ADAM BRODIE, AUCTIONEER, VALUER, HOUSE AND ESTATE AGENT,
TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
CONDUCTS
SALES BY AUCTION ON REASONABLE TERMS.

ONLY AUTHORISED AGENT for ASSISTED PASSAGES QUEENSLAND, every Month by Steamer from London and Glasgow; and to CANADA every week from Liverpool. Passages Booked by every Principal Line to America on Lowest Terms.

☞ WANTED TO PURCHASE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE FOR CASH.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

ADAM BRODIE,
SHARE AND INSURANCE BROKER, TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
LOCAL GAS, WATER, AND OTHER SHARES BOUGHT AND SOLD.
☞ DEALER IN STEAMSHIP SHARES. ☜

FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, AND PLATE GLASS INSURANCE AGENCY.

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

NOTE.—The Oldest Insurance Agency and the only Share Broker in the District,
ADAM BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

No. 1,269. {REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.} FRIDAY EVENING, December 5th, 1884. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

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

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

MONEY ADVANCED in large and small sums in Town or Country, on Personal and Household Security, Farm Stock, Second Mortgages, Deeds, Life Policies, Building Society or any other Shares or Interest, repayable to suit borrowers' convenience, as may be arranged. Write or call on M. L. ROSENBERG, Cross House Chambers, 54, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (opposite Angus, Coachbuilder.) Established 1860. 614t

Wanted.

SHOP.—WANTED, a GOOD SHOP, in Consett.—Address Box B, *Guardian Office*, Consett. 738t

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

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.

LADIES requiring Servants; also, Servants wanting Situations.—Apply to Miss COCKBURN, at the S. R. O., 13, Front Street, Consett. 828s

TO FARMERS, FARMERS' SONS, and Others having a good agricultural connection.—AGENTS WANTED to sell well-known old established Chemical Manures in the County of Durham.—Apply to "Chemical," *Courant* Office, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 768t

MRS. ARMSTRONG'S REGISTRY OFFICE, 15, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle.—Ladies requiring Servants can be suited daily with Cooks, Housemaids, Nurses, and good General Servants; and Servants of all classes with good situations, by applying at above address. 515t

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD, DIPTON.

WANTED, for the above Board, an Ex-P.T. (Female). Salary—Thirty-five Pounds per annum.

Recent Testimonials, with reference to be sent to me on or before the 17th day of December next.

Duties to commence on 22nd December.—By order,
W. W. THOMPSON, Clerk to the Board.
Lanchester, November 20th, 1884. 816t

AUSTRALIA and AMERICA.—Reduced Fares.—500 Workmen of all classes wanted for Queensland and Canada. Work immediately on arrival at Highest Wages. Assisted Passages granted. Employment guaranteed in Canada. Passages Booked to United States, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney at specially Reduced Rates.—Apply to the Great Northern Emigration Co. (Queensland Government Agents), 96, High Street, Gateshead. 184t

EMIGRATION! EMIGRATION! EMIGRATION.

WANTED at once, for America, Canada, Australia, Queensland, New Zealand and South Africa, Mechanics, Artizans, Labourers, Agriculturalists, Miners, Domestic Servants, and others. Assisted Passages to eligible Persons. Free Passages granted to South Australia to a limited number of Domestic Servants. Send Stamped Addressed Envelope for Particulars and Rates to DAVIES & COMPANY, House, Estate, and Emigration Agents, 23, Collingwood Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Handbooks on the different Colonies, price 6d. each, or 6½d. by post. 628t

To Let.

TO LET, a Two-roomed HOUSE, with Garden attached.—Apply to JOHN ELSDON, Sunniside.

TO LET, a COTTAGE, with 3 Rooms, at Medomsley.—Apply to ROBERT MOFFATT, Cartwright and Joiner, Medomsley. 869t

TO LET, a STABLE, with 5 Stalls; also 2 COACH-HOUSES. Can be Let together, or separate.—Apply to T. D. MOIR, Front Street, Consett. 878t

TO LET, a comfortable Three-roomed HOUSE. Rent, One and Tenpence per week.—Apply at the Vicarage, Castleside 783t

TO LET, WESLEY COTTAGE, Green Street, Shotley Bridge, containing Five Rooms, Yard, and Out-buildings.—Apply to J. OLEY, Auctioneer, 10, Wood Street, Shotley Bridge. 46t

TO LET, the QUARRY FIELD, near Dipton. Particulars of Letting may be obtained from undersigned, to whom offers may be sent before the 17th Dec.—WM. HENRY RITSON, Clerk to the Rural Sanitary Authority of Lanchester.
Lanchester, November 27th, 1884. 790t

TO LET, the OFFICES OF THE CONSETT FIRE BRICK WORKS, consisting of large Rooms, well-lighted and furnished; also, a Four-stalled STABLE, with Hay Loft above, and a Two-stalled Stable with Granary or Hay Loft above. Gas and Water laid in all the Premises.—Apply to Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD, South Derwent Colliery Offices, Annfield Plain 635t

For Sale.

FOR SALE (Cheap), Three Four-leaf SCREENS. Apply to J. W. DAVISON, Front Street, Consett.

FOR SALE, a strong WOOD SHED, 9ft. by 12ft., suitable for a Stable or Cow Byre.—Apply to JOHN GRANT, Templetown. 867t

FOR SALE, a first-class WAGGONETTE, with Pole and Lamps complete.—Apply to W. AYNSLEY, Middle Street, Consett. 826t

TO FARMERS.—FOR SALE, a large IRON ROLLER.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office Consett. 85

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

A GOOD PLAN.

£10 AND upwards invested, under the non-liability system, in carefully selected Stocks and Shares often returns handsome profits in a few days. Full details in Explanatory Book (fourth edition), gratis and Post Free. Address GEO. EVANS & Co., Stockbrokers, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. Best and safest plan ever devised. 275t

FOR SALE, by Private Treaty, that most desirable and pleasantly situated FAMILY RESIDENCE "Cockwell Cottage," together with all necessary Outbuildings, large and fruitful Kitchen Garden, &c., pleasantly situated at Stoney Heap, near Leadgate, and in the occupation of Mr. Henry Dunn.—Offers will be received by Mr. JOHN S. MURRAY, Royal Auction Mart, Benfieldside. 789t

FOR SALE, an unlimited supply of PIANOFORTES, in Black and Gold, Walnut, and Rosewood Cases, by English and Foreign Makers, on our SPECIAL HIRE SYSTEM, from 50s. per quarter for three years, when the Instrument becomes the Property of the Hirer. Every Instrument warranted for seven years. HARMONIUMS from 10s 6d. per month, on the same system.—DAWSON & Co., Pianoforte and Harmonium Warehouse, and Music Sellers, 1 and 2, Saville Row, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 178r

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

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

Business Announcements.

MACHINES.

STONE and COAL-BORING MACHINES, STEMMING GEAR, SEWING MACHINES, WASHING, and WRINGING and MANGLING MACHINES, PATENT POSSTAFF SPRINGS.—Sold Wholesale and Retail by GEORGE HUNTER, Medomsley, Lintz Green. 763t

C. E. THOMPSON,
MANUFACTURER OF
RUBBER, STEEL, AND BRASS STAMPS,
SELF-INKERS, DATERS AND NUMERATORS,
PEN AND PENCIL STAMPS,
SELF-INKING LINEN MARKERS,
EMBOSSING PRESSES, METAL-BODIED RUBBER TYPE,
AUTOGRAPHS, MONOGRAMS, CRESTS, &c., 809t
9, GRAINGER ST., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!! CHRISTMAS!!!
RARE FREE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

The most magnificent ever offered. Entirely unapproached

THE ANGLO-FRENCH JEWELLERY COMPANY, in order to introduce their business before the public, have, at enormous expense, resolved to PRESENT to every person applying for the same, a

FRENCH POCKET TIME INDICATOR
(PATENTED),

This admirable little article is the size and shape of an ordinary watch; has strong metal cases (gold colour), steel works, balanced action, enamelled dial, crystal glass dome, patent adjusting swivel ring for attaching to watchguards; each denotes solar correct time, and in fact no one, either male or female, should want for a watch when such an opportunity as this offers—a chance will never occur again. The time indicator is warranted for five years. To secure one of these little articles the sum of 1s. 6d. must be forwarded either in P.O.O. or Stamps, or two will be sent for 2s. 8d., with the full name and address filled in the form below, and enclosed to the Anglo-French Jewellery Company, Matlock House, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

GRAND FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT
To every Purchaser for this week only.

To every gentleman purchaser we will Present a handsome Cyprus Gold Albert Chain. These are very massive and heavy, and in wear, appearance, and pattern are equal to 18c gold chains costing £20. To every lady we will present a superb suite of rich Cyprus Gold Brooch and Earrings of the newest design. Each article is suitable for personal use, or would form a handsome present for those who wish to have something to give away at Christmas or the New Year.

CONSETT GUARDIAN.

This Coupon entitles sender to Pocket Timepiece, with handsome Present, on receipt of 1s 6d; or two for 2s 8d, 3 for 4s, or 4 for 5s.

Name ....

Address ....

Town ....

Address—The Manager, Anglo-French Jewellery Company, Matlock House, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

IMPORTANT.—As the quantity is limited, intending purchasers are requested to send at once. Orders received after these are sold out will be returned. 866t

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

THE
"CONSETT GUARDIAN"
AFTER ATTAINING
A LARGE AND INCREASING CIRCULATION
HAS BEEN
CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED,
AND MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AS
THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

Full and Impartial Reports of all Meetings in the District (by its own Reporters). The General News is carefully condensed, and special attention is given to Local News, by Agents of known ability and character.

☞ TO ADVERTISERS.

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

Has now been established upwards of twenty-four years, and has gained a most extensive circulation in Consett, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Lanchester, Annfield Plain, Medomsley, Ebchester, Castleside, Burnopfield, Lintz Green, Rowland's Gill, Iveston, Dipton, Tow Law, Burnhope, South Moor, Stanley, Tanfield, Tanfield Lea, Tantobie, White-le-head, Hobson, Clough Dene, Swalwell, and the adjacent locality.

The large and increasing circulation of the *Consett Guardian* renders it invaluable as an advertising medium, and current Advertisements are inserted in its columns at moderate charges. Advertisements for lengthened periods are subject to considerable reduction

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
AT
59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT
Where Advertisements are received up to NINE o'clock on that morning.

THOMAS MILNER,
DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,
THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT,

Informs the Farmers and Graziers of Consett, Lanchester and vicinity, that Messrs NESS & Co., Darlington, have received the Gold Medal at the International Health Exhibition, London, for their Celebrated Tar Elixir Sheep Dip, &c. Full descriptive Circulars, with recent Testimonials, may be had from T. M., Sole Agent Consett.

T. M. is likewise Agent for BALL & RIDDLE'S Sheep Dip, Foot Rot Bottle, Concentrated Cattle Spice, COOPERS, McDOUGALL'S, MORRIS, LITTLE, & Co.'s, WILSON and KITCHEN'S Sheep Dips, &c., &c.

PURGING BALLS,
ALTERATIVE POWDERS FOR HORSES.
FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.
☞ HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
MILNER'S HAIR RESTORER, 1s. PER BOTTLE
Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture. Dandelion and Podophyllyn Antibilious Pills.
QUININE WINE PREPARED ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒA.
Invigorating Hop Bark and Columba Bitters.
QUININE AND IRON TONIC.
BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.
COUGH LOZENGES, COUGH PILLS, &c.
FINEST NEW SEASON'S COD LIVER OIL
MALT EXTRACT, PARRISH'S CHEMICAL FOOD, FINEST COD LIVER OIL.
COMPOSITION ESSENCE AND COMPOSITION POWDER.
Agent for Mr. LAMONT'S Magnetic Chest Protectors, &c.
SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.
TRUSSES, BANDAGES, ELASTIC STOCKINGS.
MENTHOLINE FOR TIC, TOOTHACHE, &c.,
PREPARED BY
MILNER, CHEMIST, 563t
7, SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

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

WILLIAM STEWART AND SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 33, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; AND CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(OVER 50 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET. 691n

FOR CHEAP DRAPERY GOODS.

DONALD BAIN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WAREHOUSEMAN.
71, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

☞ YOU WILL SAVE 5s. IN THE POUND
PURCHASING YOUR CLOTHING, DRAPERY,
AND
MILLINERY,
AT
J. GOODFELLOW'S,
19, AND 24, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 562t

THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS,
9, AND 9A, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

CHRISTMAS CARDS! SEE WINDOWS!
CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES AND TOYS NEXT WEEK.
Large and Varied Assortment of NEW LACE HANDKERCHIEFS, GLOVES, TIES, FRILLINGS, &c.
SPECIALLY SUITABLE FOR COMING SEASON.

22, MIDDLE STREET,
SEE OUR MEN'S CLOTH TROUSERS, 2s. 11½d. 400 PAIRS.
BOYS' SUITS, 2s. 11d., 3s. 11d., 4s. 11d. SPLENDID PATTERNS.
OVERCOATS, AT ALL PRICES, FOR MEN, YOUTHS', AND BOYS.

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR,
SUCCESSOR TO
JOHN THURLOW POTTS.

PERSONS WISHING TO MAKE UP THEIR
HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW,
SHOULD USE THE
"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.
IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.
PREPARED ONLY BY
JOHN HUME AND SONS
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
BRANCH—MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 683r

TEETH.

MR. T. C. CAMPBELL,
SURGEON DENTIST,
8, GRAINGER-ST, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Artificial Teeth at reasonable prices.

They are adapted to the mouth on an improved system, guaranteed in every case to fit perfectly, and warranted for five years.

No extraction of stumps necessary.

A complete Upper or Lower Set from 30s to £4 10s., 3s. to 10s. per tooth.

Nitrous Oxide Gas for Painless Dentistry.

Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.

Country patients visiting Mr. CAMPBELL'S Establishment in Newcastle, will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and, whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare. 810t

QUEENSLAND.

This young and promising Colony offers Special Advantages to all classes, and the QUEENSLAND ROYAL MAIL LINE convey Passengers

☞ BY STEAMER FOR £7.

MAIL or other Steamers will be despatched from LONDON or PLYMOUTH fortnightly, by which ASSISTED PASSAGES will be granted to eligible Persons, such as Engineers, Farmers, Fitters, Engine Drivers, Railway Carriage Builders, Blacksmiths, Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Sawyers, Carpenters, Wheelwrights Shoemakers, Tailors, Shipwrights, Farm Labourers, Domestic Servants, Gardeners, Vine Dressers, Road Makers, Miners, Quarrymen, Navvies, at the following rates:—

SECOND CABIN..£21 10s. | THIRD CLASS...£7.

Children under 12 years, half-price. Infants under 12 months, free. Persons not eligible for assisted passages will be taken at the following rates:—Second Cabin, £31 10s.; Third Class, £17.

For further particulars regarding Passages, Land Laws, and Resources of the Colony, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL & Co., 109, Leadenhall Street, London, and 12, Renfield Street, Glasgow; or to the Local Agent, A. BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 237t

MORISON JOHNSTON,
8, BIGG MARKET, NEWCASTLE,
Begs to announce that he has commenced the Business of AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, in conjunction with his present business, which will be carried on as usual. He trusts to receive the support of his friends and the public generally.
☞ All Accounts of Sales settled promptly. 396t

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

CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT.

JASPER COCKBURN,
STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, CONFECTIONER, AND DEALER IN FANCY GOODS,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

ACCOUNT BOOKS, DIARIES, POCKET BOOKS, BIRTH-DAY CARDS. And STATIONERY of every Description in Stock,

Books not in Stock to be had on a Short Notice. 613t

ROWATT'S PATENT LAMPS.

Be sure and ask for one of ROWATT'S LAMPS, & have no other.

Their Patent SPLIT-WICK ANUCAPNIC and LORNE Lamps are the most Economic Light Producers from Paraffin or Petroleum Oil. They require no Chimney, and keep the Flame full up till the last drop of Oil is consumed. NONE GENUINE but those STAMPED

ROWATT'S PATENT.

RETAIL FROM IRONMONGERS AND LAMP-DEALERS.

Wholesale only—
ROWATT & SONS,
EDINBURGH, LONDON, & DUBLIN
699t

Business Announcements.

INDIA RUBBER STAMPS,
FOR Endorsing Envelopes, Cheques, and Postal Cards, Heading Notepaper, Marking Linen and Pigeons, Stamping Monograms, Crests, and fac-similes of Signature.
POCKET AND DATING STAMPS,
Price and Pattern Sheets Free on application.
WILLIAM COLDICOTT,
BRIDGEMAN STREET, WALSALL. 783s

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

PARTIES leaving the Neighbourhood can have their Furniture, &c., turned into Cash on the shortest notice. 660s

☞ ARRIVAL OF NEW GOODS,
AT
C. F. COOKE'S,
THE NOTED CHEAP SHOP,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

ENTIRE NEW STOCK
OF
BOYS', YOUTHS', AND MEN'S OVERCOATS.
BLACK WORSTED OVERCOAT, 24s. 6d.
BOYS' SUITS, 2s. 6d.
BLANKETS, FLANNELS, &c., AT REDUCED PRICES.
FELT HATS AND CAPS, IN ENDLESS VARIETY.

C. F. COOKE, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

HUGHES & CO.'S
PHARMACY,
OPPOSITE THE NEW TOWN HALL.

CURRY'S Invaluable STOMACH & LIVER PILLS.

CURRY'S TOOTHACHE DROPS.

HUGHES' Cough, Rheumatic, and Neuralgic Pills. The IXL Blood Purifying Mixture and Pills. Rheumatic and Gout Mixture. Hop, Dandelion, and Mandrake Bitters. Concentrated Sweet Essence of Senna. Compound Decoction of the finest Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla. Tonga, the new Specific for Neuralgia. Raspberry Beer Powder.

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

Dr. SCOTT'S ELECTRIC APPLIANCES.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

☞ SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, AND VARNISHES.

HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES

ALTERATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES.

SHEEP DIPS—COOPER'S, BELL & RIDDLE'S, McDOUGALL'S, AND OTHER KINDS.

HUGHES & CO.,
54, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE IMPROVED
MAGNETIC BELTS
For Lumbago, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Liver Complaints, &c.
INVIGORATORS for Bronchitis and Asthma.
INVIGORATORS for Weak Lungs and Debility.
CHEST PROTECTORS for Colds, Coughs.
THROAT PROTECTORS for Sore Throats, &c.
KNEE CAPS for Sore and Weak Knees.
SOLES for Pains and Cold Feet.
Shoulder, Arm, Leg, Ankle, and Wrist Appliances.

THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF APPLIANCES sold by Mr. Lamont during the past Six Years, and the numberless encomiums bestowed upon them as to QUALITY, CHEAPNESS, and SURE CURATIVE POWER, proves the immense popularity they have attained, and also "Their SUPERIORITY over the Dozens of Imitations that are continually being thrust upon the public."

MR. LAMONT has much pleasure in publishing the following TESTIMONIALS, recently received. Further particulars will be found in DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET Gratis on application or sent Post Free.

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND ASTHMA.
H.M. Prison, Durham, September 6th, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—I have worn your Magnetic Invigorator for nearly two years, and am happy to say that I now feel much better than when I commenced to wear it. My complaint—chronic bronchitis and asthma—is of long standing, and I do not expect a permanent cure. You can use this as you choose.—Yours truly,
Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN ROBINSON.

MAGNETISM FOR LOSS OF VOICE
Eslington Inn, Teams, Gateshead, Aug. 26th, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—Towards the end of last year I procured one of your Magnetic Throat Protectors for my wife's sister, who had been suffering for nearly three years from entire loss of voice. It gives me the greatest pleasure to inform you that she has now completely recovered her voice, and is as well as ever she was. She was under treatment by several doctors; but there was no good done by all the means recommended, and this makes me all the more anxious to inform you of the success of your Magnetic Appliance, and to allow you, if you wish, to publish this as a Testimonial for the benefit of other sufferers.—Yours truly,
Mr. D. Lamont J. MADDISON.

ASTHMA AND BRONCHITIS.
Prudhoe-on-Tyne, June 21st, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—My wife was a great sufferer from shortness of breathing left after a severe attack of Bronchitis. She had also since then been slightly Asthmatic. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the Magnetic Invigorator purchased from you has been of wonderful use to her, and she has now worn it nearly two years. She feels altogether improved in health, and bids me say that she has found the Invigorator of the greatest value, both as regards the relief it has given her and in keeping her well.

I may also tell you that my wife's father, who suffered from Rheumatism, and spent pounds and pounds without relief, has derived astonishing good from your Appliances. Use this in any way that will be the means of making your Appliances more widely known.—Faithfully yours,
Mr. D. Lamont. JAMES R. GREEN.

THE SPECIAL MAGNETIC BELT at 21s., and SPECIAL LUNG INVIGORATOR at 21s. (formerly sold at 30s.), continue to give unbounded satisfaction. In sending for Belt, please state WAIST MEASURE OVER FIRST GARMENT. Sent Post Free on receipt of 21s.

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

D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT,
(PERMANENT AND ONLY ADDRESS),
44A BLACKETT STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
NOTE.—The Appliances are forwarded Post Free.
671t

Business Announcements.

HERBS, ROOTS, AND BARKS.

W. J. SMITH,
270, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD.

WHOLESALE and Retail Customers supplied in any quantity of the best quality, at the lowest prices. 573t

JOHN FREEK,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
23, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

HOT DINNERS, TEAS, and other REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice and most Reasonable Terms.

N.B.—As J. F. has a REGISTRY OFFICE in connection with his Business, Ladies wanting Servants would do well to give him a call. 384o

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

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.

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

☞ All Business promptly and carefully attended to.

PRESENTS! PRESENTS!!
THE CHEAPEST HOUSE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND FOR
CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY, ELECTRO-PLATED GOODS,
CUTLERY, AND FANCY GOODS,

BUNN AND DICK,
10, WEST GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 458s
☞ WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY
ESTABLISHMENTS,
59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

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

KANGRA VALLEY TEA!!
AS SUPPLIED TO OFFICERS' MESSES IN INDIA.

Packed on Plantations, chiefly in Tinfoil-lined Packets, containing ONE POUND, and guaranteed to be absolutely pure. Can be obtained in any quantity, Wholesale and Retail, not less than One Pound.

The pure Hill Teas of India are superior to the blended China and India Teas, and are acknowledged to excel those of China.

KANGRA VALLEY INDIAN TEA GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.
6 LB. FREE OF CARRIAGE.

NORTHERN AGENCY,
6, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
To whom apply for Agencies. 50t

AMERICAN LINE.
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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, December 5th, 1884.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The Redistribution Bill, introduced into the House of Commons by Mr Gladstone on Monday, turned out to be as thorough-going a measure as the most sanguine of Radicals could reasonably have expected, and to be far more sweeping than the majority of the public anticipated. In various respects it goes further in the way of change than it was proposed to go in the draft scheme recently published by the *Standard*, which was authoritatively acknowledged to be one scheme then occupying the attention of the Government, if it was not the only and exclusive one. It is apparent, therefore, that the effect of conference with the leaders of the Conservative party has not been too narrow, but to widen the scope of the intended measure. The Opposition chiefs sagaciously recognised that they could gain no advantage for their party by attempting to restrict and minimize the amount of change to be made, and therefore they rather directed their attention to proposing further and compensating changes in their own favour to counterbalance those which they considered might unduly, if unintentionally, give advantage to their rivals. This was an exercise of real Conservative policy, as practised and taught by the late Lord Beaconsfield. That eminent statesman, while recognising that the distinguishing characteristic of Conservatism under ordinary circumstances was to deprecate and resist change as an evil in itself, yet held that when change became necessary, either through the exigency of circumstances or because of national resolve, it was better that such change should be as complete and definitive as possible, in order to avoid an early renewal of the disturbing process. Acting in this spirit, the present Conservative leaders have helped to produce a measure of Redistribution which comes very little short of equal electoral districts with single representatives—so little that the desire for this extremely symmetrical arrangement is not likely to trouble the public mind for many a day to come. The leading principle of the Bill has evidently been to give one member for about each 50,000 inhabitants; and the specific features of the measure are rather contained in the exceptions to this principle than in the application of it. Thus the distinction of county and borough constituencies is to be maintained, while even the Universities retain their distinctive electoral existence; towns with 15,000 inhabitants and up to 50,000 are to keep each a single member; and towns of more than 50,000 inhabitants, which now have two members, will not be disturbed in their representation, except perhaps for the enlargement of their boundaries to include new suberbs. In all other cases, even including the City of London, towns and counties, as distinct local areas, are to receive the proportion of members to which their population entitles them, and these several electoral areas are to be divided into single-member wards or districts. The same principles of Redistribution are adopted for the whole United Kingdom, only, instead of Ireland and Wales being deprived of representatives in order to meet the demands of England and Scotland, six seats already vacant through disfranchisement are given to England, and twelve new ones are created for Scotland, bringing the total number of the House of Commons up to 670. A dozen members more or less in an assembly of hundreds is not a matter of much consequence, compared with the heartburings which would be excited by disfranchising one country for the benefit of another. On the whole, the Bill is statesmanlike, because comprehensive enough to be reasonably permanent. Such a measure could not have been put forward at the instance of a single political party, because one party could not have carried it in face of the discontent and disaffection which would have been created among those of its own followers who would be directly and obviously affected by the Bill. As it is, the Parliamentary majority that will carry the measure will represent the actual and overwhelming majority of all parties in the realm.

Parliamentary Summary.

MONDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Royal assent was given by commission to the Additional Income Tax. The Committee stage of the Franchise Bill was postponed until Thursday. Earl Derby, replying to Earl Carnarvon, said the Government had under consideration a Bill enabling the Australian colonies to carry out a scheme of federation opinions as to certain clauses of the Bill would shortly arrive from Australia, and the Government hoped the Governments of New South Wales and New Zealand would reconsider their decision. The Select Committee on the Infants' Bill was appointed, and the House adjourned.

In the House of Commons, when the Speaker took the chair, there was a full attendance. By Royal Commission the House was summoned to the House of Peers. On the Speaker's return Mr Gladstone rose, amid loud cheers, to introduce the Redistribution Bill. He said it would be in the recollection of the House that a fortnight ago he intimated that if the Government found it possible to receive adequate assurances that the Franchise Bill would pass forthwith it was far from being alien from the disposition of the Government to submit at once to the House a Bill for the Redistribution of Seats, and to prosecute it with all reasonable and convenient despatch. He was glad to find himself under these circumstances in a position to give the House the Bill for the Redistribution of Seats. Towns possessing up to 15,000 of population would pass into the county division. Towns up to 50,000 would have no more than one member. The effect of these and other changes would be to liberate no less than 160 seats. It was proposed to divide 160 seats between the under-represented counties and towns. The plan was to give the counties 96 seats, in addition to what they possessed at present. The boroughs would receive 74 seats, and new boroughs taken out of the counties would receive 74 seats. The metropolis it was proposed to re-cast by creating seven boroughs the neighbourhood. In the case of Liverpool six new members would be added to the three now possessed, to Glasgow four new members would be added, to Birmingham four new members, and to Manchester three new members. The additions to the counties would include 16 to Yorkshire and 15 to Lancashire. England would possess six seats more than at present, Wales would have exactly the same number as at present; Ireland would remain unchanged. As to Scotland, the Government asked the House to increase its number by twelve seats. The Government also proposed one-member districts as a general and prevailing rule. With regard to the question of boundaries, a Commission had been appointed and was already at work, and its labours would occupy about two months. There would have to be a considerable recess after their autumn labours, and he had no doubt that in the Committee on the Bill there would be no difficulty in inserting absolutely the results of the labours of the Commission, so that they might be brought under the judgment of the House. They were disposed to ask the House to read the Bill a second time on Thursday, reserving the Committee stage until after the adjournment, which would be an adjournment over Christmas. After a few remarks from Sir Stafford Northcote and other members, the Bill was read a first time amid cheers, and the second reading was fixed for (yesterday) Thursday.

TUESDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Northbrook, in moving for returns of ships built and building for the Navy during the past four years, made a long statement upon the present state of the Navy and the policy which had guided the Admiralty in adding to the number of men-of-war of all classes. He also instituted a comparison between the English and the French Navy, and showed that the former was much superior to the latter. The Admiralty now proposed to lay four ironclads, two torpedo rams of about 3,000 tons, five armour-protected cruisers of 5,000 tons, ten scouts of from 1,400 to 1,500 tons each, and to obtain thirty first-class torpedo boats. This addition to the Navy was estimated to cost about £3,100,000, to which was to be added the cost of the armaments, £300,000. It was also proposed to expend £825,000 upon the protection of our coaling station. It was intended to invite contracts from private shipyards for the construction of the new ships of war. A debate followed, in which the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Camperdown, and others took part, and Lord Northbrook having replied to objections raised, the motion was agreed to, and the House rose at five minutes after eight o'clock.

In the House of Commons, a new writ was moved for Knaresborough, for the election of a representative in the place of the late Mr T. Collins. Mr Gladstone could hold out to Mr Ashmead Bartlett no hope that he would be able to submit the result of the communications to the Powers in reference to Egyptian finance before the adjournment for the recess. Several questions were put in reference to details of the Redistribution Bill, and answered by Mr Gladstone and Sir C. Dilke. Mr Gladstone stated that if the Seats Bill were read a second time even on Friday the House might adjourn on Saturday. Sir T. Brassey made a motion and statement on the condition of the navy similar to that made by the First Lord in the other House.

WEDNESDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Consolidated Fund Bill was brought up from the Commons and read a first time.

In the House of Commons, Mr A. Arnold gave notice that at the proper time he should move that it be an instruction to the Committee that instead of adding to the number of members of the House, they have power to disfranchise boroughs of England and Wales having by the census of 1881 fewer than 25,000 inhabitants, and to take one seat from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Sir C. Dilke said Warwick had been accidentally omitted from the printed Bill of the boroughs which lose one member. Mr A. Elliot moved the second reading of the Elections in Counties Hours of Polling Bill, the object of which was to extend the hours of polling in Counties to the same as those in boroughs—from eight a.m. until eight p.m. Mr Stanhope and Mr Warton objected to the Bill. Mr J. Collings, Mr Staveley Hill, and Mr Duckham approved of the Bill. After a few observations from Sir W. Barttelot, and Mr Morgan, the Bill was read a second time. A Bill to Legalize Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister was brought in and read a first time. A Bill to amend the Yorkshire Registries Act passed through all its stages. Sir W. Lawson gave notice of a motion for a portional disarmament of the naval forces of Europe.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

London, Wednesday Evening.

The stars fight for Mr Gladstone, as a month ago they seemed to fight against him. He has had another surprising stroke of good fortune in Egypt. At last there is a prospect of a settlement there. The Ministerial scheme for the settlement of Egyptian finance has been sent off to all the Powers, and, if we may judge by the tone of the money market, it is likely to be a success.

So neither of the alternative polices of scuttle and blackmail have been accepted by the Cabinet as the final settlement of Egyptian finance. We are to hold on to the country after advancing five millions and taking as our security the Daira estates, which amount to a million of the most fertile acres in the world. There is yet corn in Egypt, and this will be good news alike to fellah and his Hebrew creditor.

Mr Froude, who is about to make a great circle round the globe, has not escaped the inevitable interviewer. Death and the tax-gatherer wait, it is said, on every one; but now we have the enterprising press hand, who when a man of letters is in the case is sure to hunt him down. So it has been with Mr Froude as to his views on the Boer and Bechuana difficulty.

As we might expect, Mr Froude has strong opinions in favour of the Boers. They are plain, pious people, quite behind the world in its pushing ideas of cant and commerce, and are accordingly fine specimens of the Carlylese type of unsophisticated human nature. So Mr Froude reports to a press reporter who interviewed him; but Mr Froude's judgments, like those of Carlyle his master, should be taken with a few grains of salt.

Mr John Morley comes in for a good word from the *Spectator* this week, which has a discriminating criticism on his position as a public man. With much—indeed, with nearly every word—of the *Spectator's* criticism I can agree; but what is the meaning of charging Mr Morley with a weakness for the falsehood of extremes? This is a tag of Tennyson; but those who turn to scorn with lips divine the falsehood of extremes are not members of the House of Commons.

The Duke of Westminster told a story of Turner the other day which is so good that it is a pity the teetotallers should not get the benefit of it. As he grew old and lost his teeth his digestion fell off, when Turner took to drinking sherry, and his pictures grew more smudgy. At last, fearing that his hand had lost its cunning, Turner went on to fortify himself with brandy, when his pictures became so blurred that, like the Scotch terrier, one could not tell which was head and which was tail. The moral clearly is to paint in water colours.

In one of his earliest poems Tennyson describes the Kraken, that mythical being that sleeps his ancient, dreamless, uninvaded sleep far beneath in the abysmal sea. He is only to rise once to the surface, and then "roaring he shall rise, and on the surface die." Lord Tennyson among the Peers, like his own Kraken, sunk in a sea of drowsy dignity; but now he seems to have risen to the surface, and, roaring, to die. His last verses, in *Macmillan* of this month, seem to be, not the dying swan's song, but a dying Kraken's roar.

Amongst the multifarious divisions of the metropolis, it is portioned out into "milk-walks," and the cowkeeper who purchases the goodwill of a milk-walk seems to believe himself to be, morally at any rate, entitled to a monopoly within the limits of his "walk." The cowkeeper whose walk comprises the district in Upper Norwood in which the Rev Mr Spurgeon resides, bitterly resents the circumstance that of late that eminent divine has taken the precaution to keep his own cows—"ten or a dozen cows," the indignant dairyman avows in communicating his griefs to the local press. It would seem that these cows are kept more for the benefit of the Stockwell Orphanage than for that of Mr Spurgeon. They are a kind of standing bazaar. Their milk is sold at something above the market price for the benefit of the charitable institution with which the great preacher is so closely indentified. But the cowkeeper regards Mr Spurgeon as a poacher upon his special preserves, and probably feels an aversion to Dissent.

Conspicuously displayed in the window of a City shop is a door-mat bearing upon it, worked in darker colours, what is discovered after a little scrutiny to represent a ship in full sail. As a design there is nothing particularly pleasing about it, and the ship, even allowing for the difficulty presented by the material in which it is wrought, has a crude and elementary appearance suggestive of heraldy rather than of decorative design. It does, in fact, represent, I believe, the arms of the Cape of Good Hope, and the mat bears a ticket announcing that its destination is the Town Hall of Cape Town. It strikes one as singular that such an article should have to be ordered from London. One would have imagined that the mat, ship and all, could have been produced by natives or colonial genius. Who can say that our colonies are no good to us when they purchase even their door-mats from us?

Correspondence.

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

BIG FISH IN THE DERWENT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Dear Sir,—In the letter that I sent to you last week I made a mistake in the number of fish caught by G.F. and T.H. Instead of being 323 it was 623. If any person disbelieves my word let them come to me, for I have the number killed every month from March till the 1st of October. I made another error when I stated that the trout caught at Blackhall Mill was 3½lb.; it should have been 3½ld. But I am greatly astonished at two trout being taken out of Ebchester race 1lb. weight, and the number of dead fish lying between there and Blackhall Mill no man can tell. The anglers in the lower part believe there is no fish left alive, and they think it will be very little use taking out the licence, for there will be no sport; and it is time there was a stop put to this poisoning of the Derwent.—Yours, &c.

G. Farrage.

Spen Colliery, December 2nd, 1884.

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—School Board politics appear to be quite the order of the day at present, and seem to be largely discussed at Dipton. Some are vexed and some are pleased with the state of affairs. I think the ratepayers, at any rate, ought to feel a degree of pleasure that they can read for themselves how matters stand with them and the business transactions of the school. I myself, as a ratepayer, with many others, feel a pleasure in again seeing the balance sheet for the year 1884 appearing in the *Guardian*, and many of the ratepayers, including myself, think the school has done remarkably well. The balance in hand at the end of the financial year £165 19s 10d; the education grant, I consider, is exceedingly large this year, amounting to £467 14s 11d; and the school fees paid by the children is £209 4s 10d; the legal and other expenses are light; the buildings and furniture items seems high, but I have no doubt as to the correctness of the cost, otherwise the auditor (Mr Radford) would not have passed the accounts. I also observe that the Board has been able to pay to the Loan Commissioners £209 0s 8d as interest for the money borrowed by the Board on the school property. I feel thankful that the schools have achieved such excellent results in the past. The out-standing liabilities of the Board at the end of the year, loans from Public Works Loan Commissioners outstanding is yet £5,015 16s, so that we can read for ourselves at what ratio we are reducing the debt upon the school buildings. As ratepayers we feel thankful, and wish for the same success to attend the labours of the teaching staff employed with energy and zeal of the Board, which is required in order to meet the expenses each year, and if possible—or as far as practicable—keep the school rate down at as low a figure as expedient, and thus oblige the ratepayers in the Collierley township—I remain, yours,

One of the Ratepayers.

December 2nd, 1884.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Considerable speculation is manifested in Dipton as to what will be the ultimate result of the motion brought forward by Mr Robson at the last School Board meeting to raise the rent to the Church party. If I might be allowed to offer an opinion through your paper, I would say Mr Robson's motion does not go far enough, because if it had sought 5s instead of 3s per week it would still have been a reasonable charge, and the sensible part of your readers will hold with me when the following facts are placed before them. We have the Salvation Army here paying 12s per week for a place not half so warm and comfortable, as the Board Schools are, and, mark you, finding their own light. Then, again, the miners, when they want any place to hold meetings in, have to pay very dear for it. Only the other week they had to pay 20s for the use of the Co-operative Hall for one night only in which to hold a concert, whereas they had as much right for the use of the schools as any other class. I ask in the name of justice what are the Church party any more than any other body, that they have to be favoured and pampered at the expense of the ratepayers, who, at the present time, have enough burthen to bear? I do not know what to make of Mr Curry and his "dilemma,"—he is like the American "puzzle," very bad to understand; but I hope and trust he will not take the partial advice offered by "Rambler" in your issue of the 21st ult. Apparently that gentleman is either ignorant of the facts of the case, or is looking out for an emolument in the shape of the sexton's office when our new church is built. If he has designs on the latter, I fear he is too late, as I hear the job is taken. It is no small satisfaction to the supporters of Messrs Robson and Martin to read the letters in your last issue by "Ratepayer" and "A Wesleyan," as it shows the working men that the doings of their representatives are approved of in a quarter little expected by them. Your correspondent "A Constant Reader" thinks there is great need of many more sections of the Church. I regret I cannot say the same; there seems to be already too many in the village, judging from the amount of envy generated among the different parties. I honestly believe that a soup kitchen would be of more service at the present time, considering the state of the district. Then, again, he says it is not expected that School Boards are to make money out of any religious denominations, nor yet I should say is it expected that any sect should make money out of School Boards; therefore, it is wise policy on the part of the Board to be on the safe side, and that they will carry out their intended reforms as speedily as possible is the earnest wish of yours, &c.,

Republican.

Dipton, Dec. 3rd, 1884.

[Our correspondent will observe that we have struck out several personal passages in his letter. "Republican" must understand that the School Board has no right to make a profit from letting their premises. The *only* correct way is, we think, to charge the present tenants the actual cost for consumption of gas, coals, and cleaning.—*Ed. C.G.*]

The Special Christmas Number of the *Christian Million* contains many elements of popularity. First, there is the coloured plate, entitled "The Golden Wedding," from the painting by John Morgan, selected from this year's exhibition of the Royal Academy. This picture is an immense success. It is full of sympathy, and appeals irresistibly to the spectator. The fidelity of the reproduction to the original is remarkable, and we are sure that the tens of thousands of sightseers who gazed with so much interest on the original as it hung upon the Academy wall will be delighted to find the opportunity for purchasing so faithful a copy at so nominal a price. The proprietors could hardly have hit upon a happier idea, or one more successfully carried out. Then there are numerous high-class wood engravings of Christmas subjects, such as "Hanging the Mistletoe," "Dreaming of Santa Claus," "The Sailor Boy's Return," "Christmas in the Orphanage," "A Christmas Drive in Canada," "Christmas in the Olden Time," "A Wet Christmas," etc. To these are added Christmas Stories by various well-known authors: "Andrew Nettleworth's Golden Wedding," by J. Jackson Wray, the winner of the Carriage and Pair in the late prize scheme; "Jock's Return, a Christmas Love Story," by F. M. Holmes; "From Door to Door, a Postman's Story," by George Mulchinoch; "Christmas in the Olden Time, my Grandfather's Story," by Alfred H. Miles; "Dorothy Hilcroft's Reward," by William J. Lacey; "Dorothy's Darling, a Soldier's Story," by M. Munn; "In His Keeping, a Temperance Story," etc. To sum up—there are Eight Complete Christmas Stories, Ten Christmas Pictures, Eight Christmas Articles, Six Christmas Poems, besides Two Christmas Hymns with music. The price for the whole is 6d, and there can be no doubt but that it is a wonderful budget for the money.

TOW LAW LOCAL BOARD.

At the usual monthly meeting, held at the Local Board Offices, Tow Law, on Tuesday night—Mr Joseph Ridley (chairman), presiding—the following members were present, viz.: Dr Johnstone, Messrs W. Ridley, W. R. Teasdale, Chas. Kitchen, W. Atkinson, L. P. Wherly, and the Clerk (Mr E. Milburn).

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting and those of a subsequent special meeting were read over and confirmed.

ILLNESS OF THE INSPECTOR.

A letter was read from Mr W. Garraway, nuisance inspector, informing the Board that he was very ill, and could not attend the meeting.

The Clerk stated that he believed Mr Garraway was confined to his bed.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

This monthly report is given below:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Tow Law Local Board.

Gentlemen,—To complete the metalling of your main roads about three trucks more of limestone will be required for North Road, which I could obtain from Stanhope Workhouse. The large pieces of slag in Wesley Street and Campbell Street, have been taken off, the small slag having been used for filling up the holes, and the lumps deposited in St. Alban's Street. As instructed at the last meeting, I find that the team labour of your Board was let about August, 1883, but I understand the usual time for letting such contracts is in March. The keeping clean of the urinal is being attended to. The railing off of the gas tank has also been completed.

Mr J. Calvert, of Consett, the owner of three houses houses in St. Alban's Street, has requested the Board to construct the footpath, channel, &c., in St. Alban's Street, providing that the other portions of the street are also made. I think a great improvement will be effected by raising the road near the bottom of the Castle Bank at a small expense, but I have not put any limestone on that part until I received instructions from the Board. I think a few traps for the channels will do away with the uneven surface of the railway crossing near to Aynsley's timber yard and Slater Jackson's inn. Mrs Sharpe has resigned her post as office cleaner, and some other person will have to be appointed in her place.

I have deposited with the Board's treasurer to-day £31 5s for coke and tar, the receipt for which I now produce.

MONTHLY PAYBILL.

	£	s.	d.
Main Roads: Manual labour	6	9	0
Team labour	6	12	0
Other Roads: Manual labour	1	2	9
Team labour	0	8	0
Gasworks: Foreman's wages	7	1	6
Streets: Lamp lighting	1	6	0
Office cleaning	0	6	0
Making a total of	£23	5	3
Leaving a balance due to Surveyor	5	16	10

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

John Hillary, Surveyor.

Tow Law, Dec. 2nd, 1884.

It was decided to allow the letting of the team labour contracts to lie until March next.

THE CASTLE BANK.

The Surveyor, in answer to the members, explained that the portion of the highway he wished to raise was the bank towards the bottom, nearly opposite to Mr Horne's house. The stuff could be obtained from Mr Bond's foundry at a trifling cost; and it would not only break the fall considerably, but prove a great improvement.

The Board granted permission to effect the necessary alterations.

FINANCE.

The Clerk announced the balance in hand to amount to £264 4s 7d; from which sum the accounts for the current month, representing a total of £53 19s 9d, must be deducted.

THE RATING OF THE N.E.R.

A communication was read from Mr George Cransfield Lee, the rating surveyor for the North-Eastern Railway Company, to the effect that he understood that a general district rate would be made on the 2nd December by the Local Board upon the increased assessment of the Company's property in the parish of Wolsingham. The Company were appealing against the new assessment, and he hoped the Board would undertake not to base the Company's rate upon this increased valuation pending the result of the appeal.

The Chairman, in reply to Mr Kitchen, said the amended valuation did not apply to any portion of the railway running through the Local Board's district. The Messrs Hedley were only authorised by the Union Authorities at Stanhope to make a re-valuation of the railway to Wolsingham and the new buildings surrounding the Steelworks at the same place.

Mr Teasdale said that nothing had been mentioned at the Guardians' meeting at Stanhope respecting any increased assessment for the railway at Tow Law; and it must be inferred that Mr Lee was labouring under some misapprehension.

The Clerk compared the assessment in the present rate with the last September rate, and ascertained that the figures were identical; and he was instructed to reply to the Railway Company to the foregoing effect.

THE WEARDALE IRON COMPANY'S PROPERTY.

With regard to the application made at the last meeting by the Weardale Iron and Coal Company, desiring an arrangement for charging the Local Board rates, in future, for cottage property upon one-half, instead of four-fifths, of the rateable value, as they paid the rates whether the tenements were occupied or not, in accordance with section 375 of the Public Health Act, the Clerk stated that he had not been able to glean any information from the Brandon and Byshottles Local Board concerning what was done in their district.

Mr Wherly pointed out that, as the question was left to the discretion of the Local Board, it would be highly desirable to know the system in vogue in Local Board districts in a similar position to their own. He therefore suggested that the Clerk should write to Consett, Bishop Auckland, Spennymoor, and Willington Local Boards for particulars.

Mr Kitchen pointed out that there were different customs in different parishes.

It was agreed to carry out the recommendation of Mr Wherly, and obtain information from those places.

THE CONDITION OF BARING STREET.

A long letter was received from the Local Government Board, relative to the sanitary condition of Baring Street. From the correspondence forwarded to their Lordships, it would appear that the only action taken by the Local Board as the Sanitary Authority was to call the attention of the Weardale Iron Company to the complaint in the Medical Officer's last annual report. The Imperial Board observed that in the last three years the Medical Officer of Health had directed attention to these premises, and in each year there seems to have arisen several cases of typhoid fever. As this state of things could not be allowed to continue, the Whitehall Authorities desired to be informed what steps the Local Board intended to take in the matter.

[The recommendations of Dr Hood in his last yearly report were—that the privies should be removed further back from the houses; the ashpits and middens covered in; and an open channel constructed to run the full length of the back street.]

Mr W. Ridley proposed, and Mr Teasdale seconded, that notice be served upon the Weardale Iron Company to abate the nuisance by carrying out the recommendations of the Medical Officer.

The Clerk was also instructed to forward the Company an extract from Dr Hood's report, as well as a copy of the foregoing letter from the Local Government Board.

INSUFFICENT PRESSURE OF GAS.

Messrs Teasdale, Atkinson, and Wherly having complained of the insuffecent pressure of gas throughout the district, the Clerk read a letter from Mr John Englrnd, the treasurer of the Tow Law Mechanics' Institute, who stated that he had received complaints from people taking the Hall of the want of pressure and bad illuminating power of the gas supplied lately, and asking the Board to see that a better pressure is kept on. In his own private house, the gas only had half-an-hour's full pressure when the lights diminished to candle size.

The Chairman was of opinion that there was too much force concentrated near the gas retort when the valve was turned on, and he suggested that the weights should be lifted off the holders during the day, so as to ease the tanks as much as possible, and lowered at nights, in order that full pressure might be in operation. There were no complaints as to the quantity of the gas, and he thought this idea might be tried as an experiment for a few weeks and see if the pressure could not be improved.

The Board had an interview with Mr Kempe, the Gasworks Manager, who attributed the insufficient pressure of the gas to the smallness of the pipe, which was only a 2-inch main, giving what was known as the ten-tenths pressure, or 5·10 feet to the inch. If both the holders were filled with gas, they could not get sufficient pressure through this pipe.

After some discussion, the Board instructed Mr Kempe to act upon the suggestions thrown out by the Chairman for a few weeks; and then if there was no perceptible improvement, the main would have to be taken up and replaced by a larger pipe.

PLANS.

Duplicate plans of the site of the new burial ground at Dan's Castle, also plans and specifications for the completion of St. Alban's Street, were examined by the Board.

THE PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE.

The Clerk read a lengthy correspondence which had passed between Mr Henry White, one of the managers for the Weardale Iron and Coal Company and Mr Godfrey Smith, the North-Eastern passenger superintendent, of Newcastle, relative to the necessity for an improved train service between Tow Law, Consett, and Newcastle. The first letter from Mr White was dated November 25th, and was addressed to the Chairman, asking him to kindly bring before the members of the Board the desirability of petitioning or using other means to induce the North-Eastern Railway Company to alter and amend the passenger train service to and from Tow Law. Mr White had written to Mr Smith urgently requesting him, if possible, to recommence running the 12 train from Tow Law to Newcastle; and if the Company could not see their way clear to run it every day, they might start it as a market train on Saturdays, seeing that it will only require the connection between Tow Law and Consett. Mr White enclosed Mr Smith's reply, and he urged the Local Board and the inhabitants to take the matter up in earnest and see what could be done. The writer added that Mr Douglas, of Pease's West Collieries, Crook, had offered to do all he could in the matter.

Mr White, in broaching the subject to Mr Smith, first of all congratulated the Company for the excellent and generous train service hitherto provided for Tow Law; and then went on to express regret, on behalf of a large section of people in Tow Law, that the train accommodation had been seriously interfered with. Mr White suggested that the train now leaving Crook at 11·30 a.m. should run straight through to Consett, arriving at that station in time for to catch the 12·30 p.m. train for Newcastle. This train was considered a great boon by a large number of tradespeople and others, who if they desired to reach Newcastle to transact business must now leave by the 8·25 a.m. train. The train was also preferable to the 2·30 p.m. from Tow Law, as people travelling at that hour did not arrive at Newcastle until 4·15 p.m. If the Company could not see their way to run this train every day, they might start it on Saturdays. In conclusion the writer pointed out that there were 7 trains daily from Newcastle to Consett, and 2 extra on Saturdays; and 6 trains from Consett to Durham; in addition to 2 trains from Newcastle to Consett and *vice versa* on Sundays. At Tow Law there were only 3 trains running each way, and none on Sundays; and surely he thought the Company could do something in the way of assisting them. He understood that the 12 train came to Tow Law and stood at that station, instead of running on to Consett, which is all they asked for.

Mr Smith in reply, begged to say that the train arrangements made would remain in force until January next, the time-tables having been printed up to that date, consequently there would be no alteration in the train service during the present year. Besides, the officials had fully enquired into the matter, and the train service as at present arranged appeared to be ample for the traffic at this time of the year.

The Chairman observed that Mr White was exceedingly anxious that the Board should memorialise the Railway Company, strongly urging them to continue the 12 (noon) train to Consett.

Mr Atkinson stated that this was the most useful train for tradesmen and other people, as they could then go to Newcastle and transact their business after having attended to ther letters and correspondence. Now, they were compelled to travel to Newcastle by the first train prior to the arrival of their letters.

Mr Wherly suggested that the 2·30 train form Tow Law to Consett should be discontinued; and if the Board only made this suggestion to the Railway Company, they might succeed in their object.

Mr W. Ridley observed that they did once try to get the train knocked off and substituted for a more convenient one, but they were informed that it was a thorough train and could not be disconnected.

Mr Kitchen thought that attention should be drawn to the lengthened stoppages at Consett Station? It was rediculous to have to wait at that place from 1·10 p.m. to 2 o'clock before the departure of the Tow Law train.

Mr Ridley considered that the train reaching Consett from Newcastle at 11·50 a.m. should run straight through to Tow Law without having to stop at Consett until 2 o'clock.

Mr Kitchen: Certainly; especially when there is nothing else blocking the way.

Mr Ridley was also in favour of the 8·20 a.m. from Consett to Tow Law, leaving an hour or so earlier.

After considerable discussion, the Clerk was authorised to prepare a petition for presentation to the Railway Company, stating that the Board favoured the 7·20 a.m. train from Consett to Crook in preference to the 8·53 a.m. The train arriving at Consett from Newcastle at 11·50 a.m. to reach Tow Law about 1 p.m. instead of 2·30; also the 12 train from Tow Law to Consett to be substituted for the 2·30 p.m.

A DIRTY CROSSING.

Mr White wrote to the Board, on the 25th Nov., urging the necessity for repairing the crossings at the railway gates at West Thornley and Sunniside, inasmuch as they were used by a considerable number of inhabitants, and the road in winter was almost impassable.

The members expressed an opinion that there were other crossings in the district that ought to receive attention as well as these, consequently the question was postponed *sine die*.

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

The traffic returns of the North-Eastern Railway Company for the week ending November 29th, show a decrease in the receipts of £10,133, as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year.

In the December Part of Cassell's Magazine, which will form the first part of a new volume, two new serial stories will be commenced, one entitled "Sweet Christabel," by Miss Arabella Hopkinson, and the other "A Diamond in the Rough," by the author of "Horace Maclean." A new feature, entitled "Our Reading Club" will be included, its object being to supply every information required for the formation and arrangement of reading clubs, suitable programmes for reading, &c.

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

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

THE NORTHERN IRON TRADE.

DR. WATSON'S AWARD: WAGES UNALTERED.

On Wednesday, the officials of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the North of England Iron Trade received the award of Dr Spence Watson, by which it will be seen that the arbitrator refuses to make a reduction of wages. Mr Watson says:—Will you permit me, in handing you my third award, to express my strong conviction that, in the interest of all connected with your trade, a determined effort should be made to arrive at some method of periodically settling the rate of wages without having recourse to that which is but an imperfect tribunal at the best? Conciliation, as the title or your Board, precedes arbitration, and rightly so. By resorting to conciliation you retain the control over your difficulties and settle them by mutual concession and forbearance, whereas by arbitration you remit them to the decision of another person, often an outsider, who can in few instances have the full knowledge of their complexities which you yourselves possess. But the automatic action of a sliding scale prevents even the slight collision entailed by the negotiations consequent upon conciliation. That no scale has yet been framed to work successfully is nothing to the point. Success is the fruit of failure properly appreciated. I would suggest with much diffidence that it may be found that in framing a scale it is a mistake to consider the amount above shillings for pounds as a fixed and invariable sum. There is no reason why it should not vary as price rose or fell, if the successful working of the scale were assisted thereby. I may also say that, although I have found more difficulty in arriving at a decision this time than on the previous occasions, I have been much aided by the full and able arguments brought forward at the hearing. I cannot but congratulate you upon the conspicuous fairness which was shown by each side towards the other, and express the earnest hope that the dark cloud at present over-shadowing your industry may speedily pass away.

The questions submitted to me for decision were:—

The claim of the employers for a reduction of 6d per ton on puddling, and 5 per cent. on all other wages, to take effect from the 27th September.

The claim of the operatives for an advance of 6d per ton on puddling, and 5 per cent on all other forge and mill wages, to take effect from the same date.

The period for which I was empowered to fix wages was two months from the same date, but this has since been extended as aforesaid.

Having carefully weighed the statements made before me, and considered the arguments founded thereon, and the bearing of prior references upon the present position of affairs, I award: That the present rate of wages continue to be paid until the last Saturday in January, 1885.

INAUGURATION OF A MINERS' HALL AT LEADGATE.

The opening ceremony in connection with the inauguration of a miners' hall at Leadgate, was performed on Saturday afternoon last. The building in question, which is situate in Watling Street, is a handsome and substantial-looking structure, originally erected by the United Free Methodist Society of the Consett and Leadgate circuit, and has hitherto been used as a place of worship for that body, until the funds dwindled down to a low ebb and the congregation seriously diminished, when it was deemed necessary to discontinue the services. The chapel was eventually mortgaged, and has been closed for over twelve months. The Executive of the Durham Miners' Association succeeded in purchasing the structure from the mortgagee, Mrs Benson. It is intended to set apart the hall for public entertainments, meetings, concerts, &c., and when occasion arises, for gatherings in connection with the local miners' lodges. Sitting accommodation is provided for about 300 persons, in addition to a commodious platform. Attached thereto is a spacious ante-room, which will be improvised as a place of amusement and recreation for the miners of the district. Although the building is the sole property of the Durham Miners' Association, full powers are vested in the hands of a Committee of Management, consisting of three representatives from each of the Consett Iron Company's three local collieries, viz., Iveston, Medomsley, and the Eden Pit, and three members from the adjacent colliery at East Castle, which belongs to a firm in Newcastle. The Consett Iron Company have offered to support the recreation-room and intend presenting two sets each of draughts, chess, and dominoes, together with the necessary tables and other accessories, and have promised to do all in their power to set the movement afloat. Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., the general manager of the Consett Iron Company, proposes to contribute an annual donation of two guineas towards the funds; the East Castle Colliery owners (through Mr J. Swallow) have given five guineas; while several of the leading residents in Consett and Leadgate have subscribed other sums. The ceremonial on Saturday afternoon opened with a public meeting held in the hall, when Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., presided. There was a numerous attendance of miners and their friends.

The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, said that every village ought to possess its large public hall, where men could assemble together for the purpose of developing and elevating their moral, educational, and social condition. Every place ought to boast of its village green, where working men, after their daily toil, could meet for recreative purposes; and their children, and even their wives, could play and amuse themselves. The speaker advocated at some length the principles of temperance, especially amongst the mining classes of the country; and concluded by expressing a fervent hope that the movement inaugurated that afternoon would be a great success, and that working men would take every opportunity of availing themselves of the advantages afforded by such an excellent institution. (Applause).

Mr John Forman, president of the Durham Miners' Association, referred to the principles of co-operation as being the outcome of trades' unionism, and if the movement was only supported by miners and others it would lead to the most beneficial and practical results.

Mr W. Crawford, secretary of the Durham Miners' Association, and Mr John Wilson, treasurer of the same association, also spoke in terms of congratulation that the miners of Leadgate had attained such a beautiful and commodious building.

The other speakers included the Revs J. W. Mitchell, M.A., vicar of Leadgate, and Wm. Batey, Primitive Methodist Minister, of Durham; Mr W. H. Hedley, of Medomsley, head viewer over Consett Iron Company's collieries; and Mr Daniel Reed, miners' delegate, of Leadgate.—On the motion of Mr Geo. Nicholson, of Leadgate, votes of thanks were accorded to the Consett Iron Company for their generous assistance, and to Mr Jenkins for presiding.

Subsequently a public tea was provided, and was partaken of by about 250 persons. In the evening a miscellaneous concert was given, when Mr D. Reed occupied the chair.—An attractive programme of songs, recitations, &c., was contributed by Misses O'Brien and M. Bell; Mrs R. Bartle; and Messrs J. Pullerson, Cockburn, J. Hunter, F. Brodie, and Chatt; while Mr Robson performed some dances. A string band was in attendance, and Mr R. Bartle presided at the harmonium. The highly successful proceedings were brought to a close with a coffee supper, which was well patronized.

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

Original

THE MIL

Grown grim with years
In grasses by the wide
From bramble caves it
As startled from an age's
To smile the traveller
What time, when but a c
To reach the dog-rose f
I balanced on this moss-
And laughed aloud in
Grasped the pink cluster
While wondering why th

And later on when the g
Had brought a love-ro
Unharrassed by life's gro
I whispered in delighted
The rows that one swe
This milestone was our t
Ah! that was years and
And still the old smile li
Still in the hedge some
The shivering frosts have
And still that moss-grow

By what green banks we'
How many milestones
Though what serene and
We'll count these life—m
Till we have reached a
And back will memory o
This milestone in the
And all the fresh green h
Will bring their wild-r
And still we'll note at cl
Some milestone on the w
Jo

FOR THE SAKE O

What's that you say? I
Why, near all our furn
An' we gets a bit bread a
Sometimes, sir, an' som
It's a good job for us, th
Sends men like yoursel
With its help: an' it's
We need to be helped,

Well! I've searched for a
On the Tyne an' the Te
Its the same thing where
The times are so quiet
You see how I've worn o
A-tramping, an' all to
A man cannot do as he'd
I'd have gone farther s

A chap an' his missis you
Might keep up their he
But a man with a fam'ly
Can't see the bairns wa
Like enough, when the n
An' trade was as good
We didn't all of us prepa
But then, we're just h

So it's just for the sake o'
For it's them who are
They are crying first thin
An' they cry when we
They're peevish and cross
When dinner-time com
An' it cuts their poor mo
When there's little thei

In the best o' times ours w
Though as careful as po
For at meal-times the kit
Seven bairns an' the mi
An' now when the dinner
An' there's little for eac
The eldest an' me take a
An' the table has two c
Jon

Wallsend-on-Tyne.

A GOLDEN WE

Dear wife, this wedding ri
More dear than gleamin
It speaks of hopes and joy
In those bright days of

"Once on a time," in love
We measured it, and bo
So rich its glow it seemed
A Fairy Queen had wro

Just fifty years ago to-day
I placed it on thy finge
The bright'ning joy which
Doth with us sweetly li

Our hearts were young, an
To brave life's ills toget
Divinest force has shaped
In calm and stormy wea

The lanes of life have oft
With varied scenes of b
And Truth has left pure l
Along the path of duty.

In golden hours, soft sum
Have made the sweetest
And love's bright bowers,
Exhaled delightful frag

Sometimes we've passed b
Surcharged with fire an
The new-made grave, and
Have smote with grief a

We've had great hopes, a
Since you and I were w
And gazed upon, with smi
Our living and our dead

And yet we have not lived
Nor spent our strength f
God's gifts have come, like
And saved our souls fro

And now, dear wife, we're
But still, with brave end
We press to enter that bri
Where nought our lives

In shine or shade, tho' eart
And dear eyes lose their
With hopeful song, we pre
To God's eternal brightn

Humbert Street, Jarrow, 18

THE BEND OF T

The placid stream, whose t
My thoughts beyond the
How oft I've guessed your f
Your paths so seeming pl
And childlike wondered wh
And thought it would be
To stand just where the wa
And look straight on for ev

The wondrous ships sailed
And went—we never dou
Where fairy heroes won re
Where giant castles flout
It gave us grief to hear the
The sun went rounding e
It gave them longer time to
Beyond the bend of river

A boy beside thy meadow
I read the thrilling story
Of hunter youths, and sailo
And Indian Ocean glory;
And where the love-parts u
I turned it with a quiver
Perchance, a princess lived
Along the bending river.

And thus it was; a queenly
Arose from girlhood silen
With tinted cheeks of autu
No reign was e'er so tende
We saw light in each other'
The future doubted never
And mapped our life in crim
Beyond that bend of rive

And then came dreams of g
Through fields Elysian ro
Away past many an eddyin
I wandered ere the gloam
My heart went forth in bur
The living to the liver!
I heard a city's hum of prai
Beyond a bend of river.

But now I know thee turn
And knowledge is but a
It is the hardest task to le
Awaking on the morrow
The sun must shoot each s
Till fails his utmost qui
And there is naught we us
Beyond the bend of rive

And yet I see the same dal
In fresh and youthful fac
And mark the course that
In all its fervour traces;
I feel it must be good that
Shall be of hope a quiver
I know there must be joy
The last bend of the rive

Kirkburton.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, December 5th, 1884.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The Redistribution Bill, introduced into the House of Commons by Mr Gladstone on Monday, turned out to be as thorough-going a measure as the most sanguine of Radicals could reasonably have expected, and to be far more sweeping than the majority of the public anticipated. In various respects it goes further in the way of change than it was proposed to go in the draft scheme recently published by the *Standard*, which was authoritatively acknowledged to be one scheme then occupying the attention of the Government, if it was not the only and exclusive one. It is apparent, therefore, that the effect of conference with the leaders of the Conservative party has not been too narrow, but to widen the scope of the intended measure. The Opposition chiefs sagaciously recognised that they could gain no advantage for their party by attempting to restrict and minimize the amount of change to be made, and therefore they rather directed their attention to proposing further and compensating changes in their own favour to counterbalance those which they considered might unduly, if unintentionally, give advantage to their rivals. This was an exercise of real Conservative policy, as practised and taught by the late Lord Beaconsfield. That eminent statesman, while recognising that the distinguishing characteristic of Conservatism under ordinary circumstances was to deprecate and resist change as an evil in itself, yet held that when change became necessary, either through the exigency of circumstances or because of national resolve, it was better that such change should be as complete and definitive as possible, in order to avoid an early renewal of the disturbing process. Acting in this spirit, the present Conservative leaders have helped to produce a measure of Redistribution which comes very little short of equal electoral districts with single representatives—so little that the desire for this extremely symmetrical arrangement is not likely to trouble the public mind for many a day to come. The leading principle of the Bill has evidently been to give one member for about each 50,000 inhabitants; and the specific features of the measure are rather contained in the exceptions to this principle than in the application of it. Thus the distinction of county and borough constituencies is to be maintained, while even the Universities retain their distinctive electoral existence; towns with 15,000 inhabitants and up to 50,000 are to keep each a single member; and towns of more than 50,000 inhabitants, which now have two members, will not be disturbed in their representation, except perhaps for the enlargement of their boundaries to include new suberbs. In all other cases, even including the City of London, towns and counties, as distinct local areas, are to receive the proportion of members to which their population entitles them, and these several electoral areas are to be divided into single-member wards or districts. The same principles of Redistribution are adopted for the whole United Kingdom, only, instead of Ireland and Wales being deprived of representatives in order to meet the demands of England and Scotland, six seats already vacant through disfranchisement are given to England, and twelve new ones are created for Scotland, bringing the total number of the House of Commons up to 670. A dozen members more or less in an assembly of hundreds is not a matter of much consequence, compared with the heartburings which would be excited by disfranchising one country for the benefit of another. On the whole, the Bill is statesmanlike, because comprehensive enough to be reasonably permanent. Such a measure could not have been put forward at the instance of a single political party, because one party could not have carried it in face of the discontent and disaffection which would have been created among those of its own followers who would be directly and obviously affected by the Bill. As it is, the Parliamentary majority that will carry the measure will represent the actual and overwhelming majority of all parties in the realm.

Parliamentary Summary.

MONDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Royal assent was given by comuission to the Additional Income Tax. The Committee stage of the Franchise Bill was postponed until Thursday. Earl Derby, replying to Earl Carnarvon, said the Government had under consideration a Bill enabling the Australian colonies to carry out a scheme of federation opinions as to certain clauses of the Bill would shortly arrive from Australia, and the Government hoped the Governments of New South Wales and New Zealand would reconsider their decision. The Select Committee on the Infants' Bill was appointed, and the House adjourned.

In the House of Commons, when the Speaker took the chair, there was a full attendance. By Royal Commission the House was summoned to the House of Peers. On the Speaker's return Mr Gladstone rose, amid loud cheers, to introduce the Redistribution Bill. He said it would be in the recollection of the House that a fortnight ago he intimated that if the Government found it possible to receive adequate assurances that the Franchise Bill would pass forthwith it was far from being alien from the disposition of the Government to submit at once to the House a Bill for the Redistribution of Seats, and to prosecute it with all reasonable and convenient despatch. He was glad to find himself under these circumstances in a position to give the House the Bill for the Redistribution of Seats. Towns possessing up to 15,000 of population would pass into the county division. Towns up to 50,000 would have no more than one member. The effect of these and other changes would be to liberate no less than 160 seats. It was proposed to divide 160 seats between the under-represented counties and towns. The plan was to give the counties 96 seats, in addition to what they possessed at present. The boroughs would receive 74 seats, and new boroughs taken out of the counties would receive 74 seats. The metropolis it was proposed to re-cast by creating seven boroughs the neighbourhood. In the case of Liverpool six new members would be added to the three now possessed, to Glasgow four new members would be added, to Birmingham four new members, and to Manchester three new members. The additions to the counties would include 16 to Yorkshire and 15 to Lancashire. England would possess six seats more than at present, Wales would have exactly the same number as at present; Ireland would remain unchanged. As to Scotland, the Government asked the House to increase its number by twelve seats. The Government also proposed one-member districts as a general and prevailing rule. With regard to the question of boundaries, a Commission had been appointed and was already at work, and its labours would occupy about two months. There would have to be a considerable recess after their autumn labours, and he had no doubt that in the Committee on the Bill there would be no difficulty in inserting absolutely the results of the labours of the Commission, so that they might be brought under the judgment of the House. They were disposed to ask the House to read the Bill a second time on Thursday, reserving the Committee stage until after the adjournment, which would be an adjournment over Christmas. After a few remarks from Sir Stafford Northcote and other members, the Bill was read a first time amid cheers, and the second reading was fixed for (yesterday) Thursday.

TUESDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Northbrook, in moving for returns of ships built and building for the Navy during the past four years, made a long statement upon the present state of the Navy and the policy which had guided the Admirality in adding to the number of men-of-war of all classes. He also instituted a comparison between the English and the French Navy, and showed that the former was much superior to the latter. The Admiralty now proposed to lay four ironclads, two torpedo rams of about 3,000 tons, five armour-protected cruisers of 5,000 tons, ten scouts of from 1,400 to 1,500 tons each, and to obtain thirty first-class torpedo boats. This addition to the Navy was estimated to cost about £3,100,000, to which was to be added the cost of the armaments, £300,000. It was also proposed to expend £825,000 upon the protection of our coaling station. It was intended to invite contracts from private shipyards for the construction of the new ships of war. A debate followed, in which the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Camperdown, and others took part, and Lord Northbrook having replied to objections raised, the motion was agreed to, and the House rose at five minutes after eight o'clock.

In the House of Commons, a new writ was moved for Knaresborough, for the election of a representative in the place of the late Mr T. Collins. Mr Gladstone could hold out to Mr Ashmead Bartlett no hope that he would be able to submit the result of the communications to the Powers in reference to Egyptian finance before the adjournment for the recess. Several questions were put in reference to details of the Redistribution Bill, and answered by Mr Gladstone and Sir C. Dilke. Mr Gladstone stated that if the Seats Bill were read a second time even on Friday the House might adjourn on Saturday. Sir T. Brassey made a motion and statement on the condition of the navy similar to that made by the First Lord in the other House.

WEDNESDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Consolidated Fund Bill was brought up from the Commons and read a first time.

In the House of Commons, Mr A. Arnold gave notice that at the proper time he should move that it be an instruction to the Committee that instead of adding to the number of members of the House, they have power to disfranchise boroughs of England and Wales having by the census of 1881 fewer than 25,000 inhabitants, and to take one seat from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Sir C. Dilke said Warwick had been accidentally omitted from the printed Bill of the boroughs which lose one member. Mr A. Elliot moved the second reading of the Elections in Counties Hours of Polling Bill, the object of which was to extend the hours of polling in Counties to the same as those in boroughs—from eight a.m. until eight p.m. Mr Stanhope and Mr Warton objected to the Bill. Mr J. Collings, Mr Staveley Hill, and Mr Duckham approved of the Bill. After a few observations from Sir W. Barttelot, and Mr Morgan, the Bill was read a second time. A Bill to Legalize Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister was brought in and read a first time. A Bill to amend the Yorkshire Registries Act passed through all its stages. Sir W. Lawson gave notice of a motion for a portional disarmament of the naval forces of Europe.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

London, Wednesday Evening.

The stars fight for Mr Gladstone, as a month ago they seemed to fight against him. He has had another surprising stroke of good fortune in Egypt. At last there is a prospect of a settlement there. The Ministerial scheme for the settlement of Egyptian finance has been sent off to all the Powers, and, if we may judge by the tone of the money market, it is likely to be a success.

So neither of the alternative polices of scuttle and blackmail have been accepted by the Cabinet as the final settlement of Egyptian finance. We are to hold on to the country after advancing five millions and taking as our security the Dalra estates, which amount to a million of the most fertile acres in the world. There is yet corn in Egypt, and this will be good news alike to fellah and his Hebrew creditor.

Mr Froude, who is about to make a great circle round the globe, has not escaped the inevitable interviewer. Death and the tax-gatherer wait, it is said, on every one; but now we have the enterprising press hand, who when a man of letters is in the case is sure to hunt him down. So it has been with Mr Froude as to his views on the Boer and Bechuana difficulty.

As we might expect, Mr Froude has strong opinions in favour of the Boers. They are plain, pious people, quite behind the world in its pushing ideas of cant and commerce, and are accordingly fine specimens of the Carlylese type of unsophisticated human nature. So Mr Froude reports to a press reporter who interviewed him; but Mr Froude's judgments, like those of Carlyle his master, should be taken with a few grains of salt.

Mr John Morley comes in for a good word from the *Spectator* this week, which has a discriminating criticism on his position as a public man. With much—indeed, with nearly every word—of the *Spectator's* criticism I can agree; but what is the meaning of charging Mr Morley with a weakness for the falsehood of extremes? This is a tag of Tennyson; but those who turn to scorn with lips divine the falsehood of extremes are not members of the House of Commons.

The Duke of Westminster told a story of Turner the other day which is so good that it is a pity the teetotallers should not get the benefit of it. As he grew old and lost his teeth his digestion fell off, when Turner took to drinking sherry, and his pictures grew more smudgy. At last, fearing that his hand had lost its cunning, Turner went on to fortify himself with brandy, when his pictures became so blurred that, like the Scotch terrier, one could not tell which was head and which was tail. The moral clearly is to paint in water colours.

In one of his earliest poems Tennyson describes the Kraken, that mythical being that sleeps his ancient, dreamless, uninvaded sleep far beneath in the abysmal sea. He is only to rise once to the surface, and then "roaring he shall rise, and on the surface die." Lord Tennyson among the Peers, like his own Kraken, sunk in a sea of drowsy dignity; but now he seems to have risen to the surface, and, roaring, to die. His last verses, in *Macmillan* of this month, seem to be, not the dying swan's song, but a dying Kraken's roar.

Amongst the multifarious divisions of the metropolis, it is portioned out into "milk-walks," and the cowkeeper who purchases the goodwill of a milk-walk seems to believe himself to be, morally at any rate, entitled to a monopoly within the limits of his "walk." The cowkeeper whose walk comprises the district in Upper Norwood in which the Rev Mr Spurgeon resides, bitterly resents the circumstance that of late that eminent divine has taken the precaution to keep his own cows—"ten or a dozen cows," the indignant dairyman avows in communicating his griefs to the local press. It would seem that these cows are kept more for the benefit of the Stockwell Orphanage than for that of Mr Spurgeon. They are a kind of standing bazaar. Their milk is sold at something above the market price for the benefit of the charitable institution with which the great preacher is so closely indentified. But the cowkeeper regards Mr Spurgeon as a poacher upon his special preserves, and probably feels an aversion to Dissent.

Conspicuously displayed in the window of a City shop is a door-mat bearing upon it, worked in darker colours, what is discovered after a little scrutiny to represent a ship in full sail. As a design there is nothing particularly pleasing about it, and the ship, even allowing for the difficulty presented by the material in which it is wrought, has a crude and elementary appearance suggestive of heraldry rather than of decorative design. It does, in fact, represent, I believe, the arms of the Cape of Good Hope, and the mat bears a ticket announcing that its destination is the Town Hall of Cape Town. It strikes one as singular that such an article should have to be ordered from London. One would have imagined that the mat, ship and all, could have been produced by natives or colonial genius. Who can say that our colonies are no good to us when they purchase even their door-mats from us?

Correspondence.

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

BIG FISH IN THE DERWENT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Dear Sir,—In the letter that I sent to you last week I made a mistake in the number of fish caught by G.F. and T.H. Instead of being 323 it was 623. If any person disbelieves my word let them come to me, for I have the number killed every month from March till the 1st of October. I made another error when I stated that the trout caught at Blackhall Mill was 3¼lb.; it should have been 3½lb. But I am greatly astonished at two trout being taken out of Ebchester race 1lb. weight, and the number of dead fish lying between there and Blackhall Mill no man can tell. The anglers in the lower part believe there is no fish left alive, and they think it will be very little use taking out the licence, for there will be no sport; and it is time there was a stop put to this poisoning of the Derwent.—Yours, &c.

G. Farrage.

Spen Colliery, December 2nd, 1884.

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—School Board politics appear to be quite the order of the day at present, and seem to be largely discussed at Dipton. Some are vexed and some are pleased with the state of affairs. I think the ratepayers, at any rate, ought to feel a degree of pleasure that they can read for themselves how matters stand with them and the business transactions of the school. I myself, as a ratepayer, with many others, feel a pleasure in again seeing the balance sheet for the year 1884 appearing in the *Guardian*, and many of the ratepayers, including myself, think the school has done remarkably well. The balance in hand at the end of the financial year £165 19s 10d; the education grant, I consider, is exceedingly large this year, amounting to £467 14s 11d; and the school fees paid by the children is £209 4s 10d; the legal and other expenses are light; the buildings and furniture items seems high, but I have no doubt as to the correctness of the cost, otherwise the auditor (Mr Radford) would not have passed the accounts. I also observe that the Board has been able to pay to the Loan Commissioners £209 0s 8d as interest for the money borrowed by the Board on the school property. I feel thankful that the schools have achieved such excellent results in the past. The out-standing liabilities of the Board at the end of the year, loans from Public Works Loan Commissioners outstanding is yet £5,015 16s, so that we can read for ourselves at what ratio we are reducing the debt upon the school buildings. As ratepayers we feel thankful, and wish for the same success to attend the labours of the teaching staff employed with energy and zeal of the Board, which is required in order to meet the expenses each year, and if possible—or as far as practicable—keep the school rate down at as low a figure as expedient, and thus oblige the ratepayers in the Collierley Township—I remain, yours,

One of the Ratepayers.

December 2nd, 1884.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Considerable speculation is manifested in Dipton as to what will be the ultimate result of the motion brought forward by Mr Robson at the last School Board meeting to raise the rent to the Church party. If I might be allowed to offer an opinion through your paper, I would say Mr Robson's motion does not go far enough, because if it had sought 5s instead of 3s per week it would still have been a reasonable charge, and the sensible part of your readers will hold with me when the following facts are placed before them. We have the Salvation Army here paying 12s per week for a place not half so warm and comfortable as the Board Schools are, and, mark you, finding their own light. Then, again, the miners, when they want any place to hold meetings in, have to pay very dear for it. Only the other week they had to pay 20s for the use of the Co-operative Hall for one night only in which to hold a concert, whereas they had as much right for the use of the schools as any other class. I ask in the name of justice what are the Church party any more than any other body, that they have to be favoured and pampered at the expense of the ratepayers, who, at the present time, have enough burthen to bear? I do not know what to make of Mr Curry and his "dilemma,"—he is like the American "puzzle," very bad to understand; but I hope and trust he will not take the partial advice offered by "Rambler" in your issue of the 21st ult. Apparently that gentleman is either ignorant of the facts of the case, or is looking out for an emolument in the shape of the sexton's office when our new church is built. If he has designs on the latter, I fear he is too late, as I hear the job is taken. It is no small satisfaction to the supporters of Messrs Robson and Martin to read the letters in your last issue by "Ratepayer" and "A Wesleyan," as it shows the working men that the doings of their representatives are approved of in a quarter little expected by them. Your correspondent "A Constant Reader" thinks there is great need of many more sections of the Church. I regret I cannot say the same; there seems to be already too many in the village, judging from the amount of envy generated among the different parties. I honestly believe that a soup kitchen would be of more service at the present time, considering the state of the district. Then, again, he says it is not expected that School Boards are to make money out of any religious denominations, nor yet I should say is it expected that any sect should make money out of School Boards; therefore, it is wise policy on the part of the Board to be on the safe side, and that they will carry out their intended reforms as speedily as possible is the earnest wish of yours, &c.,

Republican.

Dipton, Dec. 3rd, 1884.

[Our correspondent will observe that we have struck out several personal passages in his letter. "Republican" must understand that the School Board has no right to make a profit from letting their premises. The *only* correct way is, we think, to charge the present tenants the actual cost for consumption of gas, coals, and cleaning.—*Ed. C.G.*]

The Special Christmas Number of the *Christian Million* contains many elements of popularity. First, there is the coloured plate, entitled "The Golden Wedding," from the painting by John Morgan, selected from this year's exhibition of the Royal Academy. This picture is an immense success. It is full of sympathy, and appeals irresistibly to the spectator. The fidelity of the reproduction to the original is remarkable, and we are sure that the tens of thousands of sightseers who gazed with so much interest on the original as it hung upon the Academy wall will be delighted to find the opportunity for purchasing so faithful a copy at so nominal a price. The proprietors could hardly have hit upon a happier idea, or one more successfully carried out. Then there are numerous high-class wood engravings of Christmas subjects, such as "Hanging the Mistletoe," "Dreaming of Santa Claus," "The Sailor Boy's Return," "Christmas in the Orphanage," "A Christmas Drive in Canada," "Christmas in the Olden Time," "A Wet Christmas," etc. To these are added Christmas Stories by various well-known authors: "Andrew Nettleworth's Golden Wedding," by J. Jackson Wray, the winner of the Carriage and Pair in the late prize scheme; "Jock's Return, a Christmas Love Story," by F. M. Holmes; "From Door to Door, a Postman's Story," by George Mulchinoch; "Christmas in the Olden Time, my Grandfather's Story," by Alfred H. Miles; "Dorothy Hilcroft's Reward," by William J. Lacey; "Dorothy's Darling, a Soldier's Story,' by M. Munn; "In His Keeping, a Temperance Story," etc. To sum up—there are Eight Complete Christmas Stories, Ten Christmas Pictures, Eight Christmas Articles, Six Christmas Poems, besides Two Christmas Hymns with music. The price for the whole is 6d, and there can be no doubt but that it is a wonderful budget for the money.

TOW LAW LOCAL BOARD.

At the usual monthly meeting, held at the Local Board Offices, Tow Law, on Tuesday night—Mr Joseph Ridley (chairman), presiding—the following members were present, viz.: Dr Johnstone, Messrs W. Ridley, W. R. Teasdale, Chas. Kitchen, W. Atkinson, L. P. Wherly, and the Clerk (Mr E. Milburn).

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting and those of a subsequent special meeting were read over and confirmed.

ILLNESS OF THE INSPECTOR.

A letter was read from Mr W. Garraway, nuisance inspector, informing the Board that he was very ill, and could not attend the meeting.

The Clerk stated that he believed Mr Garraway was confined to his bed.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

This monthly report is given below:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Tow Law Local Board.

Gentlemen,—To complete the metalling of your main roads about three trucks more of limestone will be required for North Road, which I could obtain from Stanhope Workhouse. The large pieces of slag in Wesley Street and Campbell Street, have been taken off, the small slag having been used for filling up the holes, and the lumps deposited in St. Alban's Street. As instructed at the last meeting, I find that the team labour of your Board was let about August, 1883, but I understand the usual time for letting such contracts is in March. The keeping clean of the urinal is being attended to. The railing off of the gas tank has also been completed.

Mr J. Calvert, of Consett, the owner of three houses houses in St. Alban's Street, has requested the Board to construct the footpath, channel, &c., in St. Alban's Street, providing that the other portions of the street are also made. I think a great improvement will be effected by raising the road near the bottom of the Castle Bank at a small expense, but I have not put any limestone on that part until I received instructions from the Board. I think a few traps for the channels will do away with the uneven surface of the railway crossing near to Aynsley's timber yard and Slater Jackson's inn. Mrs Sharpe has resigned her post as office cleaner, and some other person will have to be appointed in her place.

I have deposited with the Board's treasurer to-day £31 5s for coke and tar, the receipt for which I now produce.

MONTHLY PAYBILL.

	£	s.	d.
Main Roads: Manual labour	6	9	0
Team labour	6	12	0
Other Roads: Manual labour	1	2	9
Team labour	0	8	0
Gasworks: Foreman's wages	7	1	6
Streets: Lamp lighting	1	6	0
Office cleaning	0	6	0
Making a total of	£23	5	3
Leaving a balance due to Surveyor ..	5	16	10

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

John Hillary, Surveyor.

Tow Law, Dec. 2nd, 1884.

It was decided to allow the letting of the team labour contracts to lie until March next.

THE CASTLE BANK.

The Surveyor, in answer to the members, explained that the portion of the highway he wished to raise was the bank towards the bottom, nearly opposite to Mr Horae's house. The stuff could be obtained from Mr Bond's foundry at a trifling cost; and it would not only break the fall considerably, but prove a great improvement.

The Board granted permission to effect the necessary alterations.

FINANCE.

The Clerk announced the balance in hand to amount to £264 4s 7d; from which sum the accounts for the current month, representing a total of £53 19s 9d, must be deducted.

THE RATING OF THE N.E.R.

A communication was read from Mr George Cransfield Lee, the rating surveyor for the North-Eastern Railway Company, to the effect that he understood that a general district rate would be made on the 2nd December by the Local Board upon the increased assessment of the Company's property in the parish of Welsingham. The Company were appealing against the new assessment, and he hoped the Board would undertake not to base the Company's rate upon this increased valuation pending the result of the appeal.

The Chairman, in reply to Mr Kitchen, said the amended valuation did not apply to any portion of the railway running through the Local Board's district. The Messrs Hedley were only authorised by the Union Authorities at Stanhope to make a re-valuation of the railway to Wolsingham and the new buildings surrounding the Steelworks at the same place.

Mr Teasdale said that nothing had been mentioned at the Guardians' meeting at Stanhope respecting any increased assessment for the railway at Tow Law; and it must be inferred that Mr Lee was labouring under some misapprehension.

The Clerk compared the assessment in the present rate with the last September rate, and ascertained that the figures were identical; and he was instructed to reply to the Railway Company to the foregoing effect.

THE WEARDALE IRON COMPANY'S PROPERTY.

With regard to the application made at the last meeting by the Weardale Iron and Coal Company, desiring an arrangement for charging the Local Board rates, in future, for cottage property upon one-half, instead of four-fifths, of the rateable value, as they paid the rates whether the tenements were occupied or not, in accordance with section 375 of the Public Health Act, the Clerk stated that he had not been able to glean any information from the Brandon and Byshottles Local Board concerning what was done in their district.

Mr Wherly pointed out that, as the question was left to the discretion of the Local Board, it would be highly desirable to know the system in vogue in Local Board districts in a similar position to their own. He therefore suggested that the Clerk should write to Consett, Bishop Auckland, Spennymoor, and Willington Local Boards for particulars.

Mr Kitchen pointed out that there were different customs in different parishes.

It was agreed to carry out the recommendation of Mr Wherly, and obtain information from those places.

THE CONDITION OF BARING STREET.

A long letter was received from the Local Government Board, relative to the sanitary condition of Baring Street. From the correspondence forwarded to their Lordships, it would appear that the only action taken by the Local Board as the Sanitary Authority was to call the attention of the Weardale Iron Company to the complaint in the Medical Officer's last annual report. The Imperial Board observed that in the last three years the Medical Officer of Health had directed attention to these premises, and in each year there seems to have arisen several cases of typhoid fever. As this state of things could not be allowed to continue, the Whitehall Authorities desired to be informed what steps the Local Board intended to take in the matter.

[The recommendations of Dr Hood in his last yearly report were—that the privies should be removed further back from the houses; the ashpits and middens covered in; and an open channel constructed to run the full length of the back street.]

Mr W. Ridley proposed, and Mr Teasdale seconded, that notice be served upon the Weardale Iron Company to abate the nuisance by carrying out the recommendations of the Medical Officer.

The Clerk was also instructed to forward the Company an extract from Dr Hood's report, as well as a copy of the foregoing letter from the Local Government Board.

INSUFFICENT PRESSURE OF GAS.

Messrs Teasdale, Atkinson, and Wherly having complained of the insufficent pressure of gas throughout the district, the Clerk read a letter from Mr John Englrnd, the treasurer of the Tow Law Mechanics' Institute, who stated that he had received complaints from people taking the Hall of the want of pressure and bad illuminating power of the gas supplied lately, and asking the Board to see that a better pressure is kept on. In his own private house, the gas only had half-an-hour's full pressure when the lights diminished to candle size.

The Chairman was of opinion that there was too much force concentrated near the gas retort when the valve was turned on, and he suggested that the weights should be lifted off the holders during the day, so as to ease the tanks as much as possible, and lowered at nights, in order that full pressure might be in operation. There were no complaints as to the quantity of the gas, and he thought this idea might be tried as an experiment for a few weeks and see if the pressure could not be improved.

The Board had an interview with Mr Kempe, the Gasworks Manager, who attributed the insufficient pressure of the gas to the smallness of the pipe, which was only a 2-inch main, giving what was known as the ten-tenths pressure, or 5·10 feet to the inch. If both the holders were filled with gas, they could not get sufficient pressure through this pipe.

After some discussion, the Board instructed Mr Kempe to act upon the suggestions thrown out by the Chairman for a few weeks; and then if there was no perceptible improvement, the main would have to be taken up and replaced by a larger pipe.

PLANS.

Duplicate plans of the site of the new burial ground at Dan's Castle, also plans and specifications for the completion of St. Alban's Street, were examined by the Board.

THE PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE.

The Clerk read a lengthy correspondence which had passed between Mr Henry White, one of the managers for the Weardale Iron and Coal Company and Mr Godfrey Smith, the North-Eastern passenger superintendent, of Newcastle, relative to the necessity for an improved train service between Tow Law, Consett, and Newcastle. The first letter from Mr White was dated November 25th, and was addressed to the Chairman, asking him to kindly bring before the members of the Board the desirability of petitioning or using other means to induce the North-Eastern Railway Company to alter and amend the passenger train service to and from Tow Law. Mr White had written to Mr Smith urgently requesting him, if possible, to recommence running the 12 train from Tow Law to Newcastle; and if the Company could not see their way clear to run it every day, they might start it as a market train on Saturdays, seeing that it will only require the connection between Tow Law and Consett. Mr White enclosed Mr Smith's reply, and he urged the Local Board and the inhabitants to take the matter up in earnest and see what could be done. The writer added that Mr Douglas, of Peases West Collieries, Crook, had offered to do all he could in the matter.

Mr White, in broaching the subject to Mr Smith, first of all congratulated the Company for the excellent and generous train service hitherto provided for Tow Law; and then went on to express regret, on behalf of a large section of people in Tow Law, that the train accommodation had been seriously interfered with. Mr White suggested that the train now leaving Crook at 11·30 a.m. should run straight through to Consett, arriving at that station in time for to catch the 12·30 p.m. train for Newcastle. This train was considered a great boon by a large number of tradespeople and others, who if they desired to reach Newcastle to transact business must now leave by the 8·25 a.m. train. The train was also preferable to the 2·30 p.m. from Tow Law, as people travelling at that hour did not arrive at Newcastle until 4·15 p.m. If the Company could not see their way to run this train every day, they might start it on Saturdays. In conclusion the writer pointed out that there were 7 trains daily from Newcastle to Consett, and 2 extra on Saturdays; and 6 trains from Consett to Durham; in addition to 2 trains from Newcastle to Consett and *vice versa* on Sundays. At Tow Law there were only 3 trains running each way, and none on Sundays; and surely he thought the Company could do something in the way of assisting them. He understood that the 12 train came to Tow Law and stood at that station, instead of running on to Consett, which is all they asked for.

Mr Smith in reply, begged to say that the train arrangements made would remain in force until January next, the time-tables having been printed up to that date, consequently there would be no alteration in the train service during the present year. Besides, the officials had fully enquired into the matter, and the train service as at present arranged appeared to be ample for the traffic at this time of the year.

The Chairman observed that Mr White was exceedingly anxious that the Board should memorialise the Railway Company, strongly urging them to continue the 12 (noon) train to Consett.

Mr Atkinson stated that this was the most useful train for tradesmen and other people, as they could then go to Newcastle and transact their business after having attended to their letters and correspondence. Now, they were compelled to travel to Newcastle by the first train prior to the arrival of their letters.

Mr Wherly suggested that the 2·30 train form Tow Law to Consett should be discontinued; and if the Board only made this suggestion to the Railway Company, they might succeed in their object.

Mr W. Ridley observed that they did once try to get the train knocked off and substituted for a more convenient one, but they were informed that it was a thorough train and could not be disconnected.

Mr Kitchen thought that attention should be drawn to the lengthened stoppages at Consett Station? It was rediculous to have to wait at that place from 1·10 p.m. to 2 o'clock before the departure of the Tow Law train.

Mr Ridley considered that the train reaching Consett from Newcastle at 11·50 a.m. should run straight through to Tow Law without having to stop at Consett until 2 o'clock.

Mr Kitchen: Certainly; especially when there is nothing else blocking the way.

Mr Ridley was also in favour of the 8·20 a.m. from Consett to Tow Law, leaving an hour or so earlier.

After considerable discussion, the Clerk was authorised to prepare a petition for presentation to the Railway Company, stating that the Board favoured the 7·20 a.m. train from Consett to Crook in preference to the 8·53 a.m. The train arriving at Consett from Newcastle at 11·50 a.m. to reach Tow Law about 1 p.m. instead of 2·30; also the 12 train from Tow Law to Consett to be substituted for the 2·30 p.m.

A DIRTY CROSSING.

Mr White wrote to the Board, on the 25th Nov., urging the necessity for repairing the crossings at the railway gates at West Thornley and Sunniside, inasmuch as they were used by a considerable number of inhabitants, and the road in winter was almost impassable.

The members expressed an opinion that there were other crossings in the district that ought to receive attention as well as these, consequently the question was postponed *sine die*.

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

The traffic returns of the North-Eastern Railway Company for the week ending November 29th, show a decrease in the receipts of £10,133, as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year.

In the December Part of Cassell's Magazine, which will form the first part of a new volume, two new serial stories will be commenced, one entitled "Sweet Christabel," by Miss Arabella Hopkinson, and the other "A Diamond in the Rough," by the author of "Horace Maclean." A new feature, entitled "Our Reading Club" will be included, its object being to supply every information required for the formation and arrangement of reading clubs, suitable programmes for reading, &c.

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

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

THE NORTHERN IRON TRADE.

DR. WATSON'S AWARD: WAGES UNALTERED.

On Wednesday, the officials of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the North of England Iron Trade received the award of Dr Spence Watson, by which it will be seen that the arbitrator refuses to make a reduction of wages. Mr Watson says:—Will you permit me, in handing you my third award, to express my strong conviction that, in the interest of all connected with your trade, a determined effort should be made to arrive at some method of periodically settling the rate of wages without having recourse to that which is but an imperfect tribunal at the best? Conciliation, as the title or your Board, precedes arbitration, and rightly so. By resorting to conciliation you retain the control over your difficulties and settle them by mutual concession and forbearance, whereas by arbitration you remit them to the decision of another person, often an outsider, who can in few instances have the full knowledge of their complexities which you yourselves possess. But the automatic action of a sliding scale prevents even the slight collision entailed by the negotiations consequent upon conciliation. That no scale has yet been framed to work successfully is nothing to the point. Success is the fruit of failure properly appreciated. I would suggest with much diffidence that it may be found that in framing a scale it is a mistake to consider the amount above shillings for pounds as a fixed and invariable sum. There is no reason why it should not vary as price rose or fell, if the successful working of the scale were assisted thereby. I may also say that, although I have found more difficulty in arriving at a decision this time than on the previous occasions, I have been much aided by the full and able arguments brought forward at the hearing. I cannot but congratulate you upon the conspicuous fairness which was shown by each side towards the other, and express the earnest hope that the dark cloud at present over-shawdowing your industry may speedily pass away.

The questions submitted to me for decision were:—

The claim of the employers for a reduction of 6d per ton on puddling, and 5 per cent. on all other wages, to take effect from the 27th September.

The claim of the operatives for an advance of 6d per ton on puddling, and 5 per cent on all other forge and mill wages, to take effect from the same date.

The period for which I was empowered to fix wages was two months from the same date, but this has since been extended as aforesaid.

Having carefully weighed the statements made before me, and considered the arguments founded thereon, and the bearing of prior references upon the present position of affairs, I award: That the present rate of wages continue to be paid until the last Saturday in January, 1885.

INAUGURATION OF A MINERS' HALL AT LEADGATE.

The opening ceremony in connection with the inauguration of a miners' hall at Leadgate, was performed on Saturday afternoon last. The building in question, which is situate in Watling Street, is a handsome and substantial-looking structure, originally erected by the United Free Methodist Society of the Consett and Leadgate circuit, and has hitherto been used as a place of worship for that body, until the funds dwindled down to a low ebb and the congregation seriously diminished, when it was deemed necessary to discontinue the services. The chapel was eventually mortgaged, and has been closed for over twelve months. The Executive of the Durham Miners' Association succeeded in purchasing the structure from the mortgagee, Mrs Benson. It is intended to set apart the hall for public entertainments, meetings, concerts, &c., and when occasion arises, for gatherings in connection with the local miners' lodges. Sitting accommodation is provided for about 300 persons, in addition to a commodious platform. Attached thereto is a spacious ante-room, which will be improvised as a place of amusement and recreation for the miners of the district. Although the building is the sole property of the Durham Miners' Association, full powers are vested in the hands of a Committee of Management, consisting of three representatives from each of the Consett Iron Company's three local collieries, viz., Iveston, Medomsley, and the Eden Pit, and three members from the adjacent colliery at East Castle, which belongs to a firm in Newcastle. The Consett Iron Company have offered to support the recreation-room and intend presenting two sets each of draughts, chess, and dominoes, together with the necessary tables and other accessories, and have promised to do all in their power to set the movement afloat. Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., the general manager of the Consett Iron Company, proposes to contribute an annual donation of two guineas towards the funds; the East Castle Colliery owners (through Mr J. Swallow) have given five guineas; while several of the leading residents in Consett and Leadgate have subscribed other sums. The ceremonial on Saturday afternoon opened with a public meeting held in the hall, when Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., presided. There was a numerous attendance of miners and their friends.

The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, said that every village ought to possess its large public hall, where men could assemble together for the purpose of developing and elevating their moral, educational, and social condition. Every place ought to boast of its village green, where working men, after their daily toil, could meet for recreative purposes; and their children, and even their wives, could play and amuse themselves. The speaker advocated at some length the principles of temperance, especially amongst the mining classes of the country; and concluded by expressing a fervent hope that the movement inaugurated that afternoon would be a great success, and that working men would take every opportunity of availing themselves of the advantages afforded by such an excellent institution. (Applause).

Mr John Forman, president of the Durham Miners' Association, referred to the principles of co-operation as being the outcome of trades' unionism, and if the movement was only supported by miners and others it would lead to the most beneficial and practical results.

Mr W. Crawford, secretary of the Durham Miners' Association, and Mr John Wilson, treasurer of the same association, also spoke in terms of congratulation that the miners of Leadgate had attained such a beautiful and commodious building.

The other speakers included the Revs J. W. Mitchell, M.A., vicar of Leadgate, and Wm. Batey, Primitive Methodist Minister, of Durham; Mr W. H. Hedley, of Medomsley, head viewer over the Consett Iron Company's collieries; and Mr Daniel Reed, miners' delegate, of Leadgate.—On the motion of Mr Geo. Nicholson, of Leadgate, votes of thanks were accorded to the Consett Iron Company for their generous assistance, and to Mr Jenkins for presiding.

Subsequently a public tea was provided, and was partaken of by about 250 persons. In the evening a miscellaneous concert was given, when Mr D. Reed occupied the chair.—An attractive programme of songs, recitations, &c., was contributed by Misses O'Brien and M. Bell; Mrs R. Bartle; and Messrs J. Pullerson, Cockburn, J. Hunter, F. Brodie, and Chatt; while Mr Robson performed some dances. A string band was in attendance, and Mr R. Bartle presided at the harmonium. The highly successful proceedings were brought to a close with a coffee supper, which was well patronized.

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

Business Announcements.

THIRTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

MR. MARKHAM, SURGEON DENTIST, of Newcastle, Attends at Miss WILLIAMS', No. 4, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY, from 11 a.m to 3 p.m.

ESTABLISHED 1830. 962p

STEAM TO WEST AUSTRALIA, &c. AMERICA, AND AFRICA.
PLATE GLASS INSURANCE.
FIRE, LIFE, AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

WILL. ELLIOTT,
ASSISTANT OVERSEER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT

BRICKS! SANITARY PIPES!

FIRE BRICKS, 2½in. and 3in., Quarls, various sizes, Ground Fire-Clay, Common RED BRICKS, RIDGE TILES, FIRE BRICKS for Glendinning Ovens, FLUE BRICKS, CHIMNEY TOPS, KITCHEN SINKS, GULLIES, JUNCTIONS, BENDS, ELBOWS, TAPERS, GARDEN EDGING, CEMENT, PLASTER, LATHS, HAIR LIME, TACKS, SAND, COALS, COKE, &c., &c., can be Supplied in Large or Small Quantities by applying to

R. CURRY AND CO.,
DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

STOCK of BRICKS, PIPES, &c., at DELVES LANE DEPOT.
CEMENT, PLASTER, &c., at WAREHOUSE, GIBSON STREET.
8644

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

☞ HALL'S is the RIGHT SHOP for all who want a good Article combined with Cheapness.

STARCHES, BLUES, PATENT MEDICINES, and all PACKETED GOODS 10 to 50 per cent. Cheaper than the usual Prices.

JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 298t

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

GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.

INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.

OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.

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

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

HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD. REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save calves from that inflammatory fever commonly called quarter-ill or Black Leg.

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

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION 427r

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

J. McINTOSH,
(Cutter for the late Mr. T. S. Atkinson, of Consett),
HAS REMOVED his Business to JESSAMINE COTTAGE, BENFIELDSIDE EDGE ROAD, BLACKHILL,
☞ ALL ORDERS WILL RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

ROBERT SAVILLE,
HAIRDRESSER,
13, NELSON STREET, CONSETT.

UMBRELLAS COVERED AND REPAIRED ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.
☞ GRINDING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

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

F. A. AND E. WELCH,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN 920t

THE SCIENTIFIC DRESS CUTTING ASSOCIATION,
Have appointed Miss ELLIOTT, 49, Durham Road, Blackhill, sole Agent for Consett, Blackhill, and District.
Classes daily from 10 to 12, and 2 to 5, or as arranged for. Lessons also given to Classes of Ladies at their Residences if desired. To commence March 31st. Send Address for Circular. 871s

FURNITURE AND HARDWARE SOLD UPON THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM.

DISCOUNT 2s. IN THE POUND FOR CASH ONLY

WILLIAM WILKINSON,
CATCHGATE,
BEGS to inform his friends that owing to the great increase of business he has had to take the whole of his premises to meet the demands of his customers, and is now prepared with a well selected Stock of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, in all its Branches. Also, HARDWARE, GLASS, CHINA, CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY. WEDDING RINGS from the best makers—Wholesale and Retail.
Agent for the New Patent Table Wringing and Mangling Machine, Hickman and Clar Coffin Furniture, and Patent Horse Nails. 371r

J. BATES,
JOINER, UNDERTAKER, AND FURNITURE BROKER,
SECOND-HAND FURNITURE BOUGHT, SOLD, OR EXCHANGED.
☞ HARVEY STREET, CONSETT. 305t

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

ANY Person Removing, Altering, or Tampering with any Meter, Pipe, or other Property of the above Gas Company, or Consuming Gas upon any Premises without first having obtained permission from the Secretary to the said Company, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.—By order,
M. RICHLEY, Secretary
Gas Office, Shotley Bridge. 148t

R. VON DIX,
THE PHOTOGRAPHER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
HALF-DOZEN CARDE-DE-VISITES AND ONE CABINET FOR 3s. 6d. SPLENDID FINISH.

JOHN WALKER & CO.,
BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS TO THE QUEEN,
GLASGOW,
BEG particularly to call the attention of the Public to the superior quality of their Biscuits, which are manufactured only from the finest machines.
They submit a few of their Specialties, which are well worthy of a trial, viz:—Alberts, rich Tea, Wine, Shaughran, Water, Ginger Nuts, extra Toast, Digestive (rich and royal); also, their famed Scotch Farls (rich) and Scotch Oat Cakes (plain). These can be had from all Grocers, and from their Wholesale Agents,
CURRY & CO, CONSETT. 119

JOHN JOHNSON,
JOINER, AND CONTRACTOR,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD (near the British Schools),
CONSETT,
PREPARES Plans of Houses, together with strict and exhaustive Written Specifications for each Branch of the Building Trade.
Specimens of both may be seen at any time.
Charge moderate, being 2 per cent. on the value of the property to be built.
N.B.—Beams, Rafters, Posts, &c., subject to heavy strains, will have their dimensions determined by Mechanical and Trigonometrical Formulæ, instead of trusting to mere guess work. 278t

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Public Notices.

GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.
The District Auditor's Acts, 1879 (42 Vict. c. 6).

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE BY THE GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 29TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1884.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance on 29th Sept., 1884	227	15	9
„ Grants from the Committee of Council on Education (including Grants from the Science and Art Department)	299	5	4
„ Payments made to the Treasurer by Rating Authorities, at 5d. per pound	200	8	10
„ School Fees	133	12	5
„ Books and other Articles Sold to Children	113	11	0
	£874	13	4

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenses of Administration:						
By Election Expenses	45	1	6			
„ Legal and other Expenses of Administration	2	3	0	47	4	6
Expenses of Maintenance of Public Elementary Schools:						
„ Salaries of Teachers	396	13	3			
„ Books, Apparatus, and Stationery	81	14	5			
„ Fuel, Light, and Cleaning, and Replacement of Furniture, and Repairs to Buildings and Furniture	90	10	9			
„ Rates, Rents, Taxes, and Insurance	19	7	6			
„ Other Expenses of Maintenance	4	16	3	593	2	2
Loans:						
„ Repayment of Principal of Loans	68	16	0			
„ Interest on Loans	60	16	0	129	12	0
Total Expenditure				£769	18	8
„ Balance on 29th Sept. in hands of Treasurer				104	14	8
				£874	13	4

OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES OF THE BOARD AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

	£	s.	d.
Loans from Public Works Loan Commissioners	£1685	12	0

MEMORANDUM.

	£	s.	d.
Total Expenditure	769	18	8
Deduct— Parliamentary Grants	299	5	4
Net Expenditure to be certified for the purposes of the above Act	£470	13	4

I Certify that this account has been examined and passed by the School Board as provided by Sec. 17 of the Act 36 and 37 Vict., c. 86.

ROBERT MITCHINSON, Jun., Chairman, 5th day of November, 1884.
W. W. THOMPSON, Clerk to the School Board, 27th day of October, 1884.

I hereby Certify that I have compared the entries in the above Statement with the Vouchers and other Documents relating thereto, and that the regulations with respect to such Statement have been duly complied with.

I hereby further Certify that I have ascertained by Audit the correctness of such Statement, and that the total amount Expended as above by the School Board during the year ended the Twenty-ninth day of September 1884, and allowed by me at the Audit, is £769 18s. 8d., and that the Expenditure for the purposes of the Act 42, Vict., c. 6, and allowed by me, is £470 13s. 4d.

As witness my hand this Fourteenth day of November, 1884. JAMES RADFORD, District Auditor.

MARLEY HILL CRICKET CLUB.

A GRAND EVENING CONCERT will be given in the Board Schools, Marley Hill, on Monday Evening, December 8th, 1884.
JAS. GILCHRIST, Esq., in the chair. 840t
Doors open at 6·30; Concert to commence at 7 p.m.
Adm[illegible] Reserved Seats, 2s.; Second Seats, 1s.

[illegible] CHURCH, LEADGATE.

ON Monday Evening, Jan. 7th, 1885, a COFFEE SUPPER in the Infants' School-room, Church Square; and on Easter Monday and Tuesday, a Grand BAZAAR.
Full Particulars in next week's *Guardian.*
R. W. SHAW, EDWARD TODD, } Churchwardens.
873t

BAZAAR! BAZAAR!!

A BAZAAR!

FOR THE
SALE OF FANCY AND USEFUL GOODS,
Will be opened on Monday, Dec. 15th, 1884, in the CONSETT PRIMITIVE METHODIST SCHOOL-ROOM, BY W. HANDYSIDE, Esq., of Newcastle,
And continued on Two following Days.
☞ Refreshments, Ingenious Toys, Orchestral Music, &c., &c. 843t

A LECTURE,

ON
"GENERAL GORDON,"
The Hero of the Soudan, will be given in the TOWN HALL, CONSETT, on MONDAY, Dec. 8th,
by the
REV. T. GUTTERY, of Sunderland.

Chair to be taken at 7·15 by Mr. A. BRODIE.
Admission, 6d.; Reserved Seats, 1s. 841t

W. H. MADDISON,
IN returning his sincere thanks to the Public of Dipton and the District generally, begs to intimate that he has now got all Alterations of Premises completed, and hopes by strict attention to Business as heretofore to receive their support in the future.
Hearses, Mourning Coaches, and Conveyances of all kinds for Hire on the Shortest Notice.
Note Address—
W. H. MADDISON,
REDWELL HILLS, LEADGATE. 838t

ROBERT CHRISTOPHER,
IN returning his sincere thanks to the public of Consett and District for the kind and generous support they have afforded him during the last six years, begs to intimate that he has Purchased the HEARSE and MOURNING lately owned by Mr. T. MOIR, and he hopes by strict attention to Business to merit the share of support he has hitherto enjoyed.
Hearses, Mourning Coaches, and Conveyances of all description for Hire on the Shortest Notice.
Note the Address—
CHRISTOPHER'S
LIVERY AND MOURNING ESTABLISHMENT,
DELVES LANE, CONSETT. 839t

JUST ISSUED.
Super Royal Quarto, handsomely bound, gilt and bevelled edges, Price £1 1s.
SUITABLE FOR A SCHOOL PRIZE OR GIFT BOOK.

VIEWS

OF
MANSIONS & PLACES OF INTEREST
IN THE
LANCHESTER AND DERWENT VALLEYS,
AND
PORTRAITS OF LOCAL MEN
BY GEORGE NEASHAM, DURHAM.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

PORTRAITS.

William Jenkins	1
Matthew Kearney	2
William Hedley	3
George Hedley	4
Thomas Colpitts Granger	5
John Graham Lough	6
John Annandale	7
John Renton	8
Joshua Lax	9
John Surtees	10
Robert Smith Surtees	11

VIEWS, &c.

The Ford, the Seat of M. Kearney, Esq., J.P.			12
Lanchester Church			13
Burnhopeside, the Seat of Geo. Hedley, Esq., J.P.			14
Crookhall			15
Consett			16
Consett Iron Works			17
Greencroft, the Seat of Thomas Taylor-Smith, Esq.			18
Greenhead, the Birthplace of Lough the Sculptor			19
Lough's Mile			20
Shotley Grove			21
Shotley Bridge in 1840, from a Drawing by T. M. Richardson			22
The Bridge at Shotley	Do.	Do.	23
Shotley Bridge Spa	Do.	Do.	24
Colpike, the Seat of Edward Taylor-Smith, Esq., J.P.			25
Ebchester Church			26
Ebchester Church before being Restored			27
Medomsley Church			28
Hamsterley, the Seat of the Misses Surtees			29
Hamsterley, from the West			30
Handley Cross Bridge			31
Broadwood, the Seat of Geo. Garry Taylor-Smith Esq., J.P.			32

Mr. ROBERT JACKSON, proprietor of the *Consett Guardian*, has been appointed Sole Agent for the Sale of the above Work in the Consett District, and will send a copy to any address on receipt of a Postal Order for One Guinea. 521t

MUSIC! MUSIC!! MUSIC!!!

WESLEYAN CHAPEL, DIPTON.

A SERVICE OF SONG, of Old Methodist Tunes and Anthems, will be given by the Consett Wesleyan Choir, on Wednesday Evening, December 10th, 1884. Conductor, Mr. GEO. LUMLEY; Harmoniumist, Mr. C. STELLING. Chair to be taken by Mr. T. J. MUSE, of Castleside, at Quarter-past Seven.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

SMITHFIELD CATTLE SHOW.

ON SUNDAY, December 7th, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave CONSETT at 8·20 p.m., for LONDON.
Fare, There and Back, Third Class, 13s. 6d.
The Return Train will leave King's Cross Station, London, at 10·20 p.m., on Tuesday, December 9th. 864t

DICTATED FROM A BED OF SICKNESS.

HAVING so far recovered from a severe attack of Inflammation in the Bowels, I must thank God, and my Medical Gentleman—W. M. Renton, Esq.—and thank my numerous patrons, for their kindness in waiting for my recovery; and should the improvement continue, I hope to be at their respective places next week.
JOSEPH J. HARRISON, Sweep, &c.
Mansion House, Mayor's Chambers, Shotley Bridge, Dec. 4th, 1884. 868t

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

For Five Nights only. Commencing on Tuesday December 9th, 1884. Day Exhibition on Saturday at 3 o'clock, and Every Evening at 8—Doors open half-an-hour previous to each Entertainment.

DRAKE'S GREAT MOVING DIORAMA from LONDON to INDIA and back, in 2 hours, including all the great events in Egypt and the Soudan, Bombardment of Alexandria, Charge of the Guards at Kassasin, Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, Battle of Teb.
☞ A Talented Variety Company appears at each Entertainment. Saturday positively the last day.
On account of the depression in trade, the Prices will be reduced as follows, viz:—Front Seats, 1s.; Second, 6d.; Back, 3d.

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

☞ Royal Auction Mart, Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside.

On Monday, December 8th, 1884,
MESSRS. NICHOLSON & MURRAY will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
15 to 20 Incalving Cows and Heifers.
14 Prime Fat Cattle, mostly stall fed.
130 Fat Sheep, including a consignment of extra grand 2 year old Cheviot Wethers.
Several Store Cattle.
Calves, Pigs, Poultry, &c.
1 Black Cart Mare, aged, a well-known good worker.
A large consignment of Brown Earthenware, suitable for Farmers, Gardeners, and General Householders, consisting chiefly of Pankins, Milk Bowls, Milk Dishes, Cream Pots, Garden Pots, Lard Pots, Loaf Pots, Beetle Traps, Pickling Mugs, &c.
☞ Sale to commence with the Ware at One o'clock to a minute. 862t

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

By Mr. William Nicholson

Low Meadows, one mile from Lanchester Station.
MR. WILLIAM NICHOLSON, instructed by the Representatives of the late MICHAEL BUCKHAM, will SELL BY AUCTION, without the least reserve, on Wednesday, 10th December, 1884, the whole of the Valuable FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, HAY, DAIRY UTENSILS, and a portion of the Household FURNITURE, consisting of

CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, &c.
3 Superior Short-horn Cows, Spring calvers.
1 Do. do. time up.
1 Extra Prime Short-horn Heifer, due to calve in February.
3 Two years old Short-horn Heifers.
10 Short-horn Steers, from 18 months to 2 years old.
1 Short-horn Stirk, 6 months old.
3 Short-horn Calves, 3 to 5 months old.
7 Leicester and Half-bred Ewes, in Lamb.
2 Leicester Gimmer Hoggs.
1 Leicester Tup Hogg.
6 Shott Pigs.
20 Hens.
5 Ducks.

IMPLEMENTS, &c.
3 Ladders; Sheep Troughs; Corn Bin; Scythes; Cow Bands; Sheep Rack; Grindstone; Gig, and Harness, little worse than new; Rakes, Spades, Forks, Shovels, and other articles too numerous to mention.
3 Stacks and 1 Stamp of prime Old-land Hay, to be taken off the Premises, about 40 tons in all.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND DAIRY UTENSILS.
1 Camp and 1 Four-poled Bedstead; Kitchen Table; Longsettle, &c.; 2 Barrel Churns; Butter Tub; Scales and Weights; Milk Bowls; Milk Cans, &c.
Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt
Refreshments will be supplied by Mr. P. Hodgson, Lanchester.
Sale Offices, Stowe House, Cornsay,
2nd December, 1884. 865t

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket.
The Oldest Established in the City.
SALES BY AUCTION of HORSES, CARRIAGES and SADDLERY, EVERY TUESDAY, at Two o'clock.
Entries respectfully solicited.
A. T. CROW, Auctioneer.
JOHN PEEL, Proprietor

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

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Iveston, Leadgate.—Sale of well-built and pleasantly-situate Copyhold Dwelling-House, with large Front Garden and good Yard, with every Convenience behind.

ADAM BRODIE is instructed by Mr. JOHN ARMSTRONG, of East Castle Colliery, to offer for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the House of Mr. THOMAS LONGSTAFF, Masons' Arms Inn, Leadgate, on Thursday December 11th, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions to be then and there produced and read, all that well-built and neat Copyhold DWELLING-HOUSE, situate in the pleasant village of Iveston, with a Frontage of 18ft. to the main street, and a depth of 102ft. from front to back, and covering 204 square yards of Ground, and containing Four good Rooms, with large front Garden and good Yard behind, with every Convenience thereunto belonging, as formerly occupied by the Owner.

The Premises may be viewed on application to Mr. WARD, School Attendance Officer, Iveston (two doors from the said premises), and further particulars may be had from the aforesaid Mr. JOHN ARMSTRONG, East Castle Colliery, or from the Auctioneer at his Office, Town Hall, Consett. 852t

Immediate possession may be obtained.

ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Estate Agent, Consett, undertakes the Sale by Public Auction or otherwise, of Houses and Land, Farming Stocks, Household Furniture, Merchandise, or other Effects, on reasonable terms. Valuations for Probate, Dissolution of Partnership, and Settlement of Claims under Fire Insurances, or in Disputes. Fire, Life, and Accident Assurances arranged without delay. Shares of every description Bought and Sold on Commission. The Victoria Sale-Rooms are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale.
Postal Address—ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart
MONDAY FIRST, DECEMBER 8th, 1884
PRESENT ENTRIES—
20 Dairy Cows and Heifers.
4 Geld Cows.
12 S. H. Steers and Heifers, 1 to 2 years old.
20 Irish Heifers, 2½ years old, good quality.
6 Prime Fat Highland Kyloes.
2 S. H. Heifers, fat.
120 Fat Sheep.
1 Brown Horse, 15 hands, aged.
Calves, Pigs, &c.
1 Cur Dog.
2 Cake Mills }
2 Chaff Cutters. } All New.
4 Turnip Slicers }
1 Ton Straw.
Entries taken up to day of Sale.
Sale to commence with Fat Sheep at Ten o'clock.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Partridge Close, Tow Law. 863t

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Albion House, West Stanley.—Wednesday and Thursday, 17th and 18th December, 1884.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, honoured with instructions from Mr. M. RIDLEY, of the above Establishment, who is going abroad, will SELL, as above, all his Superior and Modern Household FURNITURE, &c., of which the following is a brief synoptical Summary:—Excellent Cottage Piano, in Walnut, by the celebrated Sewell and Sewell; very fine Harmonium, in Figured Walnut, with 8 Stops; Music Stool; Mahogany Centre Table; Walnut Oval Table, on Pillar, beautifully Inlaid and Carved Stalk, superior Folding Table; Mahogany Sofa, Hair Stuffing and Seating; 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating; 6 French-polished Birch Chairs; Mahogany Easy Chair; Bed-room Chairs; Child's Chair; Mahogany Cheffloneer Bedstead; Three-fold Screen; Bookcase; Fancy Walnut Table; Tapestry and other Carpets; splendid Eight-days' Clock, in tall Mahogany Case; Eight-days' Marble Timepiece; small Timepiece; Mahogany Drawers; Polished Ash Press; Half-tester and French Iron Bedsteads; Feather and Down Beds; Bed-room Furniture for Four Bed-rooms; handsome Lot of Pictures and Ornaments; good Oilcloth; Passage Oilcloth; Half-Cabinet Belgravia Sewing Machine, Silver-plated; Patent Wringer; Writing Desk; Tea Urn, &c.

Also, Four-wheeled Phaeton and Cushions, in capital preservation; Grey Pony, 13½ h.h., perfectly quiet and a good worker, 7 years old; Pony Harness; Saddle and Bridle; Ladder; Stable Appointments; 500 3in. Fire Bricks; large Shop Mirror; Shop Chairs and Stools; Shop Steps; likewise the whole of the Gas Fittings, Chandeliers, &c., in House and Shop; Shop Fixtures, Counters, &c., which are all the best make and of the best material, unless previously disposed of. See Bills for detailed particulars.

ORDER OF SALE.—Part of the Bed-rooms and most of the best Furniture will be Sold on Wednesday; the Piano, Pony, Phaeton, Harness, &c., at Three o'clock the same day. The Harmonium and remaining Furniture on Thursday. 871t

Sale to begin each day at Eleven o'clock prompt.

CHEAP EMIGRATION TO AMERICA
EMIGRANTS WANTED BY THE 1,000
FARES REDUCED—£2 16s. 0d. from Liverpool to America, by the BEST LINES. Children Half-price.
APPLY TO A. PHILLIPSON, AUCTIONEER, DIPTON.

By Mr. William Raw.

Valuable Freehold Properties for Sale.

MR. WILLIAM RAW, honoured with instructions from the Executors of the late Robert Dickinson, Esq., will Offer for SALE BY AUCTION, the following Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTIES, at the house of Mr. GEORGE BROWN, Railway Hotel, Consett, on Wednesday, December 17th, 1884, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon:—

LOT 1.—All that Valuable FREEHOLD FARM, called "Burnhill Farm," near Waskerley, in the County of Durham, containing 80 Acres more or less, with Dwelling House, Stable, Large Byer, and Hay Loft, and Large Loose House.

The Land is in a high state of cultivation, being all thoroughly drained. 10 Acres of which is in excellent Meadow, well watered all the year round with a running stream, and springs for home use, and bounded with a good stone wall.

LOT 2.—Comprises Six very good DWELLING-HOUSES each containing 3 Rooms, and all necessary Conveniences, with Gardens attached, situated at Staniforddham, within a short distance of Consett Iron Works, and now in the occupation of Messrs. Hopper, Kirkup, Armstrong, Harris, Brownlee, and Spencer, as Tenants thereof.

The Houses are nearly new, and most substantially built, and the situation very desirable, affording a safe and sure investment for Purchasers.

LOT 3.—Contains 10 Acres of excellent MEADOW LAND, also situated at Staniforddham. There is a large Hay House, which can easily be made into a good Dwelling-House, and also a large Cattle shed.

The Land is well watered, and very productive, and must necessarily be in great demand, being close to Consett Iron Works.

Mr. LAMBERT HALL, on the premises, will show Burnhill Farm; the present Tenants will show the Houses; and for further particulars apply to the Executors, Quay Exchange Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne; or to the Auctioneer.

Sale Office, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 876t

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

Business Announcements.

THE NEW
COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINE
From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills; also BURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at
THOMAS BOSTON'S,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

MOST MONEY LENT

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

Business Announcements.

CARRIAGES.

J. COWEN,
CARRIAGE BUILDER,
HEXHAM,
HAS FOR SALE, NEW DOG CARTS and WHITECHAPELS of most substantial make, elegant designs, and fine finish. For quality and price they are the cheapest in the market, and never fail to give satisfaction.
Carriages of any description built to order.
Repairs of all kinds well and cheaply done.
Gentlemen waited on, and Estimates given. 668s

MEDICINES!

One of the most severe and protracted trade struggles, within memory of the oldest resident in Newcastle continues to disturb the peace, profits, and prospects of north-country Chemists and Druggists. An interesting circumstance (inseparably associated with this struggle), that cannot too frequently or too forcibly be impressed upon public attention, *is the irrefutable fact that*

J. ROBERTS,
1, New Bridge Street, and 97, Clayton Street, was the first Newcastle Chemist to adopt and advertise the most extraordinary concessions in the price of popular Patent Medicines ever attempted in Newcastle, which fact (when known) *at once determines intelligent purchasers whereat to procure this class of preparations, as well as other forms of Medicine.*
☞ 1, NEW BRIDGE STREET, 97, CLAYTON STREET. 685t

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

Mr JOHN PARKER, butcher, of Leadgate, writes to say that he is not the William Parker whose name has so frequently appeared in the newspapers recently.

PUBLICO.—Too late for insertion this week.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 1884.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

There is always something remarkable transpiring at Consett. The inhabitants are never troubled with that curious distemper known as *ennui*, at least they ought not to be so affected, for there is always some good genii pulling the strings for their especial amusement or edification, as the case may be. The reader will see by the advertising columns that the Rev W. Spurgeon, the far-famed lecturer and preacher, is about to pay a passing visit to Consett. Mr Spurgeon is cousin to the still more famous London preacher of that name. This will be his first visit to Consett, and it has been brought about at the instance of the deacons of the Baptist Church of this town. The rev lecturer has just completed a series of engagements in Scotland, and the representatives of the press seem to vie with one another in according him honour. The subject of the lecture to be given at Consett is a most interesting one—"Popular Follies and Common Mistakes"—and in the hands of so excellent a master of eloquence cannot fail to command a full house. Mr Spurgeon is prepared to lecture on many subjects, but the one chosen by our Consett friends seems to be the best in the budget. The Primitive Methodists of Consett have very generously placed their neat and commodious chapel at the disposal of their next-door neighbours, the Baptists; and as the last-named are a lively but struggling congregation the public will, I have no doubt, go hand in hand with them on this occasion. It is seldom that so distinguished a pulpit orator graces these outlying towns with a visit; and I would strongly advise my readers to stretch a point to hear this deservedly popular preacher and lecturer—Rev W. Spurgeon.

It has been said that the man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before is a benefactor to his country; and if the saying is applicable all round, Mr Shaw, of Leadgate, deserves at least a passing token of recognition; inasmuch as he has furnished employment for fifty operatives, who under the circumstances would have had to count their fingers, or go further a-field for employment. Leadgate is only a sleepy-looking spot, and has but a common history. The public will, I am sure, wish Mr Shaw success in the curious enterprise of stocking-making. It would be interesting to know whence that ray of inspiration came. One would hardly have thought that such a drowsy corner of the world would ever have been famed for anything in particular; but surprises usually come from quarters where they are least expected. The next time the proprietor of this journal issues his district almanack he will be in a position to elaborate in this wise: "Leadgate, a town of considerable importance, and celebrated for its stocking factory!" That will look charming; but apart from joking, it is really a good thing for the district; and if other enterprising spirits would try their hands at some very unlikely speculation, Consett, Blackhill, and Leadgate would soon become one grand, flourishing town, if not a city. This would be a sure way to bring about that desideratum about which our district politicians have for long manifested considerable solicitude—an electoral district proper, and a brand new-made M.P. to watch over our social and political interests and growing trade.

The decision of the Government to augment the strength of the navy will probably give an impetus to the shipbuilding industry, more especially that the orders are likely to be placed in the hands of private firms. The Government orders have hitherto fallen into the hands of the favoured few, and the recent departure from the beaten track will be welcomed by those who have heretofore been left outside the mystic circle.

There is little or no change in the aspect of the ordinary shipbuilding trade. Few of the Tyneside firms are doing much, some of them literally nothing. Messrs C. S. Swan and Hunter have worked steadily during the current depression, and the whole of the berths—four in number—in their West yard are now occupied. Their East yard, which is much larger, has been closed for about twelve months. It was opened only a few months prior to the present lull in shipbuilding; and the whole of the machinery is quite new. Two large steamers were launched from this yard, and two which were being built on "spec" are suspended *pro tem.* This firm will, I understand, launch a steamer, measuring 318ft, on Tuesday next, and her berth will shortly be filled by another steamer to be built of steel. This will be the third steel boat in course of construction in this yard.

Touching on shipbuilding reminds me of the spirit of rivalry existing between iron and steel manufacturers in the north and west of England, and their contemporaries in the west of Scotland. The exceeding low tariffs for shipments seems to favour the latter, and in quoting for contracts they not unfrequently outbid their equally enterprising brethren in the north and west. Shiploads of steel plates are brought to the Tyne at very low figures. I had a chat the other day with the captain of a small steamer who had brought a cargo of this species from Grangemouth to the Tyne, and the bluff seaman declared that the rate of transit was so miserably low that it would hardly pay for dock dues and the working expenses of the ship. He was coming, he said, to the Tyne for pig iron at any rate, or he should never have shipped so unprofitable a cargo. The Stockton and Middlesbrough firms have also a good opportunity afforded them of supplying the builders on the Tyne and Wear at very low carrying figures. Instead of steamers or sailing ships, recourse is had to what is known as towing craft, and ungainly looking customers they are. Old luggers minus the masts, a kind of hybrid between a keel and a Dutch lugger. A class of superannuated ships which in their dotage never leave port except under escort of a steam tug. These coasting carriers bring round iron at 2s per ton, just half the price charged by the railway companies for bringing the same product overland. It will thus be seen that iron and steel makers at a distance are able to run a close race with local men.

Since writing the above, I see by yesterday (Thursday) morning's *Newcastle Chronicle* that this question is raised by a correspondent who is at a loss to understand why hundreds of tons of shipbuilding material is shipped from Scotland to the Tyne. The writer in question is of opinion that something is seriously wrong when shipbuilders are forced to go beyond the Tyne for their own material. What I have written will in part explain the mystery—the extremely low cost of transit by water. Another phase of the question, and the main one at issue, is the fact that the Scotch manufacturers of ship-plates are evidently content to go in for smaller profits. Their quotations are lower than our home makers, and our shipbuilders, like other people, get their material where they can buy it cheapest—the lowest bidder gets the lion's share of the custom.

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

[By "RAMBLER."]

The Blue Mountains Public Park Scheme appears to be assuming definite proportions, for I understand that the deputations from the two Local Boards have arranged to confer with Mr Wm. Jenkins, at the Consett Offices, on Tuesday next. No one can foretell the result of the interview, but it is to be devoutly hoped that a satisfactory arrangement will be arrived at; and that ere long the operations in connection with the public park for Consett and Blackhill will be in progress.

⁂

Although the existence of the Consett Choral Society has been somewhat obscured from the view of the outside public for many months past, still their re-appearance in the musical world on Wednesday night was a magnificent success. The Town Hall was filled to its utmost limits; and the representation of the beautiful cantata, "The wreck of the Argosy," was a rare musical treat not often served up to audiences in this town. Every movement indicated that the efforts of the singers, both individually and collectively, were thoroughly appreciated by the large and fashionable company assembled on that occasion. Unfortunately, for obvious reasons, the same eulogistic remarks cannot be applied to the concert which came off in the Shotley Bridge Town Hall on Friday evening last.

⁂

A correspondent writes:—A remarkable case of canine sagacity occurred at Annfield Plain on Sunday evening. One of the navvies, who had been drinking, left for his lodgings attended by his dog. Before he reached home he succumbed to the cold, and was soon asleep. The dog succeeded in extracting the man's bottle from his pocket, and ran off to his lodgings with it. Failing to attract attention, the faithful animal set off again, and taking the man by the leg, and despite the sruggles to be left, succeeded in arousing him, and by dint of tugging and pulling, also succeeded in getting the poor fellow to rise from the ground, and safely piloted his master home. There can be no doubt had it not been for the animal's devotion the man would have succumbed to the cold.

⁂

I notice that at the Crystal Palace Poultry Show last week, Mr Thomas Bowes, of Dipton, was one of the principal prize-takers with a white Leghorn Cockerel, only twenty weeks old. The same gentleman possesses three pullets out of the same brood, which commenced laying at that age.

⁂

The inhabitants of Tow Law and the immediate district have just reason to complain of the insufficient passenger train facilities afforded them at present, and I am glad to notice that the Local Board, aided by the influence of Mr White, of the Weardale Iron Company, are taking the matter up in earnest. Only three trains run daily either way between that place and Consett; the afternoon train especially travelling at the most unreasonable and inconvenient hour. It was a great blunder, I consider, on the part of the railway authorities to discontinue the noon-day train from Tow Law to Consett, seeing that it reached the latter station just before the departure of the 12.33 train from Newcastle. If no other concession is granted, I sincerely trust the Company will, after the New Year, re-commence running this train every day to Consett, instead of allowing it to stop at Tow Law and eventually return to Crook.

⁂

The following interesting item is culled from a Durham paper: At a time like the present, when everywhere we are hearing the cry of "no work" and dire distress, it is worthy of notice what the miners of this county have done in the way of self-help. For the past three or four months there has been a constant average of some 800 men out of employment at the various Durham collieries. Fortunately, the pits have for a week or two back been getting into better and steadier work, and the number of unemployed is now from 500 to 600. But during the months that this distress has prevailed the miners who have been at work have cheerfully submitted to a voluntary levy of 3d per man per fortnight, as a contribution to the Special Distress Fund. These sums have amounted in all to about £400 per fortnight, and have been distributed equally amongst the men who have been out of work, and who have thus received for the last three months from 6s up to 8s per week. This invaluable relief fund was originated by the officials of the Durham Miners' Association, and has been distributed under their personal direction. It is one more proof, if such were needed, of the value of the organisation; but, above all, it is a practical illustration of how great a power of self-help there is amongst working men if they will but wisely put it in force. Relief given in such a brotherly spirit as this does not so hurt the manly spirit of the recipients as when they are thrown on the parish; and the general public, too, should not forget that the rates have been relieved very considerably by the voluntary action of the miners in thus generously aiding their comrades less fortunate.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, a company of hand-bell ringers gave performances in the Town Hall, Consett, before large and attentive audiences.

A lecture on "General Gordon, the Hero of the Soudan," is announced to be given in the Town Hall, Consett, next Monday evening, by the Rev T. Guttery, of Sunderland.

A DRAPER'S ASSITANT IN DIFFICULTIES.—John Littlefair (19), recently employed as a draper's assistant in Durham and other places, was charged at the Newcastle Police Court on Thursday week, with stealing an overcoat, value 23s, from outside the shop door, 83, Grey Street, the property of Mr James Coxon. He was further charged with stealing a lady's jacket, value of 7s 11d, from the shop door, 69, Clayton Street, the property of Mr Jas. Aylward Game.—In the first case Mr John Ward said he saw prisoner take the coat, put it under his arm, and run down the street; and for the evidence in the second case Mr James Wright, 114, Newgate Street, said he lent prisoner 6s 6d on the jacket.—Supt. Tunnah said prisoner had been recently employed in Shields and Durham. He was sent to prison for on month, with hard labour, for each offence.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.—The usual sitting of this popular assembly was held on Tuesday evening, at the National Infant Schools, Consett, when the strangers' gallery was again crowded, and the various benches were filled with members of the House. The questions of which notice had been given having been put and answered, leave was given to introduce the following measures:—By Mr J. White (Birmingham), a bill to provide a public market; and by Mr Redmayne (Oxford), a bill to amend the Game Laws.—Mr Henry Lamb (York), then rose, and in a lengthy speech, introduced his Bill for Legalization of Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister, and a lively debate followed, which was taken part in by Mr Fegan (County Down), Mr J. G. Cooke (Attorney General), Mr White, Mr J. S. Redmayne, Mr McColvin (Newcastle-on-Tyne), and Mr J. Cant (Bath). Several new members were introduced, and took their seats for the first time; and the new Postmaster-General (Mr S. Stansfield) made his *debut* in a ministerial capacity, and delivered, in reply to questions, a very neat maiden speech.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

CONVIVIAL SUPPER.—This supper was held at Mr W. Moore's, King's Head inn, Shotley Bridge, on Wednesday night, when upwards of thirty sat down to a substantial repast. After the cloth was removed, the chair was occupied by Mr C. Baynes, while the vice-chair was occupied by Mr George Eltringham. The Chairman proposed "The health of the Queen and the Royal Family," which was cordially drunk. The Vice-Chairman proposed "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," which was responded to by Mr G. Siddle and Mr N. Oley. The remainder of the evening was spent in songs which were rendered by Messrs Bayne, Moore, Richley, Oley, Sheart, &c. Great credit is due to the worthy host and hostess for the way in which they served the supper—which gave every satisfaction to all those present. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Moore brought the first convivial supper to a close. Every one present seemed highly satisfied with their enjoyment.

CRAGHEAD.

THE SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.—A few days ago a man, a woman, and a child, inmates of the Workhouse, got the permission of the Guardians to visit some friends at Craghead. Mr Fairley, mining engineer, hearing that they were returning to the Workhouse, informed Dr Morris, Medical Officer of Health at Chester-le-Street, that there was small-pox in the village. On their return, every means was taken by disinfection and isolation to prevent the entrance of small-pox into the House. After a day or two, however, the boy became ill of small-pox. It is needless to state that every care is being taken to prevent its spread.

HORRIBLE DEATH ON THE RAILWAY.—On Thursday se'nnight, Mr James Aitchison, station master at Chester-le-Street, received notice from Plawsworth that the driver of the 5.12 train from Newcastle had stated that he felt the engine run over something of an unusual nature shortly after leaving Chester-le-Street Station. Mr Aitchison immediately sent a porter along the line, who found the body of a man lying across the rails near West Lane Bridge. The remains were conveyed to the weigh-house at the station, when they were identified as those of Joseph Dawson, miner, Waldridge Fell. Dr Brown was called, but his services were of course unavailing, as the deceased's body had been cut in two beneath the chest. As there is no footpath along the line where the horrible affair occurred, it is supposed that Dawson had deliberately laid himself across the rails on seeing the approaching train. Deceased, who would be about 30 years of age, removed to Waldridge a few weeks ago from Craghead, and leaves a wife and family.

BEAMISH.

EVICTIONS AT URPETH COLLIERY.—On Tuesday, at Urpeth Colliery, a body of officials and police appeared to evict from the colliery houses some men who had been dismissed from their employment, and who have laid their case before the Executive Committee of the Durham Miners' Association. The delegate of the colliery, Mr John Shencorne, who is one of the dismissed men, interfered with the proceedings, and promised to leave his home within a week if the present action were stayed. This being assented to, and the remainder of the men promising to await the decision of the Miners' Association before taking any further steps, the incident, which caused some sensation, ended.—Messrs J. Forman and W. Patterson, the agents of the Durham Miners' Association, waited upon Mr Hepple, manager of Urpeth Colliery, on Wednesday, to endeavour to come to a settlement respecting the cases of those men who had been dismissed, and proceedings taken for evicting them from the houses they occupied. These proceedings were stayed on a promise made by some of the men that they would leave the houses within a week.—After a protracted interview Messrs Forman and Patterson came away without having come to any arrangement whatever, and the matter will now be referred to the whole of the men employed on the collieries of the company, who will by ballot decide whether they should strike or not.

BLAYDON.

DEBATE ON HOME RULE.—A debate on "Home Rule for Ireland" was held on Wednesday night in St. Cuthbert's School-room, Blaydon, by members of the Blaydon and Leamington Mutual Improvement Societies. The Rev Mr Green presided, and there was a large audience. The affirmative was conducted by the Blaydon representatives, the discussion being opened by the secretary (Mr R. Carr), followed by Messrs D. Brown, N. Watson, T. Hepple, T. Valance, and J. Graham. Mr M. Dodds opened the negative, and was followed by the Rev W. D. Ground, Messrs A. R. Lewis, and F. Kaye. The Leamington Society sent only four representatives, consequently the Rev Mr Ground was allowed to speak twice. The openers were allowed fifteen minutes to deliver their addresses, and fifteen minutes at the finish to reply. The intermediate speakers were allowed five minutes each. Mr Carr, for the affirmative, contended that it was a disgrace to England that she still held Ireland only by force, and the only remedy for Irish discontent was to give to Irishmen the power to deal with local affairs, leaving imperial affairs to the Imperial Parliament. Such a policy would consolidate our empire.—Mr Dodds, for the negative, urged that Irishmen did not only want the mild measure of Home Rule which was advocated by Mr Butt, but they wanted to repeal the Union. When Ireland had self-government she was in a state of internal anarchy, and had to apply to France for aid. If she was to be a dependency it was better that she should be annexed to England rather than to France.—The affirmative was carried.

Secure a Ticket AT ONCE to Hear
Rev. W. SPURGEON
The Celebrated Lecturer, in the

BLACKHILL.

BENFIELDSIDE STOCK AUCTION MART.—Messrs Nicholson and Murray sold on Monday 27 calving cows and heifers from £12 to £23; 8 fat cattle, £10 2s 6d to £17; 25 store cattle, £4 7s 6d to £7 15s; 180 fat sheep and lambs, 23s 6d to 54s; 20 pigs, 10s 6d to 33s; potatoes, 3s 1d per bag; hay, £4 per ton. Poultry, &c., made good prices. Slow bidding, but the whole were cleared out at fair prices.

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.—During the present week, the Misses Watson and Wilson have conducted special services in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, kindly granted by the trustees and the superintendent minister. These services have been very successful, and great good has been done. Many who have led very miserable lives, both at home and in the world, have acknowledged their error, and have determined, by divine help, to do better in the future. These ladies, we understand, will conduct services on Sunday next at the Agricultural Hall, at two and six p.m., and will also continue the services nightly in the same place during the next fortnight.

CROOK.

SCHOOL BOARD.—It was stated at Monday night's meeting of Crook School Board that the grant earned this year by Helmington Row School was £195 11s, and by Sunniside £241 13s 4d. This is an increase on the previous year. A motion was carried in reference to the enlargement of the Sunniside Board Schools for the accomodation of 30 more children, the matter to be reported on at the next meeting.

PRESENTATION.—On Tuesday evening, Mr P. Robinson, who has been mineral agent at Crook for twenty-one years, was presented with a handsome timepiece, and Mrs Robinson with a tea and coffee service, at Crook Station, on the occasion of Mr Robinson's removal to a better situation at Shildon, where he will succeed the late Mr T. Atkinson as mineral inspector. Mr W. Todd made the presentation.—Mr Robinson thanked the subscribers on behalf of himself and wife, and expressed sorrow to leave so many kind friends behind.—Mr Walker Hutchinson, locomotive inspector, presided.

WHICKHAM.

CRICKET CLUB.—The annual meeting of the Whickham Cricket Club was held on Monday evening, at the Three Tuns Inn, Whickham. The secretary's report and balance sheet showed the club to be in a prosperous condition. During the year the club had played fourteen matches, won six, lost two, drawn five, and one tie. The president's bat, given for the highest batting average, has been again won by Mr T. M. Barn. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Captain, Rev C. R. Carr; deputy-captain, Mr James Snowball; hon. treasurer, Mr William Cheesman; hon. secretary, Mr R. Mordue.

WITTON GILBERT.

CONCERT.—On Monday evening, the Langley Park Primitive Methodist choir gave a concert of sacred music in the Witton Gilbert school-room, kindly lent by the Rev J. C. Carr. The object of the concert was to assist the Primitives of Witton Gilbert in their services at "The Clink." The pieces were rendered with great precision, and were highly appreciated by the audience. Mr J. Moore, Witton Gilbert, presided, commenting on each piece as it was sung, and offering during the interval an interesting address.—On the motion of Mr Wright, hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the choir, the chairman, and to the vicar of the parish.

WEST PELTON.

BISHOP OF DURHAM'S CHURCH BUILDING FUND.—After sermons in West Pelton Church on Sunday last by the Rev H. E. Savage, M.A., Vicar of Pelton, and the Rev R. W. Snape, M.A., Vicar of Lamesley, the sum of £7 0s 3d was collected in aid of this fund.

PELTON.

A public tea and meeting in aid of church work was held on Saturday at Pelton.

The Bishop of Durham has appointed the Rev H. E. Savage, M.A., Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and vicar of Pelton, to the vicarage of Christ Church, West Hartlepool, vacant by the death of the Rev C. E. Palmer. Since his appointment to the living of Pelton Mr Savage has laboured arduously and successfully, and has won the esteem and affection of his parishoners, who, whilst rejoicing on his removal to a sphere of increased responsibility, regret his departure from among them. The living of Pelton is in the gift of the Rector of Chester-le-Street.

WEARDALE.

ACCIDENT IN A LEADMINE.—On Tuesday afternoon, a leadminer named John Dawson, residing at the Hole, Ireshopeburn, had his leg broken by a fall of stone while at work in Greenlaws Leadmine.

WOLSINGHAM.

CONCERT.—On Saturday night a concert was given in the Town Hall, Wolsingham, by the String Band, assisted by Mr J. F. Smith's glee party from Middlesborough, and Miss Griffiths, from Witton Park. The programme was exceedingly well rendered.

DURHAM.

COUNTY POLICE CASES.—At the Durham Police Court on Wednesday, Ralph Ramley, James Underwood, and Henry Kelly, were all committed for trial to the Sessions on charges of attempting to defraud the owners of Brandon Colliery of small amounts by placing their tokens in tubs which were standing at the bottom of the shaft containing seggar.—Henry Hall, charged with travelling on the North-Eastern Railway, on the 26th of Nov., from Leamside to Ferryhill, without having previously obtained a ticket, was fined £1 and costs.—Ralph Lidster was fined 10s and costs for exposing and selling lottery chocolate balls in his shop at Spennymoor.

DIPTON.

READING ROOM AND LIBRARY.—The quarterly meeting of the above was held on Monday evening, when a capital attendance of members was present.—The secretary (Mr Thomas Bowes) read the report and balance sheet for the quarter ending December 1st, which was adopted. The business done was the sale of papers, which realised a small sum above the preceding quarter; and the committee stated that they have been affiliated with the Northern Union of Mechanics' Institutions. The object of the union is to lend out boxes containing over 50 volumes of books, the said boxes being subsequently returned and another forwarded in lieu thereof, so that members may have a good selection of books every two months. It is to be expected that many persons will come forward and join such a good institution by applying to the Secretary.

CORBRIDGE.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE-ON-TYNE.—The organ in St. Andrew's Church was re-opened on Saturday last by Mr Richard Seaton, Hexham, who gave a recital in a masterly manner. Mr Richard Graham, Gateshead, presided on Sunday, and gave great satisfaction to the congregation. The services morning and evening were fully choral. The Rev E. C. A. Forster, St. Luke's, Newcastle, preached eloquent sermons in aid of the Organ Fund. The work of restoring and enlarging the organ was entrusted to, and has been well done by, Messrs Harrison, Durham.

SOUTH MOOR.

SUDDEN DEATH.—An exceedingly sudden death occured at the village of South Moor at a late hour last Saturday. It appears that an old man of 67 years, named James Graham, residing at the Low Row, and employed as a screener at the Charley Colliery, went home about eight p.m. on Saturday, and partook of a good supper. Graham was apparently in his usual health and spirits when his wife retired to bed at nine o'clock, leaving him sitting in a chair reading a newspaper. About 11.45 p.m. his son came home and found his father sitting lifeless in his chair. No suspicion of any blame, foulplay, or negligence is attached to any person, and it is supposed that the cause of death was heart disease. Grrham had not been attended by a medical gentleman for the past four years. No inquest was held.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, CONSETT,
On Wednesday Evening, Dec 10th, 1884.
Subject of Oration—"Popular Follies and Common Mistakes." See Bills! Seats Limited!

CASTLESIDE.

SERVICE OF SONG.—On Saturday night, a service of song, entitled "The Oiled Feather" (which has been previously performed at Iveston and other places), was given in the Board Schools, Castleside, by the members of the Primitive Methodist Chapel Choir, under the superintendance of Mr T. Raine. The connective readings were contributed by Mr Joseph Proud, of Castleside. There was a fair audience, the proceeds being devoted to the funds of the new chapel, which is now approaching completion.

MARLEY HILL.

CONCERT.—On Monday first, an evening concert will be given in the Board Schools, in aid of the funds of the Marley Hill Cricket Club. The programme, which contains 23 items, is a most attractive and varied one, and calculated to suit the tastes of all classes of the community. Mr J. Gilchrist will preside; while Miss Gilchrist and Mr J. B. Clark will act as accompanists.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

The Kyo School Board, at their meeting on Monday, decided in future to admit reporters to their meetings.

A WINDFALL FOR MR BRADLAUGH.—An aged man recently died in the vicinity of Annfield Plain, and has made a will bequeathing the whole of his effects to Mr Chas. Bradlaugh, M.P.

TOW LAW.

There were six marriages at Tow Law on Saturday.

A concert in aid of St. Philips and St. James's organ fund was given in the Mechanics' Institution, Tow Law, on Saturday night, by the Peases West Musical Society and other friends. Mr H. White occupied the chair.

THE CANON MISSIONER.—The Rev Canon Body was announced to preach in Tow Law Church last Friday evening, and considerable disappointment was the result when it became known that, owing to illness, the preacher was unable to keep his engagement. Several people from a distance had come up to hear the eloquent canon.

A service of song, entitled "Footprints on the Sands of Time," was rendered in the Wesleyan Chapel, Tow Law, on Monday night, in aid of improving the orchestra. The Rev E. B. Allen gave the connective readings. Mr Hillary conducted, and Mr Bell acted as harmoniumist.

ENTERTAINMENT.—On Tuesday evening, Mr W. Vallance, elocutionist, Glasgow, gave one of his excellent literary entertainments in the Tow Law Mechanics Hall, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Society. Dr Johnstone presided, and the recitals of Mr Vallance were appreciated by a large audience. The Rev H. P. Slade offered a few remarks during the course of the evening.

THE PROPOSED BURIAL GROUND.—At the monthly meeting of the Tow Law Local Board, on Tuesday evening, the Clerk (Mr Milburn) announced that he had written to Mr Proud, solicitor, Bishop Auckland, conveying the offer of the Board, relative to the purchase of two acres of the site adjoining the Dan's Castle Burial Ground for Cemetery purposes, but had not received any reply.—A letter from the Home Secretary to the Vicar and churchwardens was read, notifying that the application for a postponement for six months of the operation of the order in Council directing the existing burial-grounds to be closed at the end of the present year had been referred to Dr Hoffman, Local Government Inspector.

CONCERT.—A grand concert was given in the Mechanics' Hall, Tow Law, on Monday night, in aid of St. Joseph's Catholic Church New Organ Fund. There was a numerous attendance, the building being completely filled. The chair was occupied by Mr Leo. P. Wherly, who briefly stated the object of the concert; and apologised for the non-appearance of one of the principal artistes—Mr Monroe, of Newcastle, the well-known impersonator and comic singer. A comprehensive and attractive programme was rendered by several first-class amateur singers, principally connected with the choir of the Church, together with a number of the children attending St. Joseph's Schools. Annexed is the programme:—Part I.: Glee, "Elfin call," school children; comic song and dance, "The cranky old fellow," Mr Fletcher—*encore*, "Pretty Polly Lee;" song, "A bird in the hand," Miss Buckley; song, "Killarney," Mr Carter; song, "Doon the burn," Miss McNally; song, "Charles Parnell," Mr Britt; song, "The voice I love," Miss Dignam; song, "Caller herrin'," Miss Kate Donaghy (aged 9); glee, "Drifting with the tide," children.—Part II. Galop (violin and pianoforte), Messrs McDonald and Keogan; glee, "O'er the hills," children; duet, "Trust her not," Misses Buckley and McNally; song, "Kitty Tyrrell," Mr Britt—*encore*, "The Round Tower of Ireland," song, "Norah's wedding," Miss Buckley—*encore*, "The ministrel boy;" song, "Just as well," Miss Dignam; song and dance, "Down where the praries grow," Mr Fletcher; song, "The broken pitcher," Miss McNally—*encore*, "Oh! steer my bark; comic song, "Larry McGee's wedding,' Mr Fletcher; glee, "Hark! to the rolling drum," children. Mr J. Keogan officiated as pianist; and Mr Thos. McDonald as violinst. The whole of the artistes, with a single exception, executed their pieces in faultless style, and were accorded an enthusiastic reception, the length of the programme preventing many of the *encores* being given. The singing of the school children, under the able guidance of Miss McNally, was one of the leading features of the evening. The concert was one of the most successful held in Tow Law for some time. A debt of something like £15 stands on the organ fund, and it is expected that most, if not the whole, of this sum will be cleared off.

CATCHGATE.

TRAP ACCIDENT.—We regret to learn that Mr Geo. Hobson, of Harperley Mills, Catchgate, has recently met with a severe accident. While returning home, along with another gentleman, from the Guardians' meeting at Lanchester, the party was overtaken on the road, between Maiden Law and Dagger Bank, by Mr J. W. Hodgson riding on horseback. At this moment Mr Hobson's mare pranced about and subsequently commenced to kick until it smashed the conveyance to pieces, and although Mr Hobson bravely struggled with the reins, the animal managed to disengage itself from the vehicle, and scampered away. Mr Hobson was severely kicked in the ribs, but happily no bones were broken. The other party most providentially escaped without injury. Up to Tuesday last, Mr Hobson had been unable to leave the house, but we are glad to state that he is recovering.

SPEN COLLIERY.

BALL AT BARLOW.—On Friday night a grand ball was held at the house of Mr Harrison Thompson, Green Tree Inn, Barlow, when a large number of ladies and gentlemen (chiefly young farmers of the district) attended. They were however doomed to disapointment in consequence of the Spen Excelsior Reed Band having been called to another engagement. This omission was remedied by Mr George Corn kindly consenting to play the concertina; and he was repeatedly complimented on his excellent playing. Messrs T. Brown and T. Robson proficiently acted as M.C's. Dancing was commenced at 7.30 p.m., and kept up with great vigour until 10.30, when everyone departed after repeatedly thanking Mr Corn for his services.

CASSELL'S ILLUSTRATED ALMANACK for 1885 is, as usual, embellished with beautiful pictures, and contains, in addition to the ordinary matter found in an almanack, notable men of the year, a chronicle of events, obituary of eminent persons, household notes, poultry and pigeons; also, "A dark cloud," by G. Manville Fenn.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Though good health is preferable to high honour, how regardless people often are of the former—how covetous of the latter! Many suffer their strength to drain away ere maturity is reached, through ignorance of the facility afforded by these incomparable Pills of checking the first untoward symptoms of derangement, and reinstating order without interfering in the least with their pleasure or pursuits. To the young especially it is important to maintain the highest digestive efficiency, without which the growth is stunted, the muscles become lax, the frame feeble, and the mind slothful. The removal of indigestion by these Pills is so easy that none save the most thoughtless would permit it to sap the springs of life.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting, held at Lanchester yesterday (Thursday) forenoon, was attended by Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. (chairman), Revs Canon Kearney and J. P. De Pledge, J.P.; Messrs W. Logan, W. H. Hedley, J. Buckham, R. Clark, W. Rutherford, J. Lax, W. Cumming, J. Collinson, J. Eltringham, H. Hornsby, the Local Government Board Inspector (Mr W. Knollys), and the clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson.)

A COMPLIMENT.

During the progress of the business, Mr Knollys remarked that the Workhouse at Lanchester was a pattern of cleanliness and perfection. (Hear, hear.)

AN INCORRIGIBLE.

The Master (Mr Brotherhood) reported that on Monday last a boy named Joseph Edwards had absconded from the Workhouse. The Master added that it was arranged a week beforehand that the lad had determined to run away from school, and he first of all went to see his brother at Ebchester. He had informed the police.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE VAGRANT WARD.

With respect to the recommendations of the Building Committee to provide patent electric bells and signal-boards for each of the tramp cells, for the purpose of communicating with the porter's ward, particularly in the night-time (as recommended by the Local Government Board), at a cost of about £20, the CHAIRMAN, having considered the matter, thought the bells could be obtained and affixed at a cost of £6 or £8 at the utmost.

The Government Inspector said it was necessary to have some communication between the vagrant cells and the porter's ward; but he would not offer any suggestion as to what method should be adopted.

Canon KEARNEY complained of the heavy expense which the ratepayers objected to in these depressed times, and he urged that a simple arrangement might be procured for £2 or so to meet their requirements.

The CHAIRMAN (to the Canon): Can you suggest a cheaper plan?

Canon KEARNEY: There is a system of bell-pull in my own schools which is both cheap and effective.

Mr ELTRINGHAM said the number of tramps did not average half-a-dozen per fortnight, therefore a separate communication from each cell was quite unnecessary, as the attendant could easily ascertain in which cells the tramps were lodged in. He upheld the remarks of the Canon that the ratepayers had sufficient burdens to bear at the present time.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE: Electric bells are apt to get out of order, and require repairing from time to time.

The Inspector stated that a single bell with connections would satisfy him.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: We are getting rid of our vagrants speedily, and I have no doubt but that in a short time we shall have to convert the Vagrant Ward into something else.

At length, on the proposal of Mr BUCKHAM, it was resolved to procure a single bell, with separate connections, communicating with the Porter's quarters.

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

It was decided to regale the inmates with their customary dinner on Christmas Day, Mrs Cumming, of the Post Office, Lanchester, being authorised to provide the requisite provisions.

RELIEF EXPENDITURE.

Return of the number of persons relieved, and the amount expended during the 8th and 9th weeks of the quarter ending December, 1884:—

EASTERN DISTRICT.

	ADULTS.		CHILDREN.		AMOUNT OF RELIEF.					
Week ending	Not able-bodied	Able-bodied	Under 16 years.		In money £	s.	d.	In kind. £	s.	d
26th Nov.	142	42	219	403	27	1	6	1	12	0
3rd Dec.	142	42	219	403	27	1	6	0	0	0
WESTERN DISTRICT.										
26th Nov.	86	112	227	425	30	14	6	4	17	5
3rd Dec.	81	112	217	410	36	14	6	0	0	0

INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE.

Week ending Nov. 26th	175
Corresponding week of last year	154
Week ending Dec. 3rd	174
Corresponding week last year	153
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	4
" " corresponding fortnight last year	10

BALANCE IN HAND.

The treasurer (Mr John Cummins) reported the balance in hand on December 4th to amount to £474 14s 9d.

The Board afterwards adjourned.

LANCHESTER HIGHWAY BOARD.

A general meeting of the waywardens was held in the Board Room of the Lanchester Union Workhouse yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, under the presidency—in the absence of Mr George Alder—of Mr Wm. Logan (vice-chairman). There were present—Messrs Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., Wm. H. Hedley, J. Towns, R. Clark, W. Cumming, W. Fawcett, R. Rowland, the Clerk (Mr Crofton Maynard), and the Surveyor (Mr W. Dixon).

The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting, as well as of the intervening Finance Committee meeting, were confirmed as read.

SHEEPHILL LANE, BURNOPFIELD.

The Clerk read a letter, prepared by Mr Shafto Robson (clerk to the Whickham Local Board) and himself, relative to the proposed transference of Sheephill Road, Busty Bank, in the Chapelry of Tanfield, hitherto under the jurisdiction of the Whickham Local Board, to the control of the Lanchester Highway Board on the condition that the first-named body advance the sum of £120 for repairing and widening the same, and for ever after maintaining in proper order; also asking the Imperial Board to issue an order under the Divided Parshes Act confirming the action of the two Boards.

The Local Government Board replied on the 5th November to the effect that no order issued by them under the Divided Parishes Act would operate so as to transfer the jurisdiction of the road from one body to another; and, moreover, their Lordships were not aware of the existence of any legal authority for the payment of such money by the Whickham Local Board to the Lanchester Highway Board for repairing and widening Sheephill Road.

The Clerk stated that he had forwarded a copy of the foregoing communications to Mr Robson, and intimating that the Highway Board were still willing to contract with the Whickham Local Board for widening and repairing the road for the sum of £120; and to keep the same in good order for a period of three years at a nominal payment of £20 per year, the cost specified by the Surveyor for repairing the road. The Clerk had not received any reply from the Whickham Local Board, as their meeting would not take place until that day.

The CHAIRMAN said the Local Government Board evidently did not not understand the question; otherwise they would not have decided against the opinion of their Inspectors. He observed that Mr Knollys had been present at the Guardians' meeting that forenoon, and he had promised to hold a Local Government enquiry at Lanchester, under the Divided Parishes Act at an early date, so as to have the places re-arranged by March, 1886.

It was agreed to let the matter rest until the next meeting.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Dixon) submitted the subjoined report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Highway Board.

MR CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—Considerable quantities of road metal has been laid on during the past month.

The contractors for making new roads in the township of Benfieldside have completed their work in a satisfactory manner. Also, other contracts are being executed in a satisfactory manner.

The pitfalls on the main road near Mountsett have been attended to by our own men. I wrote Mr Bensley, agent for the Marley Hill and Hobson Coal Owners, stating that if they did not attend to the repairing of the road we should do so, and charge them with the cost. I have not received any answer to my letter.

I have inspected the road at an angle west of East Butsfield, and find the road to be 20ft. wide from each angle. A portion taken off the corner of the inside field would much improve the road.

I have met Mr T. Armstrong at the footpath leading from Flint Hill, Dipton, to Upper Lintz Gate. He informs me that the Marley Hill Coal Company have a right of way on the site of the old waggon way, previous to the division of Tanfield Moor, and that the same right is maintained by the Tanfield Moor Act.

The tar paving in the village of Lanchester is nearly completed. I had the County Surveyor up yesterday, and he informs me that he will recommend the County Authority to pay £10 towards the kerbing, &c., of footpath at Lanchester High Bridge.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WM. DIXON.

Surveyor's Office, December 4th, 1884.

THE ROAD AT BUTSFIELD.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Clerk communicate with the Rev C. Gillow, and enquire the Ushaw College authorities would give Board the necessary strip of ground for widenin and improving this road.

Agreed to.

THE FOOTPATH AT FLINT HILL.

The Clerk said there was no doubt that the public had a right of way over that road; and the Surveyor pointed out that the only question was, who would be responsible for any accident that might occur either on the footpath or on the railway—the colliery owners or the Highway Board?

The Board decided, after a brief conversation, to request the waywarden of the township to lay the result of the negotiations before the vestry meeting at his earliest opportunity.

THE FOOTPATH AT LANCHESTER.

It was further agreed, on the proposal of Mr CUMMING, to accept the County Authority's prospective offer of £10, and contract for kerbing and ashphalting the footpath leading from Mr Reed's shop to the bridge at Lanchester, although the Surveyor stated that the work would cost upwards of £15.

THE QUESTION OF DEMURRAGE.

The Clerk read some correspondence which had passed between the North-Eastern Railway Co. and himself relative to the payment for the demurrage of some trucks conveyed over certain private railways. The Company wrote (per Mr D. Fraser) stating that as there had been no settlement of the accounts for demurrage, although their trucks were run over private lines according to instructions from the Board's Surveyor, the material ordered in future must be conveyed and deposited at some of the Company's own stations. Hitherto the Company had allowed trucks to pass out of their possession, in order to suit the convenience of the Surveyor, and now the Highway Board refused to pay for such privileges.

The Clerk had replied informing the Railway Company that the question of demurrage arose at their own depôts at Leadgate and Marley Hill. After denying that the Board gave instructions to their Surveyor to have the stone carried over private railways (which was done at the instigation of the contractors), the writer pointed out that it would be politic on the part of the Railway Company to withdraw the letter before it was laid before the Highway Board, inasmuch as if the Company were disposed to carry out the determination expressed in their letter, the Highway Board would certainly insist upon the removal of the numerous level crossings in their district, for which no Act of Parliament had been obtained.

The Clerk announced that he had not received any reply to the letter.

The CHAIRMAN: That is the style to write to them.

The Clerk: I don't think we shall hear anything further of the matter.

With reference to the dispute between the Highway Board, Messrs Ferens and Love, and Messrs Ord and Maddison, touching a charge of 2s per load for every truck passing over the private railway at Cornsay Colliery, the Surveyor was authorised to meet Messrs Ferens and Love's officials, and arrange the matter as well as he possibly could.

BALANCE.

The Clerk reported the balance in bank in favour of the Board to be £917 14s 11d.

After checking and examining the Surveyor's monthly accounts, the meeting was adjourned.

WOLSINGHAM PETTY SESSIONS.

TUESDAY, Dec. 2nd.—Before the Rev G. P. WILKINSON (chairman), and Canon GRAY,

DRUNKENNESS.

James Renahan, labourer, was charged with being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, on the 1st ult.—Fined 16s, including costs.

Michael Hanlan, labourer, was charged with being drunk on the highway at Tow Law, on the 8th ult.—Fined 7s 6d, including costs.

Thomas Marsden, of Quarryhouses, quarryman, was charged with being drunk at Tow Law, on the 26th ult.—Fined 15s, including costs.

George Thompson, shovel finisher, was charged with being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, on the 15th ult.—Fined 8s 6d, including costs.

Joseph Bowman, labourer, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the highway at Wolsingham, on the 15th ult.—Fined 12s 6d, including costs.

John Bowe, broommaker, was charged with being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, on the 3rd ult.—Fined 12s, including costs.

Patrick Kilbride, labourer, and *James McIntyre*, pedlar, were charged with being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, on the 27th ult.—Each fined 7s 6d, including costs.

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES.

Amos Park, moulder, and *James Fleming*, chipper, were charged by Sergeant Rispin with being drunk on the licensed premises of Peter Watson, King's Head Inn, Wolsingham, on the 15th ult.—Fined 7s 6d each, including costs.

UNSTAMPED MEASURES.

Robert Raper, publican and butcher, Red Lion Inn, Wolsingham, was charged by Supt. Liddell with having in use seven unstamped measures, which had been uninspected. Defendant said he had recently entered the house and was not aware that the measures required stamping. He pleaded his inexperience of the Weights and Measures Act.—Defendant was fined 6s, and 6s 6d costs.

GAME TRESPASS.

Nicholas Makepeace, of Frosterley, quarryman, was charged by George Gibbon, gamekeeper, with trespassing on land in the occupation of Jacob Vickers Walton, Esq., at High Jofflass, there in search and pursuit of conies, on the 16th ult.—Gibbon said he was going his rounds on Sunday afternoon, about half-past two o'clock, when he saw the defendant and other two men ferreting some rabbit holes, with nets over the holes. He took possession of two nets, which he produced. He knew the defendant, but not the other two men.—Defendant pleaded not guilty, and said it was complainant's brother and another man that were ferreting the rabbit holes.—The magistrates considered the charge proved, and fined the defendant 10s and costs.

Joseph French and *Joseph Ridley*, of Tow Law, masons, were charged by William Pearson, game watcher to Mr J. V. Walton, of Frosterley, with trespassing in search and pursuit of game on land in the occupation of Wm. Ridley, at Tow Law, on the 15th ult.—The gamekeeper asked the magistrates permission to withdraw the charge, which was accordingly done.

NORTHUMBERLAND SESSIONS.—The adjourned sessions for the county of Northumberland were held yesterday (Thursday) at the Moot Hall, Newcastle. Mr Watson Askew presided.—The Rev D. Brown presented the report of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Committee, which referred to two outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia at Errington Hill Head Farm, Hexham, farmed by Mr Wilkinson, and North Seaton Farm, Woodhorn, farmed by Mr Freeman. The outbreak at Errington on Nov. 11th, four animals were affected, and the whole of the herd on the farm, numbering about 60, had to be slaughtered. The outbreak at North Seaton on the 10th Nov., the Inspector found one animal affected, and one had previously been slaughtered. Nine animals which had been in contact with these were slaughtered, and on a postmortem examination it was found that two had been suffering from disease of long standing. Inquiry showed that those animals were originally a portion of a cargo of cattle from Athlone, sold at Carlisle market. The committee paid £898 5s as compensation to Mr Wilkinson, and £151 10s to Mr Freeman. The committee realised £532 7s 6d from the sale of carcases of the healthy animals slaughtered, leaving a balance of £447 7s 6d chargeable to the county rate. The report also recommended that in a case of emergency the Veterinary Inspector should be empowered to call in the assistance of a veterinary surgeon to act for him in the locality in which disease appeared.—The report was adopted.

MARY'S LOVE ROMANCE.

In the drawing-room at Heathcot, in the gray September twilight, Mary Meredith and Felix Trafford sat engaged in earnest conversation.

"I really cannot see any cause for your despair, Felix. Have I not told you how dearly I love you? No power on earth shall ever force me to break my plighted troth to you. Have you no confidence in me?"

"All confidence, Mary. I know you will be true to me."

"Then what is it you fear?"

"Everything. You are young and beautiful, the rich Mr. Meredith's only child, while I am a poor clerk in the house of Meredith Brothers, and nothing but an unsullied reputation, some brains, and a good right hand to help me through the world."

"So much the better, then, that I am the daughter of the rich Mr. Meredith. Dear Felix, papa esteems you, and has implicit confidence in your honour. He invites you here, and allows our acquaintance. Why do you annoy yourself about imaginary troubles?"

"Your father trusts me and I must be true to him, you and myself. I should feel miserable otherwise."

"Go now; he is in his study."

Felix caught the girl in his arms.

"Your confidence inspires me with hope," he said, and went away on his mission. Tapping at Mr. Meredith's study door, and receiving permission to enter, Felix approached the old gentleman, who gave him his hand, saying:

"Why, boy, you are an unexpected visitor. No bad news, I hope?"

"No, sir; but I want to ask of you a gift so precious that I have very little hope of obtaining it."

"Well, well, name it. I am always glad to favour you if I can."

Felix was greatly agitated.

"Mr. Meredith, I love your daughter. I do not, however, ask you to give her to me now. Only let me hope that when I prove to you——"

"You are an ungrateful, treacherous scoundrel!" he cried. "Out of compassion for your friendlessness I admitted you to my house and my daughter's society, and you, villain that you are, have taken the opportunity to steal into her confidence and win her inexperienced heart. Be gone, sir, and never let me see your face again!"

"Listen to me one moment, Mr. Meredith."

"Not one second!" cried the old man, as he violently brought down his clenched fist upon the table.

As Felix staggered along the passage, his heart so oppressed that he was scarcely conscious of anything, he met Mary. Felix wildly threw his arms about her, kissing her again and again. Then he tore himself away and rushed from the house.

Mary never knew what had occurred at that terrible interview. Mr. Meredith was deaf to all her entreaties, and her lover had disappeared. The poor girl was stricken with brain fever, and for weeks her life hung in the balance.

At length youth and a good constitution brought back health to the heart-broken girl. But alas! the blooming young Hebe of seventeen summers was no more.

Mr. Meredith travelled with his daughter through all the most attractive parts of Europe for a year.

Time rolled on. Mary had now reached her twenty-eighth year, and still remained a maiden beneath the paternal roof.

One cold winter evening Mary sat by the glowing fire in her father's drawing-room. Her small, white hands were clasped upon her bosom, and her eyes were cast downward until the long lashes lay like golden pencillings upon her cheek. Near her, in his great arm-chair, sat Mr. Meredith, with the snows of many winters on his head, and his face deeply furrowed by the hand of time. There was an expression of care upon his countenance. He looked troubled and unhappy.

"Mary," said he, continuing a conversation that had been going on between them, "all my life I have made your happiness my constant study and have given you a luxurious home. Now you are advancing in years, and I shall ere long be separated from you by death. How can I leave you alone in this cold world? A home is now open to you, and you must accept it. It is not because I owe this man a very large sum that I insist upon this marriage, although if you refuse him we shall be sunk into the most abject poverty, for I would rather endure all the misery of the situation than risk your well-being; but I know you will be happy with Mr. Ambrose for a husband. He is good and kind as well as very rich."

"Rich in what, father?"

The old man started at these words, but at length answered:

"In honour and manhood." Mary said no more. "The crisis is now upon me," continued Mr. Meredith. "In a few short days I shall be overwhelmed with misery if you do not rescue me. Mr. Ambrose has asked me for your hand. He has seen you many times, and loves you."

"And Mr. Ambrose makes my hand the price of your safety?"

"No, he has not said so; but he is aware of my situation, and, knowing it, asks the hand of my child. It seems to me as if God had kept you free to save your old father from ruin. What answer am I to return to Mr. Ambrose?"

"My heart was broken long ago," Mary answered looking into her father's face. "I will marry this man for your sake, but he must not expect affection, for I have none to give. Tell him this that he may not be deceived."

"I will bring him here to-morrow evening, for he is anxious that the interview shall be over."

Mr. Meredith was relieved, the fear of disgrace was removed from him, and he rejoiced in the prospect of a prosperous marriage for his daughter.

On the following evening Mary again sat by the drawing room fire. She was alone now and calm, but her face was as pale as Parian marble. The outer door opened and she heard the sound of heavy footsteps in the hall. Once more the image of Felix arose before her; a cold shiver passed over her and unforbidden tears trembled in her eyes, but by a great effort she subdued her agitation before her father and the man about to buy her with his gold entered the drawing room. Mary arose and extended her hand; it was cold as ice but did not tremble. She glanced at Mr. Ambrose, and saw a man of medium height with brilliant dark eyes; a neatly trimmed beard concealed the lower part of his visage. He greeted her politely and took a seat. A short time was spent in conversation, but gradually a silence fell upon them which was becoming oppressive when the visitor broke the spell.

"Miss Meredith," he said, in a low soft tone, "you are of course aware of the object of my visit here? Pardon me if I speak plainly."

Mary looked up but made no reply. Mr. Ambrose's voice was so kind and gentle that she thought he deserved a wife who could love him.

"Your father has told me that you have no love to give me but that you will marry me. I, too, once thought I should never love again, but the sight of you has dispelled the illusion. Let me tell you my story. Long years ago, I loved a beautiful young girl and she returned my affection. I was young then, and did not deem that Fate could crush out my soul's dearest hope. That fair girl was my all, my very life, and I had not a thought of the future separated from her. Her father was a wealthy merchant, and I his poor clerk. When I told him I loved his daughter, he spurned me from his door and ordered me never to enter it again. Oh, who besides myself can ever know the utter midnight of my blasted hopes. Crushed and broken I fled in despair. In the whirl and excitement of business I strove to forget my sorrows. Fortune singled me out as her special favourite. My wildest speculations were successful, and money accumulated as if by magic. Thus eleven years passed. I returned to the scene of my unhappiness and saw you. Need I say that all the old love surged up in my heart again? Once more I asked the old merchant for his daughter—" the speaker's lips trembled; he extended his arms as he continued —"and he consents at last. Oh, Mary, will you now be mine?"

Mary cast herself into her suitor's outstretched arms. After all these years of misery Felix was restored to her.

"Felix Trafford!" gasped the old man as he started to his feet. "Felix Trafford, my old clerk?"

"Yes, sir; the same. Do you retract your promise?"

"No, Felix, no. Take my Mary and forgive her father."

The happy suitor led Mary away to a seat and sat beside her with his arm still encircling her, as if he feared he might lose her again.

"Let us," he said, "forget all the past but its joys and look to the future for what true love can give us. I am now content, and you, my Mary, are you happy in the restoration of your lover?"

"Ah," she replied, in a voice full of deep emotion, "happiness is too poor a word to express my great joy!"—*Philadelphia Call.*

Sporting Items.

Local Hunting Appointments.—The Braes of Derwent Foxhounds—Saturday, Dec. 6, Branch End—10·30. The North Durham Foxhounds—Monday, Dec. 8, Waterhouses; Wednesday 10, Running Waters; Friday, 12, The Kennells—at 10·45.

Wrestling at Prudhoe.—The third competition for the silver cup given by Mr Tulip for men of all weights, took place on Saturday evening last, at the Half-way House. In the final falls, A. Rutherford, Dukershagg, threw W. Scorer, Mickley Square, twice in succession, and won. In the competition for boys under 16 years of age, in the final round E. Bell, of Low Prudhoe, threw A. Tulip, Half-way House.

Quoit Handicap at Crawcrook. — A quoit handicap commenced on Saturday at the Rising Sun Inn, Crawcrook. Results:—G. Clark beat T. Westgarth; J. Molroy beat T. Miller; J. Clark beat T. Miller; W. Clark beat N. Joicey; J. Clark beat W. Lawson; J. Harding beat W. Clark; Little Willie beat A. S.; W. Clark beat J. Molroy; T. Molroy beat J. Beach; R. Hunter beat G. Westgarth; J. Clydsdale beat G. Hunter; J. Dodds beat T. Westgarth. A. Eltringham acted as handicapper and referee.

Football.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

Dec. 6.—Dipton Rovers v. Wolsingham, at Dipton.
„ 20.—Dipton Rovers v. Castleside, at Castleside.
„ 26.—Tanfield Lea 1st and 2nd v. Hedleyhope 1st and 2nd, at Hedleyhope.
„ 27.—Dipton Rovers v. Gateshead Wanderers, at Gateshead.

Wolsingham v. Stanhope.—Played on Saturday at Wolsingham, and ended in a draw, neither side scoring.

Esh Rovers v. Ouston Wanderers.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in a draw, neither side scoring.

Esh Juniors v. Hedleyhope Juniors.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and after a pleasant game resulted in a victory for the home team by one goal to nil.

Wylam v. Mickley.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the home team by four goals to one, which was accidently put through by one of the Wylam backs. Mickley played two men short.

Castle Eden Red Star v. Hedley Hill.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the home team by six goals to nil, the goals being got by Fletcher (2), Coxan (2), and Jefferson (2).

Mickley Juniors v. Prudhoe Juniors.—Played at Mickley on Saturday, and resulted in a win for the home team by one goal to none. For the home team, G. Bailey, G. Middleton, J. Potts, and R. Best were the pick; while for the visitors, Robson, as goal-keeper, and Surtees played best.

Chester-le-Street Excelsior v. Chester Rovers.—A match between the Excelsior club and the Chester Rovers, both belonging Chester-le-Street, was played at Chester-le-Street on Wednesday. The game was played in two thirties, the result being one goal to nil in favour of the Rovers.

Blaydon Juniors v. Ryton 3rd.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in an easy victory for the Juniors. Score:—Juniors, two goals and one try to nil. Teams:—Blaydon—H. Oliver, back; W. Turner, J. Lowdon, and J. Dobson, three-quarter backs; H. Chapman and T. Burns, half-backs; W. Bennett, J. Pattison, R. Atkinson, W. Atkinson, C. Robson, B. Jobling, R. Agar, T. Rowland, and W. Robson, forwards. Ryton—W. Liddell, back; R. Lawson, J. Forster, and T. Butterfield, three-quarter backs; T. Ramsey and T. Finney, half-backs; G. Stephenson, G. Henderson, R. Newton, S. Hall, T. Aitman, G. Elsworth, J. Burdges, G. Alder, and J. Johnson, forwards.

Durham Football Association Challenge Cup Competition.—First Round: Birtley v. Hamsterley Rangers.—The above teams being drawn together to play at Hamsterley, a pleasant match was played. The captain of the home team starting the ball, a give-and-take game was played during the first half. After re-starting, the Birtley captain started the ball, and ran it right up the field. E. Bell received the ball from Standley, and scored the first goal. Very shortly after Standley scored again for the visitors. The home team now starting in earnest obtained their first score, and with a good run by their captain scored another goal, which made the score two goals each, and this result was not changed during the remaining fifteen minutes.

Consett v. Tudhoe District.—Played on the ground of the latter, and after a game of two twenties, resulted in a victory for the visitors by one goal, two tries, and three minor points to nil. The visitors left home with eleven men, but obtained four substitutes, and were much the lighter team. Jameson kicked off, and during the first half the play was confined to the home twenty-five, and W. Fiddes got a try close to touch. The attempt at goal, though an excellent shot, failed to get over the bar. During the second half the play was at confined to the home territory, and Marsden, by a good dodging run, got in, and Jameson landed goal from it. Shortly after this, Scott got in with another try, but from a bad position the kick failed. The visitors now had matters much their own way, and Moss, Jameson, and Kempster each got in, but the tries were objected to, and on time being called, the score stood as above stated. Teams:—Consett—T. H. Kirkup, back; W. Cope, T. Jameson (captain), and W. Kempster, three-quarter backs; Marsden and J. Anderson, half-backs; J. Fiddes, W. Pattinson, A. Struthers, N. Scott, W. Fiddes, B. Wilson, A. Hall, F. Moss, and H. Davis, forwards. Tudhoe District—Squire, back; Eddy, Junor, and Elliott, three-quarter backs; Cockayne and Hardy, half-backs; Hodgson Braithwaite, Edwards, Wrainford, Urwin, Barras, Hutchinson, Anderson, and Nelson, forwards.

"ROUGH ON CORNS."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete, permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions, 1½d. and 1s. bottles.

Hymns for Sunday School Anniversaries, &c., printed on the shortest notice, and at the *cheapest* rate, by Robert Jackson, Consett.

North of England Iron and Coal Trades.—Middlesborough, Tuesday.—The demand for pig iron at to-day's market was quiet, but no alteration in prices can be reported, for the supply of iron is not in excess of the deliveries, and makers are well able to hold their own. They would not sell No. 3 for prompt f.o.b. deliveries under 36s 3d per ton, and buyers had to give this, because the merchants were not prepared to accept less, seeing that they are not well supplied with iron themselves, and there does not seem to be much, if any, prospect of any further reduction—indeed the general idea is that iron will not be lower in price during the winter, though the demand may not keep up now that the shipping season has virtually terminated. For delivery over the first quarter 36s 6d remains the price of No. 3 G.M.B., and buyers are more ready to give this than sellers are to take it. Forge pigs are still very stiff, and endeavours to buy at less than the quoted prices have not been successful. Grey forge is 34s 6d, and makers are in a position to hold out for this. Warrants are nominally 36s. Finished iron is dull in demand, and prices are unchanged from what have been reported for several months past, these being the lowest that will be taken for small orders, though concessions are made where large contracts are concerned. Ironfounders receive more inquiries, but do not secure many orders, though very low rates are quoted. The bolt and nut trade is rather slacker, and the galvanising works are not so fully occupied. The house coal trade is brisk, but this cannot be said of any other department, and only for house coal are prices stiffer. The deliveries of gas as well as house coal are good, but the gas coals are mostly supplied under contract.

LADIES' COLUMN.

It is not in the nature of things that the daily papers will be able to supply many more such sensational stories as those that have lately been revealed in the new Law Courts. For the time being all other topics have been suspended in the breathless interest with which Miss Fortescue's fortunes, Miss Coleridge's sufferings, Lord Marcus Beresford's aggressiveness, and Mr. and Mrs. Blood's libel case have been followed by the critical public. General Gordon in Khartoum was forgotten; scarcely any news Lord Wolseley could have sent would have competed with legal topics in interest; and Mr. Gladstone and the Franchise Bill held but secondary places in drawing-room conversation. It may console parents with refractory sons and daughters, who insist on falling in love with the wrong people, to know that not only the Lord Chief Justice of England, but the ex-Lord Chancellor, who was once a great political power in England, have been as powerless in maintaining home rule as people less highly gifted and favoured by fortune.

Even that very serious subject in Paris, cholera, is being overlooked. The cold weather has decreased the mortality, and we are forgetting our temporary alarm and that next year climatic conditions may favour the march of the dread enemy to England. The Parisian shopkeepers have been pecuniary sufferers by the scare. Before the panic commenced not only had the orders for the usual autumn goods been sent out, but in the majority of cases the stocks were on hand and ready for exhibition. There are certain great houses there which cater for American and English customers; there are others which are especially patronised by Russians and Italians. The shopkeepers in the great thoroughfares along the Boulevards reap harvests from the strangers visiting Paris, who are attracted in the evenings to the well-lighted shop-windows, the beauties of the pretty knick-knacks being enhanced by the plate glass medium. Rather than keep their stock on hand the shopkeepers are selling at very reduced prices. Bonnets which, at another time, would have cost 100 francs are offered for 50; dresses for little more than the cost of the materials and the making—no margin for style and novelty, and gloves, fans, shoes, ribbons, and all the other details of a toilette, so essential, yet so costly, are to be had at an enormous reduction on original prices. The question of whether anyone would, in the interest of vanity, run the risk of going over to Paris and making a tour of the shops is for individual consideration.

The decision of the London and Provincial Banking Company not to retain in their service any clerk who chooses to marry on an income under £150 per annum, has caused a great deal of grumbling among the families of those affected by it, and appeals are made to the authorities to relax their rules. If it were possible for clerks or people with small incomes to have houses at reasonable rents near their work, the question need never have arisen at all, but this seems to be hopeless. House-rent keeps rising near town; and poor people must go farther and farther out to find a moderate house, so that the expense of going backwards and forwards is increased and School Board, poor-rate, water-rate, and gas are not less in poorer districts. A man who could go into town and out again for about fourpence a day is now driven to the sixpenny distance, and a still larger number find themselves obliged to lay aside eightpence. To rich people twopence a day more would not much matter, but where the wife has to reckon her expenditure so carefully as to watch even the farthings, a shilling a week is a consideration.

In connection with economy the subject of Co-operative Stores is always sure to arise, and just at present the issue of the half-yearly report of the original stores, the Civil Service Association, is worth looking over. It is a singular fact that the profits have scarcely increased since 1881, in spite of enlarged premises and apparent extension of business. The net receipts are upwards of £10,000 more, but not the profits, which is quite a different matter. It is quite possible that the store mania has reached its greatest point, and can do no more in the direction of cheapening household stores than they have done, and that large shops in private hands have not been equally successfully carried out. We find in the report that there has been a decrease in the sales of groceries, wines, provisions, tobacco, fancy goods, stationery, china, and glass. Sales have increased of the hosiery, clothing, boots, &c., but only to the amount of £2,482, a mere trifle when the gigantic size of the concern is taken into consideration. In these departments there has been an advance in prices, so that the actual sales are less than in former years. It must also be remembered that the stocks in these departments have been bought at exceptionally low prices, the manufacturers having been glad to make cash transactions at the very lowest possible margin of profit. But that there is any economy in buying drapery goods and hosiery at the stores many people doubt. There is very little choice of kinds or qualities afforded, and capricious tastes are dealt with summarily. As to the glass and china departments, æsthetic people should never venture near them. The lady who decides to buy a dinner service at, say, £5 or £6, or even at less, finds she can have one exceedingly cheap, but the pattern is arbitrary; she may take it or leave it. For five or ten shillings more she will get the same goods in a china shop, but will have a larger number of patterns at her intended price to select from.

The lady who likes to spend the whole morning in a store closet weighing out quantities of groceries for kitchen consumption from the wholesale packages bought at the stores, has ample employment provided for her. Others, who value time at a higher rate, are but too thankful to the retail grocer who has weighed out and tied up every article in the desired quantities.

It is becoming so much the custom for young ladies living in the country to come up to town to celebrate their marriages as being more convenient and more central for distant relatives, that an agitation is imminent for a repeal in the law which forbids afternoon or evening weddings. The late Archbishop of Canterbury once permitted an evening wedding—Lady Margaret Toler's—in St. Peter's Church, Onslow-gardens, and a very pretty sight it was; but afterwards his Grace took alarm and refused to license any more late marriages. Possibly Archbishop Benson may be more complying than was Archbishop Tait, and changes may be made. A bill has been for some years drafted, but hitherto crowded out by pressure of other business in the House of Commons, extending canonical hours from twelve, as at present, to two o'clock. Advantage was taken of the disestablishment of the Church in Ireland to make the change there, and it works exceedingly well. There seems to be no reason why a still later hour might not be permitted with perfect propriety. At present wedding breakfasts are a terror to the friends of the happy couple, who are obliged to eat an unusual meal of unwholesome viands at an unusual hour, not to mention the speeches required of the unpractised in oratory. There is then a long afternoon to be got through after the bride and bridegroom leave before an evening party can possibly commence, so that the family of the bride are worthy of the deepest commiseration.

There would be one drawback to late afternoon weddings which is already causing inconvenience in West End churches. Residents in the neighbourhood of the church, who either have pews allotted to them, or in the case of a proprietary church, rent sittings, seem to think their rights extend to every occasion for which the doors are opened. It is not unusual in a certain ultra-fashionable church in Kensington, not one hundred miles from Cromwell-road, to see the pews almost at the front occupied by the Sunday proprietors. When the wedding guests arrive they take such seats as are vacant, and thus become mixed up, and confounded with crowds of strangers. The obvious bad taste of a lady thrusting herself into a party of strangers on such an occasion out of mere vulgar curiosity requires no comment, but the case may be seen in more than one West End church on any day of the week between 10 o'clock and noon.

AURORA.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

HOW THE RATS WERE GOT RID OF.

It may be that, their eyes happening to catch the above title, some grown up people whose houses are infested with rats will think that this time the column of "Something for Young People" contains something for them as well. Probably, however, when they have read the following story—originally published in Mrs. S. C. Hall's "Years Ago" and said to be founded on fact—they will declare that the occurence it relates was after all, nothing more than an odd coincidence.

Farmer King came up from the cellar with a lighted candle and a basket of apples.

"See there, mother," he said, blowing out the candle and holding the basket for his wife's inspection.

"Well, I do say for it!" ejaculated the good woman. Then Aunt Nabby ejaculated after her fashion, adding, "You must have a sight of rats around."

"We have, and we've tried every way on the face of the earth to get rid of them."

"Write a note and tell 'em to go somewheres. Samuel Parsons's folks out to Southampton—you know 'em; Marantha Parsons married Jared Clark, you remember—well, they was over-run with rats one time, and they wrote a note and asked 'em if they wouldn't go down to Joe Skinner's; and sure enough, in a few days there wasn't hide or hair of a rat to be seen."

"Did they go to Joe Skinner's?" asked Theodore.

"I don't know as ever I heerd whether they did or not. Leastways they went somewheres."

Aunt Nabby rolled up her knitting work and departed.

"I'm going to write to our rats," said Theodore, as he hung up the greatcoat in the stairway.

"Where shall you tell 'em to go?" asked Casey.

Theodore passed the question along: "Where would you, mother?"

"To James Hendrick's," said the mother, and she and Roxana fell to laughing.

Theodore seated himself at the secretary by the southroom door, and after some elaborate flourishes and a generous expenditure of ink, produced the following missive:—

"Honoured Rats: *Dear Sirs,*—Please go to James Hendrick's, and oblige,

Yours truly,
"Luther King and Family."

Luther King, jun., came from the village just then, and the note was tendered to him for approval. He laughed. "Perhaps 'Jeems,' as Aunt Nabby calls him, might have a word to say in self-defence if he knew of this powerful message."

The note was carried down into the cellar and deposited on top of one of the apple barrels, late scene of feasting.

Strange to relate, a speedy exodus followed Theodore's polite note. Whether its cabalistic signs inspired the multitude of small legs to beat retreat, or whether they were already on the eve of migration, are open questions to this day; but the historical fact remains that the little rodents picked up their tails and departed.

Stranger still was the news that Farmer King brought one noon shortly after, on his return from Hog Island, where he had been for a load of wood. He had found a large number of rats near the island, frozen on the march, and in the direct line between the King homestead and James Hendrick's.

"I can't say that they're the same rats that ate our apples, but it makes a complete and curious story," said the father, as he sat down to dinner.

Strange to say a similar incident is related by General Neal Dow, the American Temperance advocate. The General tells us that at one period his house was infested with rats, and that his daughter tried the letter remedy, and that it succeeded, the letter as well as the rats disappearing, neither the one nor the other having been heard of since.

RECONCILIATION.

Two little boys named Dick and Will
Got arguing on the Franchise Bill.
Dick believed in the Constitution,
But Will was strong for Redistribution.
They argued so much beyond their years,
That their father came and boxed their ears.
Of their wordy strife they at once repented,
And agreed that *their* wrongs were unrepresented.
With sobs a solemn vow each plighted,
To petition the Queen that those wrongs be righted.
Thus reconciled by their mutual fix,
They bade farewell to politics.

ONLY JUST HEARD OF IT.

Occasionally old people are met with, who, having lived all their lives in some very out-of-the-way spot, know hardly anything of what has been going on in the meantime in the great world around them. An artist on a sketching campaign around Loch Arve, in Scotland, was visited one day at his headquarters on the Island of Inishail by a good old man, whose information about modern progress and modern inventions came too late to do him much good. It only left him dumb with perplexity.

"They're sayin', sir," said old Duncan to the artist, "that Lunnon's an awful big toon. Noo is it as big as Glasco'?"

"Yes, it is six times as big as Glasgow."

"Sax times as big as Glasco'! What a fearfu' place! And they're sayin' that there's a deal o' money in Lunnon, and all these rich shentlemen come frae Lunnon, an' I'm thinkin' it must be a ter'ble rich place. Mr. Cool and Mr. Smith, and the capt'n that was with 'em, cam' frae Lunnon, an' I hae the address o' Mr. Smith's hoose that he gave me, ye see, an' I wrut till 'im wi' my ain hand, and I'm eighty-two years of age."

"Yes, you write uncommonly well for your age. I've seldom seen a clearer hand."

"An' please, Mr. Hamerton, can ye tell me noo if it's true what they're sayin', that the letters are goin' frae Glasco' to Lunnon in one nicht? They're sayin' that it's the 'railway' that takes 'em."

"Yes, it's quite true. I've come myself from London to Glasgow in one night, in the same train with the letters."

"It's fearfu' fast! And is it true that they've a way o' sendin' word by long *wires* frae Glasco' to Lunnon?"

"Yes; you mean the telegraph. It's quite true. But I'm afraid I cannot make you understand it very well. Indeed, nobody quite understands it. They know enough about it to make it out, but not enough to give all the reasons for it. The news is sent, and it really goes on wires."

"An' please, Mr. Hamerton, can it go fast?"

"Yes, very fast indeed; a great deal faster than your letter to Mr. Smith, that went from Glasgow to London in twelve hours."

"Faster than my letter to Mr. Smith, that went frae Glasco' to Lunnon in twelve hoors!"

"Yes, ten times as fast—twenty times as fast—a hundred times as fast."

"A hunner times as fast! It flies on the wings o' the wind!"

"Yes, you may say so, only the wind does not go half as fast. I've sent messages myself that have gone hundreds of miles between two ticks of your clock at home."

"An' they dinna ken hoo it flies, an' it flies sae fast! And does the word come right as ye sent it?"

"Yes, yes; just as if you wrote it in a letter."

Old Duncan was now quite astounded, and it was time to change the subject. Like Cowper's puzzled sheep, he

"Tho't and tho't—and knew not what to think."

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—I am a word of ten letters. My 1, 10, 5, 6, 8 is found in land and sea; my 6, 3, 2, 4, 9 was an old man's son; my 7 is a beginning; and my *whole* is the name of one known to many children, who was blown up in a war-ship.

2.—Buried Proverb.

And now henceforth e'en Sincat's city saw
A youth elated mimic England's raw
Ill-trained recruit, whose step lay in retreat
(And then the proverb buried here repeat).

3.—My *whole* is to draw; beheaded, I move quickly; beheaded again, I am a unit.

4.—A biped; beheaded, I awaken; again beheaded I am a stream; behead again, I employ; now transpose, and I persecute.

5.—Diamond.—Fifty; a blow; a dogma; a performer; trivial; endeavour; last but one.

6.—Double Diamond.—*First part*—A letter; a segment; a priest who was destroyed by fire; what we delight in being; to rebuke; custom; a letter. *Second part*—A letter; a tit-bit; songs; a warrior; to balance; a seat; a letter.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1.—Cardigan. 2. A toast. 3. Be sure your sin will find you out. 4. Omens. 5. Cash-mere. 6. T-pine, t-rice, s-pray, r-ice, c-hair.

(7)	(8)	(9)
IAGO	SALT	MITE
ANON	AMOY	ITEM
GONE	LOAN	TERM
ONES	TYNE	EMMA

HINTS FOR THE HOME.

Suppers.—Vigorous outdoor workers should beware of heavy indigestible suppers. Suppers should always consist of light easily-digested foods, being, in the country, so soon followed by sleep, and the stomach being as much entitled as the head to profound rest. The moral pluck and firmness to take such food and no other for this last meal of the day can be easily acquired, and the reward of such virtue is sound sleep, a clear head, a strong hand, and a capital appetite for breakfast.

"Scramblers."—A "scrambling" wife is no light cross to a man who values order and regularity as part of his home-life. She may be, and probably is, the best-tempered creature in the world—a peevish "scrambler" would be too unendurable—but a fresh face, bright eyes, and a merry laugh do not atone for never-ending disorder and discomfort. This kind of thing does not depend on income, and is not to be remedied by riches. The households where "my lady" has nothing to do but to let her maid keep her to the hours she herself has appointed are just as uncomfortable in their way as poorer establishments, if "my lady" is a "scrambler" and cannot be taught method and the value of holding on by the forelock.

SLEEP.

A baby's feet, like sea-shells pink
Might tempt, should heaven see fit,
An angel's lips to kiss, I think,
A baby's feet.
Like rose-hued sea-flowers towards the heat
They stretch, and spread, and wink,
Their ten soft buds that part and meet
No flower bells that expand and shrink
Gleam half so heavenly sweet
As shine on life's untrodden brink—
A baby's feet.

—*A. C. Swinburn.*

Fresh Air.—To be healthy and enjoy life, nothing is more important than fresh air. The more fresh air we breath, the less will be our doctor's bills. We must try to get fresh air without draught, and without feeling cold. The air should always be moving. This is cheapest done by having a hole cut say ten inches square over the door, and covered with perforated zinc, and by fastening a piece of perforated zinc to the top of the sash frame the whole width of the window and about four inches deep; the top sash can then be lowered, and in this way the air is being constantly changed above our heads, and we do not feel draughts. Any working man can do this for a few pence. In bedrooms this is even more important than in sitting-rooms. A costless plan is to open the top window and draw down the blind.

The "Hired Girl."—One of the most annoying peculiarities of the ordinary "hired girl" is her tendency to slam doors and to nick dishes. It requires a good deal of culture to enable one to close doors quietly. The door from the kitchen to the dining-room has been the cause of many a girl's losing her place. It has been found impossible to arrive at the happy medium between shutting the door "in italics," as Artemus Ward puts it, or leaving it ajar. A remedy is sometimes found in having the door arranged with a pulley so that it may swing back and forth, and needs no latch. One way to lessen the danger to pet dishes is to have them washed in a dish-pan made of wood. A very large one should be bought for this purpose, and a smaller one may be used to drain the dishes in. For the latter purpose a chopping bowl which has been worn through constant chopping, may be used. The lady who recommends this says that since she adopted this plan there has been a direct falling off in the number of nicks in her dishes.

"Kee-es Me Some More."—An American naval officer, who had spent some considerable time in China, narrates an amusing experience of the ignorance of the Chinese maidens of the custom of kissing. Wishing to complete a conquest he had made of a young mel jin (beautiful lady) he invited her—using English words to give him a kiss. Finding her comprehension of the request somewhat obscured he suited the action to the word and took a delicious kiss. The girl ran away into another room, thoroughly alarmed, exclaiming: "Terrible man-eater. I shall be devoured." But in a moment, finding herself uninjured, she returned to him saying: "I would learn more of your strange rite. Kee-es me." He knew it wasn't quite right, but he kept on instructing her in the rite of "kees-es me," until she knew how to do it like a native Yankee girl. And after that she suggested a second course, remarking, "Kee-es me some more, seen jine Mee-lee-kee" (Anglicè American); and the lesson went on until her mamma's voice rudely awakened them from their delicious dream.—*Boston Courier.*

What to Teach Girls.—Mgr. Capel, in one of his sermons, said: Give your daughters a thorough education. Teach them to cook and prepare the food of the household. Teach them to wash, to iron, to darn stockings, to sew on buttons, to make their own dresses. Teach them to make bread, and that a good kitchen lessens the doctor's account. Teach them that he only lays up money whose expenses are less than his income, and that all grow poor who have to spend more than they receive. Teach them that a calico dress paid for fits better than a silken one unpaid for. Teach them that a full, healthy face displays greater lustre than fifty consumptive beauties. Teach them to purchase and to see that the account corresponds with the purchase. Teach them good common sense, self-trust, self-help, and industry. Teach them that an honest mechanic in his working-dress is a better object of esteem than a dozen haughty, finely-dressed idlers. Teach them gardening and the pleasures of nature. Teach them, if you can afford it, music, painting, &c., but consider them as secondary objects only. Teach them that a walk is more salutary than a ride in a carriage. Teach them to reject with disdain all appearances, and to use only "Yes" or "No" in good earnest.

Await the Issue.—In this God's world, with its wild whirling eddies and mad foam oceans, where men and nations perish as if without law, and judgment for an unjust thing is sternly delayed, dost thou think that there is therefore no justice? It is what the fool hath said in his heart. It is what the wise, in all times were wise because they denied, and knew for ever not to be. I tell thee again there is nothing else but justice. One strong thing I find here below: the just thing, the true thing. My friend, if thou hadst all the artillery of Woolwich trundling at thy back in support of an unjust thing; and infinite bonfires visibly waiting ahead of thee, to blaze centuries long for thy victory on behalf of it—I would advise thee to call halt, to fling down thy bâton and say, "In God's name, No!" Thy "success?" Poor devil, what will thy success amount to? If the thing is unjust, thou hast not succeeded; no, not though bonfires blazed from north to south, and bells rang, and editors wrote leading articles, and the just things lay trampled out of sight, to all mortal eyes an abolished and annihilated thing. Success! In a few years thou wilt be dead and dark—all cold, eyeless, deaf; no blaze of bonfires, ding-dong of bells, or leading articles visible or audible to thee again at all for ever: what kind of success is that?—*Carlyle's Past and Present.*

THE QUEEN OF THE VILLAGE.

(By Hal Berte.)

See, there she trips, adown the street,
A little basket on her arm,
"Who is it?" why 'tis Marguerite,
The village maiden from the farm.
"A village maiden, nothing more?"
Stay, stranger, ere you lightly talk,
She is the angel of the poor,
And God is with her in her walk.
This is her kingdom, here she reigns,
A Queen elect by one consent.
No rival to usurp her deigns,
All own her sway and are content.
Not hers to mingle with the crowd
Of claimants to a beauty's meed,
But, oh, she is with grace endowed,
And oh, her face is fair indeed.
She vies not with your courtly dames,
Whom pride and pomp and fashion please;
Her unassuming goodness shames
The arts and wiles of such as these.
The sick, infirm, and aged long
To hear her fingers at the latch;
Her very footfall is a song
They strain their eager ears to catch.
They love to hear her read aloud
Some passage from the sacred tome,
No preacher ever hushed a crowd
So still as in that cottage home.
Where her sweet voice tells o'er again
The story of a land afar,
Where want and suffering and pain
Are not, and joys immortal are.
And when her voice ascends on high,
They know God hears the simple prayer,
And feel a holier presence nigh,
And firmer faith when she is there.
And oh, the dainties that she brings,
The pies and cakes and eggs new laid,
And cosy garments—useful things—
Her own light hands have plann'd and made.
Not one that dwells within this place,
But loves this pride of maidenhood,
Her modesty, her winsome grace,
Her simple ways of doing good.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

THE MODERN SHAKSPERE.

"Last night, Andromeda, heard I Vingardo and Beatrice coo!"

"Coo, said'st thou, cavalier?"

"Coo, pretty carper, coo!"

"That hints of doves, Sir Sinister, an' I be sworn there were some grosser fowl more like that dowdy twain."

"Sith it were love they prattled of, sweet cackler, and doves be poets' symbols of that same, 'tis coo that dove-tails with me tale's intent. An' 'fore the gods, Andromeda, there is a mushy flavour to the word that much belikes the latter to their speech."

"So, boy? That fits supremely well me measure of Vingardo and this wanton Marcia, and I will hold mine ear to catch thy tell. Wag me the tale, Sir Sirius!"

"An' thou dost dog me to 't, I will. Just i' the glooming spell, when yester saw me scale the Marcia wall, 'mid latticed quiet, where the woodbine folds its dainty tentrils 'bout an arboured grot', I saw these silly folk in sweet commune. The sapling knight did somehow serpentine her girdle's rim, and while her head did socket towards his neck, his largest star did overhang the minx and lap up answer to his liplet's lush."

"Oh, what a pose were there, my countryman! Now lay the lies the lunatic did lap!"

"Why, girl, the first faint whisper that befell was such as titled her his 'sweet white swan.'"

"Please Providence defend the bird! Had he said swine the rogue would hint, at least, of closer kinship. And then, Henrico?"

"Then, eager one, he said, she was 'his tiny toddlet, tripping upon his heart with tinkling feet, each tender toelet timing its tap with some transcendent tune.'"

"O, lord of lollipop! This doth out-mellow mush. And then, trite tattler?"

"Then sampled he her features, maid, and quoth, 'thy lips are Paradisian peaches, grown from some most beauteous blossom wherefrom no bee hath ever sipped the luscious hydromel that now doth lave me sense with taste of Heaven.'"

"Ingyous and ipecac! Brought this no qualm?"

"Qualm, quizzing queen? She quaffed the sap with look of chick that chews a sugar-plum, and burrowing deeper 'neath his neck's recess, did faintly twitter of surpassing bliss, and wondered if some angel i' the azure vault yearned not to swap conditions with her."

"Enough Henrico! This doth revert me so to that soft season when we first did woo, that if thou longer prat'st I'll think me yet again the same soft gumdrop and thee the olden caramel that 'twas our wont to sweet' each other with."—*Detroit Free Press.*

"Very intelligent people carry a large share of their brains in their faces," says an exchange. If this is so some very intelligent brains are made of brass.

The following is in a churchyard near Salisbury, on one Richard Button:—

Oh! sun, moon, and stars, and ye celestial Poles!
Are graves then dwindled into Button holes?

Somebody was buried with the following epitaph:—

I was well.
I wished to be better.
I took physic.
And here I am.

A man was bargaining with a poulterer for a pair of fowls. At last he said: "Well, I will take them at your price, only I have not my money with me." "Oh, then," said the dealer, "there is an end of it." "Not at all," rejoined the other, "The bargain is struck. I will only take one of your fowls, and leave you the other as guarantee."

Foote, going out to dinner, hailed a hackney-coach, which turned out to be a rickety old vehicle. At his journey's end he gave the driver a coin, which the man looked at suspiciously. "Well, what's the matter?" "Why, it's a bad shilling." "Is it?" rejoined Foote. "Well, then, we're quits; yours is a bad hackney-coach."

A newly married couple found themselves in a railway carriage with only one fellow passenger, who appeared to sleep profoundly. Soon the lady commenced to call her lover all the endearing names that natural history can supply. The traveller roused up, begged the lady to call her partner a "Noah's Ark" at once, and allow him to sleep quietly.

"Emma, I hear you have broken off with George." "Yes; I am sorry, but it had to be. He insulted papa." "Why, what did he do?" "Well, you know, last Sunday night, papa kinder kicked him off the steps, and when he came round Monday he brought a pair of slippers, with the toes padded, and asked me if I wouldn't get the old man to put them on."

"Don't you admire my painting?" "Yes, indeed; it's elegant. I never knew you were such an excellent artist. From whom did you take lessons?" "Oh, dear, I never took a lesson in my life." "Why you must be a genius. How is it you paint so well?" "Paint! I don't paint." "But, you said—" "I said it was my painting, and as I paid for it I rather think it is."

"I wish to look at some mourning goods," said a lady, as she entered a dry goods store. "Yes, madam," replied the clerk; "this way, please." After looking through the entire stock she remarked that she would come in again in the course of a day or two. "May I ask," said the clerk, in a sympathetic tone of voice, "if the death occurred in your immediate family?" "There has been no death yet," she replied, sadly, "but my husband is very low."

At a Western tea-garden a waiter was required who could cut sandwiches. The successful man used an old sword-blade as a knife. He cut the slices so thin that he had covered the floor of the concert-room before he got half way through the ham. As he expressed his intention of covering the lawn and gravel walks of the huge tea-garden with the rest, the proprietor engaged him on the spot, and actually wrote his engagement on what he thought was a piece of tissue paper, but which proved to be one of the slices of ham the waiter had cut.

Delighted young husband: "What a treasure you are, my love. I thought you were so bound up in music and painting and embroidery and such things that you would not think of giving attention to such unpoetic things as meals, but here you have one of the most delicious plum puddings I have ever eaten." Blushing bride: "Oh! I do not forget that you always liked nice things." "But getting me such a delicacy must have taken you considerable time?" "Well, it did; but that was because neither Bridget nor I knew how to get it open." "Get what open, love?" "Why, the can the pudding came in."

There is a circus proprietor of my acquaintance, and he once ordered an enormous poster from a firm of Scotch chromo-lithographers. It was to represent the parade, that is, the open-air procession before the performance of his show, in all the colours of the rainbow, and a few others. The order was executed faithfully and well. But he was dissatisfied. "What is this here great blank, these daubs of blue and white at the top?" he asked. "That is the sky, and a well-drawn sky, too, if you will allow me." "Hang it, Sir, I am not going to advertise the sky. I paid you to advertise my show. Draw a few camels and stick them up there. I ain't a-goin to have all that good space run waste."

The late Doctor R—— was one who could seldom resist telling a good story, even when it turned the laugh against himself. On one occasion a man-servant, whom he had recently engaged, astonished him by appearing to wait at breakfast with a swollen face and a pair of unmistakable black eyes. "Why, John," said he, "you seem to have been fighting?" "Yes, master, I have," was the reply. "And who may your opponent have been?" "Why, sir, Dr. M——'s man"—naming a rival Esculapius. "And what did you fall out about, pray?" "Why, sir, he said as you wasn't fit to clean his master's shoes." "And what did you say?" "Well, sir, I said as how you was!"

A young artist in Seaforth was greatly attracted by the beauty of a lady who sat at a window in the house opposite his studio. He sent glances of admiration up to her window whenever he passed into or out of his room. At length, one day, seeing her in the street, his artistic tastes ran away with his good judgment, and reaching her, panting with the haste he had made, gasped out, "Oh, miss, your lovely blonde hair! I am dying to paint it!" The lady, with a quick movement, put her hand to her head, and then holding it out with her hair at arm's length, exclaimed, "Take it, there it is! Send it back when you are through with it, and stop staring at my window; my husband is dreadfully jealous, and will thrash you for your impudence." The crestfallen artist has not been on a chase for "lovely blonde hair" since.

"But, oh, papa, George and I do love each other so devotedly." "I don't care. I say you shall not marry him. How on earth can he support the daughter of a wealthy merchant when his salary is only 5,000dols. a year?" "But, papa, you forget he is your confidential clerk, your trusted employé." "What of that?" "Why, he probably owns more of the store than you do already."

Rich Uncle: "Well, Tommy, what did you learn at school to-day?" Tommy: "Oh, some beastly arithmetic!" R. U.: "You shouldn't call it beastly. Now, let's see what you know. Hum! hum! How many rods make an acre?" Tommy (readily): "One." R. U.: "One! What do you mean, sir? There are a hundred and sixty rods to an acre." Tommy: "Oh, golly! They're not like my schoolmaster's; his one rod made me an acher to-day."

The neglect of a [illegible] of so[illegible] seriously limits a man's personal influence, and also his personal enjoyment.

Resolve to see the world on its sunny side, and you have almost won the battle of life at the outset.

Every community contains members whose statements must be discounted at half their value, and then taken at a risk.

Nobody who has been active and useful enjoys the feelings of being laid on the shelf. Grandfather's step is uncertain, his arm less vigorous than of old, but he possesses a rich treasure of experience, and he likes to be consulted.

A CHANGE OF DRESS.—A dress worn on all occasions can never give the wearer that fresh and tidy look which all women of taste desire to have. I have seen women who wore handsome clothes, yet whose real lace was not creamy but dirty, whose skirts were rumpled, whose collars were dog-eared, whose ribbons curled or ravelled at the edges, and who had in consequence a dowdy look; while some fresh little gown of cheap muslin, with the accessories of white linen, crisp ruffles, spotless bows of delicate tints, all carefully put on, had an elegant and pleasing effect. A good many inexpensive dresses are perhaps better than a very few costly ones, for the possessor has time to repair, or to have repaired, those rents and wrinkles that wear will give, and can take off the dress worn in the rain or in the heat, and change it for another at any time. Of course wealthy women can do this and still have each garment expensive, but the person of moderate means must take her choice, and she is very foolish if she chooses one velvet dress instead of three of common materials, that will become her quite as well. After the first few days she will never have the feeling of being freshly dressed in a walking costume worn alike for ordinary and extraordinary occasions. Moreover, at home, in her own house, a good deal of change is very nice, and very refreshing to the household generally. Many ladies will button themselves into a black dress of some sort, and wear it from breakfast time until they go to bed. It may be tidy, but it cannot look fresh; and freshness is after all the most attractive thing about a woman's dress.—*Saturday Journal.*

THE MORALITY OF GOWNS.

Fortunate is the woman who is able to dispose of a detested garment, and unhappy the lot of her who, having made an unlucky choice, is forced to abide by it, and wear a gown which sours her temper and ruins her disposition. It should be remarked, also, that while a gown may have no ill-effect upon one's own temper, it may arouse all manner of evil emotions in the breasts of others. By this, of course, is not meant that spirit of envy, hatred, and malice, which is, of course, the sensation one's lovely gowns are legitimately supposed to produce upon one's female friend; but the unhappy effect which an ugly garment may produce upon a suffering beholder. A gentleman with an eye for colour declares that he has often been unable to speak politely to his clerks on account of a purple gown with blue ribbons, which ruined his temper on the suburban morning train, and to many a sensitive nature the most eloquent preacher addresses himself in vain if a woman in a front pew wears a bonnet trimmed with magenta. That this matter of immoral gowns is a serious one nobody can deny, yet as long as hideous aniline dyes and colour-depraved women exist, there will be direful combinations of the two. The remedy, if one can grant that there is one, is that the æsthetic and delicate owner of a pair of sensitive eyes should never venture abroad into the vulgar throng without first donning a pair of those invaluable glasses, which transform every object looked upon into the mild and exquisite hue of the early rose.—*Household Words.*

THE WISDOM AND FOOLISHNESS OF BATHING.

Our modern habits have made the bathroom a most important part of the house. Everyone bathes. The bath has been so long and so industriously trumpeted as a panacea for almost everything that even those who shiver after a cold bath or feel like fainting after a warm one will regularly take either the one or the other. He who does not take a morning bath in these days scarcely dare own to the fact, for he feels that he will be regarded at once as an uncleanly person. Yet there is no necessary connection between cleanliness and total immersion of the body for a greater or less period. The bath, as now understood, is, as is well known to many physicians, too rude a treatment for many persons of sensitive temperament. It is not every organism that can stand the chill of a plunge in cold water and the shock of a shower upon the head. If reaction is swift, and all the organs of the body are in good working order, cold and shower baths may often be beneficial; but if the tone of the system is low the reaction will not take place and injury will result. It would be well if we would trust our sensations more and follow our wills less. When a person does not "feel like" taking a bath yet he will take it, he is simply using his will against himself. Cleanliness can be satisfied by washing portions of the body separately so as not to chill the entire surface at once. In any case the benefit of a cold bath comes from the re-action and must be secured by friction, followed by active exertion, not by sitting or standing in currents of air.—*Free Press*

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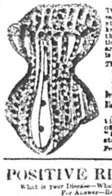

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From the SATURDAY REVIEW.

TWO SUMMER STORIES.

Those wandering Englishmen who have found themselves on the lofty piazzas of a Saratoga hotel in the height of the torrid season, or who have sat in cool comfort on the hospitable verandahs of a Newport cottage, where lawns of an almost English richness of verdure slope away to the pleasant waters of Narragansett Bay, cannot but have made the acquaintance of a variety of fiction known in the United States as the "summer novel." The wandering Englishman will, no doubt, have seen many of the pretty girls of America reading the flat quarto pamphlets into one of which the pirate-publisher reprints the solid three volumes of the English novel; but he must have noticed, by the side of these thin piratical octavos, certain stouter octavo volumes stitched in paper covers. These latter were Summer Novels, and they are generally of American authorship. Their chief characteristics are brevity and liveliness; for the Summer Novel is the reverse of the Convalescent Novel. As we understand the matter, the convalescent requires a novel of gentle interest, of exciting episode, and of interminable length; while the general reader in summer seeks rather for a short tale which will keep him quietly awake during a sultry afternoon. The ideal Convalescent Novel is the great epic of the great Dumas, with its many sequels, wherein all the daring deeds are duly set down of the Three Musketeers. The ideal Summer Novel is Mr. Howell's "A Chance Acquaintance" or Mr. James's "Siege of London," truly books for an idle hour—bright and brief. It is as Summer Novels that we must describe the two books* before us. One of them is American in authorship and the other is English; one of them is by an experienced teller of tales, and the other is plainly enough a first attempt; one of them is by a man, and the other, in spite of a masculine *nom de guerre*, is obviously the handiwork of a woman; one covers almost the whole of the heroine's life and the other confines itself to the setting forth of the events of six weeks; but the one and the other are Summer Novels in their brevity, their simplicity of plot, and their liveliness of narration. . . . . . . In Sunny Switzerland" is the work of an educated lady—a book which can be taken up with pleasure. The sentiment is wholesome, and it does not sink into sentimentality. The character of Mr. Folliot is very neatly hit off, and suggests that the writer may develop a strong power of character-drawing; and the two sisters, Eleanor and Verna, are painted with sympathetic touches.

* *The Fortunes of Rachel.* By Edward Everett Hale. *In Sunny Switzerland: a Story of Six Weeks.* By Rowland Grey. London: KEGAN PAUL & Co. Price 5s.

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

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FOR THE PROMPT RELIEF OF CHEST COMPLAINTS, COUGHS, AND SORE THROATS.

SUPPLIED BY ALL CHEMISTS.

The safest and most efficacious remedy ever discovered for all pulmonary diseases, sore or congested lungs, consumption, coughs, colds, sore throats, hoarseness, &c. An uncompounded product of Nature secreted in the petals of Horehound blossoms, and gathered by the honey bee.

SUCCESS IN THE PURSUITS OF LIFE depends much on a thorough knowledge of every branch pertaining to the vocation the individual chooses to follow. Yielding to the early inclination of making the study of the honey bee a professional one, Mr. Hoge's life-long association and continual study has been with them. This gave him unequalled facilities for investigating the curative properties of various kinds of honeys, and enabled him to discover and corroborate the wonderful healing powers of Horehound Honey.

IT IS A COMMON ERROR to think that any kind of Honey will make a good cough mixture, and we regret to say most chemists employ Honey as a basis for such medicines, without the least discrimination as to its source. It would be just as rational to expect any kind of bark to make good quinine. Francois Huber, Baron Liebig, and Sir John Lubbock agree with all other investigating naturalists in the assertion—that the characteristics of various Honeys are attributable to the plants from which they are gathered. Xenophon tells us that all his soldiers who ate of the Honey found in the villages on the mountains of the Colchians lost their senses; that those who ate but little were like men very drunk, and those who ate much like madmen. Pliny accounts for this by saying the honey was gathered from the flowers called *Rhododendros*, while of the Horehound plant Keats beautifully says—

"The bee, with sense so subtly true,
From *Horehound* herbs extracts the healing dew."

HONEY IS NOT MADE BY THE BEES, they are simply the vehicles provided by an all-wise Providence for *conveying* the Honey from the petals of the blooms and depositing it into the cells of the honeycomb. Notice a bee as it alights and insinuates itself into the very heart of the flowers, and you will have no difficulty in observing by a telescope motion of its body that it is sucking or rather pumping the drop of nectar into its honey sack, which is lined with a muscular tissue. When filled the little almoner of nature flies away to its hive, and, by compressing the muscles of its honey sack, deposits the Honey into the cells. The Honey undergoes no digestion, and is chemically the same in the hive as in the petal of the flower.

The LORD MAYOR of LONDON ORDERS IT.

MANSION HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.,
September, 28, 1883.

The LORD MAYOR would thank Messrs. W. M. Hoge and Co. to send him half a dozen of their Hoge's Horehound Honey, which has been *well recommended* to him.

W. L. BRIGHT, Esq., son of the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., says Hoge's Horehound Honey CURED his father of a bad cough.

WHAT THE CLERGY SAY OF IT:—

ELY, CAMBS., *May*, 1883.

The Rev. C. D. KINGDON has great pleasure in bearing testimony to the excellent properties of Hoge's Horehound Honey for preaching. It makes the voice clear and pleasant, and takes away all that huskiness in the throat which is so uncomfortable to preacher and congregation.

THE PRIMA DONNA.

HAWTHORN LODGE,
FINCHLEY NEW ROAD, N.W.,
March 30, 1883.

Messrs. W. M. HOGE & Co., London.

GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in stating that I consider your Horehound Honey the most wonderful remedy I have ever tried, possessing properties which are nothing short of marvellous for the cure of affections of the throat and chest. I shall never be without a bottle of Horehound Honey.—Yours very truly, MARIE ROZE.

Your Honey is delicious. ELLEN TERRY.

From the CHAMPION BILLIARD PLAYER.

38, MARYLANDS ROAD,
WESTBOURNE PARK,
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Messrs. W. M. HOGE & Co.

GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in certifying to the excellence of your Horehound Honey. I have found great relief from taking it, and strongly recommend it for coughs.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN ROBERTS, JUN.

WHAT IT DID FOR GEO. F. BLACK, Esq.

7, SUFFOLK LANE, CANNON STREET, E.C.,
LONDON, *April* 20, 1883.

Messrs. W. M. HOGE & Co., London.

GENTLEMEN,—Having suffered for many years with irritation of the throat and chest, I never found any remedy to relieve the irritation until I purchased a bottle of your Horehound Honey, which I did a few days since. I want to inform you it had a wonderful soothing effect, affording relief at once. Please send me one dozen bottles, and oblige,

Yours truly, G. F. BLACK.

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PRICE, 1s. 1½d. PER BOTTLE.
And Supplied by all Chemists.
WHOLESALE BY
HOGE'S HONEY COMPANY, LIMITED.
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SECOND EDITION.

THIS DAY'S NEWS.

"Guardian" Office, Friday, 4 p.m.

ENORMOUS RAILWAY DEFICITS.

[Central News Telegrams.]

New York, Friday Morning.

The accounts of the New York Central Railway, published to-day, show a deficit of nearly three million dollars. The dividends earned equal four-and-a-quarter millions; while 7½ per cent. has been paid. The rates were accounted for the falling off.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

Mr Burnard, the member for Stamford, intends contesting that part of the district of Lincolnshire under the New Seats Bill.

INTERESTING ARBITRATION CASE

An important arbitration, arising out of the construction of the New Tilbury Docks, is now proceeding. The contractors claim £600,000.

THE BRITISH FLEET.

Her Majesty's steamer *Rambler*, which has been hastily fitted for sea, left Sheerness for China this (Friday) morning to strengthen the British fleet.

SIR S. NORTHCOTE'S ILLNESS.

Sir Stafford Northcote is decidedly better this (Friday) morning, having passed a good night. He will probably leave his room to-morrow (Saturday).

REPRESENTATION OF LEICESTER.

Captain Cruickshanks has retired from the position of Conservative candidate for the borough of Leicester.

THE ASTON POLITICAL RIOTS.

DISORDERLY PROCEEDINGS IN COURT.

The hearing of the summonses arising out of the libel case of "Jarvis v. Reed," in connection with the disturbances at the Aston Lower Grounds, was resumed at Birmingham to-day (Friday) before Mr Kynnersley (stipendiery), and other justices.—Mr Harris, solicitor, as representing Mr Allard, the secretary of the Birmingam Liberal Association, protested against his client being subpoenæd to produce a letter from Mr Joseph Chamberlain and others.—The magistrates refused to hear Mr Harris, upon which the latter declared that the Court was not a "Star." The prosecution of Mr Chamberlain, he alleged, was dictated by political malice.—Mr Allard entered the witness box, but Mr Harris, interposing, said: "There were no letter." (Hisses and applause in Court.)—The case is proceeding.

PRIZE FIGHT IN THE DEARNESS VALLEY!

Two powerful-looking miners belonging to the Boyne Colliery were desirous of ascertaining the exact calibre of each other's muscular capabilities, whereupon they made formal arrangements for a prize fight on Saturday night at one of Bacchus' temples at the above colliery. At ten o'clock on Sunday morning, notwithstanding the bitter cold weather, and the fact that the snow on the ground was frozen into a hard crust, the tocsin was sounded and accompanied by about one hundred of their supporters, the pugilists repaired to a secluded nook in Browney Wood, where the encounter was fixed to take place. On arriving at the spot the non-combatants, with perfect equanimity, squatted themselves down on their "hunkers," whilst the "seconds" formed a ring. The whole of the preliminaries having been gone through, the two pugilists stripped to the "buff." This part of the proceedings completed, time was called, whereupon the combatants approached each other in true P.R. style. Round after round was fought without either getting the slightest advantage, and at length, after giving each other a severe "pummelling," the mental direction post of each began to point in the direction of "home," and they both cried out "peccavi," whereupon hostilities ceased. In the motley group there were no less than nine pitmen whose faces were ornamented with blackened eyes, whilst one of the pugilists had one to start with, indicative of the heavy training he had undergone. During the return home the choicest Billingsgate was indulged in by the party, and it is more than probable that at no distant date these two exponents of the manly art of self defence will meet again.

THE DISPUTE AT URPETH COLLIERY.

A STRIKE IMMINENT.

We learn that this dispute (mentioned in another column) has assumed a very unpleasant phase, and there is serious risk of a strike occurring, although every effort is being made to obviate such an undesirable result. The men dismissed naturally feel much aggrieved by the course followed in regard to them, and the matter is creating considerable feeling and anxiety in the district.

NEWCASTLE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

To-day (Friday), the proceedings in connection with the inauguration of the new premises of the Newcastle Y.M.C.A., were commemorated; a prayer meeting being held at 8 a.m. for the members of the association. Subsequently the annual meeting of the National Councils of Y.M.C.A.s in Great Britain was held. The public luncheon, held in Westgate Street Assembly Rooms this afternoon, was presided over by His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. Earl Cairns, who performs the principal ceremony, is expected to arrive in Newcastle sometime this afternoon.

TO-DAY'S MARKETS.

London Stock Exchange, Friday.—Consols one-sixteenth better. Wheat remains unchanged.

Newcastle Potato, Friday.—Arrivals continue moderate. Market dull, at following rates:—Best East Lothian regents, 80s to 84s; East Lothian champions, from 52s to 60s; other champions 44s to 50s per ton. Nothing else in the market.

Newcastle Fish, Friday.—Small supply at the Close Market this morning, and good prices realised.

North Shields Fish, Friday.—There is a very scanty supply of fish this morning, clearing out at very high prices. Haddocks, 4s to 10s; whitings, 3s 6d to 9s; plaice, 11s; lemons and witches, 18s to 20s per basket; cod, 4s to 7s 6d; ling, 4s to 8s; skate, 4s each. Very small quantities.

To-day (Friday), the meet of the North Durham Foxhounds took place at Knitsley.

The weather on the North Shields coast to-day (Friday) is cold and boisterous, a strong wind blowing from the east. The sky is overcast, and rain falls at frequent intervals. The sea is disturbed.

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

On Wednesday night, the monthly meeting of this body took place at the Local Board Offices, Consett, under the chairmanship of the Rev F. Steggall, who presided in the absence of Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P. Other members present: Messrs J. Calvert, T. Siddell, W. R. Taylor, Wm. Aynsley, T. Dunne, J. Palliser, in addition to the clerk (Mr T. W. Welford, jun).

THE PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

During the progress of the reading and confirmation of the minutes, the question of incorporating the town of Consett and the places surrounding into a Parliamentary electoral district cropped up.

The Chairman observed that, according to the lines of the Redistribution Bill, there was every possibility of this part of the Western Division of the county of Durham being allotted two members; and inasmuch as the question might eventually arise as to whether the member should take his name from Lanchester or Consett, it would be well for the Board to keep the subject in view.

Mr Calvert: If the Lanchester Union is converted into an electoral district, the member will adopt the name of Lanchester.

Mr Dunne: But it does not necessarily follow that because the district comprises the Lanchester Union, that the member will take that name.

Mr Calvert: Still Lanchester is considered the ancient village.

The Chairman said the Board ought to consider the local advantages of such a concession. Consett had rapidly improved of late, and now possessed a large building and the necessary accommodation and facilities for such purposes. This was not a political or party question, but a matter that affected the interests and welfare of the whole community.

THE PARK SCHEME.

A letter was read from Mr John Booth, the clerk to the Benfieldside Local Board, intimating that Messrs J. Eltringham, J. Lax, W. Wheatley, and R. Murray had been appointed a deputation to confer with a similiar committee from the Consett Local Board, and he suggested that the conference should take place on Tuesday next.

The Clerk promised to notify the fact to the three representatives of the Consett Board chosen in 1881, viz., the Rev F. Steggall, Mr Collinson, and Mr Dunne.

Mr Collinson said he was not aware that he was a member of the committee, as he never attended any of the conferences.

Mr Siddell stated that as he had been appointed a member of the Committee, he would state his views on the subject. Considering the hard times, and taking into account that the Consett Iron Company had been so generous as to grant a field at Consett for a public park, they ought to let the matter rest there. If the Board was desirous of spending a large sum of money, for the benefit of the community at large, let them commence with the new Market Scheme. (Laughter.)

The Chairman: This field is not for a park at all, but merely for recreative purposes.

Mr Palliser remarked that the field could still be utilised as a recreation ground after they had attained the park. He was induced to take up this scheme, not merely from selfish or interested motives, but with a view of assisting the numerous working men who made application to him from time to time for relief, and some movement of this description would prevent many families from starving in these depressed times.

Mr Calvert, who considered this discussion somewhat premature, pointed out that the members ought not to express their views until they met the deputation from the Benfieldside Board.

The Chairman could not support the Park scheme until the plan already prepared was laid before the Board, and they knew what they were going to do. Parties who had had a glimpse of the plan, stated that two rows of houses were indicated thereon, cutting off about 80ft. of the principal part of the "Heaps," and only leaving a small portion of the "Blue Mountains" proper for a public park; and the flat ground at the bottom he considered to be utterly useless as a recreation ground for the children of Consett.

Mr Dunne suggested that the deputation meet about one o'clock p.m., and discuss the question fully before interviewing Mr Jenkins at the offices at three o'clock.

Eventually, the following gentlemen were appointed as a deputation from the Consett Board, viz., Messrs Siddell, Aynsley Palliser, and Dunne.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Rippon) submitted the subjoined report:—

To the Chairman and Members of Consett Local Board.

Gentlemen,—During the past month portions of the following roads in your district have been covered with road metal, namely: Medomsley Road, Leadgate Road, Delves Lane, Foundry Road, Castleside Road, Albert Road, Shakespeare Street, Church Street, and Front Street. The following footpaths have been covered with chippings, namely: Footpath on Pasture Drift Road, Tinmill Road, Brickflats Lane, and portions of Edith and Constance Streets.

Mr Thomas Westgarth has finished his contract for kerbing and channelling near Selby Lodge in a very satisfactory manner, and I certify that he is entitled to receive £28 18s 1d.

Mr Allison has commenced with his contract for kerbing and channelling on Medomsley Road, and should the weather prove favourable the greater part of the work (if not the whole) will be executed by the end of this year.

The back street at Mount Pleasant has been kerbed, channelled, macadamised, &c., in a proper workman-like manner, and is a great improvement in that part of your district.

On November the 14th I served Mrs Sloane with a notice to cease fitting up a stable adjoining her property in Pitt Street, otherwise the penalty would be enforced. Since then nothing has been done to it.

I have had to open the main sewer behind Medomsley Road, near Mr Dobson's, Fountain Hotel, to remove an obstruction in the pipes. This sewer, I find, is partly sifted up, and as it runs for some distance underneath private property it is difficult to rectify.

I have closely inspected your district, and found the ashpits with only a small quantity of refuse in them. The privies, as a whole, were clean and kept in good order.

The following amounts have been paid to Treasurer—

	£	s	d
General District Rate	179	11	3
From the Local Government Board half of your Inspector's salary....	40	0	0
Market tolls.........................	1	12	9

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant.
William Rippon.

Consett, Dec. 3rd, 1884.

IMPROVEMENTS AT MOUNT PLEASANT.

The Surveyor pointed out that as the proprietors might not probably be aware that it was necessary to make application to the Board prior to taking over the back street at Mount Pleasant, and as they were desirous of the street being dedicated to the public, he suggested that the Board take it over without any further delay. The street had been completed to his satisfaction.

Mr Dunne and other members did not see any necessity for the Board waiting for such an application being made to them, seeing that the street had been completed to the satisfaction of the Surveyor; accordingly it was resolved, on the motion of Mr Aynsley, that the back street at Mount Pleasant be taken over and the usual notices posted declaring it to be a public thoroughfare. It was also decided to name the street "Powell's Lane."

JOHN STREET.

Mr Dunne suggested that the remaining part of the street leading from John Street to Gibson Street, not hitherto taken over by the Board, be dedicated to the public; but as Messrs Hoyle, Shipley, and Hoyle, solicitors, Newcastle, had not paid their proportion of the cost, it was agreed to allow the subject to remain in *status quo* for another month, when it is expected this money will be forthcoming.

QUESTIONABLE BUILDING OPERATIONS.

The Committee selected a month ago to inspect Mr McGurk's slaughter-house premises in Medomsley Road, which was erected without any plan first being submitted and approved of by the Board, reported that they had examined the place, and found it to be a substantial-looking structure, both clean and tidy, and in every respect adapted to the purposes of a slaughter-house; but the members were divided upon the point of granting the requisite license, and referred that question to the Board.

It was resolved, after a brief discussion, to issue the necessary license.

MRS SLOANE'S STABLE.

The Inspector, in reply to the members, explained that a young man was engaged in laying down a bricked floor in Mrs Sloane's stable on the day that the Committee made their inspection; and he was then and there ordered to serve a notice upon her requesting further operations towards the completion of the building to cease.

Mr Aynsley said the reason the Committee authorised the Inspector to serve this notice, was because the stable had been built without the sanction of the Board, and they desired to stop Mrs Sloane from laying down the pavement.

Mr Dunne repudiated the authority of the Board to prevent any person from paving wherever they liked, whether in an open space or an enclosed building.

Mr Aynsley thereupon enquired if the Board had any control over the building, seeing that it was erected without any plans being submitted to the Board?

The Chairman: I do not see that we can do anything except order the building to be taken down.

Mr Dunne: But a plan has been since submitted.

Mr Aynsley: The plan was sent in after the building had been erected. Speaking as a member of the Building Committee, I cannot say that I approve of the position of the stable.

Mr Palliser suggested that the members should exercise a little charity when dealing with such matters.

Mr Dunne: That is what we have done in Mr McGurk's case.

Mr Aynsley: This question ought to be definitely settled before any of the gentlemen sitting here should talk about exercising charity. It is treating this Board with contempt in putting up erections without furnishing plans to receive our approbation. What are we sitting here for?

Mr Siddell: It's no earthly use the Board sitting here month after month and talking about charity.

Mr Calvert: But the Board has already overlooked Mr McGurk's offence, although he never submitted a plan.

Mr Taylor: But that was a substantial structure, and is most excellently built.

Mr Aynsley: As a member of the Building Committee, it is a questionable point with me whether I should have approved of the stable being erected in the position it now stands.

Mr Dunne observed that some time ago, a party applied to the Board to erect a wooden erection; but they found that they could not, according to their bye-laws, grant such permission. An expression of opinion was, however, given that if a suitable wood erection was built, the Board would not offer any objection to it. Perhaps Mrs Sloane had heard of this, and considered there was no harm in putting a wooden roof on to the outer walls; but the building was in reality the same as if it had been entirely constructed of wood.

Mr Collinson: But a distinct notice was given to the builder that there was nothing to be put on to the walls without a plan.

Mr Dunne: Who gave that notice?

Mr Siddell: The members of the Board, on going their round of inspection, gave notice.

Mr Calvert observed that the Board had granted permission to build more unsightly buildings adjoining John Street—a wooden cow-byre.

Mr Aynsley: That was only a temporary building, but this is a permanent structure.

Mr Calvert: So it is, and with substantial walls.

Mr Aynsley objected to these unsightly gable ends, and thought that the Board ought to have power to direct that the buildings in any particular street some measure of uniformity should be maintained.

Mr Dunne said if he desired to build a three-storey house alongside two-storey buildings, the Board could not prevent him, providing the thoroughfare was sufficiently wide enough.

Mr Calvert explained that the reason this building had been converted into a stable was to abate a nuisance existing too near the dwelling-houses (the stable having been built years ago); and also to remove the privy and ashpit, which were likewise in close proximity to the house. The members of the Board, together with their Inspector, visited the premises, and he would ask these gentlemen if they did not consider the erection of the stable a great improvement upon the existing state of affairs?

Mr Siddell: But the question is, why did not the owner, prior to commencing building operations, submit a plan to this Board

Mr Calvert: There was not any plan in McGurk's case.

Mr Siddell: Two blacks do not make a white.

The Surveyor explained that Mrs Sloane did send in a plan before commencing with the stable; but the roof was put on before the date of the Board meeting. If it had not been for this circumstance they would not have heard one word about the stable.

Mr Aynsley: But our Surveyor distinctly told us at the last meeting that he knew nothing about the building; although he now admits that he had the plan in his possession for several days previously. There was certainly some cause for the Board allowing the structure to remain.

The Surveyor: I was simply telling the truth when I said I knew nothing concerning the building in question. That is the fact of the case.

Mr Siddell (to the Surveyor). Why did you not give us the facts at the last meeting, instead of telling us you knew nothing about the building?

The Surveyor: The plan was here.

Mr Siddell: We never saw the plan.

The Surveyor: It was laid upon the table.

Mr Dunne said they could not possibly pass the plan for a wooden roof; but they could give Mrs Sloane permission to proceed with the building.

Mr Siddell: We cannot give permission without refusing to pass the plans.

Mr Dunne (to Mr Siddell): We never passed your plan for a timber erection.

Mr Siddell: No; I never asked you. The very day you (Mr Dunne) condemned the wooden erection in this street, you put up a wood structure upon your own property.

Mr Dunne: Who did?

Mr Siddell: You.

The Chairman: Order, please, gentlemen. We cannot allow a personal discussion.

Mr Dunne: I wish to state that Mr Siddell's assertion is incorrect.

After further remarks, Mr Calvert moved that Mrs Sloane's plan be passed; and that notice be served upon the proprietor requesting her to remove the privy and ashpit further away from the dwelling house.

Mr Dunne seconded, and the proposal was carried, 4 voting for and 3 against it.

Mr Collinson expressed his astonishment at the action of the Board in adopting the plan, and in view of what had recently transpired at that Board, there would have to be a stopping place somewhere, otherwise it would not be of the least use for them to meet there from month to month. After recapitulating the circumstances in connection with this case, the speaker thought the climax had been reached, and hoped there should be an end to this sort of thing. He therefore proposed that for the future, wherever it is necessary to prepare a plan, no building shall be erected without such plan being deposited with the Surveyor and receiving the sanction of the Board.

Mr Aynsley believed that their bye-laws embodied the terms of the resolution.

Mr Collinson: But this proposition will strengthen our bye-laws, and we can fall back upon it, without having these two cases previously passed looked upon as a precedent hereafter.

Mr Aynsley: The effect of the resolution, if carried, will not prevent the Board from acting in the same manner as we have done to-night.

Mr Collinson: Surely you will not adopt the same course in the face of your bye-laws?

Mr Dunne: I think it will be sufficient to let the public know that we are determined in future to strictly adhere to the bye-laws.

Mr Aynsley seconded the motion.

The Chairman: Our bye-laws already provide for such emergencies. But supposing that someone built an erection in his yard without the knowledge of our Surveyor, what would you do in that case? Order the building to come down?

Mr Collinson: Institute proceedings against the offenders.

The Chairman: Then you have proposed a resolution that cannot be carried into effect.

Mr Collinson: But any party disobeying the terms of the resolution could then be summoned before the Magistrates.

The proposition was ultimately carried *nem. con.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr W. Rippon was re-appointed surveyor, inspector, and poor-rate collector at the usual salary; Mr Taylor suggesting that the Board should endeavour to get the Local Government Board to pay a portion of the salary of the Medical Officer of Health as well as the Sanitary Inspector.

With regard to the repairing of the various railway bridges in the district, the Surveyor reported that Mr Beattie, the local agent of the N.E.R. had the necessary material in readiness.

The Clerk having procured a copy of Lumley's edition of the Public Health Act (just published), it was agreed to purchase the same.

The rest of the business was of a formal character.

THIS MORNING'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords last (Thursday) night, the Franchise Bill passed through Committee, and the third reading fixed for Friday next. Lord Stratearn's motion to amend the procedure of the House was carried by 49 votes against 6.

In the Commons, the motion for the second reading of the Redistribution Bill was carried without opposition, and the Committee fixed for Feb. 19th.

[By Telegraph.]

The House of Commons (which was sitting when the daily papers went to press) did not rise until a quarter-past five this (Friday) morning. After the second reading of the Redistribution Bill, Mr Justin McCarthy moved the second reading of the Irish National School Teachers Bill. The motion was opposed by Mr Campbell-Bannerman and Mr Childers, and after a long discussion the debate was adjourned by 83 to 14. After disposing of the Hours of Polling Bill, another long discussion ensued on the proposal of Mr Sexton to debate it on Saturday. Mr O'Brien wished for opportunity before the adjournment of the House to discuss Fitzgerald's arrest. Ultimately the House adjourned until to-morrow (Saturday), the ayes being 43, and the noes 39.

THE CRAGHEAD SEWERAGE QUESTION.

At the meeting of the Lanchester Board of Guardians yesterday (Thursday)—Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., in the chair—the Government Inspector (Mr Knollys) intimated that he had attended for the purpose of learning what steps the Sanitary Authority intended to take in reference to the water supply for Craghead and Edmondsley.

The Chairman pointed out that Edmondsley was not in their Union; and, moreover, the ordinary sanitary business would not be considered until that day fortnight.

The Clerk stated that he had received a letter that morning from the Local Government Board, enclosing a copy of Mr Arnold Taylor's report respecting the Local Government Enquiry at Craghead, and recommending that the Consett Water Company's pipes be laid as far as the villages of South Moor and Craghead.

The Chairman pointed out that no complaint had been made to that Authority relative to the water until the Enquiry at Craghead, when Mr Taylor inspected the sources of the water supply in these villages. At South Moor, he knew there was a well from which the inhabitants could procure their supply; and the water in the stream was quite pure.

Rev J. P. De Pledge stated that the water supply was very inconvenient, as the bulk of the population had to travel a quarter-of-a-mile for all their water.

The Chairman said there was plenty of water in the stream.

The Rev J. P. De Pledge: I should not like to drink it.

The Chairman: Then it appears that the Messrs Hedley have hitherto being supplying their workpeople with impure water.

Canon Kearney enquired if the Sanitary Authority had power to compel every place to furnish itself with a proper supply of water? This was a very important question.

Mr Knolly replied that the Authority had power to provide each village with an adequate supply of water; but could not compel the inhabitants to do so themselves.

The Chairman remarked that, with all due deference to the Local Government Board, he was rather amused when reading that part of the report requesting the Sanitary Authority to provide a proper system of drainage for Craghead, and discharge their sewerage elsewhere, without polluting the Stanley Burn. It was proved without doubt at the Government Enquiry that a sample of water taken out of the burn below where the sewage was supposed to enter it, was equally as clear as the water obtained above that point.

Rev J. P. De Pledge: You must remember, Mr Chairman, that it was exceedingly dry weather then, and there was no sewage running in.

The Chairman: If it comes to a question of wet and dry weather, I may state that in the time of drought the water is always muddy. Proceeding, Mr Smith pointed out that the whole of the London sewage eventually found its way into the Thames, a circumstance which the Local Government Board had apparently overlooked; but their Lordships could direct the Authorities at Lanchester to spend thousands of pounds in providing a sewage scheme in order to avoid polluting a certain stream. Was the country in a worse state than London? He thought not, and he firmly believed there was not a place in England that was thoroughly drained.

Mr Eltringham: If we were as filthy down here as they are in London, we would take immediate steps to purify the place.

The Chairman: And yet the Local Government Board neglect the state of things existing in their very midst.

The discussion subsequently drifted upon the question of the proposed alteration of the boundary of Chester-le-Street and the Lanchester Unions, and the transference of a portion of Craghead to Chester-le-Street, in order to define the limits of the Lanchester Union. A Local Government enquiry having been held at Chester-le-Street in November, 1883, by Mr Culley, under the Divided Parishes Act, a general opinion was expressed by Mr Logan and others that a similar enquiry should be held at Lanchester in order to arrange the boundary of the complicated parishes in the Union.

The Inspector pointed out that the Local Government Board strongly urged that the contemplated annexation of a portion of Craghead to Chester-le-Street Union should not deter the Sanitary Authority from performing its duty. He believed that the Chester-le-Street Guardians were appealing against the proposal of Mr Culley. He promised, however, to hold a Government Enquiry as early as possible, in order to revise and amend the boundary of the townships in the Lanchester Union; and have the arrangements completed by March, 1886.

The Season.—The December monthly part of this magazine of fashion maintains the prominent position which this new candidate for popular support has already secured. It contains, in addition to three very superior coloured plates of fashion, designs of embroidery, &c., two numbers, and one supplement. The publishers are evidently determined to make *The Season* a great success, and no expense is spared to secure this result.

Warning to Miners.—The following colliery warning was issued yesterday (Thursday) afternoon:—The warning of a week ago continues in force. In the interval an unusual number of atmospheric disturbances have crossed the country in quick succession, some deep and others shallow. The outlook is still unfavourable to the continuance of these disturbed conditions. The greatest vigilance is imperative in examination for gas escapes and accumulations, as well as a renewal of caution to the ordinary workmen.

The Seats Bill.—The amended copy of the Redistribution Bill was issued yesterday (Thursday), the principal alteration appearing to be the inclusion of Warwick in the second schedule as a borough to lose one member.—The Boundary Commissioners for marking out the electoral areas in relation to the Seats Bill met yesterday (Thursday), at the office of the Local Government Board. The sitting lasted the greater part of the day, every effort being made to expedite the business before the Commission.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY.

PERFORMANCE OF A GRAND CANTATA.

After a considerable period of well-spent seclusion, this famed society has again come to the front, and made its *debut* in the New Town Hall, Consett, on the evening of Wednesday last. The occasion was the rendering of Birch's descriptive cantata, "The Wreck of the Argosy." The undertaking of this most difficult composition speaks well of the indomitable courage and speculative spirit of the young and accomplished conductor—Mr Christopher Stelling. In order to carry out the performance in its entirety, a great expense was involved; but this was only a secondary matter, the object of the society being to place before a Consett audience a real musical treat. Accordingly, the following special artistes were engaged:—Miss Cecilia Armitage (mezzo-soprano), Art Gallery Concerts, Newcastle; Miss Annie Bell (soprano), of the Choral Society; Mr G. H. Welch (tenor), Durham Cathedral; and Mr John Nutton, the celebrated base, also of Durham Cathedral. The following comprised the orchestra:—First violins—Messrs W. W. Lax (principal), E. Williams, and F. Eltringham; second violins—Messrs Percy Lax (principal), T. Cuthbertson, G. Reed, and W. A. Hoe; viola—Mr R. Renton Greye; 'cellos—Messrs Geo. Baker and M. Fawell; basso—Mr J. A. Coutts; flute—Mr A. W. Arlom; clarionet—Mr R. Smith; cornets—Messrs W. H. Ruddick and A. Lamb; euphonium—Mr M. Hobday; bassoon—Mr J. Cunningham; tympani—Mr W. Macpherson. Besides these, there was a chorus of eighty voices, the whole being under the personal direction of Mr Stelling. Notwithstanding the boisterous state of the weather on the evening of the concert, long before the time of commencement, crowds flocked to the place from all parts of the district, some even being noticed from Burnopfield, Annfield Plain, &c. Eventually, the spacious hall was filled to its utmost limit, and amongst the vast concourse a goodly sprinkling of the *elite* of the neighbourhood was observed.

The composition was of a romantic character, and in order for the reader to follow the threads of the story it will be necessary to give the personations, which were as follows:—Lellie Marston (daughter of the village innkeeper), Miss Armitage; Harry Stanchion (British tar), Mr Welch; Ralph Harman (pirate), Mr J. Nutton; Alice Harman (sister of Ralph), Miss Bell; whilst the villagers, sailors, pirates, &c., were represented by the chorus and band.

Part I of the argument places before the admiring audience a sea-shore on the coast of Cornwall about the year 1800. The overture over, the assembled villagers join in the chorus, "Sweet spring, all hail." Lellie Marston, daughter of the host of the Village inn, then sings in praise of Spring the recit. and air "The lark when rising from the ground." A ship is then seen, and the chorus strike up "A sail, a sail!" The song of the sailors as they haul the ropes, "Heave ho, heave ho!" reaches the ear between the verses of the villagers' chorus. The coastguard, Will Sharp (Mr C. C. McColvin), after looking through a telescope, declares the ship to be a British man-of-war, the "Argosy," and then sings "The streamer of England," the villagers responding in chorus. The ship arrives, and foremost among the sailors who land is Harry Stanchion the lover of Nellie Marston. He sings the song, "England, our beautiful home," with chorus by the villagers, and afterwards the love ballad, "Lellie dear, remember." There is need for his pleadings, for Lellie's father informs her that she must discard Harry for a more wealthy husband in the person of Ralph Harman, a pirate. Upon this they join in a duet, "Farewell," both declaring their constancy. The succeeding chorus, "O mighty sea," pictures the vessel again under sail, and the anxious watch of the captain. Ralph Harman (baritone) interposes with a prayer for the tempest and darkness which favour his work, spurred on as he is by jealousy of his rival. The chorus continues, and in alternation with Ralph Harman, pictures the changing aspect of the sea.

After an interval of five minutes, part II changes the scene into a smugglers' cave at night. The men led by Harman, join in a vigorous and jovial chorus, "Hurrah for a pirate's life." An instrumental interlude pictures an approaching storm, and the pirate chief, Ralph Harman, rouses his men in a recit., "A ship in distress: plunder's the word," after which the instruments again picture the lull of the storm. The pirates have now departed in search of their plunder, and Alice Harman, sister of Ralph enters, and in two recits., "How fiercely the storm has raged," and "Hark! I hear the shouts," shows her pity for the lost, and her horror of the pirate's life. The Argosy has been wrecked, and Ralph and his band have captured Harry Stanchion. A dialogue recitative follows between the two men, who afterwards join in a duet, "Deep in a dungeon," in which their music, and not their words, are in harmony. Harry is carried away to the dungeon, and Ralph sings the descriptive song, "Calm is the deep." Harry is now heard singing "Miserere Domine," an alternative English version of his song being given. Alice Harman hears him, and touched with pity, sings the recit., "Merciful powers," and the air, "Holy Father, hear my prayer," in which she prays for the captive's safety. She ends by releasing him, and the two join in a duet, "Sweet pretty maiden," in which Harry thanks her for his rescue, and she warns him to flee. The Pirate Chief leads the pursuit, and his men join in the chorus, "Pursue the miscreant."

Part III again changes the scene into the original one. The villagers are assembled, and the band strike up a sailor's hornpipe. Will Sharp (Mr Dryden) hears the signal gun which heralds the approach of the vessel, and in the recit., "Hark! 'tis the signal gun," proclaims her return to the villagers, who respond to the chorus "Merrily, merrily, over the trackless deep." Lellie has been prevailed upon, sorely against her will, to marry Ralph, and the wedding is about to take place. In a ballad, "Rippling waves of sparkling hue," she sings of her lost love, and then joins in a duet with the pirate, in which she pleads to be spared the wedding, and he asserts his right to her hand. Fortunately, Harry Stanchoin turns up just in time to prevent the marriage, denouncing Ralph as a pirate, who is thereupon carried off to prison by Will Sharp (Mr Dryden). Lellie and Harry then, in a duet, "Away from the rolling sea," declare their mutual love and joy, Harry follows with the ballad, "Home at last," and a final chorus, "How merrily and gay the village bells," describes the rustic sports and festivities which celebrate the happy wedding of Lellie and Harry.

It is almost needless for us to add that the whole piece was gone through almost without a hitch. Miss Armitage's voice was exceedingly sweet, and in every way adapted to the pieces allotted to her. She gained rapturous *encores* for the recit. and air, "List! the birds; the lark, when rising." and also in the song, "Rippling waves of sparkling hue." Miss Bell, although possessing a refined soprano voice, was rather timid, and was not, therefore, heard to the advantage that the preceding lady was. Her articulation, however, was faultless, and she received the hearty plaudits of the company. Mr Welch and Mr Nutton each sustained their celebrity as professionals in the highest degree. When they appeared side by side in the duet, "Deep in the dungeon," the hall was filled with a flood of melody occasioned by their richly-blending voices, and at the conclusion of which, the cries of "Back, back!" were almost deafening. They acknowledged the compliment by repeating the last verse, and the audience would fain have had the piece over a third time, but the lateness of the hour would not allow of it. The performance of the orchestra was everything that could be desired. The descriptive interlude was especially grand. It almost gave the idea that a real storm was raging, and with equal skill did they make the storm appear to abate. Their efforts were much appreciated by the auditory, and when they gave the sailor's hornpipe, a clamorous *encore* was accorded them, which they acknowledged. The chorus representing the villagers, &c., likewise deserve commendation, as each of the choruses rendered by them bespoke their efficiency, and which reflects credit on Mr Stelling. Altogether, the affair was an unprecedented success, and we may safely bespeak a crowded audience if Mr Stelling favours Consett with the piece again.

CONCERT AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

One by one, the historical institutions we were wont to associate with the ancient village of Shotley Bridge—the pride of the Derwent Valley—are being swept away, and probably ere another year may have elapsed the noble and picturesque structure known as the Town Hall Buildings will be a thing of the past—at least the structure will have undergone such a transformation that the main building—the Hall—the scene of so many fashionable assemblages during the last quarter of a century, will have been either dismantled or demolished, and converted into banking premises, offices, and dwelling-houses. The circumstance is deeply to be regretted; but it appears there is no alternative but to adopt this course, the inhabitants, ably supplemented by the efforts of the Local Board, having done all they could to avert such a calamity. What will probably be the final great gathering in the Hall—if we except the ball to come off this week—was the successful miscellaneous concert, promoted by the Committee of the Shotley Bridge Floral and Horticultural Society, held on Friday evening, in aid of the funds of their unfortunate Rose Show. There was a good attendance, the audience being both enthusiastic and appreciative. The chief soloists on the occasion were, Miss Mary Thirlwell (Catchgate), Miss Emma Muse (Shotley Bridge), Mr Ch. Stephenson (Benfieldside), Mr G. Arkless (Catchgate), Mr Telford (Catchgate), Mr Andrew Erskine (Newcastle), and Mr G. Sinfield (Shotley Bridge). The solo violinst was Mr Nixon (Shotley Bridge); while the following officiated as accompanists: Miss Thirlaway (Catchgate); Messrs G. H. Erskine (Newcastle), organist of St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside; Mr Alf. Bell (Kilnpit Hill), organist of St. John's, Castleside; and Mr Marshall (Blackhill). Mr Bell opened the programme by performing a solo on the piano, consisting of a selection from Lebach's "Faust," which was given with considerable skill and precision, and received the warm encomiums of the audience. Mr Arkless followed with the song, "Gallants of England," (Gatty), wherein he fully developed his rich bass voice, and displayed no mean ability in the treatment of the composition, the result being an enthusiastic welcome. The next song, "This is my dream," was sung in a sweet and pathetic strain by Miss Thirlwell, and the fair artiste was rewarded with vociferous outbursts of applause, which culminated in a rapturous *encore*, which she gracefully acknowledged by singing "The last rose of summer" with equal acceptance. Mr Stephenson, who received quite an ovation when he made his appearance on the platform, contributed, in his usual admirable style, Baker's song, "The white squall," and as the abilities of this gentleman are widely known in this district, it will suffice for us to remark that he did ample justice to the piece. In response to a most enthusiastic re-call, Mr Stephenson gave "The message." Mr Nixon executed in a masterly style "The harp that once thro' Tara's Hall" (Farrer), as a solo on the violin, and this, together with the the piano accompaniment by Mr Bell harmonised exceedingly well. Being re-called, Mr Nixon gave a repetition of his "Imitation of the pigs" which so displeased a Consett audience some years ago, but which was greatly relished by the present company. Mr Sinfield next sung "John Peel;" and was succeeded by Miss Muse, who favoured with a song by Lowthian, entitled "The gates of the west," which was given with charming effect, and was accorded a richly-merited *encore*, which she did not fail to pass unnoticed. Messrs Telford and Arkless then figured in the amusing duet (in character) styled "The upper ten and the Lower five," which has gained for them so much popularity in the vicinity of Annfield Plain. The efforts of these gentlemen vastly amused the audience, and were greeted with violent outbursts of uncontrollable laughter. The first part was exhausted by the comic song, "Mrs Jones's music party," given in costume by Mr C. Erskine. The piece was exceptionally droll and humorous, and the audience were fairly convulsed.

The second part consisted of the following items, viz:—Solo (piano), "Home, sweet home" (Thalberg), Mr Bell; song, "The Toreador," (From Bizet's *Carmen*), Mr Stephenson; song, "The children's home" (Cowen), Miss Thirlwell; song, Mr Sinfield; solo (violin), "Fantasia on Scotch airs," Mr Nixon; song, "Fifty years ago," Mr Telford; song, "The better land" (Cowen), Miss Muse; duet, Messrs Arkless and Telford; song (comic) "You'll be sorry for this" (G. Leybourne), Mr A. Erskine. Most of the artistes were re-demanded; and after the National Anthem had been sung, the audience dispersed, evidently well pleased with their evening's entertainment.

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Durham Diocesan Inspection Board.—At a meeting held in Darlington, on Monday, to which the school managers and subscribers to the Durham Diocesan Inspection Fund were invited, for the purpose of considering the election of members to serve on the Board for the Archdeaconry, it was agreed:—1. That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to select candidates for election to the Durham Diocesan Inspection Board with a view of securing harmonious action. 2. That the following gentlemen be selected for nomination as suitable candidates:—The Ven. Archdeacon Long, Bishopwearmouth; the Revs C. H. Ford, Bishopton; R. H. Gray, Wolsingham; T. Law, Stockton; and Messrs T. Crosby, Norton; F. B. Dupre, Durham; W. R. I. Hopkins, Witton Tower; and S. Gourley, West Hartlepool.

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BIRTHS.

Consett.—Sherburn Terrace, 27th ult., the wife of Mr John Cummings, of a daughter

Crook Hall.—29th ult., the wife of John Telford, of a daughter.

Benfieldside.—1st inst., the wife of G. Eltringham, merchant, of a daughter.

Low Westwood.—23rd ult., the wife of George Dixon, of a son.

Allendale Cottages.—20th ult., the wife of John Walton, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Register Office, Lanchester.—22nd ult., Mr R. W. Proudlock, to Miss E. A. Wardle, Lanchester.—Same day, Mr T. Gibson, Consett, to Miss M. E. Urwin, Leadgate.—29th, Mr J. W. Turner to Miss S. A. Huntley, Consett.—Same day, Mr R. Crasswell, to Miss M. Moody, South Pontop.—Same day, Mr James Daffel, to Miss A. E. Millsop.—2nd inst., Mr Joseph Robson, Consett, to Miss Eleanor Westthorpe, Leadgate.

Durham.—Jubilee Chapel, 28th ult., by the Rev. W. Baitey, William Davison, of Hedley Hill, to Maggie, daughter of Henry Bower, of Bearpark.

DEATHS.

Benfieldside Edge Road.—30th ult., aged 1 year and 5 months, Mabel Isabell, daughter of William and Jane Margaret Surtis.

Leadgate.—11, West Street, 30th ult., aged 65, Ann, wife of Charles Beattie.

Lanchester.—4th inst, Thomas Ward, builder, aged 38 years. Interment at Lanchester, on Sunday, at Three p.m. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.

Winlaton.—1st inst., aged 72, William Watson.

Urpeth Colliery.—29th ult., aged 43, Eleanor, wife of John Urwin.

Ryton.—Beech Grove Terrace, 2nd inst., aged 47, Mary Jane Midcalf.

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