Public generally for their esteemed support; and she hopes, by the careful management of her house, and by supplying the Best Liquors, to merit a continuance of public patronage. She wishes her Friends and Customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and invites a trial of her well-selected Stock of Wines, Whiskies, and Ales for the Festive Season.

PERFECTION IN CONECTIONERY.

MRS. A. POTTS,
PARK ROAD, CONSETT,

THANKS the inhabitants of Consett and vicinity for the kind support, which she will try to deserve.

Chocolates, Sweets, &c., in great variety.
Home Made Cakes.

JOHN ALLISON,
MASON AND BUILDER,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT,

BEGS to return Thanks for the support that has been accorded him during the many years that he has been in Business. It has always been his endeavour to turn out good substantial Work; and he hopes, by strict attention to Business and carrying out his Contracts in a workmanlike manner, to continue to merit a Continuance of public favour and support.

Estimates Given for Cement Footpaths.

CEMENT, CHIMNEYTOPS, SANITARY PIPES, SINKS, FIREBRICKS, &c.,

Repairs done on Reasonable Terms.

THE SPORTSMAN'S ARMS,
DIPTON.

WILLIAM HERRON.

THANKS his numerous Friends for their kind Support since he took over the abovenamed House. Nothing but WINES, SPIRITS, and CIGARS of the Best Quality kept. W. H. wishes all a Jolly Christmas.

CONSETT.

GEORGE WADE, JUN.,
IRONMONGER, JOINER, &c.,
55A, FRONT STREET,

INVITES AN INSPECTION OF HIS LARGE STOCK OF CUTLERY, comprising:—

Pen and Pocket Knives, Table Knives and Forks, Sugar and Jelly Spoons, Razors, and Scissors, from the Best Makers.
Paints and Enamels of all Colours, and Varnish Stains.
Powell's Royal Plate Polishing Cream, sold in bottles at 1s each.
Fret-Saw Outfits at Reasonable Prices.
Sheba Liquid Gold Paint, in 6d and 1s Bot.
A large assortment of Joiners' Tools of the Best Makes. GENERAL IRONMONGERY.

COMMERCIAL INN,
STANLEY.

ROBERT BOAL

WISHES all his numerous Friends and Customers

A MERRY XMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

He has in Stock a Large Variety of Splendid Liquors for the Season, and trusts to receive a continuance of favours which have been so liberally bestowed upon him.

FINEST SPIRITS.
REALLY GOOD ALES AND STOUT.
TOBACCO AND CIGARS.
NEW COMMERCIAL ROOM, SNUG, AND BAR now OPEN.

ROBERT HAND,
BUTCHER,
13, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT,

THANKS his Customers for their liberal support in the past, and hopes for a continuance of the same. He also begs to intimate that he has purchased the following for the Christmas Season:—The CHAMPION HEIFER at BENFIELDSIDE MART, winner of three first prizes; also, BULLOCK fed by Mr Foster Hall, Toft Gate; also, a neat HEIFER, from Messrs Anderson, Black Hedley; B.F. WETHERS from Mr. Lowery, Cornfield House. DAIRY FED PORK from Mr Rawes, Middle Heads.

GEORGE R. HOBSON,

FAMILY GROCER & PROVISION DEALER,

WINE, SPIRIT, ALE, AND PORTER MERCHANT,

CATCHGATE,

ANNFIELD PLAIN,

WISHES his Customers the COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON, and begs to Offer for their Consideration the following

PRICE LIST:
WINES, SPIRITS, &c., OF THE FINEST QUALITY.

Old Irish Whiskey, 1s 8d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 4s per bottle.

Fine Old Scotch Whiskey, 2s and 2s 6d per bottle.

Very Old Scotch Whiskey, 3s, 3s 6d, and 4s per bottle.

Old Jamaica Rum, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle.

London Gin, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle

Holland's Gin, 2s 8d per bottle.

British Wines (various), 1s 1d and 1s 3d per bottle.

Brandy, 4s, 4s 6d, 5s, and 6s 6d per bot.

Fine Sherry, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle.

Good Port, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle.

Champagnes, Clarets, &c., of various brands, always in stock.

ALES AND STOUT,

In Casks of 4½ Gallons and 9 Gallons, at 1s per Gallon and upwards; in Bottles at 1s 6d per dozen, in six dozen lots.

ORDERS BY POST RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

GEO. R. HOBSON,

AGENT FOR
WHITBREAD AND CO., LTD.,
ALES AND STOUT.

Half-Pint Bottles - - - 1s 6d per dozen.
Imperial Pints - - - 2s 6d per dozen.

IN PRIME CONDITION.

Delivered to any part of the District.

BE SURE YOU GET WHITBREAD'S THIS CHRISTMAS.

MRS. W. F. TAIT,
WATCH AND CLOCK MAKER,
JEWELLER, ETC.,
FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

LARGE ASSORTMENT of New and Second Hand Silver Lever watches, Ladies' Gold and Silver Watches and Alberts. All kinds of Silver and Electro-Plated Goods for presents. Spectacles to suit all sights.

J. E. KINLESIDE,
POST OFFICE, LEADGATE,

SENDS his Customers a Christmas and New Year's Greeting, and begs to draw attention to his choice selection of

TOBACCOS, CIGARS, AND CIGARETTES
Grand assortment of Pipes and Pouches.
STATIONERY OF SPLENDID QUALITY.
SPECTACLES A SPECIALITY.
KINLESIDE'S SPECIAL CIGARS.

WM. LEE,
THE WORKINGMAN'S BUTCHER,

will have for Xmas

GRAND BEEF & MUTTON
AND LOCAL DAIRY FED PORK,
PRIME GEESE, TURKEYS, & DUCKS
AT PRICES TO SUIT YOU ALL.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—
29a, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

JOHN R. WOOD,
30, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS respectfully to thank the inhabitants of Consett and District for their past support, and intimates that he has a Choice Selection of PIPES, POUCHES, CIGAR and CIGARETTE HOLDERS, CASES, WALKING STICKS, &c., suitable for Christmas and New Year's Presents.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN CIGARS.
Agent for Ogden's Noted Tobaccos and Cigarettes.
All the popular kinds of Cigarettes and Tobaccos always in stock.

NOTE THE ADDRESS.

MISS AND MR E. J. SLOANE,
MUS. BAC., TRIN. UNIV. TOR., NATIONAL GOLD MEDALLIST, TRINITY COLLEGE, LONDON, L.MUS., L.C.M., ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BLACKHILL.

THE MUSIC SCHOOL, BLACKHILL.

THANK the Inhabitants of the District for their Cordial and Hearty Recognition of their labours as Teachers of Music, and in wishing their Friends and Pupils the Compliments of this Festive Season, desire to say that they will continue to give Lessons on the

ORGAN, PIANO, HARMONY, COUNTERPOINT, COMPOSITION, CANON, FUGUE, AND HISTORY.

And, by assiduous attention and care, they hope to merit a continuance of Public Favour.

E. SLOANE, SEN.,

Has always a number of the Best and Cheapest Instruments in the District in Stock, including Pianos, Organs, Violins, &c.

ORGANS AND PIANOS TUNED AND REPAIRED.

THE PEOPLE'S SHOP.

JOHN COULTHARD,
GENERAL DRAPER, MILLINER,
READY-MADE CLOTHIER, &c.,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,
DIPTON,

BEGS to return thanks to his Friends and Customers for the support that has been given to him in the past.

CHEAP CLOTHING FOR THE MASSES.

WILLIAM MILBURN,
PORK BUTCHER,
17, HAVELOCK STREET, CONSETT,

CALLS attention respectfully to his Large Supply of SAUSAGES, RABBITS, GEESE, and POULTRY, Suitable for the Festive Season.

M. SWAINSTON,
FISH, ICE,
AND
RABBIT DEALER,
73, DERWENT STREET,
BLACKHILL.

ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

JOHN WILSON,
GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
15, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT,

THANKS his Patrons for past Favours, and invites attention to his supply of CHRISTMAS GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS,
FRESH COUNTRY BUTTER AND EGGS,
Always on hand.

GOOD CHEER FOR CHRISTMAS!

A. GARBUTT,
FRUITERER, GREENGROCER, &c., FRONT STREET,
LEADGATE,

BEGS to thank his numerous Customers for their Patronage during the past year, and has pleasure in announcing that during the Festive Season he will have Fresh Supplies of FRUIT, VEGETABLES, RABBITS, &c., daily.

J. Kershaw and Sons,

In wishing their Customers the Compliments of the Season, thank them for past favours, and hope for a continuance of the same.

Ker's Ale. Ker's Ale. Ker's Ale.

The leading Non-intoxicant, and has the Largest Sale in the North.

J, K. & S. still hold the reputation for being UNSURPASSED, and for pure

GOLD MEDAL
MINERAL WATERS.

KER'S ALE
has been awarded the only
TWO GOLD MEDALS
at the 1896-97 Exhibitions.

The three objects you ought to notice when buying our Mineral Waters are

PURITY, CLEANLINESS, & QUALITY.

These can only be guaranteed by buying from

J. KERSHAW & SONS.

When buying ask only for KERSHAW'S. We are the only Makers of the GOLD MEDAL leading non-intoxicant,

KER'S ALE.

Please Note the Address. Orders delivered free by our own waggons to any part of town or country.

J. KERSHAW & SONS,
MINERAL WATER MANUFACTURERS,
ALE AND PORTER BOTTLERS,
PLANTATION STREET,
LEADGATE.
Also, Back Askew Road, Gateshead.

"Christmas comes but once a year,
And when it comes, it brings good cheer."

FOR QUALITY AND REASONABLE PRICES, GO TO
M. FAWELL,
FOR TEA, COFFEE, FRUIT, FRUIT WINES, CHEESE, BUTTER, FLOUR, &c., FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON.

FINEST TOMATOES 5D PER TIN; LUNCH TONGUES, 9½d Per lb.; FRUIT LOAVES, 5d to 8d per lb.; LARD, 4d to 5½d per lb.

Our Drapery Department, which is well-stocked and carefully selected, includes Silk Handkerchiefs, Mufflers, Fancy Aprons and Pinafores, Shawls, Gloves, Ties, Fronts, &c., suitable for the Season. A Cheap Lot in Jackets and Capes—Extra Value.

Address—40, FRONT STREET, and
1, DELVES LANE, CONSETT
(Near the Station).

THE OLD FAVOURITE IS STILL TO THE FORE.

C. F. COOKE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,
HAS THE
FINEST SHOW IN THE DISTRICT
OF
CHRISTMAS
AND
GENERAL GROCERIES,
WITH A
SPECIAL DRAPERY SHOW,
WELL WORTHY OF AN INSPECTION.

DON'T YOU FORGET THIS.

J. G. BRYDSON,
TEA DEALER & PROVISION MERCHANT
LANCHESTER,

THANKS his Customers for their kind patronage, and begs to call attention to his Splendid Assortment of Seasonable Goods.

BRYSDON'S IS THE BARGAIN HIVE.
First-Class PROVISIONS at Popular Prices.

LANCHESTER.

R. JACKSON,
GLASS, CHINA, HARDWARE AND OIL DEALER,

THANKS the Public of Lanchester and surrounding Neighbourhood for their liberal Patronage in the past, and hopes by supplying goods of the Best Quality to merit a continuance of their favours. HORSE-SHOEING AND BLACKSMITH WORK done expeditiously and cheaply.

FLINT HILL INN,
THE NOTED HOUSE FOR
BITTER AND MILD ALES.

MRS. ELIZABETH GALLAGHER

THANKS her numerous Customers for their past Favours, and hopes to have the pleasure of Entertaining them during the present Festive Season.

LANCHESTER.

MRS. FAIRBANK,
MILLINER, DRAPER, &c.,

RESPECTFULLY invites attention to her Choice Selection of Fancy Goods for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND TOYS,
SUITABLE FOR PESENTS,
IN ENDLESS VARIETY.

SEE THE WINDOWS.

KING'S ARMS HOTEL, LANCHESTER.

JAMES HUMBLE

DESIRES respectfully to tender his sincere thanks to the Inhabitants of Lanchester and the vicinity for the very encouraging support which he has always received. He wishes them the

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON,

And by assiduously attending to the wants of his Customers, and those who favour him with their Patronage, he hopes for a continuance of the same.

FINEST IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKIES.
BEST MILD AND BITTER ALES.

LANCHESTER.

JOHN WALBURN,
BUTCHER,

TENDERS his thanks to the People of Lanchester and the surrounding District for their kind support, and in wishing them the Compliments of the Season, he hopes, by selling

MEAT OF THE PRIMEST QUALITY,

to merit a continuance of the Patronage which has been so liberally bestowed upon him in the past.

He has a Splendid Show of
CHRISTMAS BEEF AND MUTTON, AND DAIRY-FED PORK.

FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS,
WHAT TO GIVE AND WHERE TO GET IT.

J. COCKBURN,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

CARDS, DOLLS, MECHANICAL TOYS,
PURSES, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS,

And a variety of Goods too numerous to mention.

INSPECTION INVITED.

W. ROBINSON,
DRAPER, &c.,
FRONT STREET, MEDOMSLEY,

DESIRES to thank his numerous customers in Medomsley and the surrounding districts for their support in the past, and in wishing them the Compliments of the Season, trusts by strict attention to Business to merit a continuance of it in the future.

BLUE BELL INN, LANCHESTER.

JOHN SNAITH,
PROPRIETOR OF THE ABOVE HOTEL,

DESIRES to Thank his Customers for their Support in the past, and begs to inform them that he has on hand a Large Stock of Old and Well-Matured

SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES
AND
PURE RUM.
HAVING STARTED THE
WHOLESALE BUSINESS,

He is prepared to supply any quantities of the above

ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE,
AND AT THE CHEAPEST RATES.
McEWAN'S AND BASS'S ALES
of the best quality.
RITCHIE'S AND McKENZIE'S STOUTS

Are a speciality. Mineral Waters of all descriptions are always kept in Stock.

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S UNDERCLOTHING FOR CHRISTMAS.

MRS BATES,
8, TINMILL PLACE, BLACKHILL,

BEGS to tender her sincere Thanks to the people of the District who have given her their support since she opened the above. She has in stock a splendid assortment of LADIES' & CHILDREN'S UNDERCLOTHING, SUITABLE FOR XMAS PRESENTS.

W. WRIGHT,
FRUITERER AND CONFECTIONER,
FRONT STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE,

RETURNS thanks for the kind support accorded him by the inhabitants of this District since he commenced business, and trusts that by supplying good articles he will merit a continuance of the same.

ALL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

GOOD CHEER FOR CHRISTMAS.

JOHN GAMBLES,
GENERAL DEALER, GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
1, ST. AIDAN STREET & 31, DIXON STREET,
BLACKHILL,

DESIRES to thank his numerous friends for their kind patronage during the period he has kept his stores, and wishes them a very MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. At the same time he desires to inform the public of Blackhill that anything from a needle to a sack of flour can be had at his Establishment. Everything of the best quality. Splendid stock of GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, &c., for the Festive Season.

DON'T FORGET THE ADDRESS.

A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF BABY LINEN,
BABY CLOTHING, LADIES' UNDERCLOTHING,
And GENTLEMEN'S HOSIERY
Is now on VIEW at
MRS. EMMA BRODIE'S,
PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.

MRS. BRODIE thanks her Customers for their past favours, and solicits a continuance of the same.

THE PLOUGH INN,
MOUNTSET.

THOMAS WATSON

THANKS his Customers for their patronage during the time he has kept the above house, and by keeping

ARTICLES
OF THE
BEST QUALITY,

Hopes to merit a continuance of the same. He wishes all his friends a

MERRY XMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

H. WOOD,
WATCHMAKER AND JEWELLER,
30, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to thank the Public for their liberal support in the past, and a continuance of which he hopes to merit in the future.

GOOD WORK GUARANTEED.

REPAIRS DONE AT MODERATE CHARGES.

ALARUM CLOCKS FROM 3s 6d.

THE BEST IN THE TRADE AT THE PRICE.

XMAS PRESENTS AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

MARSHALL AND SONS,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
AND
BLACKHILL.

WE are again showing some Beautiful NOVELTIES in JEWELLERY, suitable as Presents for the present Season, at marvellous Prices.

BROOCHES, BANGLES, DRESS and FANCY RINGS, and SCARF PINS, in Great Variety.

A Present of a Solid Silver Albert to all purchasers of our Ladies' and Gent.'s Silver Lever Watches.

GEORGE WADE,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
AND
SOUTH SHIELDS AND EAST BOLDON,

RETURNS his sincere Thanks to the Public and his Friends for the liberal support accorded to him during the past 39 years, and begs to announce that he has purchased for the coming Festive Season the following

PRIME FAT CATTLE:

1 RED SHORTHORN STEER, 1 HALF-BRED GALLOWAY STEER (bred and fed by the Earl of Durham), 1 WEST HIGHLAND KYLOE (bred and fed by the Earl of Durham), 1 GALLOWAY STEER (bred and fed by the Marquis of Londonderry), 1 HALF-BRED HEIFER (bred and fed by the Marquis of Londonderry), 1 HALF-BRED HEIFER (bred and fed by the Marquis of Londonderry), 1 BLACK-POLLED ANGUS BULLOCK (from Col. Briggs, of Hylton Castle), and HEIFERS and BULLOCKS from other Noted Feeders.

SHEEP:

1 Pen Half-Bred Cheviot WEDDERS, 3 Pens of Mule SHEEP (from the Earl of Durham), 3 Pens of Wethers (from the Marquis of Londonderry), 20 Black-Faced WEDDERS (from Joseph Angus, Esq., Healeyfield), and other Sheep bred and fed in the neighbourhood.

REAL DAIRY-FED PORK
From Mrs Glendenning, of Rowley.

ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.
A TRIAL SOLICITED.

POST OFFICE, DIPTON.

FRED. HODGSON,
HAIRDRESSER AND TOBACCONIST,

BEGS to return thanks for past favours, and hopes to merit a continuance of Public support.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS.
FANCY GOODS IN GREAT VARIETY.

WILLIAM SUDDES,
JOINER, COACHBUILDER, AND UNDERTAKER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to thank the Public for their Patronage, and trusts, by prompt attention to all Orders, to merit a continuance of their support.

CARTWRIGHT—SOUND WORKMANSHIP.
REPAIRS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

UNDERTAKING.—Coffins made on the shortest notice.

A BRILLIANT IDEA!

BUY YOUR
CHRISTMAS CLOTHING
AT WOOD'S.

The Money you save in the transaction will come in handy to buy your wife a Christmas Present.

J. W. WOOD'S

CLOTHING & DRAPERY
ESTABLISHMENT,
FRONT STREET, WEST STANLEY.

Splendid Show
OF
Winter Clothing
WITH
Grand Selections
IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

Don't
Miss
This
Chance.

REMEMBER THE ADDRESS:

J. W. Wood,

FRONT STREET,
WEST STANLEY.

CORNSAY COLLIERY AND WATERHOUSES.

GEO. T. STOREY,
JOINER, CARTWRIGHT, CABINETMAKER AND GENERAL SMITH,

DESIRES to thank his numerous customers, and wishes them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He trusts to merit a continuance of the patronage so freely bestowed upon him during the past year.

REPAIRS NEATLY EXECUTED.

CORNSAY DRAPERY STORES.

GEO. A. WHERLEY,
GENERAL DRAPER AND CLOTHIER,

WISHES his customers the Compliments of the Season, and begs to thank them most cordially for the support which he has received since commencing business, and hopes to merit a continuance of public patronage and support.

CALL AND SEE HIS STOCK.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

LEYBOURNE URWIN,
PLUMBER, GAS AND SANITARY ENGINEER.
SHOTLEY BRIDGE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, AND STANLEY.

AGENT FOR
WELSBACH INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT.
FITTINGS AND SHADES in endless variety.
LARGEST STOCK IN DISTRICT.

ACETYLENE GAS.

All fittings supplied, and work carried out in connection with the above.

See our Show Rooms at
SHOTLEY BRIDGE, OR BRANCHES.
Orders Promptly Attended to.

FRONT STREET, LEADGATE.

NICHOLAS PARKER,
STATIONER & NEWSAGENT, & GENERAL DEALER,

WISHES all his Friends and Customers the Compliments of the Season, and trust that Prosperity will attend them during the incoming year. He begs to invite attention to his

MATCHLESS SHOW OF
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

Bring your Children to look at his
STOCK OF TOYS, DOLLS, &c.

LANCHESTER.

GO TO
REED'S ESTABLISHMENT
FOR YOUR
NEWSPAPERS AND GROCERIES,
AND YOU WILL GET
GOOD VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY.

RED LION INN, DIPTON.

WILLIAM YOUNG

BEGS to return his sincere Thanks to the Inhabitants of Dipton and Vicinity for the large measure of Support that he has received during his occupancy of the above Old Established Hostelry, and, by assiduously attending to their wants and comforts in the future, he hopes for a continuance of public favour and patronage. He wishes his friends

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR,

And begs to say that he has provided for the Festive Season some of the

☞ FINEST SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES.
SPARKLING MILD AND BITTER BEER.
Good Stabling.
Hearse and Mourning Coaches on Hire.

WATLING STREET, LEADGATE.

M. D. GREENER,
GROCER AND BUTCHER,

TAKES the opportunity which the close of another year affords of once more heartily thanking all those who have dealt with him, many of them during more than twenty years. He has always endeavoured by strict attention to business, and dealing in everything of the best Quality, to give satisfaction to his numerous Customers; and assures them that nothing shall be wanting on his part to merit a continuance of the Patronage which has been so liberally bestowed upon him in the past.

PRIME BEEF & MUTTON FOR CHRISTMAS.
DAIRY-FED PORK.

A. ATKINSON,
FRUITERER,
FRONT STREET, LEADGATE,

HAS pleasure in thanking her numerous Customers in Leadgate and District for their esteemed Patronage, and in wishing them the Compliments of the Season, begs to draw attention to her Stock of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Fruits for Christmas and the New Year. Large Selection always on hand.

If you're low in spirits and feel rather dull,
Call in and see Smith at the Black Bull.

BLACK BULL INN,
FRONT STREET, LEADGATE.

W. SMITH

WILL be glad to see all his friends during the coming Festive Season. It is his heart's desire to make them happy, and he has provided sumptuously for them.

MASONS' ARMS, LEADGATE.

T. S. LONGSTAFF

HAS much pleasure in thanking his many Customers in Leadgate and Neighbourhood for their support, and wishes them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

He begs to commend to their notice his
STOCK OF LIQUORS
Specially selected for the Festive Season, and hopes to merit their esteemed Patronage in the future as in the past.

WINES, WHISKIES, AND BRANDIES OF STERLING VALUE.
MILD AND BITTER ALES.
A1 BRANDS OF TOBACCO AND CIGARS.
Good Stabling.

QUEEN VICTORIA HOTEL, LEADGATE.

F. COLLINGWOOD

HAS pleasure in thanking his many Friends and the inhabitants of Leadgate and District for their generous Patronage, and wishes them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He has obtained a

HIGH-CLASS SELECTION OF LIQUORS

For the Holiday Season, and hopes to be favoured with the orders of his Patrons, and merit their approval.

FINEST WHISKIES AND BRANDIES
Fully matured and of the Best Blends.

WILLIAM YOUNGER & Co.'s EDINBURGH and INDIAN PALE and MILD ALES in Splendid Condition.

EXCELLENT WINES, TOBACCO & CIGARS.
Good Stabling.

EDWARD TODD,
BUTCHER, TEA DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
LEADGATE,

DESIRES to thank his Customers for their support during the long time that he has been in business, and by killing meat and selling articles of the best quality, he hopes for a continuance of public patronage. PRIME ENGLISH BEEF and MUTTON for the Festive Season. Dairy-fed Pork.

GEORGE TEASDALE,
SPORTSMAN'S ARMS,
LEADGATE,

WISHES all his old friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and assures them of a hearty welcome when they call. His

STOCK OF BEER AND WHISKY

is the best that can be produced; the former being light and sparkling, and the latter mellowed with age.

O. WHERLEY,
WATCH, CLOCKMAKER, AND JEWELLER
(BELOW PONTOP ROWS),
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

DESIRES to thank his Customers for their support in the past, and hopes to merit a continuance of public favour by strict attention to business and reasonable charges. At his New and Convient Premises, he has in stock a varied assortment of Clocks, Watches, and Gold and Silver Jewellery.

WILLIAM GRAY,
GROCER AND DRAPER,
BURNHOPE,

IN returning his thanks to the Inhabitants of Burnhope and the surrounding District for their esteemed Patronage, desires to take the opportunity which the end of the year affords of heartily wishing them

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

It has always been his earnest wish and endeavour to supply his Customers with

GROCERIES AND DRAPERIES OF THE BEST QUALITY,

At prices which leave the very lowest margin of Profit, and he trusts that this fact warrants him in hoping for a continuance of public favour and support.

QUEEN'S HEAD, LANCHESTER.

JOSEPH TOWNS

TAKES the opportunity which the Festive Season affords, of returning thanks to his old Friends in Lanchester and the vicinity for their Patronage during the many years that he has occupied the above well-known hostelry: and in presenting his Compliments to them, he desires to say that his endeavour will always be to still merit a share of that favour which has been so liberally and uniformly accorded to him in past years.

WINES, BRANDIES, SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES OF THE BEST QUALITY.

SPARKLING BEER AND STOUT IN PERFECTION.

Business Announcements.

T. MILNER, A.P.S.,

DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST,
THE JUBILEE PHARMACY,
SHAKESPEARE STREET, AND FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

RESPECTFULLY draws the attention of the Public to his Splendid Display of MEDICINES and APPLIANCES suitable for the Season of the Year; also a lot of Choice PERFUMES, in Japanese Boxes, suitable for CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

SPECTACLES, in great variety.
HAIR, TOOTH, and NAIL BRUSHES.
SPONGES, &c.
SHAVING SOAPS and SHAVING REQUISITES, in great variety.
SHOCOLATES, in Fancy Boxes and Packets.

COUGH LOZENGES, in 3d. and 6d. Packets.
MEDICATED JUJUBES, in great variety.
ST. GERMAIN PORT WINE, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s 6d, and 4s per bottle.
COCOA WINES, INVALID BEEF, and MALT WINES, in great variety.

☞ Every Purchaser of 4s worth of Goods during the Month of December will receive a Cplendid Engraving, called "Love's Melody," the original painted by Mr Sheridan Knowles, the painter of "The Sign of the Cross."

POSTAL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

MARSHALL AND SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, AND ALSO BLACKHILL.

PRESENTS.—We still continue to give to all purchasers of a Lady's or Gentleman's Silver Watch a handsome Gold-Plated Albert and Appendage. ½ Dozen Silver-Plated Spoons with our Gold Wedding Rings. Spectacles to suit all sights.

N.B.—See that you get to the right shop, NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS.

JOSEPH WHITEHEAD,

CORN MILLER AND FLOUR DEALER, CONSETT,

BEGS to intimate to farmers and horse and cow keepers that the best and cheapest place to buy Feeding Stuffs of all kinds and of the best quality is at his Mills and Warehoures in Consett. Oil and Cotton Cakes, direct from the Manufacturers, at the Lowest Possible Prices. Dealer in Bibby's Cake and Meals. Hay and Straw in large or small quantities, from 4-stone trusses to 100 tons, at Market Prices. Agent for Gas Lime. Goods delivered to any part of the neighbourhood.

A NEW BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT HAS BEEN OPENED BY

J. MORGAN,

THE WELL-KNOWN HARDWARE DEALER OF VICTORIA STREET, AT

29, HARVEY STREET, CONSETT,

AT which Establishment there will be kept a large assortment of RUGS, OILCLOTHS, LAMPS, and every Household Requisite.

TOYS AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS in Great Variety; also, MORGAN'S NOTED LAMP OIL.

J. M. hopes to see many old Friends and a Crowd of New ones at his Harvey Street Establishment.

WANTED 1,000 PEOPLE

TO SEND A POSTCARD TO

TURNBULL BROTHERS.
LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD,
FOR A
DOZEN BOTTLES OF STOUT.

POSTCARDS FREE ON APPLICATION.

J. SIDDLE,

HOUSE AND CHURCH DECORATOR, PAINTER,
PAPERHANGER, GILDER, GLAZIER, &c

PAPERHANGINGS IN EVERY VARIETY.

SPECIALITIES:—LINCRUSTA-WALTON, ANAGLYPTA AND CORDOLOVA DECORATIONS, ARTISTS' CASES.

ARTISTS' MATERIAL OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. PLAQUES, OPALS, DRAWING STUDIES, AND OTHER FANCY ARTICLES, &c., ALWAYS ON HAND.

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT THE BEST

HORSE CORN & FEEDING STUFFS

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION ARE TO BE HAD AT

S. HOBSON'S Mills,

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE.

NOTED FOR FLOUR &c., OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY.

☞ POST *VIA* TANTOBIE, R.S.O.

MR. E. J. SLOANE, MUS. BAC.,

Trinity University, Toronto; National Gold Medalist, Trinity College London; L. Mus. L.C.M.; Organist of St. Mary's Church, Blackhill.

LESSONS ON ORGAN, PIANO, HARMONY, COUNTERPOINT, CANON, FUGUE, &c.
Pupils prepared for all Musical Examinations.

THE MUSIC SCHOOL, BLACKHILL

W. WHITFIELD,

FLOUR DEALER,
PROVISION MERCHANT,
LEADGATE.

BLASTING POWDER, SQUIBS, &c., ALWAYS IN STOCK.

THE BEST HOUSE

For TEAS AT ALL PRICES.
For COFFEE, FRESH ROASTED DAILY.
For PROVISIONS OF ALL KINDS.
For BREAD AND CAKES.
For JAMS AND MARMALADE.
For SWEETS AND CHOCOLATE.
For PATENT MEDICINES.
For TINNED MEATS AND FRUITS.
For SOAP, AT MAKERS' PRICES.
For OIL AND COTTON CAKES.
For HORSE AND CATTLE FOODS.

When requiring, drop a post-card for prices to

JOHN HALL & CO.,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

T. A. MOFFITT & Co.,

HARDWAREMEN, PLUMBERS, & STREET LAMP MANUFACTURERS.

CHEAPEST SHOP FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CHANDELIERS, HALL LAMPS, BRACKETS, &c.

Contractors to Local Boards and District Councils For Street Lighting in both Gas and Oil.

125, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD.

URWIN & COMPANY,

WHOLESALE POTATO MERCHANTS,

GENERAL DEALERS IN FEEDING STUFFS.

WAREHOUSE, LEADGATE.

ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

W. FERGUSON & SON,

BUILDERS' SUPPLY STORES.
PRUDHOE STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

HARDWARE MERCHANTS, LATHRENDERS, SANITARY ENGINEERS, PLASTER ENRICHMENTS, ENCAUSTIC AND MOSAIC TILES, CONCRETE MANUFACTURERS, MANUFACTURERS OF SANITARY GOODS AND FIRECLAY SPECIALITIES, &c. STABLE FITTINGS.

Ranges, Cooking, Heating, and Register Stoves, Baths, Marble, Slate, Metal, and Wood Chimney Pieces, &c.

Christmas Advertisements.

XMAS 1897—NEW YEAR 1898.

SPECIAL DISPLAY OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS, ELECTRO PLATE, &c.
SPLENDID RANGE OF
Gold and Gem Rings, Silver Rings, Watches, and Brooches.
UP-TO-DATE PATTERNS OF
Clocks, Chains, Bangles, Scarf Pins, Lockets, &c., &c.
MARVELLOUS DISPLAY OF NOVELTIES IN
Gold Charms, Silver Charms, Diamond, Ruby, & Signet Rings.
VARIED SELECTION OF USEFUL PRESENTS, COMPLETE IN
Plush and Leather Cases.

☞ SPECIAL PRESENTS WITH OUR NOTED WEDDING RINGS. ☜

JOSEPH MARSHALL & SON,

(CHARLES A. MARSHALL),
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
3, SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT.—BRANCH:—PARK ROAD.

CHRISTMAS, 1897.

TO our many Friends, Customers, and the General Public.—We tender ourmost hearty Thanks for your generous Support during the year just closing, and wish you all

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Which we trust will be one of commercial activity, and thus bring peace and plenty to all.

We would also desire to say that owing to our large and increasing trade we are making very extensive additions to our Warehouses, and introducing into our Workshops a most complete plant of Wood-Working Machinery which, when completed, will enable us to place before you

OUR NOTED HOME-MADE GOODS
On More Reasonable Terms than ever.

We make a point to study the interests of our customers, and trust that with extended courtesy, greater adaptability, increasing energy, and fair dealing, you will give us that generous support and recommendation which you have always extended to us during the past 40 years.

We are, yours faithfully,

J. W. DAVISON & Sons,

FRONT STREET, CONSETT. and LONDON HOUSE, STANLEY.

Note.—Our Toy and Fancy Goods Bazaar is now Open. Don't miss the Latest Novelties.

Consett and Stanley.

☞ Every Purchaser of the Value of 5s. will be Presented with our

Artistic Album of Local Views.

For picture books, and cards, and toys,
To interest and amuse;
For pretty gifts to girls and boys,
And all the latest news,

CALL AND SEE

THOMAS RAMSHAW,

NEWSAGENT AND STATIONER,
FRONT STREET, WEST STANLEY.

T. R. begs to express his Thanks to the Public for their kind Patronage during the time that he has been in business, and to invite an inspection of his Grand Display of Christmas Cards, Toys, and Picture Books, suitable for the Festive Season.

Newspapers and Periodicals punctually delivered to any part of Stanley, South Moor, and the adjoining villages.

Try RAMSHAW'S Famous Sweets, the Best and Cheapest in the town.

SEE THE WINDOWS AT

HAVANNA HOUSE

GRAND DISPLAY OF
NEWEST GOODS
FOR XMAS AND NEW YEAR TRADE
AT

FRATER'S

Noted Cheap General, Mantle, Jacket, and Ready-made Clothing Warehouse,

HAVANNA HOUSE, WEST STANLEY.

'XMAS AND NEW YEAR.

WE again take the opportunity of inviting our Friends and the Public generally to an inspection of our usual display for the

'XMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASON,

Consisting of TOYS and GAMES in great variety, DOLLS, LADIES' BAGS, PURSES, JAPANESE ORNAMENTS, LADIES' COMPANIONS and WORK BOXES in Plush and Leather, WRITING CASES, CIGAR and CIGARETTE CASES, GOLD and SILVER BANGLES and BRACELETS, BROOCHES and other Jewellery, DRESS RINGS, WEDDING and KEEPER RINGS, WATCHES, CLOCKS, ALBERTS, ELECTRO-PLATE, and Novelties in great variety. Come and see before making year purchases elsewhere.

F. WELCH & CO.,

WATCHMAKERS, JEWELLERS, AND FURNISHING IRONMONGERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN AND STANLEY.

ESTABLISHED 1847.

M. ALMOND,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
GROCER, PROVISION MERCHANT, &c.,
Front Street, Consett,

CHRISTMAS SPECIALITIES.

Hams. Hams. Hams.
Splendid Quality, from 5½d per lb.

Cheese. Cheese. Cheese.
Prize Dairies, Cheshire, Wensleydale, Gorgonzola, Canadian, Edams, Dutch, &c.

Finest Danish Butter.

New Fruits. New Fruits.
Finest Vostizza Currants. Sultana, Valencia, and Muscatel Raisins. Figs. Peels, &c.

Sole agent for the Noted **Li-quor Tea,**
2s 6d per pound. Prizes given to all Purchasers.

CHRISTMAS, 1897.

BLACKHILL.

S. LOWES,

BUTCHER,

BEGS to thank his Customers in Blackhill and Neighbourhood for their Patronage, and wishes them the

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

PRIME CHRISTMAS BEEF, MUTTON, AND PORK.

FOR XMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS, TOYS, LOCAL VIEWS, PICTURE BOOKS, MOTTOES, PRESENTS OF ALL KINDS,

GO TO

B. C. BARKUS,
CONFECTIONER AND NEWSAGENT,
DERWENT VIEW, BURNOPFIELD.

ALEX. CUMBERLEDGE,
GROCER,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY.

THANKS his Customers for their generous patronage during the last eight years, and asks for a continuance of the same. A Special Lot of Hams, Cheshire, American, and Edam Cheese, also a Large Stock of Groceries—very finest quality at extremely low prices. Local agent for the celebrated Bombay Tea Co. Quality Unequalled,

---

JOHN MORGAN,

HARDWARE DEALER
(Late of Victoria Street, Consett),

WISHES to make it known to his many customers that he has removed his business to more commodious premises, No. 8, Harvey Street, at which place he trusts to be further favoured with their esteemed orders.

RUGS OF ALL KINDS A SPECIALITY.
HARDWARE GOODS OF ALL KINDS.
CHINA, EARTHENWARE, GLASS, &c., &c.

Note Address:—

J. MORGAN,
No. 8 HARVEY STREET, CONSETT.

BLACKHALL MILL.

GRAND XMAS SHOW
OF
Toys, Fancy Articles, Watches, Jewellery, Albums, Ornaments, Games, etc.,
AT
AUGUSTUS WELSH'S

HUNDREDS OF PRETTY THINGS.

COME AND SEE THE
GRAND DISPLAY.
All to be sold at Marvellous prices.

Sales by Auction.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, January 3rd 1898.

10 to 15 FAT CATTLE.
100 FAT SHEEP.
CALVES. 1 PIG about 20 st.
DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
1 BROWN MARE, 16 h.h., good worker and a prize winner.
1 BROWN COB, 15 h.h., 5 years old, a good Fencer.
POULTRY, LADDERS, ROPES, and other lots.

Sale at One o'clock.

J. S. MURRAY.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, January 3rd, 1898.

35 to 60 DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
15 FAT CATTLE, including a Consignment of prime HEIFERS from G. J. L. Blenkinsopp, Esq., Hoppyland Park, and Mr W. Hall, Stanley Farm, Crook, and other local feeders.
68 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS.
6 FINGER CALVES.
2 PORK PIGS, FAT SOW.

Entries to day of Sale.
Sale at Half-past Ten a.m.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

Public Announcements.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

A GRAND CONCERT

Will be held in the TOWN HALL, Consett, on FEBRUARY 2ND, 1898, in aid of the above object.

Particulars in future announcements.

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL & PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LTD.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

THE 138th QUARTERLY MEETING will be held in the Church Hall, Entrance by Parliament Street—on Friday Evening, December 31st (New Year's Eve). Chair to be taken at 6-30.

For Agenda See Balance Sheets.

By Order,
THE COMMITTEE,
ED. HUNTLEY, Secretary.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, BENFIELDSIDE.

A CONCERT and DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT, in aid of the Sunday-School Building Fund, will be held in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on WEDNESDAY, January 12th, at 7·45 p.m. Tickets one shilling and sixpence.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.

(Also of the Royalty Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, and Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.)

Resident Manager, Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE

Last 3 nights, and brilliant success of GILBERT and NEILSON's Grand English Opera Company

THURSDAY - - - The Bohemian Girl.
FRIDAY - - - - - - Maritana.
SATURDAY - - - The Bohemian Girl.

MONDAY next, January 3rd, 1898—Hill and Ayrton's Co., in the popular play,

Saved from the Sea.

Seats may be booked for dress circle at Archibald Ramsden's Piano Warehouse, Town Hall Buildings, Consett, by letter or telegram.

Prices of Admission:—Private Boxes, £1 1s; Single Seats, 3s.; Dress Circle, 2s.; Back of Dress Circle, 1s. 6d.; Side Boxes, 1s.; Pit, 6d.; Gallery, 4d.

Box Plan at Ramsden's.

Doors Open at 7 o'clock, Commence 7-30. Early Doors Open at 6-45.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY.

LESSEE AND MANAGER.........MARK H. LINDON.

FRIDAY December 31st, and following nights—

The Wearing of the Green.

CONSETT WESLEYAN CHURCH HALL.

THE COMMITTEE of the Ladies of the Sewing Meeting, invite all their friends, and the general public on New Year's Day 1898, to a grand

WINTER GARDEN
AND
FETE,

in the above Hall. Elaborate decorations. Side Shows. Fancy Hall. Attractions suitable for all tastes. Refreshments of varied descriptions. Selections by the Church Orchestra, under the leadership of Mr C. Stelling. Part songs by special choir. Doors open at 6·30 p.m. Admission, including refreshments, 9d.

NOTICE.

THE following are the winning numbers in the draw organised by the Hobson Wanderers A.F.C.—1, 410; 2, 102; 3, 143; 4, 1736; 5, 70; 6, 400; 7, 174; 8, 343; 9, 483; 10, 1,037; 11, 218; 12, 1,330; 13, 1,305; 14, 114; 15, 1,656. Those in possession of tickets, corresponding with any of the above numbers, will kindly return them to me, not later than Tuesday, January 4th, 1898.—J MADDISON, Hobson, Burnopfield.

Excursions.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

Excursion trains will run as under:—

SATURDAY, January 8th.

From CONSETT at 1·10 p.m., (with bookings from Leadgate and Annfield Plain) to NEWCASTLE, returning at 10·40 p.m., the same day.

For further particulars see bills.

GEORGE S. GIBB,
General Manager.

York, December, 1897.

Tenders.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STREET WORKS.

THE above Council invite TENDERS for the execution of the various Works to be carried out in the formation of the following Streets, viz., Laxey Street and Forster Street, Stanley. Plans and Specifications may be seen, and quantities and other particulars obtained from Mr Jos. Routledge, Surveyor, Council Office, Stanley, on Wednesday, January 5th, Monday, the 10th, and Friday the 14th, between the hours of 9 a.m., and 1 p.m..

Sealed Tenders endorsed "Tender for Street Works," must be delivered to me, the undersigned, not later than one o'clock on Monday, the 17th January, 1898.

Approved Security will be required for the due fulfilment of the Contract. The lowest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.

By Order,
JOHN G. RIDLEY, Clerk.

Stanley R.S.O., 29th December, 1897.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE Urban District Council of Stanley, invite TENDERS for the providing and laying down of about 1,480 yards of 12 inch Stoneware Sanitary Pipes, together with Manholes, Lampholes, and Flushing Chambers at Oxhill.

Plans and Specifications may be seen and Quantities obtained from Mr Joseph Routledge, Surveyor, at the offices of the Council, Stanley, between the hours of 9 a.m., and 1 p.m., on Wednesday, January 5th, Monday, the 10th, and Friday the 14th.

Sealed Tenders endorsed "Oxhill Sewer," to be delivered to the undersigned, on or before one o'clock p.m., on Monday, January 17th.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted. The necessary Bond will require to be entered into for the due performance of the work.

By Order,
JOHN G. RIDLEY, Clerk.

Stanley, R.S.O., 29th December, 1897.

TO CONTRACTORS.

KYO SCHOOL BOARD.

THE above Board are desirous of receiving TENDERS for the whole of the works required to be done in the Alterations and Additions to West Kyo School.

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract, may be seen, and forms of Tender may be obtained at the Architect's office, 121, Durham Road, Blackhill.

Quantities will also be supplied on Application. Tenders to be sent in to the above offices, on or before 10 o'clock a.m., on Monday, January 10th, 1898.

No pledge is given to accept the lowest or any Tender.

GEO. T. WILSON, Architect.

December 29th, 1897.

Tenders.

STEAM SAW MILLS, LANCHESTER.

TENDDRS invited for the Labour only of Mason's, Bricklayer's and Excavator's work in the erection of Six Houses at Lanchester.

Apply to JOHN BUCKHAM, Timber Merchant, Lanchester.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE Urban District Council of Annfield Plain, invite TENDERS for KERBING, CHANNELLING, TAR-PAVING, and other works in connection with the improvement to the footpath on the Main Road at Annfield Plain.

Plan, specification, and conditions of Contract, may be seen, and forms of Tender obtained on application to the Surveyor, Mr T. J. Trowsdale, Annfield Plain.

Sealed Tendeds endorsed "Tenders for Footpath Improvement," to be sent to me, the undersigned, not later than Noon, on Tuesday, the 11th January, 1898.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

The requisite bond will have to be entered into for the due performance of the work.

By Order
T. L. WATCHMAN.
Clerk to the Council.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE or to LET, HOUSE of Seven large Rooms, Wash-house, &c., situated in Medomsley Road, Consett. Price, £475; or Rent, £27 per annum.—For particulars apply to J. T. HESLOP, New Market Street, Consett.

FOR SALE, Six pleasantly-situated New HOUSES, with Streets and Footpaths made, situated in Bell View Terrace, Consett. Price £300. Also, HOUSES in Elsdon Terrace, No. 1, Consett. Price £240. Other Properties in good situations.—For further particulars apply N. ELSDON, Auctioneer, House and Estate Agent.

LARGE Consignment of Fresh Killed TURKEYS, GEESE, and DUCKS will be sold cheap at JOHN CRAWFORD's Sale-rooms, Victoria Street, Consett.

Lost.

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T. W. W. RITSON, Secretary.

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Mrs. Temperley, Commercial Hotel, Leadgate.
Mrs. Cawthorne, Colliery Hotel, Hobson Colliery.
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R. Browell, Miner's Arms, Spen.
J. Moses, Post Office, Tow Law.
S. Leighton, Craghead Hotel, Craghead.
J. Whitfield, Forester's Arms, Frosterley.
W. Young, Red Lion Inn, Dipton.
J. Curry, Wine Merchant, Stanhope.
Dover & Co., Wine and Spirit Merchants, Belle Vue House, Dipton.
J. Gladders, Oak Tree Inn, Tantobie.
T. Gatiss, Earl Grey Inn, Kyo.
W. Oyston, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Esh.

BEAMISH.

TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT.—A public tea and entertainment was held in the Wesleyan Chapel on Christmas Day. The tea tables, which were very tastefully decorated, were presided over by the young people of the congregation, and a large number of people partook of the dainties provided. In the evening, an entertainment was given by a number of children, the proceeds being in aid of the choir fund.

THE
Consett Chronicle
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1897.

THE FLOGGING OF CRIMINALS.

We publish to-day a letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Criminal Law and Prison Reform Department of the Humanitarian League, in which attention is directed to a resolution passed by the Council of the League in reference to the recent presentation made by the Grand Jury at the last Durham Assizes in favour of the extension of corporal punishment in cases of assault upon women and children. The resolution is a "protest against any extension whatever of this most brutal and degrading form of punishment." The members of the Humanitarian League, we have no doubt, are actuated by the highest of motives, and are very desirous of preventing any revival of old forms of punishment which, although practised in times gone by, would now be regarded as revoltingly brutal. While we are quite in sympathy with most of the aims of the League, we feel we cannot subscribe to the resolution passed by the Department named. The lash we regard as one of the flagellants which should be most potent as a corrective, and especially in the case of assaults upon women and children. We are certainly at one with the Grand Jury in the presentation to the Judge at the last Assizes. There are in the world, we are almost daily reminded, a number of brutes in human form who are prodigal of their kicks and blows upon the weaker sex. Wives, in many cases, are the target at which inhuman husbands direct their abuse. In such instances, we maintain, that the lash should be used, and used unsparingly. To many such men prison has lost its terror, and the most condign punishment which could be meted out to them is that of the lash. They are thus made to feel a little of the pain they have occasioned to others; and this mode of punishment should act as a deterrent if anything could have that effect at all. The ruffian who makes his wife the butt of his abuse will show his cowardice when the lash is spoken of; and this should be preferable to allowing the cruel man to be immured for a short interval, and then allowed to resume his inhuman work. The lash would teach him to feel in the most direct way the enormity of his offending, and a good sound thrashing should teach him to behave in a more humane manner to those around him. We cannot see anything which is either "brutal" or "degrading" in this form of punishment; and we have no doubt that even those of the most tender susceptibilites will agree with the presentation made by the Grand Jury, and dissent from the finding of the Humanitarian League.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas has come and gone once more, and we have now pleasure in wishing our readers a happy new year. The one thing which marked Christmastide this year was the extremely favourable weather. In fact, had it not been for the calendar, we should not have been aware that the festive season was upon us. We are always inclined to associate Yuletide with the snow, and to speak of a real old-fashioned Christmas, but this year the weather would have done credit to the spring-time. The "happy morn" was heralded by a string band which played at different points of the town, and the effect produced by the dulcet matutinal strains was extremely pleasing. The members of the party who thus fulfilled such a kindly mission, of course, had to make some little sacrifice in the way of denying themselves their night's rest, but we feel certain that their efforts were highly appreciated by those who heard them.

WHAT IS A SYMPOSIUM?

We were not surprised to hear that the Rev. Joseph Bacon, who presided at the annual concert in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, on Christmas Day, should have referred to what he called the "genius," who described the gathering as a "symposium." This word was set out in bold type upon the bill which announced the affair, and we imagine there must have been much searching in the dictionary to ascertain what this euphemistic word really meant. To describe a gathering of the kind as a "symposium" is a solecism as glaring as it is absurd. Symposium specifically means "a drinking together," and latterly the word has been used in literary circles when opinions of men are given on one subject. Possibly the person who drafted the bill has a passion for originality, but in this instance he has carried his passion to a ridiculous excess. Wesleyans, too, as a rule, are not people who are supposed to have a taste for drinking together anything stronger than "æsthetic tea." We hope that promoters of entertainments, and the drafters of bills announcing the same, will stick to the time-honoured and appropriate words, and not be led away by a desire to give new titles to social functions.

THE POSTAL GRIEVANCE AGAIN.

The Christmas season this year was attended with a forcible illustration of an old grievance. We refer to the postal arrangements, in so far as the despatch of letters is concerned. We have on previous occasions referred to this matter, but the fact of Sunday being preceded by Christmas Day this year justifies us in calling attention to the grievance even for the ninty-ninth time. From Friday night of last week till Monday morning of this week there was no despatch, so that the letters which were posted on Saturday, say, had to rest in the boxes for forty-eight hours. Surely this is an anomaly which ought to be remedied. We want a Sunday despatch, and we should not rest satisfied until we get it. In a town of the size and importance of Consett this is a crying necessity, and we hope a lengthened interval will not elapse before such a general desire is given effect to.

A WARNING TO BUILDERS.

The fine which was imposed upon a Tanfield contractor at the Consett Police Court, on Monday, should serve as an object lesson to those who may be tempted to disregard the bye-laws of the local authorities in the way of having plans of a new building fully sanctioned by a District Council. The fact was stated that defendant had erected a brick building to be used as a byre within about 13 feet and 6 inches of an adjoining building, whereas the bye-laws stipulates that there should be a distance between such an erection as that mentioned and neighbouring buildings of fifteen feet. The contractor showed considerable hardihood in thus setting the District Council at defiance; and he must have known that he could not be allowed to do so with impunity. The Council acted wisely in bringing the case before the magistrates, and it may be taken for granted that the defendant will not be tempted to offend in the same way again.

A PERSONAL COMPLIMENT.

We publish below the text of a letter from Mr Strawbridge, Secretary of the Esh Ratepayer's Association, thanking us for the "very excellent and impartial report" of the Local Government Board inquiry which was held at Lanchester. It will be remembered that the inquiry was held to give an opportunity for ventilating opinion upon the proposal to purchase property for Workhouse extension at a cost of £1,600. The action of the Board of Guardians in the matter, it was well known, did not receive the full assent of the ratepayers; indeed, the opposition to the resolution passed by the majority of the Guardians, was, and is, very pronounced. Into the merits of the case, we do not intend to enter again. We can only say that we are averse to the purchase of the property, and believe the policy of the Guardians in this matter to be the direct and irreconcilable opposite of wise. Furthermore there is no justification—no real pressing necessity—for such an expenditure, and this is the most conclusive of all considerations by which the proposal of the Guardians should be governed.

December 28th, 1897.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by the members of the Esh Ratepayers' Association to convey to you their sincere thanks for the very excellent and impartial report which appeared in your issue of December 17th, with reference to the Local Government Board Inquiry held at Lanchester, on December 13th. Furthermore, I have to express their admiartion of the fearless attitude which you have assumed throughout against the unnecessary expenditure of £1,600. The members of the Association fully recognise the valuable support rendered to the direct ratepayers of the district through the columns of your publication.—I remain, Dear Sir, Yours Respectfully,

Wm. Strawbridge, Secretary Esh R.P.A.

"RUBBISH" IN NEWSPAPERS.

The Vicar of Lanchester, who recently received a snubbing from the Guardians on the occasion of his making an application for an increase of stipend as Chaplain at the Workhouse, seems to have a poor opinion of newspapers and periodicals. Preaching on Sunday evening, he expressed the opinion that they contain a good deal of "rubbish." There is a trite saying that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. For a sample of unmitigated "rubbish," we beg to refer Mr Jepson to his own periodical, the "Lanchester Parish Magazine." The Vicar of Lanchester also presumes to give authors and writers a little wholesome advice. He thinks that much of what they write would never see the light of day if they allowed a little time to elapse before sending their effusions to the printer. The same may be said of many of the wishy-washy sermons which are occasionally readfrom our pulpits. Mr Jepson does not, we know, claim to be a classical scholar, but that is no reason why he should not express himself in decent English. Although the Vicar of Lanchester disparages the newspapers, he cannot get over the fact that he himself plays the *role* of newsmonger once a month. In his latest effort, the current number of his "Parish Magazine," he informs his parishioners that "there is *precious* little time to gather up any items of local interest." This is an elegant Jepsonian style of expression which few newspaper scribes would care to adopt. However, we cordially agree with Mr Jepson in his strictures on gossiping, although, considering that this is the season of peace and good will, it seemed to us somewhat uncharitable to stigmatise the retailers of choice morsels as "Christless people." Our own experience of gossips is that they only chew when food is put into their mouths. There are evidently a few black sheep down at Lanchester, and we sincerely hope that ere the end of another year they will have turned into the right path.

In our review of the shops contained in the *Chronicle* of last week, the name of the firm of Salter and Salter, bootmakers, was inadvertently omitted. We desire to draw attention to the excellent stock of boots, shoes, slippers, &c., which this well-known firm have on sale. The window of the shop is at all times attractive, but it is especially so at this season; and we have no doubt Messrs Salter and Salter will be rewarded with a good measure of public patronage.

STANLEY & DISTRICT GOSSIP.

[By Our Own Correspondent.]

AN ANNFIELD PLAIN COMPLAINT.

One of the greatest inconveniences, if not indeed, nuisances to which pedestrians and tradesmen in the main street of Annfield Plain are subjected, is the almost nightly clustering together on the street of bodies of young men, who indulge in conversation not always very polite in tone. This inconvenience is greatest on the Saturday night, the busiest night that the tradesmen have. Occasionally the guardians of the peace drop a word in season, which has a deterrent effect; but, it would be well if something more vigorous could be done to put an end to this evil.

THE DYING YEAR.

The year is dying. It seems but yesterday that I watched the old year out, and the incoming of 1897; and yet twelve months have sped by since then. During that time changes and improvements have been effected both locally and nationally. Stanley footballers maintain their proud position in the football world, but the dear old Celts have receded almost out of sight, and the story of their greatness is "as a tale that is told." Perhaps the most noticeable improvement effected in the district has been with regard to the condition of the roads and footpaths, and for this the members of the Stanley Urban Council are deserving of our warmest thanks. The Tanfield School Board still retains its reputation for scene-making; and Mr Horatio Johnston's position as chief challenger in the United Kingdom seems perfectly secure.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

The great festive day of the Christian churches dawned bright and beautiful, save for seasonable frost, the numerous singers who paraded the streets announcing—

"Hark the herald angels sing!
Glory to the new-born King!"

conducting their early services under most auspicious circumstances. The services conducted at the various churches were all largely attended, and the teas, sales of work, etc., at the local Nonconformist churches were all successful to a pleasing extent. Footballers enjoyed themselves, and the important matches at Stanley and Annfield Plain were both largely patronized.

TANFIELD LEA WESLEYANS.

A bazaar was held in the Tanfield Lea Wesleyan School on Saturday, the proceeds being in aid of the funds of the Society. The Rev. J. Bacon introduced Mrs Aynsley, of Tanfield Lea, who declared the bazaar open in a charming speech. The receipts amounted to £30.

TANFIELD LEA BRASS BAND.

The draw which was concluded recently proved a great financial success, and will go far to set the Band on a sound financial footing. The prizes were given largely by the local tradesmen, fully 50 being contributed by the Stanley tradesmen.

DERWENT COTTAGES.

Christmas Tree.—On Christmas day a Christmas-tree and fancy fair took place in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel at the above place. Mr Brown, of Shotley Bridge, conducted the opening ceremony. The goods were of an excellent description, and over £10 was realised. The proceeds were in aid of the New Chapel fund.

WITTON GILBERT.

Lantern Lecture.—In connection with the local branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, the Rev. Gordon F. Symthe lectured in the National Schools, on Monday. The lecture, which was illustrated by the magic lantern, was very greatly appreciated. There was a large attendance, and at the close a vote of thanks to Mr Symthe was carried by acclamation.

Supper.—In connection with the Ramblers Club, a splendid supper was held at the house of Mr J. Jackson, Travellers' Rest, on Friday last. A substantial repast was provided, the tables being presided over by Miss Milner, and Mrs Jackson, whilst Mr Lawson, Mr Turner, and Mr Bainbridge acted as carvers. After the cloths had been removed, the chair was taken by Mr Turner, who congratulated the members on the success of the club. The usual loyal toasts having been proposed and responded to, the Chairman favoured the company with a song, which was well rendered. Messrs Harry Smith, Geo. Jackson, J. Hunter, Chas. Gray, and J. Dixon, followed the example of the chairman, Mr Wm. Bell accompanying on the piano. The club intend holding their annual trip on Whit-Monday.

SACRISTON.

Fruit Banquet.—A successful fruit banquet was held in the Primitive Methodist Church, on Saturday evening. Mr G. Sleeman acted as Chairman, and during the evening addresses were delivered by Mr Wardle and Mr J. Quinn. On Monday evening, Mr Coward, of Durham, lectured in the Primitive Methodist Chapel to a crowded audience, the chair being occupied, in the absence of Mr Clark, of Chester-le-Street, by Mr Sleeman. On the motion of Mr Quinn, a vote of thanks was accorded Mr Coward, and after that gentleman had responded, the proceedings terminated.

WEST PELTON.

Ball.—A successful Cinderella ball was held in the Co-operative Hall, on Christmas Eve, when over 60 couples were present. Several songs were rendered, and dancing broke up at midnight.

Wesleyan Church.—In connection with this place of worship, a successful fruit banquet was held in the School-room, on Friday evening. The chair was filled by Mr David Dyson, of Pelton Fell, and the choir, under the leadership of Mr W. Buglass, rendered solos in pleasing style. There was an abundance of fruit, which was distributed by Mr G. Riddle and Mr S. Smiley. Mr G. Middlemas, jun., was the accompanist, and the receipts were in aid of the Trust Funds. It has been decided to hold another banquet shortly.

STANLEY.

The Bazaar.—The receipts on the third day of the Church bazaar amounted to about £50, making a grand total of slightly over £300. It may be stated that the refreshments at the bazaar were supplied by Messrs Tuson and Co., of Sunderland.

Football Changes.—Morris, the Stanley goalkeeper, has been ordered by his medical adviser to refrain from football for some weeks; and Joe Crowther, of Leadgate, will therefore play in goal for the Lilywhites on Saturday. On the same day a trial will be given to a new centre forward named Fatten, hailing from the neighbourhood of Axwell.

Urban District Council. The usual monthly meeting of the above body was held on Wednesday afternoon, Mr J. Green, J.P., presiding. The other members present were Messrs W. Indian, G. Ridley, J. Smith, R. Kay, M. E. Armstrong, G. Forster, T. W. W. Ritson, the Clerk, J. G. Ridley, and the surveyor, Mr J. Routledge. The various committees' reports having been adopted, the chairman said that the clerk had written to the Commissioners of the Tanfield Charities. He had received no reply and as it was above a year ago, something ought to be done. As they were the largest portion with regard to population, he thought that the Commissioners would have replied.—Mr Ritson moved, and Mr Smith seconded, that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Commissioners once again.—Agreed. Mr Laws reported that the South Moor Science Classes were being carried on, and that there were five classes in all. He estimated that the cost of those classes would be £50. With the yearly grant, which would amount to £20, and £10 donation from the Colliery Owners, there would still be a deficit of £20. He asked the Council to do something, as they had an interest in the classes. It was eventually agreed to pay the £20 deficit, and so clear the expenses.—This was the principal business.

LEADGATE.

A Xmas Gift for a Working Man.—On Sunday evening, Mrs Jackson, wife of a coke drawer, Tin Street, Leadgate, gave birth to triplets. All infants are living, and are described as being healthy looking.

Brooms Amateur Minstrels.—On Wednesday evening, the large room of the Brooms School was filled to its utmost capacity when the Brooms choir, assisted by several friends, gave their first miscellaneous entertainment. The proceeds were in aid of the Organ Fund, for which £38 has already been received. The troupe consisted of 27 artistes, which were divided into five different sets, namely, sopranos, altos, tenors, basses, and comedians, and was under the able directorship of Miss Harker (organist). The programme was opened by Mr J. Monaghan, who sang a comic song entitled, "The Ring Tail'd Coon" in splendid style. Messrs J. Burke, J. Clare, B. McHugh, and J. Gilliard were loudly applauded for their efforts, as was Mr Hindson for his rendition of "Lub Me Dinah." The brothers Hyslop came in for a good reception, and after humorous songs by Messrs J. Monaghan, W. Costello, J. Turnbull, and Robert Kelly, the first part of the programme was concluded with the singing of the chorus "Good Night," in which the interlocutor, Mr R. Kelly, took a prominent part. After an interval of five minutes, the mandolin trio, Misses A. Harker, Nicholson, and Whitehead appeared and favoured the audience with selections. An encore was demanded, and responded to. Messrs G. Stoke and W. Costello next gave a song and dance, which was followed with a stump oration by Mr J. Robinson. This was well received, but as the minutes were fast rolling by, an encore was not given. The conjuring entertainment had to be put off, and Mr Turnbull introduced his musical umbrella. The entertainment was concluded with a sketch entitled "Black Justice," the characters being as follows:—Judge Graball, Mr G. Stoke; Barrister Jones, Mr J. Turnbull; P. C. Jackson, Mr R. Kelly; prisoners, Messrs B. McHugh, J. Monaghan, W. Costello, and J. Daly. The whole of the arrangements were carried out satisfactorily, and good order prevailed during the whole of the performance. The proceeds amounted to over £13.

CONSETT.

The establishment of Mr Walter Willson will close on New Year's Day, and also all day on the following Monday, instead of Wednesday afternoon.

North-West Durham Caledonian Society.—A well attended meeting of this Society was held in the small hall of the New Town Hall, Consett, on Friday evening. Dr. R. S. Ross presided. A constitution was drawn up, and the following office-bearers elected:—President, Mr R. Park, Blackhill; Vice-Presidents, Dr. Macintyre, Dr. Ress, and Dr. Morison (Catchgate); Treasurer, Mr A. Russell (Consett); Secretary, Mr J. Mathieson (Blackhill); Assistant Secretary, Mr William Henderson (Blackhill); members of the Committee—Messrs Petrie, A. C. Wilson, Pringle, Spencer (Catchgate), Orr (Annfield Plain), and Lumsden.

Christ Church, Consett—Young Men's Debating Society.—Instead of papers being read at the meeting of this Society, held last Friday night, in the Science and Art Room, presided over by Mr C. S. Weaver, all present acted as leaders, speaking upon subjects drawn from a hat. The subjects having been collected from those present at the commencement of the meeting, some amusement was caused as several of the questions were read out, and more so at the witty and forcible speeches of those to whom they had fallen, a short discussion following each speaker, and votes being taken upon the several subjects dealt with. The debate was one of the best of the Society's existence.

Baptist Church.—The annual Christmas tree for the Sunday School children was held in the Church on Christmas Day. The tree, which was laden with a host of pleasing articles for the young ones, was in charge of Messrs Wm. Moss, E. Bird, and G. Farnsworth, jun. A sale of work was held in the evening, when a large number of useful and fancy goods were sold. The stall-holders were: Miss Knifton, Mrs Dickens, the Misses Dickens, Mrs Teasdale, Mrs E. Teasdale, Miss Teasdale, Mrs E. Bird, Miss Robson, Miss Riddell, Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Elliot, Mrs Swindale, Mrs Knox, Mrs R. Bird, Mrs Russell. An enjoyable concert was held in the evening. Violin solos were contributed by Mrs W. P. Robson and Mr T. Robson, mandoline solos by Mrs Gascoigne, and songs by Mrs Gascoigne, Miss Low, and others.

Christmas.—Christmas was ushered in with weather of the most favourable character, but it was not seasonable. In the early hours of Saturday morning, a string band, under the leadership of a well-known local musician, played that beautiful hymn, "Christians awake, salute the happy morn," and then took up the vocal refrain. The effect upon those whose slumbers were not too profound was of the most pleasing character. Throughout Saturday, the Mission Band played selections at different points of the town, and there was the customary interchange of seasonable greetings. Business at the shops, except in one or two instances, was resumed on Monday morning.

Consett and District Yearly Club.—The members of this Yearly Club held their annual meeting at their headquarters, the Victoria Hotel, Consett, on Saturday evening. Mr E. Brown was elected to the chair, and Mr D. Morgan to the vice-chair. The secretary read the balance sheet for the past year, which was accepted by the members. It showed that the Club stood in a good position, with a balance in hand to be divided among the members. The committee decided to pay 17s 6d to each member. Mr D. Morgan proposed, and Mr A. Frazer seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs Ruddy, the worthy hostess of the house, who has always been willing to help the officers of the society in any way she could. The evening was spent in a very sociable manner. Twelve new members were enrolled during the evening.

The Duke of Wellington Sick Benefit Society.—On Saturday evening sen, the members of this society held their annual supper at the house of Mr W. Quinn, Medomsley Road, when a large company partook of an excellent supper provided by the hostess, Mrs Quinn. After the tables were cleared, Mr Martin, of Fell Farm, was voted to the chair, while the vice-chair was filled by Mr Atkinson, Delves Lane. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been honoured, the health of the Host and Hostess was proposed and drunk with musical honours. Mr Quinn responded in feeling terms, and said he would always be prepared to do what he could for the members. Although the club have had to contend with a good deal of sickness during the year, yet they have been able to pay a satisfactory dividend. The secretary, Mr T. Thirlwell, is most assiduous in his duties, and being backed up by an energetic committee, including Mr Quinn, Mr Cooper, Mr Atkinson, and others, the club bids fair to have a very prosperous incoming year. During the evening songs were given by Mr Atkinson, Mr O'Neil, Mr Williby, Mr Boyle, and others.

FATALITY AT BEAMISH AIR PIT.

A FATAL LARK.

A thrill of sorrow passed through Stanley ou Monday afternoon at the intelligence that a boy named Joseph Beckwith, about 13 years of age, had been killed whilst following his employment as pony driver at Messrs Joicey's air pits; and the feeling of sorrow became even deeper when the rumour spread that the poor boy had lost his life entirely through a lark on the part of another boy employed in the same capacity, who had placed a plate across the line on which the tubs run, for the sake of giving young Beckwith a fall.

THE INQUEST.

Mr John Graham held an inquest on the body, at the West Stanley Police Station, on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr T. H Cann, of Durham, treasurer of the Durham Miners' Union, appeared on behalf of the Union; and Messrs Joicey were represented by Major Humble, of West Pelton, manager of the local collieries belonging to Messrs Joicey, and Mr Wm. Severs, of the Beamish Air Pit.

Mr Hedley of Newcastle, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, was also present.

Mr John Chaytor was appointed foreman of the jury.

John Beckwith, 22, Joicey Square, father of deceased, identified the body as that of his son Joseph. Deceased, he said, was 13 years and eight months old, and had been employed as a driver at Beamish Air Pit. He was killed whilst at work on December 27th.

John W. Golden, 14 years of age, Kip Hill, driver at Beamish Air Pit, said that he was employed in the Low Main Seam, and was driving in-bye with an empty set about half-past two, being in front of a set drawn by Edward Moses. The latter was about 150 yards behind him. He was at the staple turn about the time mentioned, and his tubs went safely over the crossing. The piece of old plate (produced) was not on the crossing at the time, and he had never seen it before. He did not put it on the crossing himself. Moses followed him over the crossing. He (witness) was kneeling in the tub, and did not see the plate at all. He met Joseph Beckwith at the drift, coming out-bye. This was about 170 yards in-bye from the crossing. Beckwith's would be the first full set to come out-bye.

Mr Severs: I think that is wrong. A lad named Whitehouse was out first.

Witness: Yes, I met him at the staple before I met Beckwith.

The Coroner: How far is that from the crossing?

Mr Severs: About 65 yards.

Mr Hedley: Have you any practice of putting something over the rails to show when your sets have gone in?

Witness: No, Sir.

Mr Hedley: Are there any empty sets at the straight road? At the staple place you turn to the right, and there is another road going straight on. Do any tubs go along the straight road?

Witness: Yes.

Mr Hedley: Supposing you are going out of the curve, and there is another driver on the straight, do you do nothing to let each other know?

Witness: No.

Mr Hedley: Supposing you are both going out together, would you not meet at the crossing?

Witness: Yes.

Mr Severs having explained the question to witness, the reply was to the effect that they "wagged" at each other with their lamps.

William Henry Whitehouse, aged 14, of 33, Church Street, Stanley, driver, said that on the 27th, he was driving in the Low Main Seam at the Air Pit. About half-past two he was travelling out-bye with a full set and met Golden at the staple siding. Golden was taking an empty set in-bye. Witness took his tubs over the crossing. The piece of plate (produced) was not on the crossing at the time. Had it been, witness's tub would have come against it. Witness did not see the plate at all prior to having it shown to him at the Colliery after the accident. It was shown to him at the staple turn by William Briggs, a waggonwayman, who questioned all the boys about it. He met Ed. Moses at the second siding, out-bye of the staple turn. He was in charge of an empty set going in-bye. Moses was the next driver to go over the crossing after witness.

Edward Moses, aged 13, of East Stanley, said he was a driver at Beamish Air Pit. He was willing to tell all he knew of the matter. He had been a driver for three-quarters of a year on the same road. He knew the road well. On Monday last, he was driving along the Low Main. He had four tubs going in-bye. He followed Golden on his road in-bye, having the next empty set to him. He waited for Whitehouse at the second siding out-bye of the staple turn. After Whitehouse had passed him, he went on in-bye. He went over the crossing, but did not get across all right.

The Coroner: What was there wrong?

Witness: I got off the way.

The Coroner: Which tub?

Witness: All of them.

The Coroner: Where at?

Witness: At the staple turn. All the wheels of the first tub were off, two first wheels of the second, and all the wheels of the other two tubs went off. He was riding in the first tub, kneeling, when the wheels went off. He got out, and found a plate on the crossing.

The Coroner: Was it anything like that plate (producing the plate responsible for the accident to Beckwith).

Witness: Yes; it was like this. It was put lengthways on the crossing.

An examination of the plate proved that there were no marks on it, as denoting having been caught by the tubs.

The Coroner: What did you do with it after finding it?

Witness: I kicked it out of the crossing in-bye.

The Coroner: What did you do with the tubs?

Witness: I put them on the way.

The Coroner: Could you put them on single-handed? Do you mean to tell these gentlemen that you put all the tubs on the plates unassisted?

Witness: Yes, sir.

The Coroner: You would then have to take them over the crossing? What was the next thing you did? What did you do with the plate?

Witness: I put it between the rails before coming to the crossing, at the end of the V piece.

It was pointed out that if it had been placed there, it would not have touched the tub at all.

The Coroner: Are you sure that you did not put the plate here (indicating position across the line)?

Witness: No, I didn't.

Mr Peadon: You had better make a clean breast here, instead of going elsewhere. Are you quite certain that you did not put the plate there to play a lark on somebody?

Witness: No, sir.

Mr Peadon: We are not satisfied of that.

The Coroner: Why not place it clear of the line altogether?

Witness: I thought it was out of the way altogether?

Mr Smith: Have you never told anyone that you put it in this position?

Witness: No.

Mr Hedley: When your tubs went off the way, were they on the in-bye side of the crossing, or on the crossing itself?

Witness: On the in-bye end.

Mr Hedley: Was the last tub on the end of the crossing?

Witness: No: it was on the crossing.

Mr Hedley: Where was this old piece of plate lying after you had put the tubs on the way?

Witness: Just beside the crossing on the in-bye side. It was in front of the last tub.

Mr Hedley: Did you knock the piece of plate off the road before starting with your tubs, or did you come back and put it on afterwards?

Witness: I did it afterwards.

Mr Hedley: Did the second tub go off the way a second time?

Witness: No, sir; it was just off once.

Mr Hedley: Did the piece of plate jerk or joult the tub?

Witness: Yes, sir.

Mr Hedley: Where were you at the time—at the pony's head?

Witness: No, sir, in the tub.

Major Humble: Have you made any statement as to how the accident could have happened?

Witness: Yes, to Mr Severs, and P. C. Iceton.

Major Humble: Did you explain to them how it happened?

Witness: Yes.

Major Humble: Will you give the same explanation to the Coroner and the Jury?

The Coroner: We had better have the statement read.

Mr Severs said that the boy had made the following statement at the Colliery Office, in the presence of P.C. Iceton:—"I, Edward Moses, driver, followed Golden in-bye with an empty set, and on getting to the staple turn I saw a piece of plate right across the crossing. I got off the way with all four tubs, and on getting them on again I kicked it on the way because someone else had put it on for me. I knew that it was on the crossing when I went along with my set."

The Coroner: Is that right?

Witness: It doesn't read like that. I didn't put it across the way. I put it on the way I showed you.

Mr Severs: But didn't you tell me what I have read?

Witness: Yes.

Mr Cann: Would you tell me as to what means you used in order to get the tubs on the way?

Witness: I lifted them on.

Mr Cann: Did you lift them all on, or did you lift part and draw the others on?

Witness: I lifted three, and tried to draw the other on, but it did not come on, so I had to lift it. Continuing, he said that he met Beckwith at the staple siding, but did not say anything at all to him, nor did Beckwith speak to him. He was coming out full, when a driver told him that Beckwith had been killed. He saw the plate about a quarter of an hour after the accident, Mr Severs having it in his hand at the time.

Mr Dwyer expressed the opinion that it was impossible for the boy to kick it out.

Messrs Whitfield and Walker pointed out that the tub might have moved it first.

Mr Cann: Did you say anything to the waggonwayman about your upset?

Witness: No, Sir.

The Coroner: When did you first tell about your tubs being off the way?

Witness: I told Golden, Mr Severs, and Mr Iceton.

Mr Cann: When did you make the statement that has been read?

Witness: In the Office.

Mr Cann: Were you sent for?

Witness: Yes.

Mr Cann: Who was there at the time?

Witness: Mr Severs and Mr Iceton.

William Briggs, rolleywayman, Kip Hill, said that he had charge of the way where the accident occurred. There was nothing wrong with the road, and he had never had any complaints about the turn. It was very unusual for the tubs to get off the way at this point. The boy Robinson heard Beckwith shout, and came to see witness, who was about 200 yards away at the time. When witness got up, he found the first tub on the top of Beckwith, who was quite dead. He found the plate lying across the plate slightly to the south side. Two tubs had gone over it, and the third tub was eight inches behind. He saw the plate prior to the accident, having laid it himself on the stone near the turn just a few days before. He put it, to be safer, on a stone canch on the north side of the road about four feet in height. The canch was about eighteen inches off the plates, and about three yards out-bye. It would be quite impossible for the plate to have fallen from the canch on to the road, and it must have been lifted.

Replying to Mr Cann, witness said that he travelled this road many times every day. All workmen travelled along that road, but not at that time. He himself would be the last person to travel through, and neither lad nor man would travel past that crossing between Moses and Beckwith. He was the second person to arrive at the scene of the accident, a lad named Robinson being the first on the scene. The only system of signalling used by the lads was the waving of lamps. Deceased was lying with his chest against the stone. His face also was against the stone. In witness's opinion, deceased had been thrown off the tub, and the tub had fallen against him. He was squeezed against the tub and the side. The tub was not on the wheel.

The Coroner, in summing up the evidence, said—This, gentlemen, is no accident, and not the result of anything unexpectedly happening to the rails, or the rails being out of order, but it is directly caused by somebody's act in placing a piece of plate on the crossing. If this boy, Moses, had not made any statement at all, or if he had persisted in refusing to make a statement, in that case—as it was distinctly proved by other witnesses that there was no plate on the crossing when they passed, and that the next person to pass after Moses was Beckwith—I should have felt it my duty to tell you that although there is no direct evidence that Moses placed the plate across the line, still, inasmuch as somebody must have done it, and that, considering the short interval there was, no other person than Moses who could have done it, it would have been your duty to find a verdict against him, and sent him to take his trial for what would have been a very serious crime indeed, namely, the full capital offence of murder. It could not have been reduced to manslaughter, because it was a malicious act, which could have no other result than serious injury or loss of life to the first man or boy who happened to pass. Therefore, this injury would have assumed a most serious character. As the boy Moses has made statements, one to Mr Severs and the officer, and another here, he is entitled to the benefit of such action as may possibly remove him altogether from the serious position in which he would otherwise have been placed; and you may, if you choose, I leave it entirely with you, think that it has just been a piece of silly, senseless, and at the same time dangerous practical joking. It would have been better for the boy, and far more satisfactory, if he had made one truthful statement. Instead of doing this, he has made two statements; but I think the greatest reliance should be put upon his first statement, which was read to you by Mr Severs. It is perfectly clear that Moses has not told us the whole truth. The piece of plate might have been on the way, but it is very unlikely that it was, because you have the distinct evidence of the boy who passed before Moses, and who said that the plate was not there. Then as to his kicking it on the way, because it was there when he came, that does not commend itself to me as likely to be true. That he put it on the way because he wanted to play a rough but very dangerous and very stupid practical joke, I can quite believe, and if you take that view of the case it will make a very great difference with respect to what shall be done to this boy. Beckwith's death is due simply and entirely to the fact that the piece of plate was on the crossing, and that his tub wheel came in contact with it, and threw him off. The piece of plate was put there by somebody, and it has been practically admitted by Moses that he put it there. If you are not satisfied with the explanation, but think that he put it there and intended to do grievous bodily harm, not necessarily to kill, he is liable to be committed for murder.

The Jury retired, and after an absence of about five minutes returned, when

The Foreman said—The Jury seem to be quite agreed that the boy Moses placed the rail there, but not with any intention to do harm. They do not believe a single thing which he has said to-day, and think his first statement correct. The Foreman added that the jury left themselves entirely in the Coroner's hands.

The Coroner: You think that it was really a stupid practical joke, with no malicious intention; and without any idea of doing a personal injury.

The Foreman: Yes.

Mr Peadon: Of course he might have been a victim himself.

The Coroner: Well, hardly.

After calling the boy Moses forward,

The Coroner said:—The jury all believe that you did it, that you put the plate there, but at the same time they don't think you meant to do any injury to the lad who has been unfortunately killed, or to anybody else. But whatever your intention was, it was a very foolish, very silly thing to do, and really one might say a wicked thing to do. You have no business to play tricks of any kind down the pit. You are down there to do work, and should not indulge in any larking. On this occasion you really stood in a very serious position. You might very readily have been sent to take your trial for the murder of this boy. You have had a very narrow escape. If you should continue working down the pit, don't play tricks again; and should you ever again get into any scrape, tell the truth, and don't attempt to get out of it as you have done in this case. You have told Mr Severs one story, and when he refused to believe it, you told another, and to-day you have told a third. Whatever you do, tell the truth.

A verdict was returned as follows:—"On Dec. 27th, Joseph Beckwith was killed by being crushed by the coal tub on which he was riding, the tub having previously come into contact with a piece of plate which had improperly been placed across the line by one Edward Moses, but without any malicious intention."

The Coroner: With respect to the other boys who gave evidence, you will agree that they gave it exceedingly well, and in such a way as to lead one to believe that they were telling the truth. I could not help being impressed with the truthfulness of their evidence.

The boy Moses, it may be added, is the son of a widow residing at East Stanley, and the unfortunate boy who has met with such an untimely end is a nephew of Mr E. Beckwith, the well-known cricket and football player.

BURNOPFIELD.

Entertainment.—A charming entertainment was given at the Temperance Hall on Tuesday, in connection with the Church of England Temperance Society. It was arranged and most successfully carried out by Miss Eva Beckingham, and the programme was as follows:—Duet, "Sleigh Bells," Misses E. and B. Beckingham; song, Mr H. W. Reynolds; song, "Where are you going, my pretty maid," Miss Anthony; tableau (four scenes), Misses Annandale and Beckingham, and Messrs Faber and Hedley; violin solo, Miss Goldson; reading, "The Statue of Justice," Rev. T. Dunn; tableaux, Misses J. Annandale and B. Beckingham; song, "For all Eternity," Miss Willis; violin obligato, Miss Goldson; tableaux, "Which," Miss Annandale, and Messrs Beckingham and Hill; tableaux, "Blue Beard" Mr L. Beckingham, "Fatima" Miss K. Beckingham; song, Mr Reynolds; tableaux, "The Tiff," Miss K. Beckingham and Mr Faber; violin solo, Miss Goldson; song, "Grandmamma's Song," Miss Willis; tableaux, "1837-1897," Misses G. Anthony and M. Beckingham; song, "The Three Old Maids of Lee," Miss Anthony; tableaux, (1) "The Three Young Maids" and (2) "The Three Old Maids," Misses K. and B. Beckingham, Misses R., G., and J. Annandale, and Miss G. Anthony; dialogue, "A Windy Day," Miss Willis and Mr Faber. Where all was extremely good, it is difficult to particularise, but perhaps the tableaux, "The Three Old Maids of Lee," caused the most amusement, though "1897," represented by an up-to-date young lady in bloomers and leggings, standing by a bicycle with a cigarette in her mouth, was very funny. The songs and violin solos were warmly encored. Everyone present enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to Miss Eva Beckingham and her friends, who had taken such pains and given so much pleasure.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Wesleyan Activity.—A concert, followed by a supper, was held in the Wesleyan Chapel on Christmas Day, and proved very successful. Mr R. C. Foster, of Consett, preached on Sunday to large congregations, both morning and evening; and during the afternoon, the Choir rendered an interesting musical service.

Urban District Council.—The usual monthly meeting of this Council was held in the Board Room, Hare Law, on Tuesday evening sen., under the presidency of Mr J. Storey. There were also present:—Messrs J. Mason, B. Hall, Jas. J. Taylor, W. Young, W. Johnson, W. Down, W. Eltringham, T. L. Watchman (Clerk), and Mr Trowsdale (Surveyor).—A deputation, consisting of Messrs G. T. Hyden, J. Kempson, and A. Stoddart, waited upon the Council, and explained the objects of the new Technical Institute at Consett.—After several questions had been asked and answered, it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Finance Committee.—The Medical Officer and the Inspector of Nuisances were re-appointed for the ensuing year.—Cheques for £177 10s. 10d were ordered to be signed.—This was all the business of importance.

South Derwent and West Shield Row Collieries Mechanics' Benefit Fund.—The annual social of the above society was held on Friday sen., in the Erecting Shop of the South Derwent Collieries, Annfield Plain, kindly granted for the occasion by the manager, Wm. Rutherford, Esq. There was a good attendance of members, Mr Mark Nicholson presiding. The Secretary, Mr George Davison, read the annual report and financial statement of the past year, which showed that the members' subscriptions amounted to £33 18s, of which £28 8s was paid out as relief in cases of sickness, and £9 for deaths during the year. The meeting then proceeded to elect the following officers for the ensuing year:—President, Mr M. Nicholson; Stewards, Mr Jackson Urwin and Mr Joseph Bell; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr G. Davison. The meeting was followed by a social dance, in which the whole of the members, numbering over 80, took part. Songs were sung in the course of the evening by the following gentlemen:—"Buy my fine Onions" and "The Beautiful Isles of the Sea," by Mr Edgar Piper, sen.; "Don't tickle me, Maria" and "The Anchor's Weighed," by Mr Geo. Davison, jun.; "The Laughing Song," by Mr Geo. Ridley; "The Soldier and the Man," by Mr E. Scott; "The Portrait of my Wife" and "The boat that first brought me over," by Mr J. J. Moore; "They're waiting there for me," by Mr B. Davison. A very happy and enjoyable evening was spent, and was concluded by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

LANCHESTER.

Christmas at the Workhouse.—The inmates of the Workhouse were treated to their usual Christmas dinner, the viands including all the dainties which are associated with the festive season, and those who desired had a pint of beer. It is needless to say that the meal was heartily enjoyed.

Kit's Well Road to be Lighted.—All's well that ends well. Kit's Well Road, leading to Dorman's Cottages, is to be lighted forthwith, and, what is equally satisfactory, the road itself will shortly be formed. We are glad that the District Council have at length adopted the course which has all along been advocated in the *Chronicle*. It was hoped that Back Victoria Street would also be attended to, but only Kit's Well Road will receive attention. A deputation of members from the Lanchester Parish Council attended the last meeting of the District Council, when the claims of the people living at both places were stated by the Chairman of the first-named body, Mr J. R. Ritson. He pointed out that the Parish Council had on a previous occasion drawn the attention of the District Council to the deplorable condition of Kit's Well Road. When the District Council denied their responsibility, the Parish Council considered the advisability of making a footpath themselves, but they found that they were powerless to do so. They also found that the owners of the cottages were not disposed to make an approach thereto, and in these circumstances the Parish Council appealed to the District Council to do something in the matter. The Chairman (Mr Logan) having invited discussion, Mr Wilkinson said he was opposed to lighting private roads, but in this instance he thought it was right to light Kit's Well Road, especially as it was so extensively used by the public.—Mr Gray also expressed a wish to see the road lighted.—Mr Kirkup pointed out that the road practically belonged to nobody.—In answer to Mr Oliver, the Chairman said, if the District Council decided to light the road, the expense would be borne by the Lanchester Parish.—Mr Robinson wished to know if the District Council had the power to light a private road.—Mr J. R. Ritson reminded the Council that the road in question was a bridle road.—Mr Gray said it was absolutely necessary that something should be done, and he therefore proposed that the District Council light the road.—Mr Wilkinson said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion.—This having been carried, the Chairman informed the deputation that the Council had decided to place lights on Kit's Well Road, [illegible] Back Victoria Street. There had been a proposal by the Parish Council in favour of making a public road from Kit's Well to a point above Hurbuck, in order to gain a direct route from Lanchester to Consett. Doing this would divert the traffic from the main road, which as they knew was maintained by the County Council. To make two miles of road, and erect a bridge over the burn at Low Meadows, would entail a cost of about £1800, without taking into account the cost of the land. For the present, he suggested that only the question of making a road from Kit's Well to Dorman's Cottages should be entertained.—The deputation thanked the Council, and then withdrew.—It is understood that the question of making this portion of road will be considered at the next meeting of the District Council.

OBITUARY ANNALS

OF

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In these papers it is proposed to give some account of the most remarkable occurrences in the whole area of the Lanchester Union during a period of sixty years. It is believed that they will be of interest to the readers of the *Chronicle*, and their co-operation is solicited in making the record as complete as possible. The utmost care has been taken to give nothing that would be likely to cause offence or give pain. Many of the events chronicled will be within the recollection of some of our older readers, and we shall be glad to receive additional facts relative to any of the events or people mentioned. The record has been compiled with great care, and the names and dates may be accepted as absolutely correct. With a view to making this department of the *Chronicle* interesting, the Editor will be glad to answer, free of charge, inquiries respecting the date of the death of any person in North-West Durham during the period covered by the record.

1866.

1 July, Alexander Coxon, Shield Row, aged 65.

1 July, Hannah, widow of Joseph Wilkinson, Tantobie, aged 83.

2 July, Robert Slater, aged 12; Robert Simpson, aged 12; Matthew James Nicholson, aged 13; and James Robson Stoker Nasbett, aged 10, all whalers at Andrew's House Colliery, killed by the explosion of a boiler.

3 July, Thomas Eltringham, grocer and provision merchant, Burnopfield, aged 28.

6 July, Honora, widow of John Costello, farmer, Havannah, aged 57.

12 July, Jane, widow of Thomas Forster, carrier, Lanchester, aged 80.

13 July, James Conley, High Conside, aged 43.

13 July, John Coulthard, master tailor, Burnopfield, aged 60.

17 July, John Moses, Leadgate, aged 63.

21 July, George Young, blacksmith, South Moor, aged 26.

22 July, Jane, widow of John Ridley, farmer, Benfieldside, aged 65.

22 July, Hugh Campbell, Leadgate, aged 22.

23 July, Barbara, wife of James Colvin, Leadgate, aged 64.

25 July, Isabella, wife of Joseph Buckham, master cartwright, Cornsay, aged 79.

28 July, Elizabeth, wife of Robert Sanderson, Tantobie, aged 36.

1 Aug., Mary Jane, daughter of William Reed, yeoman, Lanchester, aged 19.

3 Aug., Frances, wife of Michael Stevenson, farmer, Biggin, aged 53.

8 Aug., Ann Wharton Mowbray, Shafto House, aged 55.

8 Aug., Joseph Scott, butler, High Conside, aged 37.

9 Aug., George Gladders, White-le-Head, aged 23.

13 Aug., Henry Jacobson, Shipley's Houses, Kyo, aged 41.

15 Aug., George Moorsom, Surveyor General for Tonnage, H.M. Customs, London, Priestfield Lodge, aged 70.

18 Aug., Ann, widow of Henry Southern, farmer, Shield Row, aged 76.

25 Aug., Samuel Oldfield, South Moor, aged 69.

25 Aug., John Graham, mason, Annfield Plain, aged 65.

31 Aug., Alexander English, aged 12, whaler, Hobson, killed by wagons on Pontop Railway.

1 Sept., George Thew, aged 12, driver, Hedleyhope, killed by falling from a set of tubs, one of which was found resting on his heart.

3 Sept., Margaret, widow of Luke Mason, Craghead, aged 75.

3 Sept., Jane, wife of John Telford, Havannah, aged 36.

5 Sept., Ann, wife of John Clark, Greencroft Pit, aged 48.

5 Sept., Margaret, wife of George Metcalfe, Stoney Heap, aged 74.

5 Sept., James Guthrie, wagonwright, Catchgate, aged 69.

7 Sept., Isabella, widow of William Luke, South Derwent Cottages, aged 67.

7 Sept., Rose, wife of Patrick Connor, High Conside, aged 31.

7 Sept., Eleanor Walton, Hill Top, Dipton, aged 77.

10 Sept., Mary, wife of Thomas Griffiths, High Conside, aged 30.

13 Sept., Thomas Leonard, High Conside, aged 51.

13 Sept., John Stewart, Leadgate, aged 40.

14 Sept., Mary Greenwell, gentlewoman, Broomshields, aged 87.

15 Sept., Elizabeth, wife of William Cranston, Greencroft Pit, aged 34.

15 Sept., Elizabeth Thirlwell, Medomsley, aged 73.

15 Sept., George Septimus Thompson, surgeon, Burnopfield, aged 28.

22 Sept., Edward, widow of Edward Fairbridge, carrier, Burnopfield, aged 66.

22 Sept., William Eggleston, aged 34, onsetter, Kyo, crushed to death by a cage in South Derwent Coal Mine.

23 Sept., Jane, wife of Thomas Thompson, South Moor, aged 42.

28 Sept., Ann, wife of Thomas Hardy, draper, High Conside, aged 32.

2 Oct., Hannah, wife of Robert Reed, Havannah, aged 55.

2 Oct., Mary Ann, wife of William Little, Leadgate, aged 50.

2 Oct., Eleanor, wife of John Reed, master grocer, Lanchester, aged 56.

3 Oct., Ann Handcock, school mistress, Tantobie, aged 58.

4 Oct., Hannah, wife of Joseph Rowell, Greencroft Cottages, aged 50.

5 Oct., Elizabeth, wife of Patrick Crosson, High Conside, aged 40.

9 Oct., Jane, wife of Thomas Cookson, Peile's Cottages, aged 35.

11 Oct., John Todd, cowkeeper, Hill Top, Dipton, aged 78.

12 Oct., William Lamb, master tailor, Burnopfield, aged 67.

13 Oct., Elizabeth, widow of John Maughan, South Moor, aged 75.

13 Oct., Philip Orrell, Roman Catholic Priest, Ushaw College, aged 66.

16 Oct., Thomas Smailes, Causey Hall, aged 50.

18 Oct., Robert Wilson, Causey Row, aged 66.

21 Oct., William Wheatley, farmer, Medomsley, aged 90.

21 Oct., Elizabeth, widow of William Boomer, Leadgate, aged 92.

22 Oct., William Forster, Greencroft Cottages, aged 38.

22 Oct., Mary, widow of Henry Hodgson, Mountsett, aged 86.

25 Oct., Catharine, widow of John Taylor, Cornsay, aged 67.

26 Oct., William Platt, aged 31, killed by a fall of stone in Inkerman Colliery.

27 Oct., Sarah, wife of Patrick Roney, Leadgate, aged 30.

28 Oct., Joseph Robinson, timber merchant and farmer, Tanfield, aged 65.

29 Oct., Isabella, widow of Joseph Taylor, Tantobie, aged 71.

30 Oct., Mary, widow of George Dawson, High Conside, aged 54.

2 Nov., Joseph Cockburn, blacksmith, Hill Top, Dipton, aged 33.

2 Nov., Elizabeth English, aged 15, Whitehall, killed by a waggon running against her on railway.

4 Nov., John Allen, army surgeon, Hill Top, Dipton, aged 77.

6 Nov., Robert Graham, Annfield Plain, aged 31.

12 Nov., Margaret, widow of Philip Dunn, Tanfield Lea, aged 90.

15 Nov., Elizabeth, wife of Henry Knocker, Leadgate, aged 25.

21 Nov., Joseph McKenna, Leadgate, aged 65.

22 Nov., Joseph Dunn, joiner, Kyo, aged 49.

22 Nov., Jane, wife of Thomas Cook, Bog Pit, Kyo, aged 67.

23 Nov., Isabella, daughter of John Wilson, Waskerley Park, aged 22.

28 Nov., Margaret, wife of William Foster, Derwent Grange, aged 51.

28 Nov., Elizabeth, wife of George Milburn, High Kyo, aged 27.

30 Nov., Isabel, daughter of George Smith, enginewright, Craghead, aged 24.

1 Dec., Ann Hall, farmer, East Butsfield, aged 82.

2 Dec., John Hall, West Stanley, aged 72.

3 Dec., Jane, wife of William Bell, enginefitter, South Pontop, aged 43.

3 Dec., Isabella Wilkinson, High Conside, aged 22.

4 Dec., Joseph Kirtley Henderson, joiner, Clough Dene, aged 21.

6 Dec., William Burdis, Brick Flatts, Cornsay, aged 50.

9 Dec., Robert Bolam, Maiden Law, aged 77.

9 Dec., Peter Sinton, Benfieldside, aged 60.

13 Dec., John Brown, aged 13, driver, Hedleyhope Colliery (killed by a tub).

14 Dec., Abraham Parker, Redwell Hills, aged 76.

15 Nov., Catherine, wife of James Edwards, West Law, aged 37.

16 Dec., Jane, wife of Adam Wilkinson, Dipton, aged 29.

18 Dec., Joseph Fletcher, aged 55, hewer, killed by fall of stone in Beamish Air Pit.

18 Dec., Michael Pringle, aged 29, stoneman, killed by a shot exploding in Tanfield Moor Pit.

22 Dec., Hannah, wife of James Graham, gatekeeper, Bunker's Hill Cottage, aged 60.

23 Dec., Cuthbert Pace, Flint Hill, aged 54.

25 Dec., Thomas Richardson, draper, Leadgate, aged 58.

26 Dec., Thos. Forster, Annfield Plain, aged 43.

30 Dec., Margaret, widow of Edward Brownbridge, Waskerley Park, aged 24.

30 Dec., Thomas Walters, Shield Row, aged 86.

31 Dec., Mark Bell, aged 11, driver, High Kyo, died from a fractured skull, caused by the kick of a horse on the 17th November.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

CHURCH GATHERING AT BLACKHILL.

A social gathering was held in St. Aidan's Hall on Tuesday evening, when the new curate, the Rev. R. H. Smallwood, was formally introduced to the members of the Church. Mr Smallwood, who is only a young man, has had a brilliant University career, and this is his first curacy, as he is also the first clerical assistant to the Vicar of the parish. For a period of thirteen years the spiritual oversight of the parish has devolved exclusively upon the popular and energetic Vicar, the Rev. T. J. Storey, who, indeed, in a sense has made the parish himself. When he came to Blackhill there was no Church there, and worship had to be conducted in the Temperance Hall. The fine edifice which stands contiguous to the Park, and the commodious hall close by are monuments in themselves to the zeal of the Vicar. In other departments of Church work he has laboured industriously, and without making any show of that which he was accomplishing. With an increasing population, the clerical work of the parish naturally became more arduous: and it was decided that the hands of the Vicar should be strengthened by a curate. The meeting on Tuesday night was harmonious throughout, and was well attended. There was a parish stall, on which were laid out a large number of useful articles, while at another end of the room there stood that popular reminder of the festive season, a Christmas tree, which was laden with a huge crop of toys for the little ones. The parish stall was presided over by Mrs Ormrod, Miss Scott, and Mrs Shell; while the Christmas tree was attended to by Miss Row. Tea, an essential at such gatherings, was partaken of, and much enjoyed. Tables were given by Mrs Storey, Mrs Renton, Mrs Geo. Christopher, and the Misses Sinclaire; while these were were presided over by Mrs Gray and Mrs Simpson, Mrs Moor being untiring in her superintendence of the refreshment arrangements. In the course of the evening, the Vicar introduced Mr Smallwood to the company. He compared himself to the old year, and Mr Smallwood to the new year, and expressed a hope that the new would be much better than the old. This was the first curacy which Mr Smallwood had had, and he hoped he was taking the first step to an Archbishopric. (Applause.)—Mr Smallwood, in reply, expressed his surprise at the warmth of the reception he had received, and which he highly appreciated. It was his intention to work principally among the young men, and that would be very genial work to him. He thanked them all for the kind reception they had given him. The evening was spent in a truly social manner. Songs were given, and at intervals several of the company engaged in a dance. The musical programme was sustained by Miss Dixon (Ryton), Miss Wood (Ryton), Mr John Davison, Mr T. Holland (Annfield Plain), Mr C. F. Scott (New Bell), Mr R. Wild (Shotley Bridge), Mrs Renton and Miss Renton, Misses Davison (3), Misses English (2), and Miss Ainsworth, who kindly contributed a pianoforte solo. The efforts of the various performers were well received. The arrangements were in the hands of the Vicar, Mr Moon and Mr Ormrod (churchwardens), and Mr W. Davison (choirmaster).

NEW THEATRE. CONSETT

Undue pressure on our space last week precluded us from noticing the first of what is intended to be a series of annual benefits to Mr Lloyd Clarance, the genial manager of the local theatre, and his amiable better half, which was given in the New Theatre on Wednesday evening. The public took advantage of this opportunity of making a free and open attestation of their esteem for Mr and Mrs Clarance by turning out in large numbers. Beyond the personal compliment itself, however, those who visited the theatre last week received a treat the like of which they will not to be favoured with for some time. The programme was one of unusual excellence, and the best of local talent willingly gave their services for the occasion. The entertainment was of the variety kind, and a splendid variety it was. From the rise of the curtain until its final fall for the evening the audience were delighted. The Juvenile Carlyns gave an excellent variety entertainment, their singing and dancing alike being highly appreciated. Mr R. Moncrief, who is the fortunate possessor of a sweet tenor voice, sang with fine effect, while Mr Harry Nelson, Tyneside vocalist and comedian, kept the audience in good humour, while he occupied the stage. His efforts were highly appreciated, as they really deserved to be. Perhaps the feature of the evening was Mr Clarance's adaptation of Dickens's "Bleak House," entitled "Poor Jo's Last Move." Mr and Mrs Clarance are well-known personalities off the stage, and as exponents of the Thespian art, they are not unknown to fame. This, however, was the first opportunity which Consettonians have had of judging of their respective capabilities in this line. The piece which they selected from their extensive repertoire with which to introduce themselves to a Consett audience was one which could not fail to appeal to any gathering. Mr Clarance himself essayed a triple part—Mr Jonas Flinty, Mr Cantwell, and Robert Bunnett, "a member of the force"—and the versatility of the actor-manager was strikingly exemplified. In the character of the policeman especially Mr Clarance shown to advantage, but this remark in no way detracts from his admirable presentments of the other parts. Mrs Clarance assumed the role of "Poor Jo," and it is sufficient to say that her pourtrayal of the part was characterised by a naturalness—to use a word which is to be pardoned—that is seldom, if ever, seen on the local stage. The individualities of Mr and Mrs Clarance were merged entirely in the characters they represented, and for the nonce even those who were most intimately acquainted with both were carried away by the thoroughness with which the talented couple impersonated others than themselves. We are always inclined to forget the character and think entirely of the well-known personage who assumes to appear in public as another person. This is a natural tendency of which it is often impossible to rid oneself, but in this instance, owing to the realistic manner in which the piece was performed, one forgot all about the actual persons who played their parts so well. This, of course, is no compliment to a couple who have earned a good name and great fame in their profession. The piece was marked throughout, as we have said, by the greatest realism. There was no "playing to the gallery." The couple gave themselves up unreservedly to the impersonation of the characters they pourtrayed. The pathos of the piece was strikingly brought out, especially in the case of Mrs Clarence, who might really have sat for Dickens's picture of the prototype. Mr and Mrs Clarence are certainly to be congratulated on their first appearance on a Consett stage, and the wish is very generally expressed that a lengthened interval will not elapse before we have the pleasure of seeing them again in the character of others. The second part of the programme was entirely sustained by the Blackhill Æthopian Minstrels, and this part in itself formed an entertainment which it was pleasing to listen to. The combination was composed of the following:—Vocalists — Tenors, Messrs Ridley Heymer, W. Redshaw, T. Longworth, and J. Atkinson; basses, Messrs J. Markson, J. Symington, and J. Askew; comedians, Messrs F.R. Brodie, G. Stokoe, J. T. Hindson and T. Lambert; interlocutor, Mr Johnson; instrumentalists—leader of orchestra, Mr T. H. Wood; first violin, Mr T. Borthwick; second violin, Messrs Robson and J. Gunn; viola, Mr H. Pansy; 'cello, Mr M. Coward-Klee; bass, Mr Blaylock; flute and piccolo, Mr Chas. A. Williams; cornet, Mr J. Lamb; clarionet, Mr Blowhard; trombone, Mr Gibbon; musical director and accompanist, Mr Geo. A. Williams; juvenile choir of boys—led by Master Artie Clarence—Masters Daglish, Salisbury, Stone, Martin, and Artie and Bertie Clarence. The programme, which was as follows, was rendered in a manner which would have done credit to a troupe of higher name:—Overture, "The Washington Post," band; opening chorus, "Dashing through the Snow," company; ballad, "Old Folks at Home," Mr W. Redshaw; comic song, "The Laughing Nigger," Mr Fred. Brodie; ballad, "Come back to me," Mr Ridley Heymer; comic song, "Underneath the umbrella," Mr J. T. Hindson; ballad, "Come where my love lies dreaming," Mr J. Symington; bone solo and step dance, Mr G. Stokoe; ballad, "Stars of the night," Mr Markson; finale, "Marching to Georgia," company; "God save the Queen."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

Another year has passed away,
To-morrow dawns a New Year's Day;
What various sights and scenes have passed
And gone since January last!

Its opening days seemed clear and bright,
Which soon, ah! soon, were doomed to blight;
As time upon her wing flew on,
We found that cheerfulness had gone.

Although it was the Jubilee
Of Her Most Gracious Majesty,
Whose sixty years—the longest reign—
We ne'er will see the like again.

Yet ninety-seven was doomed to be
A year of strife and misery,
For, readers, do we not all know
That strife brings poverty and woe?

Disputes seem prevalent in the north,
For ever since that strike at Forth,
In mines, shipyards, and other trades
There've been and are, some great blockades

To trade, industry, and commerce,
And, reader, things are even worse;
While strikes go on we know that we
Are banishing trade across the sea.

And yet we can't deny the facts,
With all our Education Acts,
That other countries with our trade
Will rob us of our daily bread.

In those enlightened days of ours,
With all our legislative powers,
Can we not try some other plan
To benefit master and man?

Pray give up force on either side,
In future times whate'er betide,
Let's meet each other face to face,
And arbitrate upon our case.

And may the advent of the year
See strife and misery disappear;
And may things as before go straight
In eighteen hundred ninety-eight.

Pelton. JOHN W. BLAYEN, JUN.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD.—Before W. B. VAN HANNSBERGEN, Esq. (in the chair), Dr. WILSON, His Honour JUDGE GREENWELL, and the Rev. T. L. J. WARNEFORD.

SLIDING AT OXHILL.

John Clennell, Edward Handy, and John Waggott were charged with a contravention of the Stanley Council bye-laws by sliding on the footpath, on 1st December.—Waggott was fined 2s 6d, and the others 1s each and costs.

REFUSING TO QUIT AT LANGLEY PARK.

Gibson Jackson and Robert Jackson, brothers, were charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of Edward White, at Langley Park, on the 4th December.—Fined 2s 6d each and costs.——The first-named defendant was further charged with wilfully damaging a window in Mr White's house.—It seems that after defendant had been ejected from the house, he flung a stone through the window.—Ordered to pay the damage 10s 6d and costs, 15s 6d in all.

ASSAULT AT WEST KYO.

Michael Wearmouth was summoned for assaulting Edward Southeran, at West Kyo, on the 19th December.—Fined 10s and costs, £1 1s in all.

DISPUTE AT QUEBEC.

James Yates was charged with assaulting John Middlemiss at Quebec, on the 18th December. A cross-summons charged Middlemiss with assaulting Yates on the same occasion. Mr Brownless, of Durham, appeared for Yates.—After hearing the evidence, the Bench decided to dismiss both cases, each side paying its own costs.

STEALING A BICYCLE HORSE.

William Bolton, of Stanley, was brought up in custody of P.C. Iceton, who had apprehended him at Durham under circumstances which have already been recorded in the *Consett Chronicle*, charged with stealing a bicycle horse belonging to Mr Henry Palmer, at Medomsley, on the 12th November. Prisoner was further charged with being a deserter from the Army. The evidence showed that Bolton sold the bicycle at Derwent Cottages for 6d. He was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for the theft, and on his liberation from prison he will be handed over to an escort from his regiment.

IMPUDENT THEFT AT STANLEY.

John Kelly was charged with stealing a watch belonging to Thomas Wright. On the 27th November, Kelly met Wright in the street and asked for assistance, which was refused. He then asked Wright to tell him the time, and while the latter was doing so, he snatched his watch out of his hand. He was apprehended by P.C. Thomas the same night in a lodging-house at Stanley.—The magistrates characterised it as an impudent theft, and sent him to prison for a month.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

William Metcalfe was charged by P.C. Robson with having been drunk and disorderly at Oxhill, on the 11th. Fined 2s 6d and costs.——Charles Kilty, charged by P.C. James with a similar offence on the same day, was fined 5s and costs.——George Ridley and Thomas Scorer, miners, of West Kyo, charged by P.C. Martin with a similar offence at the above place on the 19th December, were each fined 5s and costs.——James Mason and John Laycock, charged with a similar offence at Burnhope, were fined, the former 5s and the latter 2s 6d, and costs.——John George Laverick was charged by P.C. Iceton with having been drunk and disorderly at Stanley, on the 13th December.—Fined 5s and costs.——William Cooper, William Bryant, Ralph Batey, Thomas Hope, Albert Goodchild, William Redman, and John Mumford were charged with a similar offence at South Moor.—Cooper was fined 10s and costs; Bryant, Batey, and Hope, 5s each and costs; Goodchild, Redman, and Mumford, each 2s 6d and costs.—P.C. Stubbs proved the cases.——Thomas McCluskey, Wm. Robertson, and John Henderson were charged by P.C. Chrisp with a similar offence at Craghead, and fined 2s 6d each and costs.——Thos. Carruthers, charged by Sergt. Gillespie with a similar offence at Quebec, was fined 5s. and costs.—Martin Doyle was fined 2s. 6d. and costs for a like offence at Esh Winning. P.C. Robinson proved the case.—John Connor and Andrew Stewart were charged with a similar offence at Stanley, on the 11th of December.—Sergt. Wood proved the case, and defendants were fined 2s. 6d. each and costs.—George Young and Margaret Young, husband and wife, were charged by P.C. Elliott with a similar offence at Lanchester on the 21st inst. Fined 5s. each and costs.—Thos. Wilson, charged by P.C. Elliott with having been drunk and acting indecently at Lanchester on the 23rd inst, was fined 10s. and costs, and in default of payment was sent to prison for a fortnight.

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF A HORSE.

Robert Olns was summoned by P.C. Ferguson for having been drunk while in charge of a horse and cart at Shield Row, on the 7th inst. Fined 10s. and costs.

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES AT STANLEY.

John McLoughron, James Connelly, John Davison, Thomas Elliott, and Elizabeth Brown were charged with having been drunk on licensed premises at Stanley, on the 27th Nov. The evidence showed that Sergt. Wood and P.C. Iceton visited the Commercial Hotel and found defendants drunk. The landlord's attention was called to their condition, and they were put out. A number of witnesses were called for the defence, who endeavoured to show that defendants were not drunk. The magistrates, however, believed the evidence of the officers, and all the defendants (with the exception of McLoughron who was fined 5s and costs) were fined 7s 6d each and costs.

CONSETT POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, DEC. 27th.—Before Mr J. W. WALTON WILSON (presiding), Mr J. T. POTTS, Mr E. W. E. BALLENY, and Mr W. AYNSLEY.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Frank McGurk and John Cullerton were charged with creating a breach of the peace at Consett on the 18th inst.—P.C. Carruthers, who proved the case, stated that he saw the men fighting and quarrelling in Middle Street on the day mentioned.—Fined 2s 6d each and costs.

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES.

James McNally, labourer, Consett, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the Masons' Arms, Consett, on the 18th inst.—P.C. Parkinson proved the case, and defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.

DOUBLE CHARGE AGAINST A CONTRACTOR.

Thomas Armstrong, contractor, Tantobie, was summoned for (1) a contravention of the Town's Police Clauses Act by allowing two carts to stand in a road leading to the public highway at Tanfield, thereby causing an obstruction, and (2) for an offence under the Public Health Act by erecting a building without having plans of same passed by the Urban District Council. Mr T. W. Welford, solicitor, appeared for the Urban District Council.—P.C. Tomlinson, who gave evidence in the first case, stated that the defendant had got notice from the Surveyor to remove the carts.—Defendant stated that the carts had stood there for 14 years without molestration.—Mr R. Heslop, surveyor, stated that the street had been taken over by the District Council, and he had given defendant verbal notice to remove the carts as they were an obstruction.—With regard to the second charge, that of erecting a brick building to be used as a byre without the plan being passed by the Council, Mr Heslop, surveyor, stated that the bye-laws did not permit of such a building being erected within 15 feet of an adjoining building, whereas the building in question had been erected within 13 feet 6 inches of a dwelling house. The new erection superseded a wooden building, but it was not exactly on the same site.—Defendant asked that the case should be adjourned for a fortnight, but the Bench would not agree to this.—Mr Welford said the plan had only been submitted after the erection had been built. He pressed for a penalty, in order to show that such men could not do what they liked with impunity.—Defendant: It is simply ignorance.—Mr Welford: No; it is not ignorance. You had a copy of the bye-laws sent you.—In the first case defendant had to pay the costs; and in the second, he was fined £1 and costs.

SLEEPING OUT.

William King, a tailor on tramp, was charged with sleeping out, in a cabin of the Consett Ironworks, on Saturday evening.—P.C. Jameson proved the case, and the magistrates agreed to dismiss defendant.

DISPUTE WITH A MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Bridget Connolly, Shotley Bridge, was summoned at the instance of her son-in-law and daughter, James and Bridget Grant, for wilful damage and assault.—Mr J. Allison, solicitor, who appeared for complainants, stated that his clients were not desirous of pressing the case unduly, and after some discussion, it was agreed that the parties on both sides should be bound over to keep the peace.

THEFT OF A BOX OF BISCUITS.

Margaret O'Hanlon, a married woman, residing at Blackhill, was charged with stealing a box of biscuits from the shop of Mr Henry Rule, grocer, 48, Durham Road, Blackhill, on the 24th December.—Mr Rule, in his evidence, stated that about seven o'clock on the day mentioned, from what a boy told him, he went to prisoner's house, and asked her to give him back the box of biscuits she had taken from his shop. She replied there was no box of biscuits there. The tin box (produced) was his property, and was worth 4s 3d.—John William Milliard (10), residing at Old Sawmill Yard, Blackhill, who was in the shop at the time, stated that he observed prisoner enter Mr Rule's shop, lift the box produced, and carry it away.—P.C. McGee stated that he found the box of biscuits under an old door in the yard adjoining prisoner's house. He took her to the Police Station. She was under the influence of drink, and all she said was, "O, my poor Mick."—For the defence, prisoner called a girl, Rose Ann Clarke, who stated that the boy Millard had told her that he had seen a man carry the box of biscuits into the lodging-house.—Millard, however, denied this, stating that he said he had seen a woman taking off the box.—Fined 10s and costs.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

We have reached the half-way house of the football season of 1897-8, and it may be of interest to take a look around, and view the performances of our local clubs during the present season, as against their performances during the similar period of last season. Of the Leadgate clubs, it may be honestly said that both teams have shown up better this season. The Park have lost, four good men and true in Lock, Thompson, Crowther, and Frank Foreman, but the younger blood which has been introduced into the ranks seems to be fully equal to that which has been lost judging from the results of the more recent Northern League games. The wearers of the green have also done exceedingly well, and at the present, they are warm favourites for the championship of the second division of the Northern League. The best feat of the season was the victory over the Park in the Durham Cup Competition, and the chief social event of the season to supporters of the club has been the emigration to the United States of holy matrimony of Captain Callaghan.

RESULTS.

Appended is a table of results of the principal local games decided on Saturday last:—

Leadgate Exiles ...	3	Hobson ...	3
Leadgate Exiles R ...	0	Consett Park	0
Tow Law ...	2	Crook ...	1
Annfield Plain ...	1	Dipton ...	0
Stanley ...	2	Rendel ...	1
Rendel A. ...	4	Stanley A. ...	0
Iveston Villa ...	2	Consett Park	0
Allendale ...	5	Shotley ...	0
Blackhill Celtic ...	3	Lintz Rovers	0
Chester-le-Street ...	3	Pelton Fell ...	1
Birtley ...	1	South Shields	1
Consett Shamrocks ...	3	Consett Saxons	1
Medomsley ...	6	Leadgate ...	3
Blackh'll St Cuthberts	7	Turnbull's eleven	1

ALLENDALE PARK

are stronger than ever, thanks largely to the untiring efforts of secretary Thompson, and the club has actually risen to Tyneside League rank. Three teams are being run in connection with the club.

HOBSON WANDERERS

also have advanced along the path of fame during the present season, and their prospects of winning the Tyneside League championship are of the brightest.

DIPTON

are little, if any, better than last season, and Annfield Plain Celtic have fallen from their high estate.

STANLEY

continue to occupy a proud position among the clubs of North-West Durham, their Alliance record up to date being quite equal to that of last season. There have been several changes in the composition of the team, some being advantageous and others the reverse.

TANTOBIE CO-OPERATORS

are an improved eleven, and the same remark applies to Consett Swifts. With regard to the interest in the game, Stanley continues to be the hot-bed of local enthusiasm, but on the whole, I think the football fever has slightly declined in vigour.

A GOOD GAME AT THE HOBSON.

Leadgate Exiles attracted a good crowd to the Hobson enclosure on Christmas day, when they played off their annual fixture with the colliery lads. The game was very evenly contested, and at the close each eleven had obtained three goals. Johnny Rafferty assisted the Leadgate eleven and scored a grand goal from the touch line. Callaghan was as safe as ever in goal, being well guarded by Monaghan and W. McGee. The halves were seldom seen to better advantage, not a single mistake being made. The forwards had scarcely an opportunity for displaying their shooting powers, McCue, Muirhead and Heslin being continually on their track. The Hobson eleven gave a splendid exhibiton, and gave their redoubtable opponents a stiff tussle. Randall saved several clinking shots, and had no chance with the goals scored against him. The backs and halves were in good form, but the shooting of the forwards was a bit below par. During the progress of the second half one of the Hobson forwards was knocked off the ball inside the twelve yards line, and to the astonishment of the Exiles, who stoutly protested against the decision, the referee (Mr Gray) allowed a penalty kick from which Hobson scored. The game was delayed for nearly five minutes, but the visitors at length agreed to the rule of the referee.

A POOR GAME AT LEADGATE.

The *Chronicle* Cup competition between the second eleven of the Leadgate Exiles and Consett Park clubs, did not produce an exciting contest. The Exiles were without five of their regular players, and Batey, the genial secretary, was called upon to partner Kelly, the goalkeeper, on the right wing. Neither side scored, although each team had several grand chances. The home backs were not very reliable, and numerous miskicks were made. The halves were the pick of the eleven, Clark playing splendidly. The forwards were greatly disorganised, Hughes and Daley being the only players to shine to advantage. Batey made several dashing runs along the touch line, and his corner kicking was a treat. The Consett lads were quick on the ball, but missed several good chances by wretched shooting.

BILLIARDS AT STANLEY.

The billiard handicap at St. Andrew's Institute has just finished, the prize-winners being—1, Mr Jos. Surtees; 2, Mr J. Grundy; 3, Mr W. Benson; 4, Mr George Harrison; 5, Mr H. Hughes. So popular has the handicap proved, that it has been decided to commence another at once, when the prizes will be more valuable than has hitherto been the case.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

Quite a host of local games were brought off on Christmas Day. Iveston Villa visited the capital of North-West Durham, and defeated Consett Park in a Derwent League fixture by two goals to nil. Shotley Bridge Rovers visited Medomsley, but were unable to keep pace with the Allendale boys, and had to journey home, well beaten by five goals to nil. Tantobie Co-operators maintained their brilliant form, and beat Leadgate Park Reserve by one goal to nil. Honours were even between the reserve elevens of Consett Park and the Exiles; and the Exiles senior eleven had to be content with a draw at Hobson Colliery. Dipton visited Annfield Plain, and were beaten after a poor game by one goal to nil. Chester-le-Street proved their superiority to their near and dear neighbours at Pelton Fell to the tune of three goals to one; and the second team fixture between the same clubs also ended in favour of Chester-le-Street.

ILLNESS OF MR KERRICH-WALKER.

All cricketers in the county of Durham will be sorry to hear of the illness of Mr George Kerrich-Walker, the capable and popular skipper of the Chester-le-Street Cricket Club. We trust that Mr Walker will have a speedy return to his usual robust health.

RENDEL V. STANLEY.

Christmas Day was an ideal day for the king of winter pastimes, and some 2,000 spectators gathered round the ropes to see the conflict between the Lilywhites and the Rendel boys. The boys from the Newcastle mountainside were unfortunate in taking the field with only ten men, that dashing forward, Smoult, being enjoying his yuletide in the capital of the north of England in preference to viewing Oakey's enclosure. Mr Young whistled the ball away prompt to time, and the forwards of each team quickly indulged in some pretty passing. Rendel fought gallantly to the top of the hill, and Simon seemed to have the home goal at his mercy, but mulled badly. Mis-kicks were rather frequent, on account of the slippery state of the ground, but some fine heading was shown by both sections. Jimmy Howe was the first to have a shot at the target, and his shot went straight and true, but was defeated by custodian Robson. Ford twice narrowly missed the goalsticks, and elever little Pallas gave the home defenders some warm work. "Scotty" Joyce gave the first corner of the game to the Rendelites, but Morris fisted out brilliantly, and a moment later, the home custodian saved a brilliant header from Pallas in clinking style. After another corner had been conceded the visitors, Stanley got down to the entrance goal, and Crute centring accurately, Sammy Thompson made a fine effort to head into the net. Even play followed, each goal narrowly escaping downfall on repeated occasions. Morris was in great form for Stanley, and at the opposite end, the Rendel backs frequently exercised a wise discretion in kicking into touch. Charley Crute got few opportunities, but when he had a chance, he always centred accurately, Pearson rendering similar service to the visitors. Stanley took an aggressive innings hereabouts, and a brace of hot bullies in the Rendel goalmouth seemed to foreshadow the fall of Benwell. Tommy Fish shot over the crossbar, and Robson dodged a run from Thompson in the nick of time. Brilliant heading and passing on the part of both teams proved delightful to the onlookers, but the elevens were so equally matched that goalgetting seemed impossible. So we came to the interval with honours equal and the score nil.

THE SECOND HALF

opened spiritedly, each team setting their teeth, and bracing up in business-like form. McKever mulled, and gave the visitors a corner. Stanley raised the siege, but Pallas responded with a brilliant dribble half the length of the field, and again the Whites had to defend. Not for long, however, for the sphere was soon careering through the air to the railway end. Thompson gave Howe a fine chance, but Armstrong came to the rescue, and daisy-cutters from Simm and Pearson just grazed the uprights. Corners to each team followed, but neither came to anything. The game continued even and exciting for fully half-an-hour, and then Tommy Fish, by an extraordinary effort, took the ball through a maze of opponents, and gave to Howe, who banged a beauty into the net, amid lusty cheers. Howe shot the goal, but Fish, who almost kissed the goalgetter in his joy, deserves the greater credit. Like giants refreshed with new wine, the homesters came again to the assault, and Ford narrowly missed scoring. The home goal was all but captured in an ensuing counterblast by the plucky northerners. Play continued very exciting right up to the finish, but the visitors were unable to equalise, whilst in the last minute of the game, Thompson shot a bonny goal, leaving the result a win for the Lilies by two goals to nil. Stanley have secured twelve points for eleven games. Keep it up, ye white men!

PERSONAL ITEMS.

My space is valuable this week, so my remarks regarding the personal performances will not be of great length. Morris again proved reliable between the uprights for the winners, but both Joyce and McKever were faulty. The home halves were a splendid trio. Dover's heading was delightful, and Fish, apart from brilliant tackling, punting, and heading, distinguished himself by the two finest runs of the match. Milburn worked like a war-horse from the kick off to the call of no-side. Jacky wears well. Crute and Ford worked finely together on the right wing, and Thompson did better in centre than he has yet done for the team. Wood was uncertain, and Howe wants putting in his proper position.

RENDEL.

Of the Rendelites, their custodian, Robson, is sharp, but small for the position. Armstrong and Bell both did splendidly at full back, and the halves all played capital football, Walker being the shining star. The four forwards worked hard, and passed neatly, Simm and Pallas being the best. On the whole, Rendel had almost as much of the game as their conquerors, and to use one of Father Adam's favourite expressions, "Though defeated, they were not disgraced.'

STANLEY DEFEAT THE RAILWAY MEN.

Gateshead N.E.R. visited Stanley in search of points last Saturday, but returned empty-handed after one of the best games played on the ground this season. The weather was genial, the attendance good, and the only drawback was that the ground was a trifle greasy. Gateshead were minus Quinn, but otherwise played their full strength; and Stanley placed a strong eleven on the field. The game was of a hard and stubborn character from start to finish, nearly the whole of the twenty-two combatants doing good work. On the whole, the homesters were the stronger set, and deserved their victory.

HOW THE BATTLE WAGED.

There was scarcely a breath of wind, and the air was spring-like rather than that akin to Christmastide, when Referee Pinder signalled away in the presence of 1,000 spectators. Dover was the first to shine for the Lilies, and thereafter Forsyth was guilty of a rather dirty piece of fouling. The railway vanguard quickly distinguished themselves by some brilliant machine-like passing, quite worthy of their reputation, and the first corner of the game resulted therefrom. The Lilies responded bravely, Crute centreing brilliantly. Thompson received, and passed to Sam Wood, who, however, slipped in the act of shooting, and allowed Redpath to relieve. Gateshead were awarded a free kick near the home goal, but Redpath placed over the bar. "Scotty" Joyce shone by some huge punting, and aided by this the Lilies attacked. Thompson had a good chance, but contented himself with centreing. Sammy Wood got the ball, and after a tough struggle, banged in a warm shot, which Bewley ejected. The ball was speedily returned, and a sly

OVERHEAD SHOT

by Sammy Wood captured the Gateshead citadel. Like giants refreshed, the Lilies came to the attack, and two corners were quickly conceded, after which Tommy Fish sent in a clinking long shot, which Bewley fisted out smartly, at the same time falling before a rush by Jimmy Howe. Stanley were twice pulled up for offside, and on one occasion Gateshead shared the same fate. Jimmy Howe was applauded for some tricky play at outside left. From a foul about the centre of the field, Stanley were awarded a free kick, and Billy Dover scored No. 2 with

A MAGNIFICENT SHOT,

which Lawson touched in its transit through the goal. After a visit to the home quarters, Thompson and Joyce relieved, and Crute ran the ball straight to the opposite end, where to the general mystification, he was ruled offside. A third goal followed directly later, Wood putting the finishing touch to a grand combined run, and just afterwards the same player had a glorious chance of adding the fourth goal, but missed the bull's-eye with Bewley ought of goal. Collins then missed an easy chance of scoring for the visitors. "Dodger" Ford had hard lines with a full low shot, and Thompson grazed the uprights with a daisy-cutter. Towards lemon time, the visitors plucked up, and nearly scored from a hot bully in the goal-mouth. Thanks to the interference of Thomas Fish, they were finally beaten back, and the teams changed sides with Stanley standing three goals to the good.

At the commencement of the

SECOND HALF

Gateshead attacked in spirited fashion, and after securing a brace of corners, some grand heading amongst the vanguard was ended by a clever save on the part of Morris. A penalty just later in favour of the visitors proved fatal, Collins shooting into the net. Stanley were quickly forced back from the restart, and Forsyth grazed the upright with a fine shot. Even play resulted, both custodians having to handle. Thompson, Crute, and Ford were prominent for Stanley. Collins shot through for Gateshead, but was palpably offside, and Morris then cleared splendidly from the toes of Collins and Deans, the feat being greeted with lusty cries of "Good old Morris." The Gateshead pets were now playing for all they were worth, and some very skilful passing caused the home defenders to work hard. Two corners fell to Gateshead, and from the second of these, Dover headed out in clinking style from a desperate scrum in the goal mouth. Stanley replied by forcing two corners, and Gateshead obliged with another, from which Sam Thompson got the ball and dribbled into centre field. Gateshead, however, came again, and amid some amusement, "Scotty" was twice grassed. Bewley almost succumbed to a daisy-cutter from Sam Wood, but just succeeded in clearing, and a flying shot from Dover also gave the clever Northern goalkeeper a warm armful. A foul for Stanley was neatly placed, and a

BEAUTIFUL OVERHEAD KICK

by Jimmy Howe gave the Lilies their fourth goal. Gateshead played up pluckily, and both teams fought with desperate energy, the visitors scoring their second point about five minutes from the finish. Howe was ruled offside when in a good position, and the next event of note was a fouling adventure, in which, though the suffering party, Tommy Fish was also declared to be guilty of fouling intent. A red-hot bully in the home goal seemed to foreshadow another point for Gateshead, but the Whites fought like Trojans, and cleared splendidly. Darkness was fast approaching when the finish came, Stanley being triumphant by four goals to two.

A CRISP CRITIQUE.

Morris played another of his best games, and was the recipient of several outbursts of applause for his skilful saves. On the season's form, George is as good as any goalkeeper in the Alliance. "Scotty" Joyce played a firm and powerful game at full back, and was more reliable than his colleague, McKever. Dover was the king of the half-backs, doing yeoman service with head and feet. Fish was almost equally good, though a trifle reckless; and Milburn stuck in gamely from start to finish. The forwards, with the exception of Sam Thompson—who scarcely seems to have got into his proper stride yet—were all in great form.

GATESHEAD

are largely indebted to Bewley, who made some smart saves, and had no chance with any of the goals scored against him. Lawson and Redpath are a pair of reliable backs, and both did good service. The halves are a capable trio, and the forwards, who possess a huge reputation, proved worthy of their name. Deans and Lavery combined cleverly on the left wing.

STANLEY JUNIOR CRICKET LEAGUE.

The following letter has been received:—

DEAR SIR,—As Treasurer of the Stanley and District Junior Cricket League, I wish to confirm the statement of Mr Ed. Sanderson in your last issue "that the Committee of the Stanley Club never passed any resolution to present medals to their juniors for winning the League Championship." I consider that it is the duty of the League itself to make some presentation to the "champions," and not the duty of any particular club. I spoke to the secretary of the League (Mr Geo. Sanderson) some two months ago, requesting him to summon a meeting of the representatives of the League clubs to consider whether a cup, medals, or other articles should be presented to the champions; but on the evening fixed for the meeting, I was the only person present at the Church Institute, though I understood that the whole of the clubs were duly reminded of the meeting. Another meeting will be summoned early in the new year, when the matter will be considered. I have heard on very good authority that some of the members of the Stanley Cricket Club expect that I was the writer of the epistle signed "Junior" which appeared in the *Chronicle* three weeks ago. May I state for the information of these gentlemen (1) that I did not write the letter in question; (2) that I have no knowledge whatever as to who did write it; and (3) that whoever the person was, he was certainly mistaken in his statement that the Stanley club had promised to provide medals for the juniors.—Yours truly, JAMES ROBINSON.

Clifford Road, Stanley, R.S.O.

CONSETT PARK V. IVESTON VILLA.

These teams met at Consett on Christmas Day, before a fairly large turn-out of spectators. In the first half the visitors played up well, and Frosdick, one of the home backs, kicked through the first goal for his opponents. In the second half the game was pretty evenly contested, but the visitors managed to again assert their supremacy, Milburn scoring a second goal. The game ended in favour of Iveston by two goals to nil.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL AT CONSETT.

Saturday's game between Consett Shamrocks and Consett Saxons was very evenly contested, and after 90 minutes' hard play, the Shamrocks were left with a victory by three goals to one. The home team started, and after some mid-field play, the ball was taken to the Shamrocks' half, where Alderdice scored splendidly. At half-time the Saxons led by one goal to nil. In the second half, the home team had the best of the play, and scored three goals. For the home team, Bates, Carthy, Dinning, Cain, Quinn, and McKeon rendered valuable service, whilst Nugent, Piggens, Crawford, and Alderdice were the shining lights of the visitors' eleven.

BIRTLEY DRAW WITH SOUTH SHIELDS.

South Shields played their first Alliance match with Birtley on Christmas Day. The game was played on the ironworkers' enclosure before a large attendance. The home men started the ball, and pressed hard, but found the seasiders' backs on the alert. Play ruled even throughout, each team scoring once. Birtley had hard lines on several occasions, and it must be admitted that they were unlucky in not scoring at least another point. The home defence was not severely taxed, although Collins had to eject a few dangerous shots. The backs and halves were safe, Rutherford again shining to advantage. The whole of the forwards played splendidly, their shooting being good considering the state of the ground. It is to be hoped that the improved form shown by Birtley in their last few matches will be maintained for the remainder of the season. Doyle, late of Leadgate Exiles, has been signed on, and will make his *debut* on Monday.

JOTTINGS.

Tommy Fish is a rare good hand at throwing in.

Rendel were unfortunate in having to face the Lilies on Christmas Day minus the services of Smoult and Patton.

Storey, the Oxhill centreforward, is the champion of local goalgetters.

Sammy Thompson played the best game on Christmas Day that he has yet done for Stanley.

Walker, the Rendel centre halfback, is about the finest player in the Alliance clubs. He and Billy Dover are about equal.

When do the Stanley committee intend placing Jimmy Howe in his proper position?

Sammy Thompson scored his first goal for Stanley on Christmas Day.

It was scored in the last halfminute of the game: and it was from a bonny shot.

Tommy Fish showed his skill as a dribbler against Rendel. Tommy fairly brought down the "house" by the skilful manner in which he manœuvred the ball through a host of opponents.

By the way, "Crossbar" had a narrow escape from being slaughtered at Stanley on Christmas Day owing to the absence of the Jottings from last week's Chronicle.

It was only by promising to play for the Lilywhites in their remaining Alliance fixtures that he saved his life.

"Man is born to sorrow." Pressmen get a double dose.

Mr Benfold had an alarming experience on Christmas Day. He visited the Primitive Methodist bazaar at East Stanley; and after an interesting opening speech, got entangled with the electric battery.

His shrieks for mercy brought Captain Henry Curry to the rescue, and a valuable life was saved.

After this narrow escape, Mr Benfold paid a visit to the abode of the well-known Stanley bowler.

The two went into the pantry to talk over the valiant deeds that they had done in days gone by against the Oxhill cricketers.

They were chatting away merrily when a celebrated East Stanley Sprinter locked the pantry door.

There were plenty of eatables about, so the two heroes were not likely to die of hunger; but they didn't like their two hours' imprisonment.

Another reverse for Stanley A. Mr Stacey's pets collapsed at Rendel by four goals to nil.

Relative to the game, one of the players assures me that he has seen worse, but not much. A rather cruel remark.

Malton Colliery were due to play a North-West Durham League game at South Tanfield on Christmas Day, but they did not turn up.

Referee Joseph Hamilton also failed to put in an appearance.

Secretary Mumford was so indignant that he went off fishing to the colliery pond. He had to break the ice to get his line in, but was successful in hauling up a brace of frogs.

Medomsley Swifts beat Leadgate Young Park by six goals to three.

Kay, Armstrong, Dobson, J. Graham, C. Graham and J. Alderdice played well for the winners.

Consett Saxons were defeated by Consett Shamrocks on Saturday, to the tune of three to one.

The Saxons started with a slight breeze in their favour, and Alderdice scored in the first half.

In the second half, a strong wind was blowing, which made it easy for the Shamrocks to score three goals, thus making them the victors.

The whole of the Saxons combination played remarkably well.

The Saxons journey to White-le-Head on New Year,s Day to play off a return engagement.

Stanley Wednesdayites continue their victorious campaign in the North-West Durham League.

Tantobie Co-ops are the latest victims to Benny Johnson's always advancing pets. The score stood Stanley 2 goals, Tantobie 1 goal, when the referee stopped the game on account of darkness.

Before the commencement of the game, the Co-ops were photographed. This practice of photographing teams ought not to be encouraged at this season of the year.

Darkness sets in so early that all the time available is required for the completion of the game, without wasting time to oblige photographers, amateur or professional.

Stanley are again drawn against Jarrow in the first round of the Durham Senior Cup competition, but this time Oakey's oval is to be the scene of the battle.

Last season the teams met on the Jarrow cycling track. 'Twas a miserable game when the teams met. Stanley bore up bravely during the first half, but afterwards collapsed, and were beaten by four goals to one.

Jarrow are going very strongly this season, but on the classic enclosure at Oakey's the Lilywhites ought almost to emerge conquerors.

President Lee is praying earnestly for a fine day and a big gate.

Harry Curry has received compensation for his adventure with the pussy cat on Jubilee day, by being elected captain of the Stanley Cricket 2nd Eleven in succession to Jimmy Benfold.

"Cross Bar" continues to decline in the billiard world, and last Thursday, he sustained a severe defeat at the hands of a clerical member of the Tanfield School Board.

He is, however, confident of beating Mr Wm. Bulmer, whenever that gentleman is willing to handle the cue.

Stanley possess two of the best halfbacks in the Alliance in Messrs Fish and Dover, and Milburn is not far behind.

Dodger Ford is a demon for rushing the opposing custodian, and he is not a favourite amongst goal keepers.

One of the chief joys of reporting a football match at Oakey's oval is that of listening to the comments uttered by persons standing on the grand-stand.

A stranger listening to the aforesaid comments would naturally infer that the people giving utterance to them were "have been" Spikesleys, Doigs, Johnny Campbells, Donald Gows, &c.

The Stanley committee ought to select a detachment of these warriors to do duty for the club—say in the cup-tie against Jarrow; and allow the present players to stand on the grand-stand, and comment on the performance.

Gateshead N.E.R possess a clinking half-back in Martin.

The Gateshead forwards are a clever set.

Hobson and Leadgate Exiles met on the ground of the former on Saturday, a hard game resulting in a draw of three goals each.

Rafferty, of Consett Swifts, assisted the Exiles, and gave a splendid exhibition.

The Exiles Reserve were at home, Consett Park Reserve being their opponents. A poor game resulted in a draw of no goals each.

The genial secretary of the Exiles (Mr E. Batey) was called upon to play on the right wing.

His dashing runs and his accurate centres were one of the chief features of the game.

F. Hughes, the tricky centre, was not available, or else the result would have been different.

Birtley are going strongly at present. Draws against South Shields and Willington Athletic have improved their position on the League table.

The team is to be further strengthened by the inclusion of Doyle, late of Leadgate Exiles, who left the Colliery village on Tuesday.

Birtley have agreed to play Stockton at Stockton next Monday.

Rutherford is showing fine form this season. He is about the best half back in the Alliance.

Johnny Hill, the old Leadgate lad, is performing well for his new love.

Hill is a splendid half back, but plays centre forward for Birtley.

Collins and Jimmy Palmer are, we understand, matched to run 500 yards.

Secretary Knox is appointed judge, and Bobby Rutherford starter. The betting is in favour of the forward.

DERWENTWATER.

LEADGATE.

LEAGUE OF THE CROSS.—The annual meeting of this Society was held in the Temperance Hall, on Sunday afternoon last, the chair being occupied by the Rev. A. Magill. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, the election of papers for the ensuing quarter was proceeded with, the majority of last year's papers being renewed. The election of officers was held, and resulted as follows—President, Rev. A. Magill; Vice-President, Mr J. Costello; Secretary, Mr P. Daly; Treasurer, Mr C. Quinn; Committee, Messrs O. McGuchin, J. Hughes, O. Hughes, J. Haggan, J. Hogan, O. McCabe, J. Donaghy, E. Batey, and E. Quinn.

ristmas Advertisements.

"Christmas comes but once a year,
And when it comes it brings good cheer."

GREAT XMAS AND NEW YEAR'S
TOY BAZAAR, FANCY FAIR!
AND
GIVING-AWAY OF PRESENTS!

JOHN T. POTTS

HAS pleasure in once more informing his Friends and the Public that he has just returned from his Annual Special Visit to the Principal Markets, and has made arrangements for his GREAT SHOW and SALE OF TOYS and FANCY GOODS.

The preparations for this year have been more than usually Extensive, and the Show promises to exceed all others for variety of Goods that has ever before taken place in the District. The class of Goods procured and the prices will be such as to please everybody.

TOYS! TOYS!
TOYS TO MAKE YOU LAUGH.
TOYS TO MAKE YOU THINK.
TOYS TO EDUCATE AND STIMULATE THE MINDS OF ALL.
SUCH AN ARRAY OF TOYS,
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE.
DOLLS! DOLLS!
CHRISTMAS
AND
NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

ROBERT ENGLISH

BEGS to Thank his numerous Customers for their kind Patronage and liberal Support during the past year, and trusts by strict and careful attention to Business, and the wants of his Customers, to merit the continuance of their favour.

ROBERT ENGLISH,
DRAPER, HATTER, &c.,
15 AND 16, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
Is now Showing the
NEWEST NOVELTIES
FOR
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS.

SEE THE
CHRISTMAS SHOW OF WINTER GOODS,
AND THE
LATEST NOVELTIES
FOR
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS,
AT
R. PEARSON'S,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY.

CUNNINGHAMS'
ARE THE
CHIEF CONFECTIONERS
IN
WEST STANLEY AND DIPTON.
SEE THE
GRAND DISPLAY
OF
CHRISTMAS CAKES,
OF ALL SIZES AND AT ALL PRICES.
CHOCOLATE IN BOXES
FROM ONE PENNY TO FIFTEEN SHILLINGS EACH.
TEA, COFFEE, AND COCOA
ALWAYS READY.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

SEE
JOHN HUMBLE'S
GRAND DISPLAY OF
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS AND BOOKS.
J. H. HAS A
GRAND SUPPLY OF TOYS,
And other Articles
SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.
DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE.

TANTOBIE.

WILLIAM HOLMES,
POST OFFICE,

TAKES the opportunity which Christmas presents, of thanking the Inhabitants of Tantobie and vicinity for their very kind and liberal patronage, which it will be his endeavour to merit and retain. He respectfully invites an Inspection of his CARDS and FANCY GOODS,
SUITABLE FOR THE SEASON.

THOMAS CALVERT,
FAMILY GROCER AND WINE MERCHANT,
POST OFFICE BUILDINGS,
MEDOMSLEY,

DESIRES to Thank his Customers and the Public generally for their liberal support in the past, and in wishing them the Compliments of the Season, he trusts, by strict attention to Business, to merit a still larger share of their esteemed orders.

TEAS, COFFEES, GROCERIES, &c.,
At Prices consistent with Excellence of Quality.
BRITISH AND FOREIGN WINES.
FINE CHESHIRE AND OTHER CHEESES.
HAMS and BACON of Prime Quality.
Finest Danish Butter and Margarine, Biscuits and Cakes, and Finest Selected Fruits.
Patient Medicines kept in Stock.
CHRISTMAS CAKES, Rich Chelsea, 6d per lb.; Chelsea Seed and Rice 8d lb.
PORT, from 1s to 5s per bottle.
SHERRY, from 1s 6d to 4s per bottle.
CLARET, from 1s 3d to 2s 6d per bottle.
BURGUNDY, from 1s 6d to 2s 6d per bottle.
INVALID WINE, 3s 9d per bottle; 2s per half-bot.
GLENDENNING'S COCA WINE, 3s 9d per botttle; 2s per half-bottle.

GRAND CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION OF TOYS AND FANCY GOODS
AT
A. & E. HEPPELL'S,
NEWSAGENTS AND STATIONERS,
FRONT STREET, LANGLEY PARK.

Musical Boxes, Ships, Steam Engines, Soldiers, Guns, Animals, Mechanical Toys, Xmas Presents, Xmas and New-Year Cards. All are of Superior Quality, and Moderate in Price.

LANGLEY PARK.

T. H. SIMPSON,
THE WELL-KNOWN CARRIER TO NEWCASTLE, &c.,

DESIRES it known that he has a LARGE TWO-HORSE BRAKE suitable for Wedding and other Parties. Orders receive prompt attention. Grand supply of Greengroceries, Fruit, &c. at
FRONT STREET, LANGLEY PARK.

THREE TUNS HOTEL, WITTON GILBERT.

WM. HUNTER, PROPRIETOR,
THE NOTED HOUSE OF CALL.

MR HUNTER desires at this Festive Season to tender his hearty Thanks for the extensive patronage he has received from the Inhabitants of the District during the 16 years he has occupied the above Hostelry, and in wishing them the COMPLIMENTS of the SEASON, hopes, by keeping the best of everything, to merit a Continuance of the same.

ROYAL OAK HOTEL,
MEDOMSLEY.

JAMES KELLY

DESIRES to Thank the Public of Medomsley, and his Customers generally, for their patronage during the year, and in wishing them a Jolly Xmas and a Happy New Year, he trusts that they will bear him in mind in giving their usual Xmas Orders.

IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKIES
Of First-Class Blends.
THE FAMOUS "SPOT BARRED" WHISKEY.
MILD AND BITTER ALES
Of Excellent Quality.
BASS'S BITTER ALE DRAWN FROM THE WOOD.
A FIRST-CLASS BILLIARD TABLE,
By Burroughs and Watts.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

J. DOWSON,
DRAPER AND CLOTHIER, BLACKHILL,

DESIRES to Thank the Inhabitants of Blackhill and District for their esteemed Patronage, and wishes them the Compliments of the Season. He has pleasure in offering a very choice assortment of Goods in the Latest Styles and Novelties, suitable for Christmas and New Year Presents.

FUR-CUFFED, LINED KID GLOVES.
Lace Collars, Black and Coloured Stockinette Jackets, Aprons and Handkerchiefs, Photo Frames, Handkerchief Satchets.
Feathers & Wings. Ornaments & Fancy Bows.

MILLINERY AND DRESSMAKING,

MESDAMES BELL AND BINNING,
LONDON HOUSE, CONSETT,

DESIRE to return their sincere Thanks to their very many Patrons in Consett and District, and have pleasure in offering a Great Variety of Goods, in the Latest Styles and Novelties, which will be found most suitable for Christmas and New Year Presents.

Ladies' Shawls, Evening Gloves, Fans, Fancy Handkerchiefs, Ladies' Dressing Cases and handbags. Writing desks, Plaques, Flower Stands, Tea Cosies, Dolls.

Millinery, Dressmaking, Hosiery, Corsets, Gloves, &c.

CHILDREN'S MILLINERY in the Latest Style Evening Blouses in Chiffon and Silk. Choice designs.

BLACKHILL.

JANE JOHNSON,
TEA DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
21, ELTRINGHAM STREET, BLACKHILL,

HAS pleasure in returning her sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Blackhill and Highgate, and the District generally, for their esteemed Patronage during the period—upwards of twenty years—that she has been in Business, and she heartily wishes them the Compliments of the Season. She begs to intimate that she has a Large Stock of First-Class Christmas and General Groceries, and trusts to merit the continued support of the Public.

Try the Unequalled TEAS at 1s 10d, 2s 4d, and 2s 10d. Also Coffee at 1s 4d. Choice dairies of Danish butter; fresh every week.

Noted for Good Flour, Fresh Sweet Butter, Cheese Wensleydale and Cheshire. Fresh Sausage every Week.

CONSETT LIVERY STABLES.

MRS. CHRISTOPHER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to Return her sincere Thanks to the Gentry and Inhabitants of Consett and District for so liberally Patronising her
OLD-ESTABLISHED POSTING BUSINESS,
And hopes by prompt attention to all Orders to merit a continuance of the same.
Hearses and Mourning Coaches,
BRAKES and WAGGONETTES for Pleasure Parties, and Carriages for Weddings.

JONATHAN CHARLTON.
PROSPECT TERRACE, ANNFIELD PLAIN,

THANKS his Customers for their past Patronage, and invites attention to his Christmas Display of
HARDWARE, DRAPERY,
AND CONFECTIONERY GOODS,
GRAND SHOW OF SWEETS AND TOYS.

SOUTH MOOR.

The *Consett Chronicle*, he's quick to sell,
And New Year's presents, cards and toys as well.

JOHN J. RUTHERFORD

WISHES all the residents of the Distrct the Compliments of the Season.

He has in stock a large and varied assortment of New Year's Novelties. Books and all kinds of literature are delivered to order.

See his Windows.

WILLIAM DAVISON,
GROCER AND FANCY DRAPER, NEWSAGENT
STATIONER, AND CONFECTIONER,
FRONT STREET, SOUTH MOOR,

THANKS the Public for the liberal support which has been accorded to him in the past, and hopes for a continuance of public favour.

Large Assortment of XMAS CARDS and TOYS in Stock.
Home Made Bread and Tea Cakes.
Newspapers and Periodicals of every description delivered to order.

USEFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

FOR Good Value in HOME-MADE FURNITURE best SHEFFIELD CUTLERY, AND SILVER-PLATED GOODS,
TRY
JOHN LOWES,
JOHN STREET SQUARE, CONSETT
(Back of British Schools Medomsley Road)
THE House for Musical instruments by Best Makers.
PIANOS BY PFEIFFER, STRAUS, LANGE, &c.
AMERICAN ORGANS BY STERLING.
MELODEONS from 4s 6d. upwards.
A SELECTION of WALL PAPERS.
Five minutes' walk from Consett Station.

MRS HAND,
DRAPER AND MILLINER,
14, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT,

PRESENTS her Compliments to her numerous Friends and Customers, and Thanks them for their kind Patronage during the year. At the same time she begs to inform them that at her Establishment will be found a large assortment of PLAIN and FANCY DRAPERY, suitable for Xmas Presents, a large assortment of MILLINERY, CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, &c.

BLACK HORSE HOTEL,
CONSETT.

TOM FORSTER

RESPECTFULLY wishes his numerous Patrons the
COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON,
And assures them that he has still the
BEST OF BEER ON TAP.
SPECIALITIES :—
ARROL'S 90s BITTER AND No. 4.
BASS'S BURTON ALE.
TRY FORSTER'S PRIME STOUT,
THE BEST IN THE TOWN.

If you're doubtful what to drink, do not pause to think,
But go to THOMPSON at this Festive time;
If for wolskey you don't care, and beer you don't drink.
Taste his Ærated Waters—sparkling fine.

W. THOMPSON,
ÆRATED AND MINERAL WATER WORKS
MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT,

DESIRES to thank his Customers in Consett and surrounding District for the Patronage which he has received from them in his large and ever-increasing Business, and hopes to merit a continuance of it by supplying everything of the Best Quality.

Lemonade, Ginger Ale, & Split Sodas in Dozens.
GUINNESS'S STOUT, DUBLIN STOUT, and BASS'S BURTON ALES, in Pints and ½-Pints.
Note the Trade Mark—"Game Cock."

COACH AND HORSES INN, LEADGATE.

RALPH CALVERT,

RETURNS his warmest thanks to his numerous Patrons in Leadgate and District, and wishes them a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR, and hopes by careful attention to the requirements of travellers and the Public to continue to meet with approval for his Liquors. He has a carefully-selected Stock for the Holiday Season.

FINEST SCOTCH and IRISH WHISKIES,
BEST WINES and COGNAC BRANDY.
SUPERIOR ALES and STOUT.

MINERS' ARMS, HIGHGATE.

THOMAS GAILES

HAS pleasure in thannking his numerous Friends and Patrons for their esteemed support, and wishes them A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

He has laid in a this Full-Licensed House a Special STOCK of LIQUORS for the Festive Season, and hopes to be favoured with the visits and Orders of his Customers and the Public.

WINES, WHISKIES, AND BRANDIES OF BEST QUALITY.
ALES AND STOUT ON DRAUGHT AND IN BOTTLE.
GOOD STABLING.
Tobacco and Cigars—Choice Sorts.

Read this, my boys, and then walk in,
For here is Brandy, Whisky, Rum, and Gin;
Come, taste our beer, and be in no hurry
To leave behind your old friend, MURRAY.

ROYAL HOTEL, BLACKHILL.

RICHARD MURRAY

TENDERS his Thanks to the Inhabitants of Consett, Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, Leadgate, and North-West Durham generally, for the Liberal Support that has been accorded to him during the many years that he has been prvileged to live among them, and he trusts, by Selling only Artictles of the Best Quality, and being always ready to cater for their Pleasure and Refreshment, and to merit a continuance of public favour and support.

SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES OF THE MOST MATURED QUALITY.
SPARKLING BITTER AND MILD ALE.
ON DRAUGHT AND IN BOTTLE.
CHAMPAGNE, WINES, CIGARS, TOBACCO,
COMMERCIAL AND BILLIARD ROOMS.
J. ROBT. BRODIE, MANAGER.

FRUIT, PLANTS, AND FLOWERS.

A. TROTTER,
FRUITERER, SEEDSMAN, AND FLORIST,
57, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL,

BEGS to thank the Inhabitants of Blackhill and Shotley Bridge for past Patronage, and trusts, by strict attention to business, to merit a still further share of their support.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TRADE.

A Large Assortment of Choice Apples, Pears, Oranges, Pomegranates, Grapes, Dates, Figs, Bananas, Preserved Fruits, Tomatoes, &c., New Almond, Brazil, Barcelona, and Pea Nuts, Chestnuts, Walnuts, Cocoanuts, &c.

Choice Honey, Pure Sweets, Good Biscuits, and Home-Made Jam. Home Grown Vegetables. Splendid Potatoes.

Table and Window Plants in variety, for Sale or Hire. Fresh Cut Flowers, Wreaths, Crosses, Bouquets, Buttonholes, Ladies' Sprays, &c., made to Order. Good Stock of Artificial Wreaths, latest designs. Memorial Tablets, Wreath Cases, &c., Plant Pots and Garden Sundries. All at lowest possible prices and Best Quality.

Don't buy anywhere until you have inspected our windows and compared our prices.

Note the address :—
57, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

On your way, the Rose and Crown don't pass,
But come in and rest, and have a glass.

ROSE AND CROWN,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

GEORGE YOUNG

TAKES the present opportunity of Thanking his Friends and Customers for their patronage and support during the long period of years which he has occupied the above well-known Hostelry. It affords him great pleasure to wish them a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year, and he begs to intimate that he has amply provided for their Refreshment and Comfort during the Festive Season.

Scotch and Irish Whiskies of the Finest Quality. Celebrated Mild and Bitter Beers. Stout in Perfection.

CHOICE WINES. CIGARS AND TOBACCO.

THOMAS JONES,
MUSIC EMPORIUM,
5, CHURCH STREET, CONSETT,

RETURNS Thanks to his numerous Customers for the patronage they have so freely bestowed on him during the past year, and wishes them the Compliments of the Season.

MUSIC.
SPECIAL PARCELS OF
MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS.

To clear out Surplus Stock, 4s Songs will be Sold for
ONE SHILLING!

COMMERCIAL HOTEL, CONSETT.

JANE REDSHAW,

RETURNS her best Thanks to her numerous Customers for the Patronage she has received during the past twelve months, and to wish them all the Compliments of the Season. It will be her endeavour in the future, as in the past, to do all in her power to give satisfaction to her Patrons.

WINES, ALES, AND SPIRITS,
All of the Best Quality, are on Sale.
There is also a commodious and well-appointed
BILLIARD ROOM.
AN ORDINARY IS SERVED DAILY.

EDWARD GRAYLEY,
BLACKSMITH, CATCHGATE,

THANKS his Patrons for past favours, and wishes them the Compliments of the Season.

He is prepared to SHOE any HORSE or DONKEY in the North of England.

THOMAS ROBSON,
THE CATCHGATE NEWSAGENT,
STATIONER AND CONFECTIONER,

BEGS to direct special attention to his Splendid
CHRISTMAS STOCK OF TOYS,
CHRISTMAS CARDS AND BOOKS,
SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.
BEST CHRISTMAS SHOW IN CATCHGATE.

T. WESTON AND SONS,
WHOLESALE FRUITERERS, &c.,

HAVE pleasure in directing attention to their
SPLENDID STOCK OF
CHRISTMAS HAMS,
TO BE SEEN AND PURCHASED AT THEIR PREMISES,
ANNFIELD PLACE,
AT THE BRANCH SHOP,
Near the Post Office, Annfield Plain.

MISS MAUD LITTLE,
GROCER, DRAPER, AND FANCY DEALER,
43, SHERBURN TERRACE, CONSETT,

THANKS her Customers for past favours, and hopes for a continuance of the same.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF GOODS
SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

THE STAG INN,
MEDOMSLEY.

JOSEPH ROBINSON,

TAKES this opportunity which the Festive Season affords of returning Thanks to his numerous Customers, and desires to say that his endeavour will always be, by selling a good article, to merit a share of those favours which have been so liberally bestowed upon this old Hostelry for so many years.

FINEST IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKIES.
BEST MILD AND BITTER ALES.
CHOICE CIGARS.

THE PLACE TO DINE
IS AT
THE SALISBURY COFFEE TAVERN,
MASONIC BUILDINGS,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

A GOOD MEAL AT A MODERATE PRICE.
PURE CONFECTIONERY.
CELEBRATED PORK PIES, HOME MADE.
WEDDING CAKES MADE TO ORDER.
BALLS AND PARTIES CATERED FOR.

ANDREW HOULISTON,
BUILDER, JOINER, AND CABINETMAKER,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE,

BEGS most respectfully to return his sincere thanks to the Gentry and Inhabitants generally of Shotley Bridge and the vacinity for the very Liberal and Generous Support that he has received since he commenced business in 1854, and which he has continued to enjoy up to the present time. It has always been his aim to give satisfaction to those who have favoured him with their esteemed Orders, and he hopes for a continuance of their kind Patronage.

BEST WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED.
ESTIMATES GIVEN.

NEVER GO BY
WITHOUT STOPPING
To look at GILHESPY & SON'S NEW STOCK OF BOOTS AND SHOES for Winter Wear.
GOOD AND NEAT? Should say so!
CHEAP? There is no doubt about it.
That's where

GILHESPY & SON

Get the pull. Their GENT.'S 8s 11d, 10s 6d, 12s 6d, and 15s 6d cannot be equalled. Depend upon it, at Gilhespy's you get

RELIABLE BOOTS AND SHOES,
Warranted for Elegance, Ease, and Durability, at Lowest Possible Prices.
EVENING SHOES.
Grand assortment this Week at
GILHESPY & SON'S
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

DO YOU WANT TO
LOOK SMART FOR CHRISTMAS?
THEN GO TO
M. KIRKLAND,
HAIRDRESSER,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.
Who will put you right. Every attention and courtesy given to customers.

BARRASS BROS.,
DURHAM ROAD & HIGHGATE, BLACKHILL,
BUTCHERS, GROCERS, PROVISION MERCHANTS, CONFECTIONERS, &c.,

HAVE pleasure in wishing their numerous Customers the Compliments of the Season, and thank them for their liberal patronage in the past. They have purchased a Choice Supply for the Festive Season, which includes :

BEEF:
Prime Heifer, fed by Messrs Graham, Whittonstall Hall Farm.
MUTTON:
2nd Prize Leicesters, fed by Mr Richard Murray, Elm Park; also Prime Black-Faced Wedders.
PORK:
Small Dairy-Fed.
Special Supply of Teas, Bacon, Hams, Cakes, &c., which are bound to give satisfaction.

GLORIOUS NEWS FOR XMAS.

WHAT YOU'LL WANT AND WHERE TO GET IT.

WHAT YOU'LL WANT!

Christmas comes but once a year,
'Tis then we look for right good cheer,
You all may get it, never fear.
If you Buy at KIRKUP'S.

You'll want some Currants, Raisins, Spice
To make your Christmas Pudding nice,
If you are wise, take my advice,
And Buy them all at KIRKUP'S.

Again, I know you're bound to make
Some Pastry and a Christmas Cake,
The Lady who is wide awake.
Will Buy her Flour at KIRKUP'S.

And should you have some company,
You'll want a first-class Cup of tea,
The best for Price and Quality,
Is that you'll get at KIRKUP'S.

Remember if you'd saving be,
In buying Christmas Grocery,
Just be advised at once by me,
And spend your Cash at KIRKUP'S.

XMAS HAMS.

NICE AND LEAN, NOT TOO LARGE, AND NOT TOO MUCH MONEY,
MIND THAT!

XMAS HAMS.

FRESH, WHOLESOME, WONDERFULLY CHEAP, AND JUST THE SORT CHILDREN LIKE.

OBSERVE!

If you want HIGHEST VALUE in CHRISTMAS GROCERIES and PROVISIONS, buy at

KIRKUP'S,

and the money you thus save will enable you to spend

A MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THE NOTED CHEAP BOOT AND SHOE SHOP.

P. H. KIRKUP,
Tea Dealer, Grocer, and Provision Merchant,
WEST STANLEY.

DELIGHT BANK, DIPTON.

ROBERT RIDDLE,
BOOT AND SHOE MAKER,

DESIRES to Thank his Customers for past favours, and trusts by prompt atteution to merit a continuance of the same.

REPAIRS NEATLY EXECUTED.
READY MADES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

RALPH JOHNSON,
PEACOCK INN, TANFIELD,

WISHES all his Customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He offers special value in Liquors during the Holiday Season.

WINES, WHISKIES, BRANDIES, & ALES
Of A1 Quality.
TOBACCO AND CHOICE CIGARS.
Pay a Visit to the PEACOCK!

FORSTER'S,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,

ARE the Oldest-Established WINE and SPIRIT DEALERS in the District.

FINE OLD IRISH WHISKY,
2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle.
SCOTCH WHISKY, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle.
FINE OLD RUM, 2s 6d per bottle.
BEST GIN, 2s 9d per bottle.

THE PLACE TO BUY
CHRISMAS TOYS,
TOBACCO AND CIGARS,
FANCY GOODS, FOOTBALLS, &c.,
IS
CORNFORTH'S,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

LOOK at the Windows, and you will find a beautiful assortment of all kinds of Things suitable for Christmas Presents.

JAMES TEASDALE,
GREENGROCER AND FRUITERER,
59, DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL,

HAS Pleasure in informing the Public of Blackhill and neighbourhood that he has commenced the above Business, where a Fresh Supply of
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES
Will be to Hand Daily.

I like a drop of good beer,
I'm fond of a drop of good beer;
Let gentlemen fine drink their wine,
But I will stick to my beer.

BURTON HOUSE, CHURCH STREET, CONSETT.

JOHN MCKIE

DESIRES to return thanks to his Friends and Customers for their liberal Patronage, and, in wishing them the Compliments of the Festive Season, he begs to express the hope that, by providing Articles of the very best description for their comfort and enjoyment, he may deserve and receive a continuance of that support which has been accorded him in the past.

BASS'S BURTON & OTHER MILD & BITTER ALES.
STOUT IN PERFECTION.
SPARKLING WINES. CHOICE TOBACCOS & CIGARS.

The QUEEN some day may pass this way
To have a chat with Rafferty;
Here she'll stop and stand a drop,
To make her subjects happy.

QUEEN'S HOTEL,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

D. RAFFERTY.

TENDERS his thanks to his Friends and Customers for the liberal support he has received from them since commencing, and desires to state that he has prepared for them Blends of the
FINEST IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKIES,
And WINES of the Choicest Vintages.
MILD AND BITTER ALES,
That cannot be equalled.
TOBACCOS & CIGARS of the Finest Brands.

MILLINERY ESTABLISHMENT.

MISS CLARA BRODIE,
PARK ROAD, CONSETT,

THANKS her extensive Clientele for past favours, and has pleasure in directing attention to the Latest Designs she is now showing in Ladies Millinery, and to her Stock of New Goods in other Departments.

MILLINERY HATS.
LADIES' AND GENT.'S SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.
LARGE ASSORTMENT OF GENT.'S TIES.
GENT.'S WOOLLEN SHIRTS AND HOSIERY,
Fans, Silks, Fancy Collars.
LADIES' AND GENT.'S GLOVES, UMBRELLAS, &c.
Ladies' Underclothing. Children's Costumes.

BLACK BULL INN, DIPTON.

R. BRANKSTONE

THANKS his Friends and the Public of Dipton and District for their Patronage, and wishes them a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR.

He has pleasure in announcing that he is ready with carefully selected Blends of Wines, Brandies, and Whiskies for the Holiday Season, and also with good Ales and Stout for those who pay him a visit or send their Orders.

LIQUORS ALL OF FIRST-RATE QUALITY.
MILD TOBACCO AND CHOICE CIGARS.
GOOD STABLING.

STATION HOTEL, BLACKHILL.

GEORGE CANCICK

BEGS to thank his many Friends and the Public for their esteemed patronage, and wishes them
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR.

He has pleasure in inviting a trial of his Wines, Spirits, Ales, &c., which will be found of First-Rate Quality.

BEST BLENDS OF IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKIES.

Mild and Bitter Ales on Draught and in Bottles. The newly formed Homing Society for Blackhill and District, meets at the Station Hotel every Saturday.

FINEST WINES, CIGARS, TOBACCOS, &c.

HATS, CAPS, TIES, AND GENTLEMEN'S HOSIERY FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON!
FOR A
GOOD-FITTING SUIT
TRY
NICHOLSON AND SONS,
LEADGATE.

ALL GOODS MADE ON THE PREMISES
By Experienced Workmen.
FLANNELS and BLANKETS a Speciality.
A Good Stock to Choose from at all Prices.
READY-MADE CLOTHING
Of all Descriptions, and at
PRICES TO SUIT ALL PURCHASERS.

To the Fox we go for a drink of good beer,
And there we meet with grand Christmas cheer.

R. M. RUTHERFORD,
FOX INN, DIPTON,

HAS a Hearty Welcome to offer his Friends and Customers this Christmas. He hopes that the Wheels of Industry will go round better during the incoming year, and trusts that there are Better Times in store for the hardy Sons of Toil. In wishing all the Compliments of the Season, he calls attention to his

FAMOUS MILD AND BITTER ALES,
And WHISKY, which is Fit for a PRINCE.
R. M. R.'s SPOT-BARRED WHISKY is a treat.

THE TURF HOTEL,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

MICHAEL CASSIDY

WISHES his Friends and Customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and Thanks them for their kind support during his occupancy of the above Hotel; and hopes, by being ever ready to attend to their wants and selling only Articles of the Best Quality, to merit a continuance of their Patronage.

FINEST BITTER & MILD ALES, on Draught and in Bottles. Stout in Perfection.
"DEW" and other PRIME WHISKIES.
TOBACCOS AND CIGARS.
B. MULLEN, MANAGER.

W. E. TURNER.
HIGH CLASS TAILOR AND HATTER,
LONDON HOUSE,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

IN wishing his many Friends and Customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, begs to remind them that he has a choice Selection of Overcoats, Suits, Hats, Caps, Ties, Silk Kerchiefs, &c., at a price to suit all.

Note.—All Goods made on the Premises by First-Class Workmen.

Special Attraction.—Meerschaum Pipes, Cigar and Cigarette Holders, Cases, Gent.'s Walking Sticks in great variety, suitable for Christmas Presents.

WILLIAM STRACHAN,
PLUMBER AND BELLHANGER,
GAS-FITTER AND TIN PLATE WORKER,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL,

BEGS to Thank the Inhabitants of Blackhill and District for their Patronage during the long period of 31 years, and wishes them the Compliments of the Season. He hopes to merit a continuance of their esteemed Orders, which will in every case receive prompt attention.

Baths and Water Closets carefully installed.
PIPES FOR STEAM, GAS, AND WATER PURPOSES.
CHANDELIERS, BRACKETS, BRASS WORK, &c.
Bell-hanging on the most modern system.
Authorised to sell Incandescent Lamps.

GEO. PATTRICK,
CHEMIST,
5, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

HAS Cured some THOUSANDS of CASES of
INDIGESTION,
LIVER COMPLAINTS,
NEURALGIA,
And all Other Kinds of Disease,
During the last Three Years, and the usual cry now is, if you ail anything—
"GO AT ONCE TO PATTRICK,
WHO WILL SOON PUT YOU RIGHT."

STAG INN, SOUTH MOOR,

RICHARD LUMLEY,

ASKS his Friends and Customers to give him a call this Christmas, and try his unrivalled
BITTER AND PALE ALES.
He wishes all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THOMAS ARMSTRONG,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
ÆRATED WATER MANUFACTURER,
BLACKHALL MILL,

TENDERS his very best thanks to his Customers for their most generous Support during the past year, and has full confidence, by selecting the CHOICEST BRANDS in the Trade, to merit a larger share of Public Patronage than ever to his steadily increasing Business.

The very Superior Quality of his Stock of IRISH and SCOTCH WHISKIES, RUMS, &c., is noted throughout the entire District.

FASHIONABLE HAIRDRESSING AND EASY SHAVING.

J. E. SCOTT,
HAIRDRESSER,
TAYLOR STREET, CONSETT.

BEGS to Thank his Patrons for their past favours, and assures them of his unremitting attention in the future as in the past. He wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

CORNSAY.

Smith is my Butcher, he sells prime meat,
And those who taste it says it's a treat.

J. SMITH,
BUTCHER,

HAS Bought Largely at the Christmas Sales, and can safely promise his Customers a Prime Joint of the
BEEF OF OLD ENGLAND.

He thanks the Public for their past Support, and hopes, by selling only
BEEF AND MUTTON OF THE PRIMEST QUALITY
To merit a continuance of their Patronage.
JUICY DAIRY-FED PORK.

WHEAT SHEAF INN,
MIDLLE STREET, CONSETT.

F. A. COLTMAN,

IN returning Thanks for the Liberal Patronage he has received during the time he has conducted the above Old Established and Well-known Inn, begs to inform his Friends and Customers that nothing shall be wanting on his part to provide for the comfort of his Guests, and that he has fitted up a comfortable Smoke Room, well lighted and ventilated; and trusts by assiduous attention and always supplying Articles of the Best Quality, to merit a continuance of the Public Favour hitherto so liberally accorded to his Establishment.

FINEST MILD AND BITTER ALES from the most noted Firms, in grand condition.

FINE OLD SCOTCH WHISKIES, 2s 6d. and 3s. per bottle. Extra Special 3s 6d. to 4s. per bottle.

Speciality, very fine OLD GRAND HIGHLAND LIQUOR, guaranteed 20 years old, 5s. per bottle.

TRY COLTMAN'S SPECIAL BLEND OF FINE OLD SCOTCH WHISKIES.—Sure to give satisfaction, 3s. 6d. per bottle: 19s per gallon.

FINE OLD IRISH WHISKIES, 2s. 6d., 3s., and 3s 6d. Extra Special, 4s. and 4s 6d.; Splendid Quality.

Sole Agent in the District for the Noted CLUNY WHISKEY. Special Quotations for Cases.

HENNESSEY'S AND DUBOIS FINE OLD SPECIAL BRANDY, 1887 Vintage.

WINES.—FINE OLD SPARKLING CHAMPAGNES AND MOSELLES, in pints & quarts.

FINE PORTS AND SHERRIES, 2s. 6d. and 3s per bottle.

FINE OLD PORT, Nine years old, 4s. 6d. per bottle.

FINE OLD SHERRY, Five years old, 3s. 6d. per bottle.

FINE OLD MADEIRA, 3s. 6d. per bottle.

FINE OLD RED & WHITE BURGUNDIES, 3s. 6d. per bottle.

FINE OLD CLARETS AND HOCKS, &c.

BILLIARDS.

New Stables open on the 21th inst.

WAITE BROTHERS,
QUEBEC,
NEWSAGENTS AND GENERAL DEALERS,

RETURN thanks to their Patrons for the Custom which has been so liberally bestowed upon them, and beg to intimate that they are offering
CHRISTMAS FRUITS, CHEESES, CAKES, &c.,
At Exceedingly Low Prices.

QUEEN VICTORIA HOTEL, LEADGATE.

F. COLLINGWOOD,

HAS pleasure in thanking his many Friends and the inhabitants of Leadgate and District for their generous Patronage, and wishes them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He has obtained a High-Class Selection of Liquors for the Holiday Season, and hopes to be favoured with the Orders of his Patrons, and merit their approval.

FINEST WHISKIES AND BRANDIES,
Fully-matured and of the Best Blends.
William Younger & Co.'s EDINBURGH and INDIAN PALE and MILD ALES in Splendid Condition.
EXCELLENT WINES, TOBACCO AND CIGARS.
Good Stabling.

RAVEN HILL, BROOMHILL.

WILLIAM TEMPERLEY,

TAKES the present opportunity of returning Thanks to his Friends and Customers for their kind support in the past, and begs to assure them that it will be his honest endeavour always to merit it. He wishes them a
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR,
and trusts that prosperity will attend all classes during the coming year.

Those who want Really Good Beer are invited to try his CELEBRATED MILD & BITTER ALES.
Creamy Old Scotch and Irish Whiskies.

COMMERCIAL INN, LEADGATE.

MARY H. TEMPERLEY

DESIRES to Thank the Inhabitants of Leadgate and District for their valued Patronage, and wishes them a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

BEST SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES.
SPARKLING ALES AND PRIME STOUTS.
Choice Wines, Brandies, and Cigars.

LIZA DUBBS VISITS THE PUBS.

After a somewhat prolonged but delightful period of retirement from the enraptured gaze of our many ardent admirers and faithful friends in North-West Durham, we—Liza and Ebenezer Dubbs—at the bidding of the proprietor of the *Consett Chronicle*, once again spring into the arena, and take our stand amongst the many aspirants of the north who are battling for immortal fame. It is now a whole year since we first made our round of the various pubs of North-West Durham, since which event we have been teetotallers of the most pronounced, not to say bigoted, character. When the commission for this article first reached us, we were conducting a temperance mission in the "canny toon" of Newcastle, but as the collections have fallen off considerably, in consequence of nasty rumours—that Ebenezer had been seen sipping surreptitiously in suspicious style—getting afloat, we decided to spend a day in the hospitable hostelries of Consett and the surrounding district.

The proprietor of the *Chronicle* met us at the Consett Station. He shook us both heartily by the hand, after which he informed us that in front of the *Chronicle* Office there was a huge crowd awaiting our arrival. Outside the Station stood the staff of the paper carrying flags, upon which were inscribed such significant legends as "Welcome, bottle-nose," "Champion Whiskey Shifters," "Glorious Poets of the Pubs," whilst our old friend, Councillor Elsdon, had a gorgeous streamer flying from his capacious warehouse, upon which were inscribed in big, black letters, the words

Hail, fair Liza, on this glorious day;
She is as welcome as the flowers in May.

On the steps of the *Chronicle* Office stood Mr Aynsley, supported by nearly all the members of the local district councils. This worthy and extremely popular gentleman held out an address, drawn up, after hours of arduous labour and the use of thousands of cubic feet of 3s. 4d. gas, by Councillor Hyden. The last-named gentleman wanted to read it, but friend Nathan suggested that it be taken as read, and that they should proceed forthwith to his establishment to taste his celebrated wares.

As we were about to follow the stalwart critic of the Sewage Farm and purveyor of mellow Christmas cheer, whose shining head is emblematical of the sunshine in his soul, dear Mr Lloyd Clarance rushed forth from where the crowd was densest, and, seizing my right hand, bent before me with courtly grace, as he exclaimed—

Promise, my sweet one, at Thespis' shrine to call,
Ere the night's dark shadows o'er the earth shall fall.

Ebenezer glared angrily at the stately priest of the temple sacred to Thespis, but the latter, not noticing my spouse's lowering brows, continued with the fire and dash of genius:—

Swear to me now our performance thou wilt grace
With thy illustrious form and glorious face.

"How dare you!" yelled Ebenezer, fairly shaking with wrath, "do you think that my—my—Liza—at nightfall—oh, to think that it should have come to this!"

Mr Clarance smiled—a grim, but terrible smile.

"Ebenezer," he said, striding towards him with long Irvinian footsteps, "Ebenezer, you are perverted, you are degenerate, you are ignorant. I merely invite your immortal wife to witness the opera at the Theatre this evening, and would at half time have gladly supplied you each with a half of special, and for this you would insult me. Oh, ungrateful monster! But we shall meet again—again, and in the Gill Woods, where whisperings of love by infatuated sweethearts alone disturb the unearthly silence of nature. We will fight hand to hand, tooth to tooth, and eye-to-eye."

Ebenezer was frightened. He turned a sort of yellowish green, and faltered,

"Sir, I am pulverised. I consider myself knocked down."

Mr Clarance raised his hands majestically.

"I am satisfied," he said grandly. "I forgive," and he walked slowly away.

This little incident had diverted our attention from Councillor Nathan, who, however, accompanied us to the first point of our peregrinations, the Commercial Hotel.

"My dear boy," exclaimed Ebenezer, as he caught sight of Willie Redshaw, "I observe that you have survived the wear and tear of time, and that there still remains a relic of the genial and happy gentleman who so long and so successfully assisted in the management of this celebrated house."

We next strolled into the Black Horse, but just as we crossed the threshold, I saw Ebenezer turn sharply round, and his genial face paled.

"Is—is it a ghost, or a thing of flesh and blood?" he exclaimed, in a hoarse whisper.

I looked in the direction of the spot upon which my dear husband's eyes were focussed, and there stood my friend, Mr Egglestone—a world of sorrow in his beautiful black eyes.

"Oh!" he exclaimed, with a deep sigh, "can this be true, or do my gleaming orbs deceive me? Ebenezer—the illustrious temperance worker—and the no less immortal partner of his joys and sorrows, falling from the paths of temperance! Oh, woe is me! Woe is me!"

Thinking from the pallor that overspread his countenance that he was about to faint, I hurried to his side, and in my excitement, proffered him a nip of Mr Daly's "Dreamland." The effect was magical. His face grew rosy red.

"Away! temptress," he cried, and giving a mighty spring, cleared the whole of the roadway at one bound, and muttering a lament over the degeneracy of human nature and the Dubbs's in particular, proceeded on the even tenor of his way.

Meanwhile, we had quaffed a draught of Mr Tom Forster's far-famed beer, which put new life and vigour into my Ebenezer.

Ned Wylam himself—bluff, hearty, and jococious as ever—led the way into one of the comfortable parlours of the Freemason's Arms Hotel. Here, as usual, a large and distinguished company was assembled, and with one accord they cheered us both as we entered.

"Mr Wylam," said I, advancing towards the worthy host, "were I asked to paint the picture of a typical miller o' the Dee, you are the gentleman whose kindly, honest physog would grace the canvas."

Here dwells a man both bold and hale,
As all his friends will own;
He offers glorious drink for sale
To all in Consett town.
"My wares," he says, "I would defy,
As all who taste can see;
And I envy nobody, no, not I,
And nobody envies me."

A long and loud storm of applause greeted my little effort, and Ned was so exuberantly delighted that he invited Ebenezer and I to spend our summer holidays at his Smelters' Arms, Castleside—

That sweet little village, where love reigns supreme,
And sweethearts in company walk;
Where kissing philosophy's ever the theme,
And gossips do merrily talk.

It is to the Smelters' Arms, by the way, that an expedition is to be sent in search of my friend of the Sycamores. Both Ebenezer and I are open to take part in the same—for a consideration.

We paid flying visits to the Royal Oak Inn and the Stirling Castle—both of which made us wax eloquent over the great events in English history of which the names remind us. In the first we had royal fare fit for King Charles himself, and pretty Miss Ward bade us welcome to her Castle with all the grace of one of the fair maids for whom, in times past and gone,

Doughty knights would heave a sigh,
Rush into the fray, and die.

At the Queen's Head, we encountered a deputation from the Swifts' Football Club, in the person of Mr Joseph Hamilton, who, in the name of the Club—whose headquarters are here—handed us a duly attested certificate, couched in the following terms:—

"This is to certify that we—the members of the Swifts' Football Club—award to Liza and Ebenezer Dubbs, illustrious and immortal, the honour of being the biggest whisky shifters, and possessing the most accommodating internals in North-West Durham."

I was rather inclined to be offended, but one glance at Joe's innocent face, and a sip of Mr Rafferty's special, placed the matter in an altogether different light.

"Madame," said Joe, "as a sportsman, I cannot but admire and respect all who break records. Hence the parchment I have had the honour of handing to you."

Coming away from the Queen's Hotel, I met Mr Pattrick, who told me that since he had had another little son he had given up the gas question, and had gone heart and soul into the subjects of incubators and feeding bottles. Judging from his worried looks, I should say that the gas question is far better for his health.

Host George McCann has not yet shaved off his far-famed trade mark. Nay, since our last visit—like the Railway Hotel itself—that glorious appendage has increased in both size and beauty. Once more we tasted the celebrated twelve-year old, and again drank to the health of the worthy host and his amiable wife. Before we parted he recited to us a little poetic effusion of which he is the proud and distinguished author. It was as follows:—

My house of Consett is the pride,
My whiskey it is grand;
My 'tache is noted far and wide,
O'er all North Durham land.
Come, lads and lassies, great and small,
Whate'er your lot may be,
At my new house don't fail to call,
To see my 'tache and me.

Of course, we congratulated the landlord upon such a glorious production, and quitting the palatial precincts of the Railway Hotel, we proceeded to the Wheat Sheaf. Bonny Frank Coltman extended a cordial welcome, and Kit Lumley, who was in the parlour, insisted upon ordering a couple of bottles of phiz in honour of our visit. Kit, by the way, has not altered in the slightest. He is still the same genial, hearty, whole-souled being as of yore.

"Liza," he exclaimed, digging me playfully in the ribs, "you are the beautifullest, most excruciating, and enchanting creature in the wide, wide world, and, with Mr Coltman's kind permission, I will regale you with one of my own special songs." Knowing what a glorious tenor voice Kit possesses, the company were, of course, delighted, and Mr Lumley started:—

"Oh, Liza Dubbs, sweet Liza Dubbs,
Bewitching hauntress of the pubs;
Your lovely face I'll ne'er forget—
I loved you once, I love you yet."

There was a chorus, but somehow or other poor Kit got mixed, and launched into "Cappy," which Mr Coltman said he had heard before, and sounded like a remnant of the past.

The Wheat Sheaf is a lovely house—a free house, which I suppose means that all who enter have free drinks. At least—according to our usual custom—Ebenezer and I did not pay for anything we consumed.

Just round the corner is the Turf Hotel—one of Mr Michael Cassidy's noted establishments. Into this house we endeavoured to drag Mr George A. Williams, but he pleaded that he was practicing a new piece for next Christmas.

We, therefore, strolled alone into the Turf Hotel, at which establishment, as is well known—

One flagon of foaming beer,
Or a nip of spirit strong,
The fainting heart will cheer,
And force it into song.

The house named after the Prince of English Bards—Shakespeare—next came in for a share of attention. Here Mr Kennedy still reigns supreme, and to his house lovers of beer, if not of the play, flock in large numbers.

Our tour through Consett terminated at Pat Coyle's Mount Pleasant Hotel. The house has been aptly named. Pleasant drinks, served by pleasant people, in a pleasant house, are thoroughly enjoyable, as all will admit.

All people think
If they want a good drink
They'll get it from Coyle;
Certain it is,
That his beer and his phiz
Are sweet after pleasure or toil.

The rest of our visits we determined to cover by driving, and with this object in view, attempted to hire or borrow a remarkably graceful and exceedingly convenient vehicle owned by our old acquaintance, Councillor Powell. The owner, however, protested that it was not available, and further assured us that he would not tolerate its being utilised for such a purpose. Thereupon, Ebenezer, with a sour-grapes kind of snort, replied that "It smelled of bacon, and looked like Noah's Ark, and he would not have accepted it under any circumstances whatever." Eventually, we secured a smart-looking trap from Mrs Christopher, and drove to

MEDOMSLEY

We stopped at the half-way house, the "Hat and Father," which is as well-conducted as ever.

Never was better fare,
Than can be purchased there.

Host Kelly still presides over the fortunes of the Royal Oak Hotel. Mr Moflitt very kindly assisted us to dismount when we arrived at this far-famed hostelry. Stroking his venerable beard, he greeted us with extreme cordiality and honest enthusiasm.

"Liza," he said, "let me assure you that you have never been forgotten by Robert Moflitt. Rumour had it that you had gone to the city to assist the beautiful Guy Hayler, and I myself was often on the point of joining the noble army, but I paused on the threshold, and then fled at the rate of twelve miles an hour. Enter the Royal Oak, and drink."

Thus urged we walked into the house, and were received by Mr Kelly with extraordinary and gratifying cordiality. Bursting into song, he warbled out with a mighty warble:—

"Once in the dear, dead days beyond recall,
When in the world the mists began to fall;
An old couple wandered up and down our lane,
Singing and sighing out this sweet refrain.
Just a drop of Kelly's when the heart is sad
Makes the brain grow clearer, and the mind grow glad.
For his grand old whiskey, oh how much I long,
That is why I'm singing this brand-new song.

At the sign of the Stag we found Mr Joseph Robinson, who received us with all the dignity and effusion of a Parish Councillor. Before leaving, Ebenezer recited the following couplet:—

Let people talk, and let the world wag,
You'll get excellent drink at the sign of the Stag.

We now proceeded to

DIPTON.

As soon as we had reached the village, I made Ebenezer inquire if anyone has seen or heard anything concerning Ralphy Riddell, who at one time essayed to scribble for The Press, but learned that he was utterly defunct as a Pressman, owing to circumstances over which he had no control. Our first visit in this delightful village was, of course, paid to Councillor William Young. The Red Lion, we observed, has been undergoing extensive alterations, and is now one of the chief attractions of the place. The landlord was hugely delighted when he recognised the weather-beaten old visage of yours truly and her spouse. He informed us that he is still a Councillor, but that the meetings are not now held so frequently as they used to be, because the freshness of the thing has worn off. Another circumstance he pointed out was that the people of the village have ceased worshipping their duly elected representatives.

A Councillor, bah! a flash in the pan!
When all's reckoned up, he is only a man.

Mr Young appeared to me to be looking extremely well, and he assured me that he would be quite willing to run in the next Sheffield handicap.

"Of course, it is true, and it's no use denying,
There's no better pub than the Dipton Red Lion."

The Sportsman's Arms is under the direct personal supervision of Mr William Herron, and gave us every indication of prosperity. Truly may it be said:

"The Sportsman's Arms can well embrace,
And comfort folks of every race."

After calling at the Bute Arms, where our old friend, Mr George Brown, received us heartily, and regaled us to

"A taste of the grandest beer
That human hearts could cheer,"

we sampled the wares of Mr R. Brankstone, who keeps the Black Bull Inn. Certain it is that

"Never a moment sad or dull
Is spent at Brankstone's Big Black Bull."

The Fox Inn is as attractive as ever, and cannot fail to repay all travellers who call there for rest and for refreshment.

The Red Ox, too, sustains its reputation, as Ebenezer proved in his own practical fashion.

Our last call in this locality was at the Flint Hill Inn, where, owing to Ebenezer's condition—he was making love to everybody he saw—we rested for a short half-hour.

On returning, we were stopped in the centre of the village by a large crowd, who demanded a speech from our illustrious selves. Anxious to oblige, I sprang up, and, lifting my veil, exclaimed—

"Diptonians all! I congratulate you upon your pubs. (Hear, hear, and a few dissenting voices.) I congratulate you upon your landlords. (Another outburst of applause, in the midst of which there was some disturbance, owing to a dark-browed gentleman in the crowd expressing the opinion that I wanted boiling.) You are a glorious people, and have some glorious liquor in your midst. (Another delay owing to Mr Castle handing me a sardine and a biscuit.) Ladies and gentlemen! I admire you all, and will conclude with a little verse of my own:—

You want fresh roads, more drains, more light,
I know you'll own that this is right;
But if you search afar and near,
You'll never find superior beer.

Then amidst the cheers of the assembled crowd, we returned to

LEADGATE.

County Councillor Winter came out to meet us, and slyly suggested that the weather was very seasonable, a joke that I greatly appreciated.

"Mr Winter," I exclaimed, curtseying gracefully, "I have been officially informed that it is your intention to contest the vacant seat at York, and if you do, I am certain that you will finish either at the bottom or at the top of the poll. At any rate, you have the Dubbs's blessing on the campaign."

"Ma'am," he responded, striking his breast with his mighty right hand, "Ma'am, you're misinformed. I have accepted no invitation to stand for York, nor do I intend to do so. This manly bosom has all too long been harrassed by the cares of public life. For the future——"

"Look at him," interposed Ebenezer, admiringly, "a Prime Minister spoiled in the making. Mr Winter, you should have been a leading light at Westminster. Dare you deny it?"

Thus challenged, the Councillor bent his head, and, with a deprecating wave of his right hand, walked sadly away.

Councillor Greener was the next old acquaintance we encountered. He has always been the champion of the Press, and I reminded him of the fact that again and again in the Council Chamber he had fought the battles of the reporters.

"Ah," he exclaimed, "times have changed since then. Let me read you a little poem which I have composed specially in your honour."

We assented gladly, and he began:—

No longer can we rave and roar,
And shout until our throats are sore;
No longer wrangle without cause,
In spite of rulings, orders, laws;
No longer ride a special fad,
Until the steed is well-nigh mad;
A new regime now reigns supreme,
And in discussion on each theme
We cannot fight like bears at play,
But must the Chairman's rule obey.

"And a very good thing, too," exclaimed a voice from the rear.

We glanced round, and there discovered Councillor Lane smiling benignly upon us.

A hearty hand-shake, a sob from the schoolmaster, and then I fell upon his neck and wept.

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new," quoted Ebenezer, saying which he dragged me away into Mr Ralph Calvert's Coach and Horses. The kindly host was the same as ever, and his welcome was all the more cordial from the time that had elapsed since our last visit. We had some real, old stingo, over which we discussed Councillor Keenleyside's chances for the appointment of goalkeeper to Leadgate Park or Sunderland. Ebenezer thinks it would be a good spec, for when once the burly Councillor got wedged between the posts, not even Bob Forster, or Hughie Wilson could score a goal, though it might be a poor look-out for the custodian's stomach. But this is by-the-way.

Mrs Temperley's Commercial Inn is as busy and attractive as ever. Here

The traveller may stay and drink his fill,
Nor dread to see his little bill.

The Queen Victoria Hotel still dispenses right royal fare, as I myself can testify, whilst the Sportsman's Arms merits and receives extensive patronage.

After calling upon Mr Smith at the Black Bull Inn, where liquors of the finest quality and in long pulls are supplied, we dropped in to see bluff Mr Longstaff at the Miners' Arms. Mine Host looked as cheerful, manly, and genial as ever. His greeting was most enthusiastic, and in response I handed him the following:—

Here of good things there is a feast,
I say it boldly to you all;
When you are near make sure to call,
This house is good for man or beast.

The Golden Lion finished our calls in Leadgate. Landlord Donnelly has already effected a big improvement in the place. Ebenezer was particularly gracious to Miss Donnelly, who, however, very properly kept him at a considerable distance.

Upon returning to Consett, we encountered Ex-Superintendent Oliver, who was engaged in earnest conversation with Sergeant Dryden. The latter eyed us grimly, for a moment, and then a sweet smile overspread his countenance as he exclaimed:—

"I recognise you now. Of course, its the delightful Dubbs's, who had they been officers would have been an honour to the force."

"Yes," replied Ebenezer, quoting from Rowley—the famous Tyneside comedian, "I'd have made a canny police, and left the poor, hard working publicans alone."

"Hush!" exclaimed the sergeant dramatically. "Speak it not. Duty is duty, and the past has gone." With this assertion both Mr Oliver and I agreed. When the sergeant had quitted us, Mr Oliver drew me aside, and said that he had a little grievance which he hoped I would ventilate. In response to that gentleman's request, I will, therefore, proceed to do so in rhyme:—

Long time ago, for so they say,
And I believe 'tis true in fact,
Our Parliament in temper gay,
Brought in a sweeping Common Act.
To-day, when pit-falls spoil the land,
The owner is with anguish racked;
He cannot recompense demand
Through that unlucky Common Act.

After resting for an hour, we proceeded by train to

LANCHESTER.

There was considerable bustle at the King's Arms when we entered, and the landlord, Mr James Humble, informed us that he had been hard at it for the last few weeks. The Misses Humble received us with charming smiles, and Ebenezer insisted upon kissing each fair lady's hand.

"Mr Humble," I exclaimed, after the customary greetings had been exchanged, "it must be delightful for the good people of this aristocratic little village to know that

Though Guardians may spend the ratepayers' money,
And look on the thing as awfully funny,
Consolation they'll find in the numerous charms,
Of the beer and the whiskies at Humble's King's Arms."

Leaving this noted hostelry, we encountered the new resident of "The Lodge"—Mr Ritson, who informed me quite confidentially that he could not find enough work to keep him fully employed.

At the Blue Bell, we were cordially greeted by Mr Smith, who

With genial smile, and timely jest,
Serves out strong liquors of the best.

Night was just falling, so we did not remain long at the Queen's Head. But we stayed long enough to prove that

Though men may come and men may go,
Though folks may groan from weight of woe,
Though hearts may break through Fortune's frowns,
Good whisky's found at Mr Towns.

We now returned to

BLACKHILL.

"What, Liza!" exclaimed a cheerful voice as we descended from a first class compartment of the train. "This is, indeed, a pleasure, and is every bit as good and invigorating as a county cricket match upon our new ground, or a ratepayers' meeting with Mr Mathieson on the stump."

"Mr Ramsay," I exclaimed, recognising my dear, old, friend, "and in the flesh."

"Yes," he returned with a laugh. "Though not so much flesh as in the days of yore. You see, I was so worried by the question of School Board expenditure that I lost two stones in as many weeks, but all the fuss that arose was only so much wasted energy. Why, neither Mr Ingles nor Mr Mathieson came forward, and so all their rumpus ended in smoke."

They puffed, they raved, they panted,
They talked, they fumed, and they ranted.
That 'twas energy lost,
And nought but a frost,
By all thoughtful folks will be granted.

We bade the Blackhill poet laureate farewell, and strolled into the North-Eastern Hotel.

Mrs Christopher, I am glad to say, still presides over this far-famed establishment, although I was exceedingly sorry to hear that the amiable hostess had been confined to her bed.

Its wares are good, and can be taken
Without a fellow's top-piece aching.

In Derwent Street, we found Mrs Burns at the Scotch Arms, where

To Bobby Burns we drank good cheer,
The Scottish Bard—to memory dear.

Before passing the portals of the Rose and Crown, we encountered Councillor Eltringham. Said Ebenezer:—

"I bend my back, and bow my knee,
Before Joe Eltringham, J.P."

But he only laughed and said that his blushing honours had not made a bit of difference to him, and he was still the same genial, kindly, unaffected, and unostentatious gentleman as when his life's story appeared in the columns of the *Consett Chronicle*.

Poor George Young is dead, but his son conducts the Rose and Crown splendidly. He is a model landlord.

"Spirits may wander up and down
In freedom or in fetter,
But truly not in Blackhill town
Are spirits any better."

Mr George Cancick extended the right hand of welcome as we crossed the threshold of the Station Hotel. This is what he said:—

"Liza Dubbs! Sweet lady fair!
Thy gifts are great, thy charms are rare;
Liza Dubbs, I know thee well,
How much I cannot, would not tell."

He burst into a flood of tears, and after tasting his splendid fare, we travelled to Highgate, where

"At the Miners' Arms, host Thomas Galles,
To win a warm approval never fails."

Thence we proceeded to the Royal Hotel. Mr J. R. Brodie still manages the business, and does it well.

"The Royal Hotel, so dear to my heart,
Is next door to the world-famed Auction Mart."

This ended our day's tour. But we intend completing the journey next week, so, wishing you all a Happy New Year,

I remain,
Yours very truly,
LIZA DUBBS.

OXHILL.

Christian Endeavour Society.—Mr T. Morson read an interesting paper on the "Birth of Christ" at Monday's gathering of the above Society.

Social.—A grand social was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Christmas Day by the young people of the Society. The tables were presided over by Misses M. Tuckerman, E. Ledger, A. Watts, and A. Tiplady, who were assisted by Misses M. Lillie, A. Armstrong, and E. Bowstead. A committee, consisting of the following, carried out the arrangements: Messrs James Palmer (president), J. Shield (secretary), T. Morson (treasurer), G. Armstrong, T. Armstrong, John Clennell, T. Platton, T. Siddle, and Jas. Bowstead; and Misses M. Tuckerman, M. Lillie, A. Armstrong, E. Bowstead, E. Ledger, and A. Watts. During the evening, recitations were given by Mr James Palmer, Mr John Black, and Miss F. Bowstead. Solos were sung by Miss E. Carroll and Miss E. Tuckerman. Duets by Misses E. and F. Bowstead, also Mr James Palmer and Miss F. Bowstead. The programme was arranged by Mr James Harris. The proceeds amounted to £10 10s.

THE HOCKEY CLUB BALL.

A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE.

The fifth annual ball, under the auspices of the Derwent Valley Hockey Club, was held in the Co-operative Hall, Leadgate, when a brilliant company accepted the invitation of the members. The ball room was very prettily decorated in the Club's colours of maroon and gold, evergreens also playing a very prominent part, which, together with the lovely dresses, made a very striking scene. The music was supplied by Mr E. J. Sloane, Mus. Bac., and his band, whose musical efforts were unsurpassable. To Mr and Mrs James were the refreshments left, and in whose hands they were efficiently served, being all that could be desired, both in variety and quality. To the members, the highest possible praise is due for giving such a splendid ball, and they are to be congratulated that, not only in the hockey field have they established a record, but also in the ball room. The whole of the arrangements were under the supervision of the Honorary Secretary of the Club, Mr C. T. Foreman, in whose hands they were all that could be desired. The following is a list of those present:—

Ainsworth, Mr P., Mr F., Mrs, and Miss, Consett Hall, and Miss Wattsford, Bishopton.
Askwith, Mr J. E., Consett.
Aynsley, Messrs G. and J., Consett.
Balleny, Mr H. and Miss, The Delves.
Bell, Mr and Miss, Newcastle.
Boland, Dr., Leadgate, and Miss Boland, Dundee.
Blench, Miss, Leadgate.
Collinson, Mr, Mrs, and the Misses, Shotley Bridge.
Carr, Mr A., North Shields.
Coulthard, Miss, Dipton.
Davis, Mr, Dipton.
Douglas, Mr W., Blackhill.
Dryden, Mr and Mrs T. D., Consett.
Foreman, Mr, Mrs, and Miss, East House, Leadgate, and the Misses White, Hartlepool.
Foreman, Messrs C. T., W. J., and M. C., Leadgate.
Garson, Dr. and Miss, Sacriston, and Miss Rose, Edinburgh.
Garson, Mr W., Edinburgh.
Green, Mr and Mrs, Benfieldside, and Miss Baigent, Northallerton.
Humble, Captain, Mr G. H., and Miss and Miss Dodds, West Pelton House.
Hooper, Mr and Mrs, and Miss Heymer, Benfieldside.
Jeakins, Mr, Allansford Hall,
Kirkhouse, Mr and Mrs, West Bank, and Miss Beeston, London.
Lowery, Mr and Miss, Newcastle.
Murray, Mr and Mrs J. G., and Miss Patterson, Benfieldside House.
Neasham, Mr P. and Miss, Consett.
Nicholson, Mr J. M., Leadgate, and Miss, Consett, and Miss Sanderson, Stanhope.
Nicholson, Mr E., Leadgate.
Nicholson, Miss, Leadgate.
Oxley, Mr A. and Miss, Craghead.
Park, Mr and Mrs R., Blackhill.
Petherick, Mr and Mrs, Fairdale.
Rutherford, Mr J. and Miss, Catchgate.
Rutherford, Mr and Mrs, Whickham.
Robson, Mr G. G., Medomsley.
Robson, Mr W. M., Wanstead, Essex.
Robinson, Mr and Miss, Pontop House.
Russell, Mr A. and Miss, Consett.
Swallow, Mrs, Mr W. J., Mr A., and Mr T., Bushblades.
Swallow, Mr W. and Miss, Tanfieldleith House.
Shrewsbury, Rev. C., Leadgate.
Sloane, Mr J., Blackhill.
Symington, Mr, and Mrs J., and Miss Matthews, Consett.
Taylor, Mr and Mrs R., Barnard Castle.
Thorpe, Mr J. E., Blackhill.
Todd, Mr J. O., Mr C., and Mr J., and Miss, Leadgate.
Walton, Miss, Medomsley.
Williams, Mr and Mrs, Benfieldside.
Young, Mr H. G., Blackhill.

TOW LAW.

Death of Mr. James McIntosh.—We regret to record the death of Mr James McIntosh, engineer to the Weardale Iron and Coal Company, which occurred at his residence on Saturday. Deceased, who was well known and respected, was a Liberal in politics, but took no part in public life. The funeral took place on Monday evening, the service being conducted in the Parish Church by the curate, the Rev. J. Michael. At the close of the service, the Dead March in "Saul" was played by the Vicar (the Rev. T. H. Espin). There was a large attendance of friends. Deceased leaves a widow and two sons, one of whom is a popular member of the Tow Law Football Club.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

Canine Success.—The grand commemoration open dog show in aid of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, promoted by the Ladies' Kennel Association, was held at the Earl's Court Exhibition, last week. The entries, we understand, were altogether 3591, this being the largest number of entries on record. Amongst our local exhibitors, Mrs J. V. Faber, Derwent Dene, Shotley Bridge, sent five of her now celebrated Chow-Chows. Of these, "Champion Chow VIII." (red) secured the highest award given, namely, the Jubilee championship, specially designed red cross medal, the special given by Crufts for best Chow, and the Ladies' Kennel Association premiership, besides taking three first prizes in challenge class, as well as in winners and open red class. "Singapore Boy" came in third in open red, and third in limit, but secured first as best stud dog. These two also were awarded first as best brace of Chows. The black bitch "Yum-Yum" came in first in open, and with the two red brought home first prize as the best team of "Chows." "Kamti" got one first, one second, and one third prize, and "Ta-Ta," one second and one third.

SOUTH MOOR.

Methodist New Connexion.—On Christmas Day, a social and supper was held in the Infant School, kindly granted for the occasion by Mr Fairley of Shaftoe House. The affair, which was promoted by the members of the Methodist New Connexion Choir, proved a success in every respect.

Concert at South Moor.—A grand evening concert was given in the Infants' School Room, South Moor, on Monday evening, the proceeds being devoted to the funds of the local Science Classes. Mr James Fairley, of Shaftoe House, presided, and the artistes included Messrs H. Tomkins and W. Bell, Newcastle; Mr Davies, Dipton; Mr Johnson, Annfield Plain; Miss Dixon, South Moor; and Miss Coulthard, Dipton. Miss May Welch, of Stanley, officiated as accompanist. Prizes and certificates were presented to the successful students of last Session by the Rev. W. Cooke, Vicar of Holmside.

Primitive Bazaar.—A grand bazaar and sale of work was held in the Primitive Methodist Church on Christmas Day, the proceeds being devoted to the Church funds. Mr Robt. Tindale, of South View, opened the sale with a few appropriate remarks. The total proceeds amounted to slightly above £60. Musical selections were given during the day by the Church Choir. The stall holders were:—Drapery — Mrs Gair, Mrs Reay, Mrs Mordue, Mrs Bainbridge, and Mrs Purvis. Fancy stall—Mrs Brankstone and Mrs Robson. China stall—Miss Purvis, Miss Chesters, and Miss Mordue. Toy and sweet stall—Miss Berkeley and Miss Hand. A splendid tea was provided, and enjoyed by a large company, the tables being presided over by Mrs Donaldson, Mrs Thompson, and Mrs Carr.

Annual Tea. — In connection with the South Moor Wesleyan Chapel, the choir held their annual tea and social on Christmas Day. In the afternoon an eloquent sermon was preached by Mr Wheatley Foster, of South Moor, on "The birth of Jesus Christ," after which tea was provided. The tables were presided over by Mesdames Hardy, Shield, Richardson, and Kirtley; while the tea was made by Mesdames Bell, Kirtley, Redman, and Drake. During the evening, various games were indulged in, including a laughable dialogue given by ten members of the Choir, entitled, "The bobby's courtship," which was given in a very creditable manner. The characters were taken by Messrs J. and F. Hardy, J. Blakey, and R. Dixon, and Misses Swinhoe, Cook, Akers, Lies, Davison, and Trotter, all of whom did their parts exceedingly well. On Sunday, two sermons were preached in the morning and evening by Mr T. Finch, of Thirsk, and in the afternoon, a musical service was given by the South Moor Wesleyan Choir. Every credit is due to Mr Trotter for the training of the Choir. The programme was as follows: — Anthem, "When the Lord shall build up Zion," choir; solo, "Father, pray with me to-night," Miss Lies; quartette, "The future lies before me," by Mrs J. and F. Hardy, and Misses Clark and Liddell; anthem, "Daughter of Zion," choir; duet, "Give me sweet rest," Misses B. and A. Liddell; duet, "David and Goliath," Messrs B. and W. Ward; solo, "The blind orphan girl," Miss C. Lies; solo, "Ora Pro Nobis," Mr W. Ward; anthem, "Raise on high the lofty song," choir; leader, Mr Geo. W. Trotter; organist, Mr F. Kellett; violinist, Mr J. Blakey.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, STANLEY.

A special solemnity took place in the above Church, on Christmas Eve, according to the immemorial custom of the Catholic Church, when Mozart's Twelfth Mass, accompanied by full choir and Mr W. Forster's efficient string band, was celebrated by the Rev. J. Thompson. The service opened with the invitatory, "Come, let us adore the Lord of Glory," and, as the clock chimed twelve, the priest, attended by acolytes bearing lighted tapers and fuming censer, ascended the altar for Holy Mass. The music was Mozart's popular Twelfth Mass, and one could not fail to read the composer's theme so beautifully carried out in the piteous notes of the Kyrie, the cry for mercy, the jubilant Gloria, purposely repeating itself, the reverend Hosannah of the Sanctus, and the appealing miserere of the Agnus Dei. Concon's "Domine Salvam fac Victoriam" ("God Save the Queen") was rendered at the conclusion, and the usual adeste at the offertory. At the Gospel appointed to be read at midnight Mass, Father Thompson addressed a few words relative to the function they were celebrating upon the text of the Psalmist, "Let the Heavens rejoice and the earth exult before the face of the Lord, because He cometh." They were met together once more, he said, to celebrate the 1897th birthday of the King of Kings, and that, by a worship of praise, the most solemn and inspiring of all the year. Once only in the twelve months, the Catholic Church permitted each priest throughout the whole world to say three Masses on this day—the first in memory of our Lord's eternal birth from the eternal Father; the second in memory of His temporal birth at Bethlehem; and the third in memory of His spiritual birth by grace in the soul of the Christian. The belief and practice of our forefathers during the past thousand years in this land had left their impress upon the very language we spoke to-day. And so this festival was termed Christmas, on account of the Mass said on this day in memory of Christ. Then we had Candlemas, Martinmas, Michaelmas, each and all telling of the Mass celebrated on February 2nd—the Feast of the Purification, St. Martin's Day, and St. Michael's Day. Why should they rejoice? Because the Word was made Flesh. He who rules the elements, true God of God, true Light of Light, was on that night born in a stable at Bethlehem. He failed to see how religions could call themselves Christian, who did not rejoice by worship and praise at His birth, and mourn at His death. He and they rejoiced because there was born to mankind a Saviour and a Redeemer, and he thought that every Church throughout the land ought on this day to be filled with reverent and grateful worshippers. In conclusion, he offered the tribute of his sincerest thanks to the able and efficient band, and its valued leader, Mr Walter Smurthwaite, Stanley, and complimented them on the rich feast of music they were providing on that occasion. Mr W. Rowell presided at the organ. The altar and walls were tastefully decorated with evergreens by the school staff of teachers. On Christmas Night there was a festive gathering in the Schoolroom, and some 200 sat down to a plentiful repast, provided by these and other ladies from Burnhope. Those at the tables were Mrs Hannah Costello, Mrs T. Hannan, Mrs P. Hannan, assisted by Mrs Wilson, Stanley. Songs were sung by Miss B. Fiddess, Miss Bolam, Mr M. Mellon, and others. The party broke up about half-past ten.

TANFIELD LEA.

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. — A grand bazaar took place in the School Room of the above place on Saturday and Monday in last week. The opening service was ably presided over by the Rev. John Wesley Denham, of Annfield, who also was accompanied by Mrs Denham. After service and prayer, Mr Denham introduced Mrs Thomas Aynsley, of Tanfield Lea, not as from a distance or a stranger to the Chapel, but one of our own congregation, to open the bazaar. Mrs Aynsley spoke of the object the friends had in view, and hoped God's blessing would rest on their labours. She then declared the bazaar open, and wished it success. Mr John Bulmer proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs Aynsley, and then presented Miss Aynsley with a pretty basket of artificial flowers. The vote was well seconded by Mr J. Greener. Afterwards Mr G. Nicholson gave a brief financial statement, having received towards the Building Fund the sum of £44 9s 2d, and outstanding promises of £31 13s 6d. He also announced that Mrs Aynsley had given a very handsome donation of £5 5s. Votes of thanks were given to the ladies and young people who had worked so hard to furnish the several stalls. Mr John Bailey spoke in high terms of the endeavours of the young people. The several stalls were presided over by Misses Bailey, and Messrs Greener, Rowe, Jeffery, Richardson, and Sanders. The young people's stall was managed by Miss Riddle, Miss J. Greener, and Messrs John Greener and W. Armstrong; the book stall by Messrs John and F. Sanders; the tea tables by Misses Keskers, Rowe, Hall, and Greener. The teas were provided by Mrs Rowe, Mrs Nicholson, and Mrs Symons. The proceeds on Saturday amounted to £23 17s, and on Monday £5 13s, making a total for the two nights, not including Mrs Aynsley's donation, of £29 10s.

BLACKHILL.

International College of Music. — The following pupils of Miss E. L. Stelling, A.L.C.M., have passed successfully in pianoforte playing:—Junior grade—Miss Maria Brown, Wood Houses, Bradley Cottages, 100 marks (aged 10 years); Miss Lizzie Ann Leathord, Derwent Cottages, 98 marks; Miss Mary Stoddart, Bradley Cottages, 88 marks.

Death of Mrs Charles Young.—It is with deep regret that we have this week to record the death of Mrs Young, of Cort Street, wife of Mr Charles Young, foreman boilersmith at the Consett Ironworks, where he has been employed for a considerable number of years, his father being employed there before him. The deceased lady, who expired on Sunday morning, of last week, was widely known and respected, being of a most kindly disposition, and endearing herself to all with whom she came in contact. Her death is attributed to heart disease, being only in her 48th year. Much sympathy is felt throughout the district for Mr Young and family in their very great bereavement, and we are asked to state that Mr Young wishes to thank the many kind friends who have sent letters and messages of condolence with them in their sad loss. The interment took place at Blackhill Cemetery, on Wednesday week, in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends, amongst whom were included:—Mr C. Young, the Misses Elizabeth, Gerty, and Blanche Young (daghters), Mr and Mrs R. Hopkinson, Heaton; Mr and Mrs G. Brand, Consett; Mr and Mrs Wm. Young, Blackhill; Mr and Mrs R. Smailes, Benfieldside; Mr J. Carruthers, Mr R. Carruthers, and Miss Carruthers, Castleside; Mr H. and Miss Ridley, Leadgate; Mr F. Ridley, Medomsley; Mr J. Ridley, Chester-le-Street; Mr and Mrs C. Smailes, Consett; Mrs Brown, Langley; Mr and Mrs A. Kempster, Blackhill; Mr T. Young, Consett; Mr J. W. Young, Blackhill; Mr and Mrs Pescod, Consett; the Misses Robson, Consett; Mr T. Robson, Mrs Bell, Castleside; Mr and Mrs H. Walker, Consett; Mrs T. C. Rawes, Mrs Askew, Mr and Mrs T. Watson, Mr R. Teasdale, Mrs T. Mackay, Mr C. Parnaby, Mr and Mrs W. Strachan, Mr J. Jackson, Miss Watson, Mr D. Williams, Blackhill; Mr Gray, Mr J. Muir, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs M. Henderson, Mr G. Robinson, Mr J. Robinson, Mr W. Eales, Mr W. Palliser, Mr E. Hobday, Mr W. Oliver, Mr R. Smailes, Miss Smailes, Mr and Mrs A. Walton, Mrs J. Bell, Mr Robson, Blackhill; Mrs Pickles, Mrs W. Bell, Mrs J. Urwin, Mr A. Reed, Mrs J. Oliver, Mrs Vaux, Mrs Williams, Mrs Sadler, Lanchester; Mrs G. Thompson, Durham; Mr J. J. Thompson, Blackhill; Mrs John Murray, Mrs Moon, Mrs J. S. Palliser, Mrs Pinkney, Mrs L. Brown, Mrs Hale, Mr W. Knifton, Mr McFeggan, Mrs Stelling, Miss Richey, Miss Nichol, Mrs G. Turnbul, Mr Almond, Mr D. Williams, and many others. Some beautiful wreaths were sent by Mr C. Young and family, Mr and Mrs Hopkinson, Heaton; Mr and Mrs Brand, Consett; Mr and Mrs R. Smailes and family, Mr and Mrs Wm. Young, Blackhill; Mr and Mrs C. Smailes, Consett; Mr and Mrs T. Watson and family, Blackhill; Mr and Mrs Strachan, Blackhill; Mr W. Brand, Consett; Miss Ridley, Leadgate; Mrs Brown, Langley; Mr and Mrs George Thompson and family, Durham; and Mrs Askew, Blackhill. There was a magnificent wreath from the workmen of the boiler department of the Consett Ironworks. The funeral ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Mr Bacon; and the funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr T. C. Rawes, of Consett.

IN MEMORIAM NOTICES.

The charge for Inserting an "In Memoriam Notice in the *Consett Chronicle*, with one verse of poetry, is 1s. When there are two verses, the charge is 1s 6d.

MEMORIAL CARDS.

GEORGE NEASHAM
Printer, New Station Road, Consett,
Begs to Inform Parents and others that he has on hand a very
LARGE AND ARTISTIC ASSORTMENT OF
MEMORIAL CARDS.
And that all Orders sent to him,
by Post or otherwise, will receive the most
Careful and Prompt Attention.

An Inspection of Cards is respectfully invited. Two-fold Black-Bordered Silver Card, with Chastely-Designed Front Page, bearing the words "In Memoriam," or "In Loving Memory," and Poetry on the inside of Front Page, Price for the 1st Dozen, 2s. 6d. Each Succeeding Dozen, 1s. 6d. Relatives living at a distance may rely on having their Orders executed by Return of Post. Relatives ordering Memorial Cards, are requested to send the Name of the Deceased, date of Death, &c. Wives who have been bereft of their husbands, husbands who have lost their wives, parents their children, children their father or mother, and relatives their friends, will find at the *Chronicle* Office, a large number of suitable verses to select from. A Printed Copy of these will be sent on application, Post Free.

FRANCES CHRISTOPHER,
LIVERY STABLES,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

HORSES, TRAPS, BRAKES, and all Kinds of VEHICLES for Hire.
Funerals Completely Furnished at the Lowest Possible Prices.

Births, Marriages. & Deaths

Marriages.

JOHNSON and THOMPSON.—At the Baptist Chapel, Consett, on the 22nd inst., by the Rev. T. Durant, Mr J. Johnson, East Castle, to Miss M. J. Thompson, of Howen's Gill.

BELL and ELLIS.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 18th inst., Mr Nathan Bell, of Blackhill, to Miss Harriet Ellis, of Consett.

SETTREY and SHORT.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 18th inst., Mr Thomas J. Settrey, of Medomsley, to Miss Isabella Short, of Medomsley.

PRATT and SIMPSON.—At St. John's Church, Newcastle, on December 25th, 1872, Thomas Pratt, youngest son of William Pratt, Liverpool, to Sarah, youngest daughter of Ralph Simpson, Gateshead. Silver Wedding.

OXLEY and NATTRASS.—At the Wesleyan Chapel, Consett, on the 20th ult., Edward Lakey Oxley, of Allendale Cottages, to Margaret Ann Nattrass, of Medomsley.

BUCKINGHAM and BROWN.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on Christmas Day, Harry Buckingham, of Oxhill, to Frances Ann Brown, of Shield Row.

WALKER and WILLIAMSON.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 27th inst., William Francis Walker to Mary Jane Williamson, both of Langley Park.

HENDERSON and FORSTER.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 27th inst., William Henry Henderson to Mary Elizabeth Forster, both of Leadgate.

COULSON and KIRTLEY.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 23rd inst., Thomas Coulson to Louisa Kirtley, both of Cornsay Colliery.

TURNBULL and CARR.—At the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Stanley, on the 28th inst., by the Rev. W. Gelley, John Mason Turnbull, of Normanby, to Elizabeth Ann Carr, of Annfield Plain.

ROSS and McGOWAN.—At the Annfield Plain Wesleyan Chapel, on the 22nd inst., by the Rev. J. W. Denham, William Ross, of Lanchester, to Kate McGowan, of Annfield Plain.

Deaths.

At 37, Cort Street, Blackhill, on the 19th inst., in her 48th year, Jane (Jenny), dearly beloved wife of Charles Young, foreman boilersmith at Consett Works.

At Blackhill, on the 21st inst., aged 71 years, Hannah, dearly beloved wife of Michael Kirkup. Interment at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Friday, the 24th, at 2-30 p.m. Friends please accept this intimation.

At Heswall, Cheshire, on the 24th inst., aged 62 years (suddenly), Jeannie, widow of the late Isaac McKay, of Birkenhead, and eldest daughter of the late Thomas Reed, of Knitsley.

At South Pontop, Annfield Plain, on the 27th inst., aged 67 years, Ann, the beloved wife of Robert Gair.

At Craghead, on the 14th inst., aged 59 years, John Hope.

At Hill Top, on the 16th inst., aged 26 years, Jane, wife of George Towns.

At Esh Winning, on the 18th inst., aged 5 months, Frank, son of Isaac Brown.

At Holmside, on the 20th inst., aged 14 months, Henrietta, daughter of Henry Robson.

At 531, Quarry Street, Leadgate, on the 14th inst., aged 31 years, Hannah, widow of William Pearson.

At Westwood, on the 20th inst., aged 54 years, Margaret, wife of Robert Whitfield.

At 37, John Street, Consett, on the 19th inst., Henry, infant son of Thomas Wood.

At 15, Havelock Street, Consett, on the 19th inst., aged 75 years, Nicholas Lockey.

At 6, Hawthorn Terrace, Blackhill, on the 18th inst., Margaret Ellen Whitfield, infant daughter of the late Albert Coates.

At Wood Street, Shotley Bridge, on the 18th inst., aged 36 years, William Wright.

At Castleside, on the 19th inst., aged 63 years, Elizabeth, widow of George Gibson.

At 37, Edith Street, Consett, on the 17th inst., John Robert, infant son of William Dimmick.

At Clavering Place, Annfield Plain, on the 21st inst., aged 98 years, Isabella, widow of Martin Wilkinson.

At Esh Winning, on the 24th inst., aged 7 months, Margaret Ellen, daughter of Matthew Dover Ovington.

At Cornsay, Colliery, on the 24th inst., aged 14 months, Sidney, son of Thomas Kidd.

At Hill Top, Collierley, on the 23rd inst., aged 52 years, William Hennessey.

At Leazes, on the 18th inst., aged 78 years, Ellen, widow of John Forster.

At Lousia Terrace, Stanley, on the 18th inst., aged 16 months, James, son of Joseph Davison.

At Hill Top Lodging House, on the 15th inst., aged 45 years, John Malleny.

At Kip Hill, on the 16th inst., aged 70 years, William Gibbon.

At Delight Bank, Dipton, on the 13th inst., aged 27 years, Margaret, wife of Edward Crenston.

At Burnopfield, on the 13th inst., aged 16 months, Isabella, daughter of Frederick Lawther.

At Havannah, Stanley, on the 13th inst., aged 62 years, Jane, wife of Richard Knox.

At Dipton, on the 11th inst., aged 69 years, Mary Ann, widow of John Errington.

At 12, Trafalgar Street, Consett, on the 24th inst., aged 31 years, Joseph Wilson Shield.

At 12, Constance Street, Consett, on the 25th inst., aged 39 years, Margaret, wife of Joseph Perry.

At 36, Princes Street, Consett, on the 26th inst., Joseph, infant son of John Carroll.

At Rowley Bank, Castleside, on the 27th inst. Percy, infant son of Robert Lee.

At 6, Raglan Street, Consett, on the 25th inst., aged 67 years, Walter Stoddart.

At 10, Beattie Terrace, Blackhill, on the 26th inst., aged 78 years, William Robson.

At High Bradley, Medomsley, on the 26th inst., aged 18 years, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of the late Thomas Simpson.

At 126, Front Street, Leadgate, on the 24th inst., Barbara Dora, infant daughter of John Henry Telford.

At 3, Buckham Place, Blackhill, on the 29th inst., Mary Annie, infant daughter of Thomas Turner.

At Brick Flats, Tow Law, on the 27th inst., aged 60 years, William Lose.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of ANNIE, the beloved daughter of George and Mary Wight, 46, Edith Street, Consett, died December 20, 1896, aged 3 years.

An Angel took my flower away,
Yet I would not repine;
For Jesus in His bosom wears,
The flower that once was mine.

In Loving Memory of our dear Mother, MARY ANN BELL, wife of John Bell, of Westwood, who departed this life January 1st, 1896.

Two years have passed and friends around us
Think the wound is almost healed;
But they little know the sorrow,
Deep within our hearts concealed.

Ever Remembered by George and Sarah.

In Affectionate Remembrance of my dear wife, MARGARET HUNTER, who died December 29th, 1896, aged 76 years. Ever remembered by her Loving Husband and Daughter, Barbara Thompson, of Tanfield Lea.

JAMES HOPE,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR IN STONE
MARBLE, AND GRANITE.
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKFINE.
Special Designs and Estimates on Application

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The Consett Chronicle

Gratis. **SUPPLEMENT.** **Gratis.**

CONSETT CHRONICLE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1897.

Christmas Advertisements.

JOHN COLLINSON,
BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER, AND LEATHER MERCHANT,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to thank his numerous Customers in Consett and District, and has pleasure in directing attention to the Large Stock he has always on hand. These Goods will be found to unsurpassed for Style and Durability.

SOLE AGENT FOR THE PNEUMATIC BOOTS AND SHOES.

LADIES' & CHILDRDN'S BOOTS, SUITABLE FOR EVERY SEASON.

Special Selection for
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR PRESENTS.
OVERSHOES, CLOGS, &c., FOR WINTER WEAR.

6, CHURCH STREET, CONSETT,

J. R. BRODIE,
TAILOR, WOOLLEN DRAPER, HATTER, MEN'S MERCER, &c.,

BEGS to thank the Public of Consett and the surrounding District for the liberal support which he has always received, and hopes by attention to Business, and selling goods of the Best Quality at Reasonable Prices, to merit a continuance of their favours.

SUITINGS AND OVERCOATINGS.

SILK HANDKERCHIEFS & GLOVES IN PROFUSION.

THE CASTLE WATCH WORKS FOR WATCHES.

JOHN T. CASTLE,
WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER, AND SILVERSMITH,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,

IN Returning Thanks for the Liberal Patronage he has received during the past year, has pleasure in drawing the attention of the Public to his Splendid display of Jewellery, Sterling Silver and Electro-Plated Goods.

J. T. C. has the Finest Stock of Wedding and Engagement Rings in the District.

See the Handsome show of Clocks, Timepieces, Ladies' and Gents.' Watches, Alberts, Bracelets, and Brooches at Wholesale Prices.

Very Special Show of JEWELLERY in XMAS PRESENTS.

CHRISTMAS, 1897. NEW YEAR, 1898.

Get your supply for Christmas and New Year from

H. CHAYTOR,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
WEST STANLEY.

SOLE AGENT in Stanley for ALLSOPP'S ALES and STOUTS—2s 6d per dozen full pints; 1s 9d per dozen Half-Pints.

Try our SCOTCH and IRISH WHISKIES, 3s per Quart. Sole Agent in Stanley for M'Connell's OLD IRISH WHISKY—eight years old—3s per Bottle. CHALLENGE WHISKEY, 3s 6d per Bottle. HENNESSY'S and RENAULT'S BRANDIES. BRITISH WINES, PORT, SHERRY, RASPBERRY, GINGER, &c., 7d per Bottle. Agent for Glendenning's MALT and BEEF WINE.

Note the Address—
HANNAH CHAYTOR,
FRONT STREET, WEST STANLEY.

STANLEY.

H. ARMSTRONG AND SON,
PORK BUTCHERS AND CONFECTIONERS,
FRONT STREET,

THANK their friends for the kind Patronage bestowed on them during the time they have been in business.

XMAS CAKES, FANCY BREAD & CONFECTIONS.
TRY ARMSTRONG'S PORK PIES.
NOTE ADDRESS:—ARMSTRONGS,' FRONT ST.

NORTH-EASTERN HOTEL, BLACKHILL.

ISABELLA CHRISTOPHER

BEGS to Thank her old friends and Customers for their valued patronage during the great many years that she has conducted the above Hostelry since her late lamented husband's death. She has pleasure in wishing them the Compliments of the Season, and desires to call attention to her Wines, Spirits, Brandies, Ales, &c., the whole of which have been specially selected for the Festive Season, and she has confidence that the Liquors she supplies will give satisfaction.

SPARKLING MILD AND BITTER ALES.
WINES OF THE BEST VINTAGES.
WHISKIES AND BRANDIES OF THE MOST MATURED QAULITIES AND FAMED BLENDS.
Choice Tobacco and Cigars.

W. B. FOGGON,
BUTCHER,
32, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL,

DESIRES to thank his Patrons in Blackhill and Neighbourhood, and wishes them the COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

PRIME ENGLISH BEEF AND MUTTON AND DAIRY-FED PORK.

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22 YEARS IN BUSINESS.

THE "LION" TEA WAREHOUSE,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

G. J. ROBINSON,
GROCER, TEA DEALER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT.

RETURNS Thanks to his numerous Customers in Blackhill and District, and wishes them the Compliments of the Season. He hopes, by continuing to supply the very Best Quality of Goods at Moderate Prices, to merit a continuance of the confidence which has so long and generously been bestowed upon him. He has confidence in offering special value for Christmas Goods.

SEE HIS WINDOWS FOR CHRISTMAS DISPLAY.

SCOTCH ARMS.
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

MRS. BURNS

BEGS to Thank her numerous Patrons, and wishes them
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

W. RICHARDSON,
DRAPER AND HOSIER,
BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL,

IN wishing his numerous Customers the Compliments of the Season, takes this opportunity of Thanking them for the Patrenage they have so liberally bestowed upon him, and has on hand a Large and Varied Stock of General Draperies at lowest prices.

SHOTLEY.

NICHOLAS BROWN.
SADDLE & HARNESS MANUFACTURER,
19 FRONT STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

IN returning thanks to his numerous customers for the liberal support they have given him, during the last 50 years, wishes them
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

He begs also to announce that he has taken his son, THOMAS HENRY BROWN, into partnership, and trusts for a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed upon him in the past.

A Large Assortment of FANCY GOODS also in Stock.

JOHN G. WADE

DESIRES respectfully to thank the people of Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate, Shotley Bridge, and the inhabitants of North-West Durham generally, for the large measure of support that has been accorded to him since commencing Business as

TAILOR AND DRAPER,
AT FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
Where he has on View a Large Selection of
SUITINGS AND OVERCOATINGS,
SILK HANDKERCHIEFS AND GLOVES IN GREAT VARIETY.

Ladies' dress Capes, Lace Shawls, Umbrellas, Macintoshes, Furs, &c. Choice Assortment of Hats, Caps, Ties, Gloves, Silk Mufflers, &c. Ladies' Costumes & Dress Material in all the Latest Styles.

TAILORING in all its Branches executed on the Premises by First-Class Workmen.

This suit of mine, oh! isnt it fine.
Where do you think I bought it?
At CONNOR'S Shop, in the Front Street,
Ah! would you have thought it!

Connor makes an article for wear and for duration,
Everything that he turns out creates a great sensation.

JOHN O'CONNOR,
TAILOR AND HOSIER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

DESIRES to thank the inhabitants of Consett and Neighbourhood for the generous Patronage with which they have favoured him, and hopes, by supplying the Best of Goods, combined with First-class Workmanship, to merit a continuance of their esteemed orders.

SUITS MADE TO MEASURE.
PERFECT FIT GUARANTEED.

G. J. BROWN,
HAIRDRESSER AND PERFUMER,
PARK ROAD, CONSETT,

WISHES his customers the Compliments of the Season, and begs to remind them that he has every convenience for shaving expeditiously.

HAIR FASHIONABLY CUT.
GIVE HIM A TRIAL.

W. NICHOL,
SADDLER, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

TAKES this opportunity to thank his Customers for their kind support in the past, and by good workmanship and moderate charges he hopes to merit a continuance of their esteemed orders.

SADDLES, BRIDLES, AND EVERY KIND OF WORK EXECUTED WITH DESPATCH.

MISS F. COOKE,
HOSIER,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,

DESIRES to return her sincere Thanks to the Public of Consett and District for their esteemed custom, and has pleasure in directing attention to her Large Consignment of New Season's Goods, comprising the Latest Novelties.

PINAFORES & LADIES' FANCY APRONS and HOSIERY in great variety.

Gentlemen's Socks, Cycling & Football Stockings. Wools of all kinds.

STOCKINGS KNITTED AND RE-FOOTED on the Premises.

At Christmas play and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

MOUNT PLEASANT HOTEL, CONSETT.

P. COYLE

WISHES his old Friends and Customers the Compliments of this Festive Season, and desires to Thank them for their most liberal patronage dnring the many years that it has been his privilege to cater for their wants and comfort at the above hotel.

IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKIES of the Choicest Blends.
Sparkling Beers and Stout of the Finest Quality.
WINES, TOBACCO, AND CIGARS of the Very Best Brands.

BLACKHALL MILL.

J. F. KEEN,
SHIP INN,

BEGS to return his warmest Thanks to his Friends and Customers for their kind and liberal support, which he will endeavour to merit in the future as in the past. He wishes them a Merry Christmas, and hopes that the incoming year will bring increased Prosperity to the Neighbourhood, and that all will participate in it.

SPARKLING MILD & BITTER ALES THAT CANNOT BE EQUALLED.
OLD SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES OF THE FINEST BLENDS.

P. KEENLEYSIDE,
MILLINER,
FRONT STREET, LEADGATE.

Newest designs in Felts, Straw, and Chip Hats and Bonnets. Neatly Trimmed.

ALL ORDERS EXECUTED WITH DESPATCH.

SMELTERS' ARMS, CASTLESIDE.

ANNIE TOMBLESON

RETURNS Thanks to her Friends and the Public generally for the liberal support bestowed on her during her Management of the above old-established Hotel, which the proprietor, Mr Edward Wylam, has entirely Renovated at great expense; and she trusts, by attending to their wants and comfort, to merit a continuance of their support.

BURTON MILD & BITTER ALES, WINES SPIRITS, &c., of the best quality.
GOOD STABLING AND LOOSE BOXES

GOLDEN LION, LEADGATE.

JOHN DONNELLY,

TAKES the opportunity which the end of the year affords of Thanking his numerous Friends and Customers for their liberal support, which he will strive to continue to merit by assiduously attending to their comfort and selling only the very best Articles. He wishes them a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR, and begs to say that he has in Stock MILD ALES and SPARKLING BITTER BEER and PORTER in Perfection.

WINES, TOBACCO, and CIGARS.

F. W. DIXON,
TAILOR, DRAPER, AND HATTER,
VICTORIA BUILDINGS,
WEST STANLEY,

TAKES the opportunity to Thank his Friends and customers for their very encouraging support in the past. He begs to wish them the COMPLIMENTS OF THE FESTIVE SEASON, And desires to say that it will be his endeavour in the future, as it has been in the past, to give satisfaction to those who entrust him with their esteemed Orders.

A CALL IS RESPECTFULLY INVITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1848.

THE NEW YEAR IS OUR
Year of Jubilee!

SEND YOUR
CHRISTMAS ORDERS
AT ONCE TO
TURNBULL BROTHERS,
THE GENERAL PROVIDERS,
Leazes & Lintz Colliery.

Our Motto is to please, and our reputation is at stake.

Buy our GROCERIES, and they are sure to please.

Try PREMIER PRIZE PACKET TEA, at 2s 4d per lb. Beats all others at the price.

In Provisions we only touch the Choicest.

NO MIXTURES OR RUBBISH KEPT.

All FLOURS, &c., at Mill prices.

Old Whiskies, in bottle, 2s 6d and 3s.
Old Whiskies, 1 Quart Stone Jars, 3s, 3s 6d, 4s.
Counsel Whisky, 3s per bottle, or 4s 6d per Quart.
Nothing equals COUNSEL in this District.

Wines, all kinds, from 8d to 4s per bottle.
Clarets and Champagnes.

Bottled Ales and Stout—Gills, 1s 6d per dozen; Pints, 2s 6d per dozen.
Ale in Casks, XXX, 10s 6d each.
Burton (from Burton-on-Trent) 10s 6d., &c., &c., &c.

We take this opportunity of Thanking our Patrons for the Liberal Support they have given us in the past, and hope, by giving personal attention to Business, to still receive your valued Orders, which will have the best attention of yours obediently.

TURNBULL BROS.,
THE GENERAL PROVIDERS,
LEAZES
AND
LINTZ COLLIERY.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS:—
Burnopfield, R.S.O.

CONSETT.

REMEMBER
WALTER WILLSON'S
GREAT
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COST PRICE SALE.

For Prices, &c., See Posters and Circulars.
See Price List for CHOICE CEYLON TEA at 1s. 4d. per lb., and other Goods at Extraordinarily Low Prices.

W. WHITFIELD,
LEADGATE,

For the BEST VALUE in
TEA,
FOR THE CHOICEST NEW
CURRANTS
AND
RAISINS.
FOR THE FINEST
Cheshire & American
CHEESE,
FOR
DELICIOUS BACON,
FOR HIS SPLENDID
FLOUR

CHEAPEST AND BEST
ALL AT
SPECIAL LOW PRICES

W. WHITFIELD.
LEADGATE.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

MISS F. H. REED,
POST OFFICE, ANNFIELD PLAIN,

HAS a Large Stock of APRONS, PINAFORES, and UNDERCLOTHING, BABY LINEN, HOSIERY, GLOVES, DOLLS, FANCY HANDKERCHIEFS, &c.

A Special Lot of FANCY WARE & PERFUMERY.

AGENT FOR PULLAR'S DYE WORKS.

R. ROBSON,
PAINTER & GLAZIER, LEADGATE,
DEALER IN OILS, PAINTS, PAPERHANGINGS, WREATHS, CROSSES, &c.,

DESIRES to thank the Public for their patronage in the past, and hopes for a continuance of the same during the coming year.

THIS BEATS ALL!

COME AND SEE THE
CASH CLOTHING COMPANY'S
CHRISTMAS GOODS.

Largest CASH CLOTHIERS in the World.

BRANCH: 30, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

THE ORIGINAL TEMPERANCE JUBILEE BAR,
No. 1. THOMAS STREET, CONSETT.

TOBACCOS, AERATED WATERS, AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS of all Descriptions.

PROPRIETRESS:
MRS. CANNON.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DISPLAY OF
DRAPERY AND FANCY GOODS
AT
J. A. CASTLE'S,
THE NEWCASTLE DRAPERY & CLOTHING STORES,
FRONT STREET, DIPTON.

TREMENDOUS BARGAINS FOR CHRISTMAS.

JOHN PATTERSON,
FRUITERER AND TEA DEALER,
ESH NEW WINNING,

THANKS the inhabitants of New Esh Winning and surrounding District for their liberal Support, and invites an inspection of his Large and Varied Stock of Goods.

CHRISTMAS CHEER!
CHRISTMAS CHEER!

NATHAN ELSDON
ALE AND PORTER,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
ÆRATED WATER MANUFACTURER,
DELVES LANE,
CONSETT.

HAS pleasure in returning his hearty Thanks to the Public of Consett and the surrounding District for their generous and increasing patronage during the past year, and in so doing wishes all

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

He desires to state that he has the Largest and Best Stock of
WINES AND SPIRITS
In the district; also
SPARKLING ALES & SUPERIOR PORTER,
IN BOTTLES AND CASKS.

ALL
CONNOISSEURS OF WHISKY
SAY THAT
NATHAN ELSDON'S
SPLENDID BRANDS ARE THE VERY BEST.

For the Festive Season he has stocked some of the Finest Whisky that money can buy, and

TO THE THOUSANDS

Who patronise him at Christmas and New Year, he will give to the purchaser of a bottle of his Splendid Whisky

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE.

Whisky, per quart	5s, 4s, 3s.
Rum ,, ,, ...	ditto
Gin ,, ,, ...	ditto
Bottles of Whisky	3s 6d, 3s, 2s 6d
,, Rum...	ditto
,, Gin	ditto
,, Sherry	4s, 3s, 2s 6d
,, Port	5s, 4s, 3s, 2s, 1s 6d
,, Ginger Wine	1s 6d
,, Black Beer	1s 6d
,, Brandy ...	4s, 4s 6d, 5s, 7s 6d

Nine Gallon Casks of Good Ale, Bitter or Mild, 10s and 12s. Bottled Ales and Stout, 1s 6d and 2s per dozen, the best in the Market.

NATHAN ELSDON'S
MINERAL WATERS

Require no puff, for they have been in increasing demand every year during the twenty he has been in business. They are highly recommended by the Medical Faculty. In bottles and syphons.

SURTEES LESLIE,
PAINTER AND DECORATOR,
FRONT STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE,

BEGS to Thank his Customers for the liberal support they have accorded him, and hopes to merit a continuance of the same.

Paper Hanging, Writing, Gilding, Glazing, and Picture Framing.

WILLIAM WHEATLEY,
BUTCHER, SHOTLEY BRIDGE,

THANKS the Public for the liberal support that has been received for more than Fifty years, and hopes for a continuance of the same.

Prime English Fed Beef and Mutton.
Dairy-Fed Pork, which will be found suitable for the Festive Season.

JOHN OXLEY

BEGS to intimate that he has a GRAND BRAKE to seat 20 persons, and a First-Class Selection of OPEN and CLOSED CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE on most Reasonable Terms.

WEDDING PARTIES specially catered for.

BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS FRUIT FROM
JOHN OXLEY, CATCHGATE.

GEORGE HOBSON,
MILLER AND SEEDSMAN,
HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE,
TANTOBIE, R.S.O.

TAKES the opportunity which the end of the year presents of thanking his numerous Customers for their very cordial and liberal patronage during the long period of Fifty-two years; and in wishing his old Friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year he hopes for a continuance of their Favour, which he will assiduously endeavour to merit, by supplying all kinds of Seeds and other Articles of the very best Quality at the Lowest Possible Prices.

Price-Lists on application.
PATENT BROADCAST HAND SEED SOWER.
The Little Wonder.

For a drop of Good Whisky all come here.
And smoke our Cigars and drink our Beer.

HAMSTEELS NEW INN.

THOMAS CHAMBERS,

THANKS the Public for the Patronage that has been so liberally bestowed upon him, and wishes to say he will be glad to entertain his Friends during the present Festive Season. A bottle of his celebrated 7-YEAR OLD SCOTCH WHISKY is better than all the doctors' medicine in the country, while his sparkling SPECIAL INDIAN PALE ALE Invigorates and strengthens. NAP AND CHAMPION CIGARS. Good Stabling.

WATERHOUSES.

After you hunt and run until you fag,
Call and see friend French at the Stag.

GEORGE FRENCH,
STAG'S HEAD,

BEGS to wish all his old Friends the Compliments of this Festive Season, and desires to say that

REFRESHMENTS FOR MAN AND BEAST will always be found ready at his ESTABLISHMENT.

EVERYTHING OF THE BEST

WATERHOUSES.

J. McCALLUM,
NEW HOUSE ROAD,

CALLS attention to his Large and Varied Stock of CHRISTMAS CARDS, TOYS, and PRESENTS. Tobaccos and Cigars.

Pipes and Pouches in Great Variety.

ROBERT MOFFITT,
JOINER AND CARTWRIGHT,
MEDOMSLEY.

DESIRES to Thank his Customers in Medomsley and District for their esteemed Patronage, wishes them the Compliments of the Season, and hopes, by prompt attention to Orders, to continue to merit public support. All kinds of Joinery and Cartwright Work promptly executed.

MRS. E. WILSON,
BURNOPFIELD,

IN thanking her Customers for their past generous support, desires to call attention to her Special Show of TOYS, DOLLS, AND GAMES. 'Xmas Cakes and Loaves made to Order.

TRAVELLERS' REST,
LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD.

Stay, traveller stay, and have a rest,
And drink a glass of the Travellers' best.

N. CARRICK,

DESIRES to thank the Inhabitants of Burnopfield and the District for their encouraging Support, which he will strive to merit in the future as he has in the past. The entertainment that his House affords cannot be surpassed, and he promises his Customers a Hearty Welcome during the present Festive Season. He has pleasure in wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

THE FINEST ALES IN THE MARKET.
GRAND OLD SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES.

AT Christmas Play and have Good Cheer. If you want a drop of GOOD BEER, pay a Visit to the

RED OX INN, DIPTON,
WHERE
JOHN TEMPLE,
Will be pleased to supply you with
BEER, BEER, GLORIOUS BEER.

THE BUTE ARMS, DIPTON.

GEORGE BROWN,

BEGS to Thank his numerous Customers in Dipton and Vicinity for their esteemed Patronage, and has pleasure in wishing them all a

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

He hopes to be favoured with their presence and orders during the Festive Season, and offers them Good Value and Full Measure.

THE BEST IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKIES.
Mild and Bitter Ales on Draught and in Bottles.
CHOICE TOBACCO AND CIGARS.
Good Stabling. Good Standage for Travelling Shows.

STANLEY.

JOSEPH WATSON,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,

BEGS to thank his Customers for their kind support in the past, and calls attention to his Christmas Show of

PRIME BEEF AND MUTTON.
DAIRY-FED PORK.

SHIELD ROW INN.

JOSEPH WATSON

THANKS the Public for their Patronage and Support, which he hopes to merit in the future as in the past. When you Buy

IRISH WHISKY, GET McCONNELL'S.
ONE BOTTLE TELLS ITS OWN STORY.
SPARKLING MILD AND BITTER ALES.

A. H. SWINBURN,
BUTCHER, &c.,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,

IN Thanking his Customers for their encouraging support during the last 19 years he has been in business, begs to intimate that he has provided for them during the Festive Season some of the PRIMEST ENGLISH-FED BEEF and MUTTON, and DAIRY-FED PORK.

PAY HIM A VISIT.

GEORGE STACEY,
CONFECTIONER,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,

WISHES all his Customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and returns Thanks for the many favours which have been bestowed upon him.

TRY STACEY FOR SWEETS.
CHRISTMAS AND OTHER PARTIES CATERED FOR.

JOSEPH CHEESEMAN,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
IVESTON.

THANKS his Customers for their kind support, a continuance of which it will be his endeavour to merit. He desires to call attention to his

CHOICE STOCK OF XMAS FRUIT, &c.

WILSON BROTHERS,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE,

BEG to call SPECIAL ATTENTION to their SPLENDID DISPLAY OF XMAS CAKES.

IF YOR WANT FIRST QUALITY IN
PROVISIONS, FLOUR, TEA, CONFECTIONERY, ITALIAN GOODS, AND GENERAL GROCERIES,
JUST GIVE US A TRIAL.

LESSEES OF
SHOTLEY SPA GROUNDS.

AGENTS FOR
NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE INSURANCE CO.

Ye Goode Old Chrystmasse Cheere.

FREEMASONS' ARMS,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

CHRISTMAS, they say, comes but once a year, and the return of the Festive Season gives

EDWARD WYLAM

The pleasure and opportunity of wishing his Friends and Patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and cordially thanking them for their support during the time that he has occupied the above Hotel; and he hopes by keeping only the

BEST MILD & BITTER ALES, STOUT, WINES, SPIRITS, &c.,

To merit a continuance of their favours.

FIRST-CLASS ORDINARY DAILY.
Comfortable Beds Good Stabling.

FRUIT! FRUIT! FRUIT!

CHRISTMAS, 1897.

FOR the Choicest Brands of English and Foreign
FRUITS, APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPES, FIGS, NUTS, &c., &c.,

Don't fail to see our window. Unsurpassed for Quality and Price. Goods forwarded to all parts, wholesale and retail.

HEWITT'S,
NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, CONSETT.

Let it be fine or rain, or blowing e'er so hard,
Stop and take a drink with the Immortal Bard.

SHAKESPEARE HOTEL,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

WILLIAM KENNEDY

DESIRES to thank his numerous Customers for their past support, and wishes them A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

He will be pleased to receive a visit from his patrons during the Festive Season, and hopes to supply them in the future, as in the past, with Articles of the Best Quality.

CHAMPION BURTON AND OTHER BITTER BEERS.
WINES OF THE FINEST VINTAGES.
CIGARS AND TOBACCO OF THE CHOICEST BRANDS.

Rest, Traveller, rest, and drink a cheerfull glass,
Nor think the door of the Travellers' Rest to pass:
Here's what cheers man in his daily course,
And affords entertainment for his horse.

THE TRAVELLERS' REST,
DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

MARY THOMPSON

BEGS to return thanks to her Friends and Customers for the Patronage that she has in the past received from them. She wishes them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hopes, by selling only the Best Liquor, to merit a continuance of their favour and support.

UNEQUALLED MILD AND BITTER ALES AND PORTER in perfection, on Draught and in Bottle.

TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

THE SHOP TO BE SUITED.

J. L. BRODIE,
TAILOR,
2, ST. AIDAN'S STREET, BLACKHILL,

BEGS to thanks his Customers for their kind Patronage, which it will be his endeavour to merit and retain.

He calls attention to his
STYLISH SUITS TO MEASURE
For the Winter Season.
They wear well, are made of Warm Material, AND COST VERY LITTLE MONEY.

Note the Address:
J. L. BRODIE,
2, ST. AIDAN'S STREET, BLACKHILL.

CONSETT COCOA ROOMS,
HAVELOCK STREET.

J. H. COURTNEY

THANKS the Public of Consett and District for the support hitherto accorded to him, and hopes to merit a share of their future Patronage.

Genuine Melton Mowbray Pies and Pastry.
Hot Joints and Pot Pies Every Day.
Fruit Loaf from 4d. per lb.
Suppers and Parties catered for on reasonable terms.
Rooms to Let for Small Meetings.
Catering for Parties, Dinners, &c.
Estimates given.

J. H. COURTNEY, Sole Proprietor.

1897. CHRISTMAS. 1897.

ROBERT ELTRINGHAM,
(Late OLIVER),
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,

BEGS to thank the inhabitants of Stanley and District for their esteemed patronage, and has the pleasure in inviting an inspection of his Stock of

CHOICE CHRISTMAS AND NEW SEASON'S GOODS.

New arrival of CHRISTMAS FRUITS.
Choice Selection of CHRISTMAS CHEESE.
PRIME HAMS AND BACON.
CHOICE DANISH BUTTER.
TEAS, COFFEES, TINNED GOODS,
BISCUITS AND CAKES,
FLOUR, BOXINGS, BRAN, &c.

JOHN NATTRASS,
STANLEY
(OPPOSITE THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS),

RETURNS his thanks for the encouraging support that he has received in the past, and hopes for a continuance of public favour.

NATTRASS'S for Hats and Caps, Collars, Ties, Shirts, Pants, Stockings, Socks, Studs, Yarns, Wools, &c.

E. GIBSON,
MILLINER,
FRONT STREET, WEST STANLEY,

DESIRES to thank her Customers in Stanley and neighbourhood for their kind support, which she will endeavour to merit and retain by assiduously attending to their wants.

PINAFORES and FANCY APRONS in Great Variety.

JOHN CALVERT,
GROCER, DRAPER, JEWELLER, AND GENERAL DEALER,
HIGH STANLEY,

WISHES his Friends and Customers a Merry 'Xmas and a Happy New Year. All kinds of Ready-Mades. SUITS made to order.

CALVERT has a Little of Everything, so pay him a visit, and test his Goods.

[PUBLISHED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.]

THE EARL'S SECRET,

BY

J. MARSDEN SUTCLIFFE,

Author of "Romance of an Insurance Office," "By Mutual Consent," "A Martyr to Justice," &c., &c.

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CHAPTER XXXIII.

Winter had come in unusually early. December was not yet arrived, nevertheless the country, for miles round Traxford, was covered with a mantle of newly-fallen snow. The snow was still falling, and the keen north wind that was blowing steadily had brought down the temperature many degrees below the mean average of the closing week of November.

Within the walls of Traxford Lodge, however, all was brightness and warmth. There was a blazing fire of logs and peat burning in the quaint square entrance hall, which cast spectral shadows on the tesselated pavement, flung from the suits of old armour and weapons and trophies of the chase that were arranged along the walls.

An air of excitement and busy preparation was visible as the servants bustled about under the superintendence of Tim Maloney, the butler, who was arrayed in a black coat and pumps, and a gorgeously embroidered white waistcoat, as if for some festive occasion. The broad, good-humoured face of the butler was looking broader and more good-humoured than ever, as he stood in the ruddy light cast by the entrance-hall fire rapidly giving orders in his rich brogue to his fellow servants. A single glance at the busy air of importance reflected from his portly person was enough to declare that some unusual stir was going on in the Lodge that evening.

The explanation of the preparations afoot was to be found in Lady Mary Dalton's anxiety that due honour should be paid to her son, Sir Francis, on his return. He had arrived at the Lodge that afternoon, a day later than he was expected, having been detained in Dublin on law business, having finally divested himself of his incognito as Colonel de Ratcy. Lady Mary was bent on killing the fatted calf, because she had received him safe and sound, and in pursuance of her design a small circle of her nearest friends had been invited to do honour to the great occasion.

It was not Lady Mary's habit to leave arrangements for the comfort of her guests to servants, though she was surrounded by a faithful band of retainers, nearly all of whom had been in her service since she first set up housekeeping for herself at Rathminning when she went as a bride. It was her invariable rule to take an active part in superintending matters for herself, even to the most trifling detail.

If such were her practice when she received visitors on ordinary occasions, she was little disposed to abandon it when the Lodge had put on its gayest attire to welcome home the son who had been so nearly mourned for dead. There was a happy look on her face as she entered the oak-wainscoted dining-room to make the last tour of inspection before giving orders for the gong to sound for dinner. She looked round the room critically, but beyond the re-arrangement of a stove-plant or a specimen-glass, the result gave her evident satisfaction.

The dinner-table was laid with perfect taste, the coup-d'œil produced by the wax lights in the silver candelabra amongst the artistic arrangement of flowering plants and tastefully arranged bouquets, with the rich display of exquisitely cut glass and old silver, being remarkably pretty and effective. Lady Mary smiled a happy, contented smile as she gave a final survey of the whole.

The joy occasioned by her son's return had banished the wan, careworn expression that she had worn for many months. Her cheeks had recovered their former round, soft outlines, and, brightened by a faint touch of colour imparted to them by excitement and returning health, she was sufficiently like her old self to recall the beauty of her youth, without provoking any contrast betwixt now and then. Though she was rather below middle height, she looked the very picture of a 'grande dame,' as she stood there in a dress of costly black velvet, pleated in front with rich moire antique, her low-cut corsage revealing a neck that for creamy whiteness and purity of outline a girl in her teens might have envied.

"Yes, I think that will do, Maloney," she said. "Tell cook to see that all her dishes and plates are properly heated. She is so very careless about that. Then I think you may sound the gong." And having given her last instructions, Lady Mary swept from the room across the broad corridor and returned to her guests in the reception room, with her customary graceful and dignified step.

The reception room at the Lodge, so far as its original construction was concerned, was as like the room that Lady Mary had just left as it is possible for one room to be like another. It was a noble-looking apartment. Objection might have been taken that the richly-carved oaken ceiling was too low to suit modern ideas of perfect sanitation, but what the room lost in height was more than compensated for in its ample length and breadth. It had just that appearance of age upon its walls of black wainscoted oak which served to throw into stronger relief the rich hangings and handsome furniture of modern design.

The scene looked bright and animated enough as Lady Mary entered and glanced round upon the little company. Her eyes fell with maternal fondness on her eldest son, Sir Francis Dalton, who was seated near the fireplace in conversation with the Countess Anne. No pang of maternal jealousy smote her bosom as she saw Sir Francis's dark, handsome face bent on the beautiful young Countess, with his soul looking out of his eyes, expressing the love and worship with which he regarded her. If Sir Francis could succeed, as Lady Mary believed he would, in winning the Countess to forget the sorrows of the past, and to trust him to make her happiness in the future, she felt that she could sing her Nunc Dimittis. Very fair and lovely looked the Countess in her simple, unassuming black dinner-dress of misty crape and tulle, from which her dazzling white shoulders and long, swan-like neck rose like a pure white lily above the dark earth. The sad expression that she had carried about with her during the past months of sorrow vanished, and her face shone bright and fresh like a newly-blown blush rose washed with rain. Her ripe red lips were half-parted in a smile disclosing teeth of pearly whiteness, whilst her eyes shone with a new light not seen in them before.

All this was observed by Lady Mary in an instant, and brought a flush of pleasure to her handsome smiling face. Her glance fell with less approval on her younger son, Tom Dalton, who was devoting himself with lover-like ardour to Julia Dunregan, whose beauty was admirably set off in a rich dress of amber-coloured silk. Lady Mary thought Julia Dunregan too bold, and she felt shocked at the "band and shoulder-strap that did duty for a bodice," on Julia's undeniably handsome person. But she recognised Julia's merits, whilst she blamed her love of personal display. She knew that the girl was high-spirited and strong-willed, and that she was qualified alike by firmness of purpose and her mental endowments to manage a husband and an estate with equal facility. Lady Mary felt that she was born to rule, and at the same time she could not help acknowledging to herself that her son, Tom, like his father, Sir William Dalton, could not be trusted to rule himself. She was prepared therefore to accept Julia for a daughter-in-law if only for the assurance that her scapegrace boy would never know the want of a moral governor.

But her reflections, which were made rapidly enough, were broken by the ringing of the gong, on which Count Ivan Damarikoff rose and offered her his arm. Sir Francis Dalton followed with the Countess Anne, and whilst Patrick Dunregan came next with Lucy Moncton, and Tom offered his arm to Judith Dunregan, Bertram Henley, whose defections to Michael Delaney's interests had been forgiven, brought up the rear with Mrs. Dunregan. Such was the order in which Lady Mary with punctilious ceremony had arranged her guests.

An English dinner party, even when the guests consist of near or remote connections is usually a solemn "function." Its dulness has passed into a proverb. But this could not be said of Lady Mary's compact little party of relatives and immediate friends;—judging from the peals of silvery laughter that came from the ladies and the deep mirthful tones of the men as the dinner proceeded. For one thing Lady Mary was endowed with extraordinary tact and knew well how to set her guests at their ease. By her own quiet unassuming dignity, combined with entire freedom from conventional restraint, she contrived to impart an atmosphere of warmth and kindness that made its influence subtly felt.

But it was impossible that any element of dulness could prevail where Tom Dalton was, especially when his bright raillery found a foil in the plain outspokenness of Mrs. Dunregan, who enjoyed nothing better than to crown Tom's wild sallies with some sarcastic remonstrance that served to supply him with with a new point of departure for a fresh explosion of his animal spirits, which Lady Mary suffered to pass unchecked until Tom grew too noisy. A constant ripple of mirth passed through the room of Tom's provoking to the evident astonishment of his elder and graver brother, Sir Francis Dalton, who remembering him principally as a lad of frolicksome temper, who was always getting into scrapes, was puzzled to understand how his effervescent brother contrived to carry the ebullient spirits of his boyhood into his manhood.

The dinner passed off pleasantly, and when it came to an end Lady Mary gave the signal for leaving, which the ladies immediately obeyed by rising with their hostess.

"We will give you half an hour, Francis," she said, as she rose to leave the room.

"Not a minute, mother mine," said Sir Francis fondly. "The cigar can wait until you retire for the night. We are coming with you."

"Oh, I say, speak for yourself, Frank," cried Tom Dalton. "You may go if you like, but Pat and I mean to have a smoke now."

But a glance from Julia Dunregan's magnificent eyes, which said as plainly as eyes could speak: "You stay behind if you dare, sir, when I, your queen, command my bond-slave to follow," induced Tom to alter his intention. He rose immediately and followed with a sheepish expression that provoked much laughter.

"You will stay for a cigarette, Count?" said Pat Dunregan, eager for an excuse for lingering behind a little while longer.

"No, thanks," returned Count Ivan, who was really fascinated with Lady Mary Dalton, and wished to renew the opportunity of conversing with her which he had enjoyed to his manifest content during the progress of the meal just finished. "I think your English custom is a remnant of a barbaric period more honoured in the breach than in the observance. I shall join the ladies."

Sir Francis Dalton, aided by Julia's bright eyes, had set the flag of rebellion too firmly to be resisted, and Pat Dunregan, followed by Bertram Henley, rose too with a grunt of dissatisfaction.

"Faix," he said to Bertram Henley, "this is a queer go. I wonder where Francis Dalton picked up this new-fangled idea of hospitality."

Lady Mary Dalton was greatly interested in an account of the condition of the Russian serfs that she had been engaged in drawing from Count Ivan Damarikoff during dinner, and when she saw him enter the reception room she swept her skirts aside and made room for him.

She was deeply stirred by Count Ivan's description of the passive immobility of the peasant class on his own estates, and the patience with which they accepted their lot—a lot that Lady Mary considered presented fewer material advantages than fell to the share of the same class on the Traxford and Rathminning estates. Lady Mary was a typical specimen of the aristocratic ruling classes in Ireland. As she listened to Count Ivan's description of the respect for authority and the readiness with which the emancipated serfs turned their backs to the knout, she caught herself wishing that it was possible to deport a few thousand of her own countrymen and women to the banks of the Volga with a view to an exchange that she thought would be highly beneficial to the quietude of her own distracted country.

"You know I believe in a despotism," she said, confidentially, to Count Ivan. "That is, you understand, a despotism tempered with benevolence."

"Most ladies do," said Count Ivan, with a peculiar smile that made Lady Mary wonder if he were quizzing her. "At least, most English ladies whom I have met seem to rule their husbands on that principle," he continued, with another smile that left no doubt in Lady Mary's mind that in a perfectly good-natured way he was making fun of her political theories.

"And a very good thing, too, for the husbands," said Lady Mary, her glance falling on her younger son, who was hovering near Julia Dunregan.

Julia was seated at the piano, with Tom Dalton in attendance ready to turn over the pages of her music if she required it. The next moment her fingers swept the keys with the opening bars of a selection from the "Pirates of Penzance."

"So you prefer that horrid tobacco to the delights of my company?" she said, with an air of mock displeasure. "Tell me what you mean by that, sir?"

"That is not a fair way of putting it," said Tom, who was on his mettle. "I wanted to be with you, of course; but there is no harm in the men having a smoke whilst the women gossip."

"Gossip, sir! How dare you? But there, I suppose I must forgive you," she added, with a mischievous glance. "Cannot you understand how very much I wished for a quiet chat with you?" she said, more seriously. "Piano playing makes a capital cover for a flirtation. That is why I worked at my music, determined to excel."

"If you only meant a flirtation, I am off. I will send Count Ivan in my place," said Tom, with a stubborn determination not to be played with.

"What a distinguished-looking man he is. I fell in love with him as soon as I saw him. Do, pray, go away and send him here."

"Do you mean it?" asked Tom, suddenly grown serious.

"Of course, I mean it! You are very disagreeable. Why should I not mean it? First of all you want to stay behind and smoke instead of coming to talk to me. It is very hard after all that I have suffered on your account. I don't believe you love me one little bit."

Tom's soul rebelled against the injustice of this accusation.

"That is all nonsense, Julia," he said, sulkily. "It is the other way about. It is you who do not care for me."

"When I have suffered so, thinking that you were drowned! Do you know I made a vow that I would live a single woman for your sake?"

"You wouldn't have kept it," returned Tom, equably.

"You are very rude, Tom," said Julia, with a rising colour. "I should have kept it. Ask Pat. You managed to escape so splendidly that you seem to have thought very little of your danger, and never to have cast a thought to your friends who cared for you, and who believed that you had gone down in the Julia. You cannot imagine the state I was in when I saw the other yacht return and you were not there, and I looked at the dismal sea believing that it had swallowed you up."

"Don't let us talk of it," said Tom, with more kindness in his tone. "It calls up some ugly recollections that I want to forget as soon as I can."

"Ah, but I must talk about it," said Julia, imperiously. "I want you to understand that I am not so unfeeling as I sometimes appear to be. I am only a wild Irish girl."

"And an uncommonly pretty one," returned Tom gallantly.

"Thank you for the compliment. Let me see, what was I saying? Oh, I remember. I am only a wild Irish girl, who sometimes lets her wild spirits run away with her, but when you did not return, Tom, I felt as if I would never have spirits for anything again. Every unkind thing I had ever said came back to me and cut me like a cruel lash. How I got through the days till I knew that you were safe I cannot tell."

Julia made a pause, and Tom looked incredulous, seeing something like a tear moistening in her eyes, whilst her bosom heaved convulsively.

"Julia," he said softly, speaking almost below his breath, "will you answer me one plain question, without beating about the bush?"

Julia bowed her head in assent as her fingers rattled over the keys.

"Do you love me?" he asked, appealingly.

"You know I do," she replied.

"Will you marry me?"

"I only promised to answer one question," said Julia, mischievously, "and you are asking two."

"For God's sake, be serious for once in your life," he said, entreatingly. "Put me out of the long suspense in which you have kept me these many years. Answer me truly: Will you be my wife?"

Julia felt his hot breath on her cheeks as he lowered his voice, bending himself to reach her ear, and knew that he was not to be trifled with.

"What will Lady Mary say?" she asked, looking into his face with a heightening colour that added to her bewitching loveliness.

"I think she will be glad. Indeed, I am sure of it," said Tom rapturously, as he saw that Julia was relenting and the prize was within his reach at last. "Now what do you say?"

But no reply came from Julia's lips. She bent her head lower to hide the blush that covered her face and neck, and Tom knew that she was won.

Before the company broke up, Tom found an opportunity to ask his mother for her congratulations. Lady Mary proved as gracious as his heart could wish. She kissed Julia tenderly and told her that her son's wife would be dear to her as one of her own children.

Mrs. Dunregan's comments were characteristic of that lively lady.

"Get away, do. I have no patience with you. Why, you have been angling for him ever since you wore a chit in short frocks, and if it had not been for your love of dominion, you would not have taken him now."

Nevertheless, she kissed her niece affectionately and promised to place her recipe book at her service; which was as much as could have been expected from a lady who never allowed sentiment to get the better of her judgment, and who was noted for always keeping her attention fixed on the practical side of things.

"Now, who wants a smoke? Come along, Pat," cried Tom Dalton, leading the way to the room in the secret passage known as Mr. Maloney's room, when the last of the two ladies was seen vanishing up the great oak staircase.

"Don't go yet, Henley," said Sir Francis, with grave courtesy, as Bertram Henley made for the stand in the hall where his coat was hanging. "Indeed we cannot let you leave us on a night like this. Cannot we find Mr. Henley a bed, Maloney?"

"Shure and av coorse we can, ser. Lady Mary ordered a bed to be got ready for Misther Henley."

"That's all right, then," said Sir Francis. "Come, and we'll join the rest. I have a story to tell of an adventure I had in the room below with Michael Delaney, who came to look for the buried treasure."

But the party were no sooner comfortably settled than the face of Tim Maloney appeared in the doorway.

"If yer plaze, Sir Francis, Inspector Royce is in the hall and craves the liberty of spakin' a few words with yer hanner," he said, with a serious face.

Sir Francis rose and left the room, returning after a few minutes' absence, bringing Inspector Royce with him.

"Now, Royce, what will you take?" he said. "Here is whisky, and you will find a good cigar in that box. It is very good of you to come and see me on a night like this."

"What's in the wind?" cried Tom Dalton. "Anybody been after the family plate?"

"Be quiet, Tom," said Sir Francis Dalton. "This is no time for nonsense."

"But mayn't a fellow know what is up?" asked Tom.

"Certainly, and you will know in good time. Royce has been good enough to call and tell me that he has placed Tonkey Dick and Sandy McBrogue under arrest, as accessories to the murder of my cousin Brian."

"We have been looking for Tonkey Dick for some weeks past," said the Inspector explanatorily, "but he managed to give us the slip, and made off to the hills. We have hunted for him high and low since then, but could not manage to get near him. However, the snow has brought him down, and as we were waiting for him we soon had him under lock and key."

"But what has he to do with it? And why have you arrested Sandy McBrogue?" asked Tom Dalton, who was excited by the news that the Inspector brought.

"Tonkey Dick was on the spot and helped the murderer to escape. McBrogue has important evidence to give, and we thought it safest to place him under arrest for a day or so, to prevent him being tampered with, and to frighten him a bit in order to make him tell all he knows. He's as slippery as an eel."

"And who is the murderer?" asked Tom. "Have you found him?"

"Michael Delaney!" answered Sir Francis.

"Michael Delaney!" echoed Tom Dalton and Pat Dunregan, in a breath.

"Michael Delaney," repeated Sir Francis. "Look here, Dunregan, [illegible] a warrant for Delaney's arrest, and [illegible] me to sign it. I do not think it would be advisable for me to do so, seeing that I have been engaged since my return in hunting up the evidence to convict him. I have another reason. With his claim to the family title and estates it would make me appear unnecessarily hostile to him. You are a magistrate, Pat. Would you have any compunction in signing it?"

"Divil a bit of compunction," replied Pat; "it's not his fault that he hasn't Tom's murder on his soul. He left him to drown like a blind puppy. After that, the sooner the world is rid of a villain the sweeter the world will be for decent folks to live in. Give me the warrant, Royce, and you shall have my signature."

"When do you intend to make the arrest?" asked Sir Francis Dalton, as the Inspector rose to go.

"Early to-morrow morning. He cannot leave the Castle without our knowing it. The roads are nearly snowed up."

To be Continued.

Christmas Advertisements.

COME TO
J. AND J. PARKER'S
FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PRESENTS, TOYS,
WILD BEAST SHOW, MUSICAL BLOCKS,
AND OTHER MECHANICAL TOYS,
ALSO
LADIES' HANDBAGS, APRONS, COLLARETTES, GLOVES, PINAFORES, AND OTHER USEFUL PRESENTS.

BLACKHILL.
JAMES PALLISER,
FAMILY GROCER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TEA DEALER,
47 & 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL,

THANKS the inhabitants of Blackhill and Neighbourhood for their esteemed Patronage during the long period of 22 years, and wishes them the compliments of the Season. He has pleasure in announcing Special Value in all classes of Goods for Christmas and the New Year.

CHOICE FRUIT FOR THE PRESENT SEASON.
PRIME CHESHIRE AND OTHER CHEESES.
Good Tea at 1s 4d per lb; Best Crystal Sugar, 1½d. per lb.; Best Loaf Sugar, 2d per lb.

ESH.
C. D. MORIN,
CROSS KEYS.

BEGS to Thank his Customers for their kind support in the past, and will be glad to see his old Friends during the Festive Season.

SPARKLING BITTER AND MILD ALES.
WHISKEY OF THE FINEST QUALITY.

LANGLEY PARK.
GEORGE RITCHIE,
GROCER AND DRAPER,
POST OFFICE.

THANKS his customers for their liberal Patronage, which he will endeavour to merit by supplying
GOODS OF THE BEST QUALITY.

JOHN BATES,
CLOCK AND WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER, AND OPTICIAN, STANLEY,

TENDERS his thanks to the public of Stanley and District for their kind support during his long residence (extending over 20 years) in their midst; and hopes to merit a continuance of their favours. Ladies' and Gent.'s Gold and Silver WATCHES. All REPAIRS done on the premises. SPECTACLES to suit all sights.

TRY
MRS. ARMSTRONG'S,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,
FOR
LEICESTER PASTRY,
AND YOU WILL OBTAIN SATISFACTION.
LARGEST REFRESHMENT ESTABLISHMENT,
With Best Accommodation in the District.

CATCHGATE.
T. R. SIMPSON

BEGS respectfully to inform the inhabitants of the surrounding District that he has a Grand Stock of Pianos, Organs, Harmoniums, Violins, Violin Cases, Bows, Music Stools (66 different patterns), Music Cabinets, Metronomes, Glass Insulators, Metal and other Music Stands, conces, Violin Strings, Music Wire, &c., &c.

RAILWAY HOTEL,
CONSETT.

NOW that the Festive Season is approaching, and the demand for Choicest Brands of Wines, Liquors, and Spirits so great, the Proprietor of the above old-established Hotel,

George M'Cann,

has secured a Large and Varied Stock to select from, including the following leading lines:—

John Jameson's "Special" 4s. per bottle.
Robertson Sanderson's "Mountain Dew," 3s. 6d. per bottle.
Fine Old Scotch and Irish Whiskies, 2s. 6d., 3s., and 3s. 6d. per bottle.
Quarts, a "Speciality," 3s. 6d. per bottle.
Fine Old Jamaica Rum, 2s. 6d., 3s. and 3s. 6d. per bottle.
Henessey's Noted Brandy, 6s. per bottle.
Marvellous Value in Port, Sherry, and Claret.
William Younger's 90s. Ale, and Bass' "Special" in Prime Condition
Liquors, Benedictine, Chartereuse, and Cherry Brandy always in Stock.

Trusting to receive a share of patronage and support. WITH BEST WISHES TO ALL.

GEORGE WILLIAM TROTTER,
BUTCHER, SOUTH MOOR,

THANKS his Customers for past favours, and wishes them the Compliments of the Season. Try the FAMOUS PORK SAUSAGES. And don't forget that, as usual, TROTTER'S GEESE Are the BEST in the DISTRICT.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LTD.,
TOWN HALL BUIDINGS, CONSETT.

GIVE a Free Life Insurance Agreement with all Pianos and Organs sold by him on the Three Years' System. Send for Catalogue and Particulars.

MANAGER: GEO. A. WILLIAMS.
(Also at Leeds, London, &c.)

JAMES R. HUNTER,
BUTCHER, LANGLEY PARK,

IN returning his sincere thanks for past Favours, desires to inform his Customers that he has purchased for the Festive Season 7 very Superior Shorthorn BULLOCKS, fed by the Consett Iron Company, Stobilee Farm. Splendid Cumberland PORKERS. HUNTER'S Meat is second to none in the country.

CATCHGATE.
J. J. ROBINSON,
BUTCHER,

THANKS his Customers for their Support, and asks them to call at his Establishment to look at his
PRIME CHRISTMAS BEEF.
PRIME MUTTON AND DAIRY-FED PORK.

WM. J. THOMPSON,
SADDLER AND HARNESS MAKER,
CATCHGATE.

IN thanking his Customers for their past support, desires to call attention to his large and Varied Stock of SADDLERY, HARNESS, and other Requisites. Repairs done promptly, and the best of workmanship guaranteed, at Moderate Charges.

Call at the "Board," and see Mrs Clark,
Drink her Beer, and you'll feel fresh as a lark.

THE BOARD INN, IVESTON.

MRS. CLARK thanks her Customers for past Patronage, and calls attention to her
SPARKLING MILD AND BITTER ALES,
of Prime Quality.

EDWARD LOCKEY,
FAMILY BUTCHER,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

DESIRES respectfully to return his sincere Thanks for the most liberal support that he has always received from the Inhabitants of Consett and the District. He most heartily wishes them the Compliments of the Season, and trusts that an era of prosperity will set in with the New Year. He calls attention to the following Bill of Fare:—PRIZE HEIFER (from Burnfieldside Auction Mart) fed by Mr Drummond, also BULLOCK (from Mr J. Hunter, Medomsley), TWO HEIFERS from Mr J. E. Nicholson, Manor House, Lanchester, and Mr Bushby, Hole Row), FIRST PRIZE HOGGS (fed by Mr Cowen and Mr Drummond, of Kiln Pit Hill). Also a Fine Lot of DAIRY FED PORK.

IF YOU WANT
THE VERY BEST FISH
DON'T FORGET TO CALL AT
THOMAS CRICK'S,
PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

T.C. always has a good supply of Fresh Fish on hand. Kippers, Smoked Haddocks, Loch Fyne Bloaters, &c.

CRICK'S IS THE BEST KNOWN SHOP IN TOWN.

Mark the Address:
PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE STORES.
GEORGE HARRISON,
MANAGER OF THE BUTCHERING DEPARTMENT,

WISHES his Customers the Compliments of the Season, and takes the opportunity of intimating that for his Christmas Show he has selected:—

1st Prize Bullock, the winner of three specials;
1st Prize Heifer, fed by Mr Potts, Shotley Field;
1st Prize Heifer and two 2nd Prize, from Harrison's Mart, Carlisle; and
Prime Scotch Wethers from Mr John Sherlock and Mr J. Angus, Headeyfield.

FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

Good beer to drink, and prime cigars to smoke,
In perfection are sold at the Royal Oak.

JOSEPH DUFFY,
ROYAL OAK INN, CONSETT.

BEGS to Thank his Patrons for their Support, and wishes them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He begs to intimate that he has secured for their delectation some prime brewings of
Mild and Bitter Ales,
Wines of the Finest Vintages, and
Cigars of the Finest Brands.

J. TOWNS,
BUTCHER,
MIDDLE STREET AND TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT,

DESIRES to return thanks to his Customers for the support which has been so liberally bestowed upon him in the past, and wishes them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He begs also to intimate that he has purchased the following for the Christmas Season:—

PRIME BEEF,
From Mr John Reed, Carlisle.
PRIME MUTTON,
From Mr W. J. Stephenson, Espershields.
PORK,
From Mr A. Cameron.

H. NICHOLSON,
BUTCHER,
23, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

TAKES this opportunity of Thanking his customers and general public for their patronage. He will have on Sale for Christmas time the Beef of one Prize Polled OX from the Dublin Show, and one Prime Select Polled OX, bred and fed by
THOMAS STEPHENSON, ESQ., BLANCHLAND.
Sheep and Dairy Fed Pork of Best Quality.

Hoping to maintain your trade and support by selling at reasonable prices.

THOMAS LATHAM'S
CHRISTMAS SHOW
AND SALE
Will Commence on FRIDAY First and Continue for 21 Days.

A SPECIAL DISPLAY of NEW GOODS, NOVELTIES, and SPECIAL LINES suitable for Christmas Presents and New Year's Gifts, comprising:—

TOYS, WORK-BOXES, PHOTO FRAMES, GAMES, SCENTS, PURSES, BAGS,
CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S CARDS, ORNAMENTS, &c., &c.

DOLLS. DOLLS. DOLLS.
Hundreds of Dolls from 1d to 2s 6d each. See the Windows.

T. LATHAM also begs to call attention to the large Stock of
MILLINERY GOODS.

Flowers. Feathers. Ribbons.
Ladies' Silk Handkerchiefs and Silk Scarfs.
Ringwood and Cashmere Gloves.
Ladies' Umbrellas, with fancy handles, 11½d to 7s 6d.
Ladies' Fur Neckiets from 11½d each.
Our Noted Kid Gloves, 1s 11½d per pair.
A splendid lot of Infants' White Pinafores from 4½d to 2s 6d each.
Ladies' White Fancy Muslin Aprons.
Ladies' Fancy Coloured Aprons.
Children's Frocks. Lace Collars. Belts.
Laces. Motto Pockets. Wool Shawls.
Gent.'s Silk Ties, newest shapes.
Also, a large Stock of

DRAPERY GOODS.

Coloured Cotton Blankets from 1s 4½d each.
Cloth Wool Blankets from 5s 11d to 21s per pair.
Lace Shades from 9½d to 6s 11d per pair.
Antimacassars. Toilet Covers. Table Cloths.
Floor Oilcloths. Oilbaizes.
Beautiful Fancy Tartans from 5½d to 1s 11½d per yard.
Double-Width Dress Materials from 6½d to 1s 11d per yard.
Gent.'s Shirts and Shirtings.
Men's, Youths', and Boys' Ready-Made Clothing.
Hats. Caps, &c.

SPECIAL SHOW OF
FRIDAY FIRST & FOLLOWING DAYS,
AT
THOMAS LATHAM'S,
THE NOTED CASH DRAPER,
TYNE HOUSE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

A. SHIELD,
FRUITERER AND GREENGROCER,
MIDDLE STREET,
CONSETT,
AND
ROYAL BUILDINGS,
BLACKHILL,

HAS pleasure in announcing that he has opened a Branch Establishment at the above address. Fresh supplies of Fruit and Vegetables daily. A grand supply of Goods for Christmas.

ORDERS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.
HEAD SHOP:—
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

GEORGE MURRAY,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL
GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
FRONT STREET, DIPTON.

ALL groceries and provisions sold at Newcastle Prices. The latest patterns in wall papers, and 100 patterns kept to select from. Dealer in patent medicines. Bread Baker for Tea Parties. Wedding cakes of the most artistic design. Funerals catered for. The noted Boot and Shoe Shop, next door to his Grocer's Shop. All kinds of ready-mades kept in stock.

Christmas Cheese, Bacon, Hams, Butter, Tea, Spices, Cakes, Fruits. Wines and Spirits of the finest quality. Good Irish Whisky, 1s 10d per bottle; 3s per quart. Noted Scotch Whiskies, 2s 3d per quart. Wines and other Spirits correspondingly cheap. Orders will receive prompt attention. Goods delivered free.

T. FARNSWORTH,
GENERAL DEALER,
26, VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT,

IN thanking his large and increasing number of Customers for their patronage in the past, desires to inform them that he has in stock a large quantity of Articles in GLASS, CHINA, EARTHENWARE, and HARDWARE, suitable for Parties, Dinners, &c., during the Festive Season.

The Famous
"DAYLIGHT" and "WHITE ROSE" OILS
To be had here.

MANCHESTER HOUSE,
West Stanley.

☞ SEE

JOHN DARNEY'S
GRAND
CHRISTMAS SHOW
OF
HATS, CAPS, COLLARS, TIES, etc.,
Finest Selections
IN THE DISTRICT
Darney's Diary
presented to all Xmas Purchasers.

JAMES WALTON,
FAMILY GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
LANCHESTER,

WISHES his customers the compliments of the Season, and begs to call attention to his

SPLENDID CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

of CHRISTMAS HAMS, CHEESES, RAISINS, CURRANTS, SPICES, &c.

If you want the best value in Christmas Groceries and Provisions, call at

WALTON'S

TRY OUR DELICIOUS TEAS.

OUR ANNUAL 'XMAS SHOW AT THE
CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

NOW OPEN and will continue to the end of the Month. 'XMAS PRESENTS! 'XMAS PRESENTS! MECHANICAL TOYS, PLAQUES, VASES, SHIPS, GUNS, ENGINES, SOLDIERS, ANIMALS, MUSICAL BOXES, PAINTS, TOOLS, GAMES, LADIES' COMPANIONS, GLASSES, ORNAMENTS, &c., too numerous to mention. A large Assortment of PICTURE and REWARDS. 'XMAS and NEW YEAR CARDS a Speciality. PRIVATE 'XMAS CARDS. Calendars and Mottoes. Come in time for a Good Selection.

Specially fitted SHOWROOM at rear of Shop
Walk through Front Shop.

HAVE YOU Received

A Copy of our Special Christmas List? In it you will find quotations of seasonable goods of the finest quality, and at moderate prices. We don't pretend to give our goods away at Christmas, but aim at giving thoroughly good value all the year round. We have been in the Grocery business in Consett for **28 years**, and understand the requirements of the inhabitants. We have some splendid lines in Provisions; Mild Small Hams at about 5s. 9d. each, Choice Wiltshire Smoked Bacon, Prize Dairy Cheshire Cheese, and an unsurpassable stock of Fruits, and Fancy Goods.

T. SWAINSTON,
12, Middle Street,
CONSETT.

GEORGE OXLEY,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, SOUTH MOOR,

THANKS his Customers for their patronage, and invites attention to his Fine Christmas Display of
BEEF, MUTTON, HAMS, &c.

Give OXLEY a Trial this Christmas.

MISS ASHBURN,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,

HAS for Sale this Christmas a Splendid Supply of Choice Confectionery, Christmas Cakes, and Fancy Bread.

REFRESHMENTS & DINNERS at Moderate Prices.

Don't forget ASHBURN'S when you visit Stanley.

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS FRUIT
FROM
JAMES MASTERMAN,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY.

A LARGE Assortment of Choice Apples, Oranges, Pomegranates, Grapes, Dates, Figs, Bananas, Nuts, Preserved Fruits, Pure Sweets, Biscuits and Vegetables always in Stock.

MERRY NIGHTS MAKE SAD MORNINGS.
BUT DON'T FORGET THAT
JABEZ SWINDALE,
CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,
5, SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT,
CAN SET YOU RIGHT.

Get a Bottle To-day of SWINDALE'S SPEEDY SPECIFIC for Asthma and Bronchitis in 1s Bottles.

Prepared only by
J. SWINDALE, Chemist, Bessemer Street, BLACKHILL.

Branches: CONSETT AND LEADGATE.

GEORGE STOREY,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, DIPTON,

THANKS his Customers for their past favours, and respectfully solicits an inspection of his
CHRISTMAS SHOW,
which he considers superior to those of preceding years.

Give him a trial this Yuletide, and you will never regret doing so.

PHILIPSON BROS.,
BLACKHILL,

THANK their numerous Customers for their Patronage during the Year 1897, and hope by a continuance of
LOW PRICES AND GOOD QUALITY
To deserve a still greater share for the Year 1898.

ESTABLISHED 1852.
A. E. TURNER,

BEGS once more to Thank his Friends and Customers for their kind patronage, a continuance of which he will endeavour to deserve.

MILLINERY DEPARTMENT
Conducted by MRS. MUIR

Note the address:—
ALBION HOUSE, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

T. S. PARKER,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY,

BEGS to thank the Public of Stanley and District for their liberal support, and desires to call attention to his
PRIME BEEF AND MUTTON AND DAIRY-FED PORK.

SEE THE WINDOWS
OF THE
DANISH BUTTER COMPANY,
(UNDER THE NEW THEATRE.)
VICTORIA BUILDINGS,
STANLEY.

OPENING
OF THE
NEW GROCERY CASH STORES
AT
HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.
GLORIOUS NEWS FOR CHRISTMAS!

Cuthbert Green,
GROCER & PROVISION MERCHANT,

BEGS to inform the Public that he has opened the
NEW SHOP
Which has been built at the above place, where he will sell at unheard-of prices.

The two Purchasers of
THE LARGEST AMOUNT
IN
CHRISTMAS WEEK
Will each receive a
PRESENT OF TWO HAMS, 14lb & 12lb weight.

He desires to call attention to his
CHRISTMAS PRICE LIST,
Which will bear favourable comparison with any price list in the Kingdom. He calls special attention to his
CHRISTMAS CAKES,
Which he can confidently recommend.

TEA! TEA!! TEA!!!
First-Class Family Tea, 1s 4d per pound.
All Teas Reduced 2d per pound during Sale.

SOAPS, SEEDS, CANDLES.
SUNDRY ARTICLES AT VERY LOW PRICES.
TEA AND OTHER BISCUITS.

PROVISIONS, FRUIT, TEA & CAKES,
Considering Quality, are
THE CHEAPEST IN THE DISTRICT.

A TRIAL IS RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.

Note the Address:
Cuthbert Green,
ROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

BURNOPFIELD DISTRICT PRIVATE ASSEMBLY.

Under the auspices of the above Assembly, on Friday evening last, a most successful social was held in the Co-operative Store Hall. The company was a numerous one, and all present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Too much praise cannot be given to the genial Secretary, Mr Cheeseman, and his able stewards, Messrs Mulcahy, Spinks, Allan, Robson, and Turnbull, to whose indefatigable exertions the success of the gathering was in no small measure due. Messrs Shippen, Bell, Rowell, and Keith creditably fulfilled the duties of M.C's. The musicians were Mr Maurice Mulcahy, A.L.C.M. (piano), Mr Gregory (violin), and Mr W. Forster (piccolo). The three instruments blended admirably together, and the music was very much appreciated. The refreshments were supplied by Mr Herdman, whose ample spread has gained for him a reputation which he well deserves. During the evening, songs were given by Misses Saunders, Mortimer, and Brown, and were heartily applauded; whilst Mr T. Cheeseman's "comic" was exceptionally well received. Dancing commenced at 8-30 p.m., Mr Shippen and Miss Saunders gracefully leading off to the strains of the "Grand March." The following were also present:—Mr M. and Miss Cheeseman, Gibside; Mr R. McQueen and Miss Maughan, Gibside; Mr Rowell and Miss Robson, Ravensworth; Mr J. Spinks and Miss Davidson, Sunniside; Mr N. Keith and Miss Sewell, Burnopfield; Mr Turnbull and Miss Irwin, Tanfield; Mr Robson and Miss McIntosh, Tanfield; Mr Allan and Miss Ramsay, Burnopfield; Mr Bell and Miss Brown, Hobson; Mr T. Thompson and Miss Bell, Hobson; Mr Green and Miss L. Bell, Hobson; Mr McQueen and Miss Burnip, Hobson; Mr Graham and Miss Robson, Hobson; Mr Kenning and Miss E. Robson, Hobson; Mr Robinson and Miss J. Young, Hobson; Mr E. Mein and Miss Liddle, Hobson; Mr P. Mulcahy and Miss Bowes, Byer Moor; Mr Charlton and Miss Pyle, Byer Moor; Mr Pyle and Miss Thompson, Whickham; Mr Nixon and Miss Stark, Whickham; Mr Turnbull and Miss E. Stark, Whickham; Misses Kerton, Nicholson, and Oats, Burnopfield; Mr and Miss M. Saunders, Marley Hill; Mr Coulson and Miss Mortimer, Burnopfield; Mr Dinning and Miss Walton, Burnopfield; Mr Race and Miss Spinks, Burnopfield; Mr Park and Miss Hudspith, Burnopfield; Mr Foster and Miss Hansell, Priestfield; Mr Simpson and Miss A. Hansell, Priestfield; Mr Davidson and Miss Wheatley, Rowlands Gill; Mr Watson and Miss Herdman, Rowlands Gill; Mr Walton and Miss Hawke, Burnopfield; Mr and Mrs Main, Burnopfield; Mr E. Mein and Miss Carr, Burnopfield; Mr Carr and Miss Turnbull, Burnopfield; Mr Clasper and Miss Hodgson, Byer Moor; Mr Spoors and Miss Harrison, Byer Moor; Mr Bennet and Miss Bruce, Byer Moor; Mr O'Brien and Miss Hall, Byer Moor; Mr Keenan and Miss H. Hall, Byer Moor; Mr Wright and Miss Bruce, Byer Moor; Mr Ridley and Miss Curry, Burnopfield; Mr Hanover and Miss Nicholson, Burnopfield; Mr T. Hanover and Miss Brown, Burnopfield; Mr Gabon and Miss Lawson, Burnopfield; Mr Grant and Miss Robson, Burnopfield; Mr Hall and Miss Amyjudge, Burnopfield; Mr Temple and Miss Pearson, Burnopfield; Mr Sewell and Miss Leybourne, Lintzford; Mr R. Sewell and Miss Robinson, Lintzford; Mr Minto and Miss Keith, Leazes; Mr and Mrs Keith, Leazes; Mr Gibney and Miss Stafford, Friarside; and many others.