ROBERT JACKSON'S
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENTS,
50, FRONT STREET, and 71, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
Agent for Dipton:—MR. THOMAS CLARK, South Medomsley Cottages.
Agent for Stanley:—Mr. M. G. ARMSTRONG, Newsagent, Havanna Post Office.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

BLANKETS, 8s 11d to 25s.
FANCY BERLIN SHAWLS, 1s 11d to 8s 11d.
DRESS GOODS, 3½d to 3s 6d.
SKIRTS, 1s 6d to 6s 11d.
MUSLINS in great variety.
MEN'S SUITS, 19s 6d to 35s
OVERCOATS, 17s 6d to 30s.
SHIRTS, 1s to 4s 11d.
WOOL VESTS, 1s 6d to 3s 6d.
PANTS, 1s 11½d to 4s 11d.
DOWSON'S, BLACKHILL. 333m

No. 1,736 | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, December 8th, 1893. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

MONEY!
IMMEDIATE CASH ADVANCES.
THE
SUNDERLAND COMMERCIAL ADVANCE BANK,
29 WEST SUNNISIDE, SUNDERLAND.
Are prepared to ADVANCE daily from £10 to £1000, To Clergymen, Gentlemen, Farmers, Cowkeepers, and Householders generally (male or female) simply ON THEIR OWN PROMISSORY NOTE, at the most reasonable rates of interest.
NO PUBLICATION. NO BILLS OF SALE.
NO SURETIES REQUIRED.
STRICTEST SECRECY GUARANTEED.
No connection with Loan Offices or anonymous advertisers. Prospectus free. Apply at once before going elsewhere, as you will find special advantages in dealing with this Bank.
ALEXANDER WOLFE, Manager.
94j

THE NORTHERN FURNISHING CO., LTD
BANKING DEPARTMENT.
Sums of £1 and upwards are received on Deposit on the following terms:—
£4 per cent. per annum
(Withdrawable on demand.)
£5 per cent. per annum
(Subject to One Month's notice of withdrawal.)
£6 per cent. per annum
(Subject to Three Months' notice of withdrawal.)
Sums of not less than 1s. are also received at 5 per cent. per annum interest, and can be withdrawn at 14 days' notice.
Prospectus, etc., sent free on application to the General Manager, Mr ROBERT IONS, 277 and 279, Westgate Road, Newcastle; or Mr GEO. LEADBITTER, Accountant, Catchgate, Lintz Green.

Found.

FOUND, at Donnley Ford, near Knitsley, a SCOTCH CUR DOG. If not claimed in seven days will be sold.—L. WILSON, Knitsley.

FOUND, 4th inst., a BLACK RETRIEVER BITCH PUP, white spot on breast. If not claimed within three days will be sold.—Apply, JAS. HEWISON, Greencroft. 731m

Wanted.

WANTED, a respectable GIRL, as General Servant; able to milk preferred.—Apply to Mrs E. WILKINSON, Dipton House, Dipton. 732m

WANTED, a good strong GIRL for Public house; one that can cook and wait.—Apply Red Lion Inn, Dipton. 731m

WANTED, a WORKING HOUSEKEEPER where Cow is kept.—Apply at *Guardian* Office, Consett. 727m

WANTED, a YOUTH to Butchering Business, used to Horses and Cattle, age from 15 to 18.—Apply to M. ADAMSON, The Leazes, Lintz Green.

WANTED, at once, good GENERAL SERVANT, age from 18 to 20.—Apply at Burton House, Burnopfield. 754m

WANTED, an experienced GENERAL SERVANT, with good character; another Girl kept.—Apply, *Guardian* Office, Consett.

WANTED, by Two Ladies, comfortable SITTING and BED-ROOM confined.—Apply, with terms, which must be moderate, to Box C, *Guardian* Office, Consett. 761m

POTATOES! POTATOES!! WANTED. Lowest Price for 20 to 40 Tons for Delivery; also state kinds.—Address: POTATOES, "*Guardian*" Office, Consett 668m

BLACKHILL MECHANICS' INSTITUTE & LIBRARY.—WANTED, a LIBRARIAN and CARETAKER for the above Institute.—Applications to be sent to the SECRETARY, who will give all information required, not later than Tuesday first, December 12th.—JOHN T. MUIR, Secretary, 20, Bessemer Street, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 753m

AGENCY.—For good GENERAL SERVANTS apply at the SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE, 13, Front Street, Consett. 29k

GOOD COLLECTORS WANTED for the North of England; must also be Salesmen. Smart Young Fellows can earn £2 per week. Salary and Commission. — State age and experience, Box C, *Guardian* Office, Consett. 636m

COLLIERY OFFICIALS and MINERS of all ranks and ages. Lessons by Post. The surest road to promotion. Send Penny Stamp for Syllabus. —T. A. SOUTHERN, M.E., late H.M. Inspector of Mines, the Universal Mining School, Derby. 184m

To Let.

TO LET, HOUSE, No. 9, Cemetery Road, containing Six Rooms, with large Garden Ground behind, and Out-offices.—Apply to J. ROUTLEDGE, Consett. 704m

TO LET, KNITSLEY GRANGE, 8 Rooms, and Conveniences, good Garden, and if required some Land as well. Entry next week.—Apply to Mr HAANSBERGEN, Woodlands, Consett. 752m

TO LET, at New South Moor, a HOUSE of FIVE ROOMS, and a BUTCHER'S SHOP, and HOUSE of SEVEN ROOMS, together with all other necessary conveniences.—For particulars apply to Mr JOHN SMITH, Post Office, South Moor. 763m

FARMS TO LET.—BUTSFIELD FARM and NORTH BUTSFIELD FARM, now occupied by Mr J. J. WILLIS and Mr JAS. ROSS, who is not an offerer. The above Houses to be Let either without Land, or with any such quantity of Land as may be agreed upon (260 Acres). A BLACKSMITH'S SHOP also TO LET.—Offers received by Mr VAN HAANSBERGEN, Woodlands. Entry, May-day.

TO LET, PROSPECT HOUSE, Wheatley Hill, containing Dining Room, Drawing Room, Kitchen, Pantry, and China Closet on the Ground Floor, and Five Bed-rooms on the First Floor; also, Washhouse in yard, and the usual conveniences. A few Acres of Grass Land and Stable accommodation would be Let with the House if required. The Building has south, east, and west aspects, commanding a wide range of beautiful scenery, including Stanhope Fells on the West, Lumley Castle, Lord Durham's Monument, Wear Valley, and the Sea near Sunderland, on the East. Wheatley Hill is situate about Half-a-mile from Burnhope Colliery, about a Mile from South Moor and Craghead Collieries, about 2½ Miles from Lanchester Station, and about 2 Miles from New Station, Stanley. It is a very suitable situation for a Doctor or Veterinary Surgeon, being so central in a populous neighbourhood—Apply to GEORGE HOBSON, Harperley Mills, Lintz Green, R.S.O. 496m

For Sale.

HORSE CLIPPERS FOR SALE, 4s 6d, 5s 6d, and 7s 6d Per Pair. Also, COAL-BORING MACHINES.—F. WELCH & Co., Annfield Plain.

BRICKS and DRAINAGE PIPES at DEARNESS BRICK and TILE WORKS, WATERHOUSES. 269k

FOR SALE, best SWEDE TURNIPS, splendid quality, by cut or load.—Apply, ROBERT WARD, The Middles Farm, South Moor. 671m

FOR SALE, a Bargain, SECOND-HAND AMERICAN ORGAN, in first-class condition, 14 stops, knee swells, &c.—Can be seen on application to W. T. DAGLISH, South Medomsley, Dipton.

TO BUILDERS.—FOR SALE, best SNECKED BLOCKING COURSES, ready for Fixing. Also, BUILDING STONE of all Descriptions.—Apply, Mr DENT, Bearl Quarry, Stocksfield Station.

PIANO. — Handsome Walnut PIANO, full Trichord, real Ivory Keys, and all the latest Improvements. Before purchasing elsewhere just call and have a look. For Quality and Price we defy competition.—F. WELCH & Co., Annfield Plain.

For Sale.

FOR SALE at reasonable Prices, a large QUANTITY of GEESE, fresh killed from the farm, dressed or undressed, or will sell part alive if wanted.—Apply to M. ADAMSON, The Leazes, Lintz Green. 755m

FOR SALE, ROAN COW (Half bred Alderney) a grand butter cow, and big milker, due to calve end December.—Apply to Mr W. WALKER, Rippon Burn Cottage. 751m

BASIC SLAG. — THOMAS' PHOSPHATE POWDER, also ALBERTS' BASIC PHOSPHATE POWDER, most reliable Manures. SOLE WHOLESALE AGENTS for Messrs Albert, for Four Northern Counties of England, Berwickshire, Roxburghshire, and Scottish Borders:—LANGDALE BROTHERS, 46, Cloth Market, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 461m

T. OWEN,
WHOLESALE SADDLER, AND SADDLERS' IRONMONGER, 73, & 77, SIDE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
HAVING moved into his NEW and more EXTENSIVE PREMISES, near his Old Establishment (which has had to give way to Railway Extensions), begs to thank the many Customers who have patronised him so well during the last 12 Years, and to inform them that he is still SELLING at the Cheapest Rate, and Lower than his usual Prices, a large Stock of Harness and Saddlery of every Description:—
HORSE CLOTHING, RUGS, STABLE SHEETS, WATERPROOF CART & WAGGON COVERS, LOIN COVERS, GIG APRONS, GIG LAMPS, CLIPPING MACHINES, and all kinds of Stable Requisites.
SURPLUS SALE FOR 30 DAYS.
T. OWEN also wishes to intimate that, owing to the extensive Premises he has acquired, and which are now undergoing important alterations, he will be able to execute any Order, large or small, by which he may be favoured, with great despatch.

Business Announcements.

JAMES PALLISER,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TEA MERCHANT, 47 and 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.
For GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS, J.P.'s Prices and Quality are not to be surpassed.
J.P.'s TEAS at 1s 4d and 2s per lb., are specialities
PLEASE GIVE ONE TRIAL. 116h

DON'T FORGET!
GEORGE McNEAL,
BILL-POSTER, ANNFIELD PLAIN.
HANDBILLS delivered at 2s 6d per 1,000 BILL-POSTING 1d per Sheet, kept good One Month in the district, which comprises Lanchester, Burnhope, Craghead, Pit Hill, West Stanley, Tanfield, Burnopfield, Hobson, Tantobie, Catchgate, Dipton East Castle, &c.

LOOK HERE.—For STATIONERY, FANCY, and other USEFUL ARTICLES in immense variety.
BOOKS TO BIND, PICTURES FRAMED
TRY
J. COCKBURN,
STATIONER, CONFECTIONER, &c., 13 and 14, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
Spectacles for all Sights.
Agent for the British and Foreign Soc

MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

ELECTRIC BELLHANGER,
RALPH RITSON,
PLUMBER & GAS-FITTER,
CHANDELIERS, GAS BRACKETS, &c., always in Stock.

MR. JOHN USHER,
LATE
MR. GEO. RICHARDSON, DENTAL SURGEON, 6, BLACKETT STREET, begs to call special attention to the Prices of his PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH, for first-class workmanship and best material, 2s 6d, 5s, 7s 6d per Tooth, £1 to £10 per Set, being lower than what is usually charged for inferior workmanship and common material. EVERY TOOTH GUARANTEED. PLEASE NOTE THE ONLY ADDRESS.
£1 TO £10 724h

HEPTON'S NOTED CLOTHING STORE TO SUIT THE TIMES.
1,000 OVERCOATS, COATS, JACKETS, TROUSERS, VESTS, BED QUILTS, BED RUGS, BLANKETS, SHEETS. Men's, Women's, and Children's Clothing at Given Away Prices at
HEPTON'S UNREDEEMED PLEDGE STORE, BLACKHILL.
Money Lent on every Description of Clothing.

MUSIC EMPORIUM.
T. JONES is now prepared to supply direct from the Manufacturers, PIANOS, AMERICAN ORGANS, and HARMONIUMS at the Lowest Possible Prices.
A First-class Selection of VIOLINS, MELODIONS, CONCERTINAS, BANJOS, GUITARS, MANDOLINES, &c.
VIOLIN STRINGS of very best quality, BOOKS, TUTORS, CLASSICAL AND CHEAP MUSIC KEPT IN STOCK.
MUSIC LESSONS GIVEN.
Pupils prepared for Theoretical and Practical Examinations.
PIANOS, AMERICAN ORGANS, AND HARMONIUMS TUNED AND REPAIRED.
Note the Address:—
T. JONES,
CHURCH STREET (near the Post Office), CONSETT. 802a

ALL COUNTRY VISITORS TO CONSETT DURING THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS, ARE REQUESTED TO CALL AT
T. MILNER'S,
CHEMIST, CONSETT,
FOR PURE DRUGS, CHEMICALS, COUGH AND INFLUENZA REMEDIES.
Chest and Lung Protectors.
INVALID'S WINES, ÆRATED WATERS.
Toilet Soap Perfumes.
HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES.
Hovell and Co's Celebrated Crackers.
Every Purchaser of 10s Value during the next Four Weeks, including Monday, January 8th, will receive a Life-like PICTURE of MISS ELLEN TERRY, as "Queen Catherine," in Shakespeare's Henry the VIII. 725m

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 & SON,
53, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

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

LOOK TO YOUR TEETH
FOR HEALTH AND APPEARANCE.
FOR EATING AND SPEAKING.
THE BEST QUALITY AT THE LOWEST PRICE.
FIXED TO THE MOUTH WITHOUT PAIN.
COMFORT AND FIT GUARANTEED.
THE NORTH-EASTERN DENTAL CO.,
CONSETT BRANCH
ATTENDANCE EVERY SATURDAY FROM 3 TO 6 P.M.,
MR COCKBURN'S, STATIONER, 13 AND 14, FRONT STREET.
(SIDE DOOR).

SHOTLEY BRIDGE, DECEMBER, 1893.
GEORGE RICHARDSON & SON,
HAVE pleasure in announcing the arrival of NEW GOODS in all departments for Christmas Trade FANCY ARTICLES in great variety, including special Purchase of Manufacturers' Stock of SPANISH FANS to be Offered much under ordinary Prices.
WELL-ASSORTED STOCK OF WOOL WRAPS, SILK NECKERCHIEFS, & MUFFLERS.
Hemstitch and Embroidered Handkerchiefs for Xmas Presents.
LATEST STYLES IN LADIES' JACKETS, CLOAKS, AND HATS.
WITNEY AND CLOTH BLANKETS (SUMMER FINISHED), AT LOWEST PRICES.
EXTENSIVE RANGES OF FLANNELS, FLANNELETTES, WOOL AND GRANDRILL SHIRTINGS.
TAILORS, DRESSMAKERS, AND MILLINERS, ON PREMISES.
INSPECTION INVITE
GEO. RICHARDSON & SON,
SILK MERCERS, LINEN AND WOOLEN DRAPERS, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

S. A. FAIRLESS,
WISHES to inform the INHABITANTS of WEST DURHAM that she is now in a position to undertake all kinds of TEAS, PIC-NICS, BALLS, PARTIES, &c. All Goods made on her own Premises, and with the very best Materials. Samples sent on application.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:—
S. A. FAIRLESS,
WEST DURHAM BAKERY, HIGH SPEN, BY LINTZ GREEN. 4481

JAMES FROSDICK is the only Billposter that has rented Stations within the three Local Board districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfieldside. Bills Posted and Distributed at the lowest rates. 598

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

W. BORROW,
COOPER, TEMPLETOWN, CONSETT, MAKES TO ORDER CHURNS, BUTTER TUBS, POSS TUBS, WASHING TUBS, &c., ON REASONABLE TERMS.
REPAIRING DONE TO ORDER. 444i

R. WILSON & Co.,
BIRTLEY GRANGE BRICK WORKS, BIRTLEY.
Prices given for Common Bricks, Flooring Squares, House Tiles, Draining Pipes, &c. Our Siding is connected with Railway direct to Consett and West District. Goods packed into Trucks at Kilns. 801z

MESSRS. T. D. DRYDEN & CO.
GROCERS AND WINE MERCHANTS,
OFFER SPECIAL LINES FOR THIS WEEK IN
FLOUR, POTATOES, 2LBS. JAMS, STRAW, RASP, AND BLACK CURRANT, 10½d. per 2lb. Jar.
FRENCH MILLED TOILET SOAP, 2d. OUR ORIENTAL TEA, 1s 7D PER LB. Unrivalled.
HAMS, BACON, BUTTER, LARD, &c.
SPLENDID OLD PORT, 3s. PER BOTTLE.
VERY OLD PORT, 4s. PER BOTTLE.
A LARGE STOCK OF WENSLEYDALE CHEESE, at 8½d. per lb.
12 YEARS' OLD WHISKY, 28s. PER GALLON.
Our Own Blends at usual Prices. For Quality we cannot be Beaten.
PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION.
FRONT STREET, CONSETT (NEXT DOOR TO NORTH-EASTERN BANK.)

JOHN HUME & SON,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
CORN MERCHANTS, BREAD BAKERS, AND CONFECTIONERS.
TRY THEIR ORIGINAL
OPTIMUS HORSE MIXTURE,
Which is perfectly cleaned by special machinery. Do not be led away by other and cheaper Mixtures claiming to be the same.
ORDERS TAKEN FOR
BRIDES LOAVES, BIRTHDAY CAKES, SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEAS, &c.
ALL KINDS OF BREAD AND CONFECTIONERY FRESH DAILY.
OUSEBURN MILLS;
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

ESTABLISHED 1817.
GEORGE HOBSON
MILLER, CORN MERCHANT, SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,
NOTED
FOR THE BEST AND CLEANEST HORSE FEED.
WHOLE OATS, CRUSHED OATS, SPLIT BEANS, PEAS, AND MAIZE, MIXED WITH OATS AS REQUIRED, OR SOLD SEPARATE. ALL THOROUGHLY CLEANED BY NEW & IMPROVED MACHINERY,
G. H. KEEPS A LARGE STOCK OF FLOUR. ALL THE LEADING BRANDS OF FINES, SUPERFINES, EXTRA SUPERFINES AND HUNGARIAN.
TRY G. H.'S PURE WHITE WHEAT MEAL, MANUFACTURED BY HIMSELF, AND CANNOT BE SURPASSED
LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, BEST QUALITY, WHOLE AND BROKEN, FINEST LINSEED, &c.
Boxings, Sharps, Bran, and all Kinds of Feeding Stuffs at the Lowest Market Prices.
G. H.'S CALF MEAL IS NOW WELL KNOWN—REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
Dealer in Agricultural Implements of all Kinds, including the Special Mower and Reaper, Sole Agent of the North for the McCormick Self-Binding Reapers and Steel Mowers, the Bullard Tedder, Tiger Horse Rake, &c. The best and lightest Draught Machines in the Market, Broadcast Hand Seed Sowers, &c.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:—GEORGE HOBSON, HARPERLEY MILLS, LINTZ GREEN, R.S.O.

Business Announcements

W. T. SMITH,
AMERICAN DENTAL SURGEON,
OF 19, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the inhabitants of Consett, Stanley, and surrounding District that he visits as usual at MRS. JONES', 10, Mount Pleasant, Consett, every MONDAY, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and at MRS. SMITH'S, 48, Long Row, Stanley, every FRIDAY from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH
Made with all the Latest Improvements, at the Lowest Possible Price that Good Teeth can be made for with the Best Materials. Old Sets Re-made and Repaired on his own system, guaranteed to be as good and strong as new.
All Teeth Extracted Painlessly by his recent discovery, which is perfectly harmless, thus avoiding the danger of the old system by the use of Cocaine.
W. T. SMITH thoroughly guarantees all his work for 5 years, and a written guarantee will be given when required, and as he has now been practising in Newcastle and District for 15 years, it will be seen that he has a permanent Address at 19, Eldon Square, where he can always be found, as guarantees are of no value from others who have no permanent place, but simply visit the district for a time and leave no address. Train Fare will be allowed to all Patients desiring to come to Newcastle, where they can, at all times, consult me personally.
REMEMBER THE ADDRESSES—
MRS. JONES'S, 10, Mount Pleasant, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY from 11 to 5.
AND AT
MRS. SMITH'S, 48, Long Row, STANLEY, EVERY FRIDAY, from 11 to 5

ROBERT ENGLISH,
THE CASH DRAPER,
15, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
IS NOW SHOWING A NEW AND SPLENDID RANGE OF
DRESS GOODS
SUITABLE FOR WINTER WEAR, WHICH FOR STYLE, QUALITY, AND CHEAPNESS CANNOT BE BEATEN.

IF YOU WANT TO BUY YOUR
FLANNELS, SHIRTINGS, AND DRAPERIES,
AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES,
GO TO
ENGLISH'S.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
S. H. HORSEY,
105, SANDYFORD ROAD, NEWCASLE-ON-TYNE,
BEGS to inform the Inhabitants of CONSETT, STANLEY and DISTRICT, that, having left the service of Mr W. T. Smith, he now attends at the house of Mr BROWN, 8, Newmarket Street, Consett, every Saturday, from 11 till 5, also at Mr THOMAS ARMSTRONG'S, Front Street, Stanley, every Monday from 11 till 5, and is prepared to supply the finest English and American Mineral Teeth at the most Reasonable Charges, consistent with perfect workmanship.
A Single Tooth from 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Complete Upper or Lower Set from One to Five Guineas.
These Teeth can be adjusted without pain or the removal of stumps or loose teeth. Patients attended at their own residences if desired. Old sets re-modelled or new teeth added. Successful treatment guaranteed and any case not giving entire satisfaction will be immediately corrected, or a new set made.
NOTE THE ADDRESSES:—
ATTENDANCE AT MR. BROWN'S, 8, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT
(Opposite Co-operative Stores), every Saturday, from 11 till 5. Also,
ATTENDANCE AT MR. THOMAS ARMSTRONG'S, FRONT STREET, STANLEY,
Every Monday from 11 till 5. 415g

DOBSON GRADON,
WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER, JEWELLER, SILVERSMITH, & OPTICIAN,
BLACKHILL.
HIGHEST QUALITY ENGLISH SILVER LEVER WATCHES, £3 6s. 0d. BEST MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED.
SILVER LEVER WATCHES FROM 30s. ALL WARRANTED
OPTICS A SPECIALITY—EVERY DEFECT OF VISION ACCURATELY TESTED AND CORRECTED.
WATCHMAKER TO THE TRADE. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

PIANOS!!! ORGANS!!!
WADDINGTON & SONS,
15, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.
Have received SEVENTEEN GOLD MEDALS and other AWARDS at EXHIBITIONS for the EXCELLENCE and SUPERIORITY of their PIANOS
Being large Manufacturers give the purchaser the BENEFIT of BUYING DIRECT from the producer, THUS SAVING the middleman's PROFIT.
We Hold the Highest TESTIMONIAL in the WORLD, given by the distinguished Pianist SIR CHARLES HALLE, and can give 20,000 references to purchasers of their Instruments.
PIANOS - - From 10s. per Month.
AMERICAN ORGANS From 7s. per Month
Second-hand Pianos from £10.
Write or send for Price Lists and Designs.
WADDINGTON & SONS MANUFACTORY, YORK, & AT PARK ROAD, CONSETT.
Manager - JAS. EMERSON 956g

POPULAR PRICES AND SUPREME VALUES
ALWAYS RULE AT
J. W. DAVISON & SONS,
GENERAL HOUSE FURNISHERS AND IRONMONGERS.
FRONT STREET, CONSETT, AND LONDON HOUSE, STANLEY.
Our STOCK is the Largest and Best in the District, and before Purchasing elsewhere, we invite you to compare our Quality and Prices.
ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, WE SHALL MAKE OUR
BIG SHOW OF CHRISTMAS TOYS AND FANCY GOODS,
AT
STANLEY,
WHICH WILL EXCEL OUR GREAT DISPLAY OF LAST YEAR, WHICH WAS THE ONE GREAT ATTRACTION OF STANLEY AND DISTRICT.

PHOTOS.
VENICE DUNN,
PHOTOGRAPHER,
HAS REMOVED TO HIS NEW PREMISES 7, AND 8, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT.
He will supply enlarged PHOTOS, finished in Oils, Water Colours, or Crayons, Framed complete, prices varying from 15s to 45s. Persons wishing to join our Club can do so by apply for card and particulars. PHOTOS artistically finished in the latest and most improved styles. Cabinets, 10s to 12s Per Dozen; Carte-de-Visites, 5s to 6s Per Dozen. Bands, Choirs, and Wedding Groups, also Architectural and Landscape Work done on reasonable Terms. Photos and Pictures Framed. 869i

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN.
RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,
("THE OLDEST AND LARGEST.")
HAS SINCE 1849 PAID FOR
ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS
£3,200,000.
ESTABLISHED, 1849.
RT. HON. EVELYN ASHLEY, Chairman.
64, CORNHILL LONDON, E.C.
W. D. MASSY, A. VIAN, } Secretaries.
Agents:—Mr. JOHN BARKER, Station Master, Blackhill; Mr. G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate; and Mr. J. HOOD, Railway Station, Lintz Green.

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.)

Correspondents are requested to enclose their names and addresses on a separate slip of paper.

Letters for insertion should reach us not later than Wednesday mornings.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES FRAUDS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

In my last letter on this subject I laid down nine propositions as a basis to ensure safety against dishonest individuals; and, as no public criticism has been passed upon them, I venture a further contribution, hoping it will be the means of helping forward a safe working system in individual institutions. This is my object, and I believe that the time will come when this result will be accomplished. Cause and effect are faithful in mistors and teach truthful lessons, and by a concentrated study of the causes of failure, we solve the problems which builds the fabric of success. Experience is the great teacher, and our tuition may be costly, but it ultimately pays well. Wherever there has been found a leak and thousands of pounds may have run through it, to the mortification of shareholders. The cause is often quite transparent, and, and the most vexatious part of the business is to think no remedy had been thought of until the smash came. The Newbottle case is a glaring one. The idea of allowing one man to work the dual office of manager and secretary, and perhaps the safe keys would be at his disposal, which would make the pathway to fraud quite easy, and because Scott had kept right for many years, no fears were entertained that anything would go wrong. As a result his character and reputation is gone, he is a criminal of the lowest order, and his conscience will lash him to fury. The money will do him no good. He is a moral and social wreck.

The lessons to be learnt from this episode, are: 1st, The great need of co-operators to educate themselves into the workings of their societies. How often is the work of reformation left to the few, while the many won't even be at the trouble to attend a general meeting. They are indolent, careless, and indifferent so long as they procure a big dividend; but as soon as a break down takes place they rush to the meetings with vengeance depicted in every feature to destroy the committee who has allowed the failure. When co-operators become studiously interested, and are anxious to converse on the best ways and means of working their industrial institutions, then and only then will brighter days dawn, and better system will come to the front. It takes time, patience, and energy with wisdom combined to build up, while any fool can scream, and cause an uproar in pulling a system down, and many gloat and revel in the work of fault finding, while they never try to improve anything. As soon as a swindle is known they shout whip him, shoot him, but it would be to their advantage if they could invent some scheme to prevent frauds, then the shouting would never be needed. "Capital punishment," does very little to diminish crime, it requires moral training to effect good in a man's life, and if a man discards morals his downfall is certain. It may be said that Scott's life was guided by moral force. I answer to this, that his actions prove the contrary; he wore an assumed morality and even entered the sacred desk to preach the Gospel, and by this false profession gained the confidence of his dupes; but what does his private life disclose, and "by their fruits ye shall know them," actions speak louder than words,—real genuine morality saves men from the whirlpools of vice, I close this part of my letter with the old adage, "A stitch in time saves nine," and "prevention is better than cure." It's little use running with a safety lock to put on the gate after the valuable horse has escaped.

My second point is, how can we prevent dishonest persons from being employed in our stores? My remedy is, let all persons who fill important positions submit to a delineation of character by a practical and reliable phrenologist. I firmly believe in this science so far as it has been developed. I have made it a study for seven years, and my observations teach me that a man carries his virtues and evil tendencies in a scale which can be ascertained by a careful examination. Physiognomy, phrenology, and pathogonomy combined are on the whole reliable. Man is a creature of tendencies and influences, and to give even an outline of this science would require three or four pages of the *Guardian*, and besides, to a great extent, it is labour in vain to deal with the subject seeing that so many ridicule and condemn it, simply because they don't investigate and understand it; but to briefly notice a few points in it, I state that any man who has the organs of acquisitiveness, constructiveness, and secretiveness very large, and conscientiousness, benevolence, and cautiousness small, should be exempt from a position which involves money; for their tendencies are inclined to dishonesty. The men who held positions of responsibility, such as cashiers, managers, secretaries, etc., should have a large amount of conscientiousness, firmness, concentrativeness, individuality, cautiousness, calculation, benevolence, and other kindred speculative faculties, and these qualities if inherited and not prostituted will in themselves constitute a just, truthfully, honest, upright person, who will deem it his duty to act for others as he would do for himself. There are many honest men still, and if we condemn all alike we are in error, while there are others born thieves—they cannot avoid stealing, and if they possess secretiveness to a high degree, they will manage to escape detection for a long time. Gaols, fines, whippings, cannot conquer a man that has an inbred proclivity to roguishness. Now, others are not so unbalanced, yet they can be allured into the temptation, and if they succeed without detection, they seek to develope this propensity more and more. Any person that finds himself organized in this way can only subdue its power by a restraining method, and it can only be successful when a strong will is behind it. The miser must in some way or other have gold—the organ of acquisitiveness will not be satisfied without it—and if conscientiousness is not very large, he will steal to get it; but if it is very large then he will seek it by honest means. I am certain that a practical phrenological delineation would prove a safeguard against unscrupulous persons securing these critical positions, for if they do manage to get them what havoc they can cause before you get rid of them; they require you to prove them guilty, and this is at times very difficult, even when suspicion is very strong. Their department will pay one quarter, which gives hopes to the committee; then the next two quarters it scarcely covers its expenses; then he is on trial for his last time, and, behold, his department pays well, and it becomes a vexed question what to do. Such is the experience of most societies. I have written my convictions, and I may receive harsh criticism for so doing; but all men who study and set forth reforms meet with acrid, scornful opposition. We had an example of this in your issue of Nov. 24th. Not one word was said to benefit or build up a safe system, but instead a sprinkling of cold irony was hurled at my honest intentions, showing the venom that exists in the minds of some prejudiced persons who have not sufficient manliness to sign their true names.—Yours, &c.,

Wm. Simpson.

Beamish Air Pit.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I heartily respond to the wish of "Ex-committee," and I will endeavour to answer his questions. I also must deal with the criticism on my last letter by a "Co-operator." I will also say a word or two regarding "Nicholas Nickleby," and on account of space, I must of necessity be very brief on all points. 1st "Co-operator" takes exception to my statement that occasional frauds are necessary and useful, to warn us of the secret workings of thieves, and the manner in which they carry out their designs. Now any casual observer will find that negligence and carelessness, are the traits in character; which prove detrimental to real progress, and men are content to allow the most important matters to run on at random. And the only means to fully arouse them to duty, comes in the shape of a break-down, then they realise their position and inquire into the cause of it. I am personally acquainted with a society who ran in ignorance and neglect for years quite content; and expected their position was genuine. But to their astonishment and surprise above one thousand pounds was gone, and they were unable to convict culprits for want of evidence, they found the system was rotten to the core, and even the committee of management were living in false hopes for years now through this costly experience, it has been thoroughly reformed, and is at present on a reliable foundation, and similar to this is the Newbottle case, where flagrant neglect is visible everywhere, and in time this will be renewed, reformed, and a solid system established, and who can measure the knowledge that this last swindle will spread in the co-operative world. It paves the way to progress, and takes us out of lethargy, indolence, and neglect. So soon as men study, practice, and aim at perfection, then this will be unnecessary. But so long as men continue in ignorance, indolence and neglect there must be some brought to bear upon them, to whip and compel them to action. By way of conclusion on this point, I ask this important question how many co-operators know the financial position and workings of their society in its internal parts, I doubt very few. "Co-operator's" 2nd criticism is regarding my suggestion about dealing with the wholesale, he evidently does not grasp my meaning, it was not concerning the credit allowance to local stores, but set forth as a "preventative measure" in order to keep store managers from the bribes and meshes of wholesale merchants. Many influential co-operators say that no such craftiness is indulged in. But from experience I know that it is a pungent fact that this practice exists, and, of course, a manager with defective conscientiousness would for personal gains deal with and advocate these private firms, to their committees urging that they can purchase cheaper and secure a better variety of goods than at the "Co-operative Wholesale." The question of allowing local stores credit beyond their allotted time will receive a faithful lesson from this last experience. I think their rule is fourteen days credit. "Co-operator's" 3rd, point he sees the weakness displayed by members in the election of the committee. I coincide with him; and I would advocate a system which would give members time to consider a persons' character, adaptability, knowledge, vitality, &c., let the nominations take place at the quarterly meeting preceding the one that calls for the election, during the interval let the nominees names hang in the society's shop windows. If members would act honestly this system would be a useful one, for three months would elapse between the nominations and elections, which is quite sufficient to investigate everything needed. I admit that bribery might creep into it, otherwise it is capital.

Now I come to "Ex-committee," 1st, in my suggestion I said a quarter's accounts ought to be kept intact. I mean by this, in order to have a reliable quarter's balance sheet, all stocks, invoices, receipts, payments, etc., should be faithfully represented for that quarter alone, and that no transference be allowed to the next quarter's accounts. For instance, the manager of a drapery department who wishes to falsify, and make his department better than it is; can order goods to arrive a fortnight before stocktaking, and arrange with the traveller to forward the invoice a fortnight or more later, dated for the next quarter, now the new goods would, by this method, be reckoned in with last quarter's stocktaking; this would throw more profit into his department for that quarter which must be paid out of next quarter's profits, I have seen some balance sheets so conflicting that it was impossible to read them, and I have known cases where men have been discharged from departments, and it has taken the new man a long time to get a solid groundwork on which to build. Owing to the disturbed and disguised condition of things which had been tampered with by the discharged person. By keeping back invoices, causes the liabilities to be less, thus causing a society to appear under false colours, this method was adopted by the Newbottle manager, and in this way he kept the auditors at bay. 2nd, The cash balance is the money in the cashier's safe, or hands, at the quarter's end, and it ought to be counted on the day of stock-taking, to see if it will balance with the accounts. The auditors know that the quarter's money ought to be 'all in by that time. Consequently they count it and make a note of it. Now supposing they did not count it until a week or a few days later; then the next quarter has begun, and the cashier receives moneys daily which belong to the new quarter. If he wants to defraud them he can manage it. Suppose he pockets £80 during the quarter, and the auditor's count his cash in hand on the day of stock-taking, then he is caught in the trap, £80 deficient. But if they count his cash three days later, then he can replace the £89 from his takings during the three days and thus escapes. Where credit systems are allowed, they pay up at the quarter's end; consequently the cashier has often a large amount on hand. The plan of some stores is, when they have a good profitable quarter, they don't increase the dividend, but carry forward a good sum to the next quarter in case their profits may have fallen, then they patch it up from the amount which was carried forward, and in this way keep up an average uniform dividend, but it is clear that it is not a faithful representation of the quarter's accounts. Why not make up for losses out of the reserve fund, which stands for the purpose? 2nd, How long should an audit last? This entirely depends on the ability of the auditors; if auditors act as detectives, which they are, they will most certainly not rest satisfied until every item is understood and in the face of a plausable secretary whom they respect and have confidence in, they will not take his verbal statement; but will insist in ascertaining facts by a thorough investigation of all the accounts pertaining to the society, and if they understand thoroughly the nature of the work to be performed, and are conscientious, they will not put their signatures to a balance sheet until they verily know the true state of a society. Their position is a responsible one, they should be specialists, men versed in all that pertains to auditry, and to be engaged with the understanding that they must attend the society's office to execute the work, and be responsible for any errors which they allow to pass to the detriment of the society. 3rd, The money in hand represents cash allowed to the cashier in order to execute the duties of his office. To pay withdrawals, and other sundry items which are convenient without cheque, the amount allowed varies, according to the size of the society from 500 to 1,000 pounds.

Now a few words to "Nicholas Nickleby." I agree that defrauders ought to be punished severely, but not to shoot, or cremate them, which is very difficult to accomplish. I maintain that prevention is better than cure, and that thieves cannot get to the gold if it is taken out of their way, and I firmly believe that a plan can be adopted whereby thieves can be hindered from gaining situations of trust in stores, and if the editor will allow me space in a future issue of the *Guardian*, I will make proposals and suggestions to warrant my statement. In conclusion, I may have failed to satisfy "Co-operator" and "Ex-committee," but space will not allow me to go further, or I might have out my views in a more extensive form, my motions are pure and honest, and I hope they will accept them as such.—Yours faithfully,

Wm. Simpson,

Beamish Air Pit.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON VACCINATION.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—At a meeting of the Executive of the London Society for the abolition of compulsory vaccination held on the 23rd Nov., 1893, at the Temple Hotel, London, it was unanimously resolved that the following statement be communicated to the press and the public.

The Royal Commission on Vaccination was appointed on the 29th May, 1889. At the first meeting it was determined that sittings should be secret and that the press should be excluded; but at the request of the special committee, appointed by the London Society for the Abolition of Compulsory Vaccination for the preparation of evidence, permission was granted to counsel to attend on their behalf, and at their expense, on an undertaking that knowledge so acquired by him be treated as confidential. Application was made for copies of recent minutes for the purpose of facilitating due preparation of evidence. This was refused; yet proofs of evidence unavailable to the public or to the special committee were being sent week by week to Sir Geo. Buchanan, M.D., at the Local Government Board, and to Dr Wm. Ogle, at the Registrar General's Office. The Commission decided to publish periodical reports, and the first two appeared within a reasonable time. The third report was published at the end of 1890, and brought the evidence up to July, 1890. No evidence has seen the light since, i.e., there has been three years of secrecy, but it leaked out that Dr J. C. McVail, Dr F. W. Barry, Dr G. S. Woodhead, and others were being supplied with confidential copies of the evidence of Professor Crookshank, Mr Alexander Wheeler, &c., while this was denied to witnesses about to be put forward by the special committee. Application was formally made to the Commission in Nov. 1892, for fairplay and opportunity to answer official witnesses. It was refused by a curt reply that the evidence is being given in reply to witnesses whom the Commission have already heard. The Commission cannot undertake generally to hear witnesses in reply to that reply but I am directed to inform you that, when the evidence in reply is concluded, the Commission will consider whether on any particular points it would be of advantage to them to hear further evidence.

On the 6th June, 1892, the Commission had informed the special committee that when the evidence that was arranged for was concluded they would regard the evidence, generally speaking, as closed. The special committee understood at the end of October, 1893, that the Commission would resume sittings on the 1st or 8th of Nov. It was expected that all evidence would be finished by the middle of December. On the 11th Nov. the committee learned, to their surprise, that the Commission had reversed the policy of the secrecy as partly indicated above, and decided to make a present to the Special Committee of three years evidence to be read, digested, and rebutted in the space of one month. These facts reveal treatment unique in the history of English tribunals. After three years of a policy of profound secrecy, exercised against one side only, a small private committee is now called upon to examine, digest and rebut in less than three weeks, the mass of evidence for the accumulation of which the entire official intelligence of Great Britain and Ireland has been ransacked for the space of three years. Surely no fair-minded man will receive such a death-bed repentance as a sufficient substitute for a consistently equal treatment of both sides to the dispute. It is impossible by silence, to consent to such a procedure; wherefore we have no choice but to make known the facts and to add to them our respectful earnest protest.—I am, yours faithfully,

Joseph Collinson,

The London Society for the Abolition of Compulsory Vaccination, St. James's Road, Brixton, S.W.

ROYALTY ON PIG IRON.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—In your last issue I was asked by your London correspondent, C. W. F. Crawford, to give my authority for making what he calls startling assertions. Perhaps he will be more surprised to hear who my authority is, and that I have not made any exaggerations, but have understated the figures if anything. Sir Lowthian Bell, in his principles of the manufactures of iron and steel, pages 610 and 618, estimates the royalties on a ton of pig iron from iron ore, coal, &c., amount to 3s 6d in Cleveland, 6s in Scotland, and 6s 3d in Cumberland; while in Germany it would only be 6d, in France, 8d, and 1s3d in Belgium. In these countries the royalties go to the state. Our London friend says he shall be surprised if royalties amount to one third the amount I mention; but providing it is only one-sixth, is it not too much to go into the pockets of people who toil not, neither do they spin? As our friend seems to be in the dark with regard to these matters, will you kindly allow me to give him a few cases. In 1885, a firm in West Cumberland had half their furnaces laid idle, not because the firm had no work, but simply owing to the high royalties demanded by the land owners. This very company had to import iron from Belgium to fulfil their contract with the Indian Government. With a furnace turning out about 600 tons of pig iron per week, the amount paid in wages to everyone, from the manager down amounted to only £95, while the royalties amounted to more than double that sum viz., £202. The present mayor of Workington (which is by the way a large centre for the production of iron and steel), declared before a large meeting held in the town, that on every ton of steel rails made in the Derwent Steel Works, over which he is head manager, they had to pay 6s 6d per ton. If you doubt my statement, then enquire for yourself to Mr James Duffield, Ashfield House, Workington. No doubt he will give you the information you desire. While I am speaking of Workington, perhaps it will be as well to mention that the ratepayers of this borough have to pay Lord Lonsdale the sum of £300 per year for drawing water out of the river Derwent for sanitary purposes. This gentleman is the owner of Whitehaven and its collieries which have been worked for more than a century. Until the last election a Tory represented the town for 60 years, and now they have a Liberal lawyer doing duty for them. In a work by Morrison Davidson, he states that the Dukes of Devonshire and Buccleuch, and Lord Muncaster, take annually out of the Barrow Hematite Steel Company no less a sum than £135,000 in royalties. The recent Royal Commission estimated the amount paid in coal royalties alone at £4,000,000 a year: as this represents on the average a payment of about 7d a ton on the total quantity of coal raised, or 8 to 10 per cent of its total value. In some cases the royalty is as low as 2½d per ton, in several it is as high as 1s 10d. Out of one mine in Scotland the Duke of Hamilton claims 1s 4d per ton royalty, and the miner receives only 8d for getting the same. How serious a burden this is upon British Industry will be evident from the fact that in France, where the royalty is paid to the state, it is no more than 5 per cent, on net profits; In Belgium and Germany, it is 2 and 2½ per cent on the profits respectively. Mr Cowey, in his evidence before the Royal Commission instanced from collieries in Yorkshire, where the total wages of 1,000 miners averaged £312 10s a day, while the royalties paid to four individuals amounted to no less than £40 12s 6d. Another witness told how during the decade ending in 1888 the Cannock Chase Collieries paid £1,000,000 in royalties to lessors, while 7,000 workmen received only £3,500,000 in wages. But the land-owner is by no means satisfied with his royalty charges. The lessee must, in addition, pay rent for his shaft—he must pay underground "way-leave" and easement dues. A certain collery in Northumberland is so situated that the coal in being transported to a public railway, must be carried over the land of six proprietors. Will it be believed that the annual sum paid to these owners in "way-leaves" averages £90 an acre or double the fee-simple, yea, double the absolute value of the land if bought outright. Lord Zetland receives £100 per day in royalties, Mr John Thomas Wharton, Esq., of Skelton-in-Cleveland, receives over £150 per day and so on. With regard to the Government enquiry, I have not as yet seen it. That is relating to agriculture in Essex. But I have before me a case which appears in a Manchester paper for Saturday last. This case goes far to show how and why agriculture is not a success here in England. Mr Skinner, a Hornchurch farmer, who, being sued for poor rates amounting to £5, unpacked his soul of his experience. In consequence of the drought this year all his early crops—peas, hay, and clover, had failed, and he had only had 45 acres of potatoes to depend upon for paying the rent and rates and expenses of farm. He had been unable to pay his rent, and his landlord had, in consequence, distrained upon his produce &c., the result being that the produce &c., to the value of £550, had been sold for £60. On Sept. 29th he had been again unable to meet his landlord, who refused to give him any time, and the next day a second distraint was levied. On that occasion his crop of potatoes, which had cost him £3 per acre for seed, and over £8 for sowing, were sold at the rate of 15s per acre. Is it not surprising after this revelation to learn that poor Skinner has lost £1,100 in English farming? Such cases as this are real eye openers. My remedies for these things are not, as our London friend thinks, but the substitution of National Co-operation for our present unarhic systems. Return men to power who will naturalise the land, the mines, the railways, the docks, in fact all the instruments of production and distribution, to be controlled and directed by a democratic state in the interests of the entire community. As Liberals and Tories wont do anything in this direction, then we as toilers must organise our forces, return men of our own class so as to bring about the much wanted and desired reforms. If our London friend will give these questions the attention they deserve he will no doubt come to the same conclusion as men who drink of the new wine, that is to remove these burdens from agriculture and the other industries, and let them be worked in and for the interest not of any class, but for the community.—Yours &c.,

I. L. P.

Dec. 4th, 1893.

FOOTBALL *VERSUS* SMALL-POX.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Being a constant reader of your valuable paper, and a lover of truth, your would oblige by allowing me to contradict a statement which appeared in your issue of the 1st inst. Leadgate Park A.F.C. say they were turned back by a cordon of men, women, and children, which is not true. The only person to say anything to them was the linesman, who told them the feelings of the inhabitants, and requested them to strip in the field. In answer to which the Park men said they expected as much, after seeing what had passed at the Lanchester Board of Health. Then they say the driver and his horses were refused admittance, which is not true; but as we know he comes no great distance from the Park there is a little allowance as regards the truth. As to the game: They say the referee (Mr W. G. Thompson) had to be escorted off the field by Cornsay committee-men, which any reader with any common sense will know is wrong when it only consisted of one man, the linesman, among 400 spectators. There was not much danger existing, but I think the referee left fairness at home and played best man for the Park. As to been refused to enter Cornsay, I don't know what they want. I know four of the Park players were down at the hotel, and were treated with all due respect, and if the Rovers were beaten they were not disgraced. I think the Park ought to make a little allowance, as they were playing a weaker team, and when they again send a report, I hope they will send the truth, and not fill your valuable paper with false reports.—Yours, &c.,

Spectator.

A COLLECTOR'S TROUBLES.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—From your report of the Lanchester Highway Board proceedings last week, it appears that Mr Chaytor, of Hamsterley Colliery, had written a letter to that Board complaining that the Medomsley overseers declined to furnish him with any information for the purpose of collecting the Highway Rates. Such a statement is untrue, as the rate-book from which Mr Chaytor is required to copy the assessments for highway rate purposes has always been accessible to him. Moreover, the Medomsley assistant-overseer has on two occasions voluntarily assisted Mr Chaytor in the taking out of the assessments. As the report stands it is likely to create the impression amongst the ratepayers that the overseers are putting hindrances in the way of the Highway Rate Collector, also that they are withholding his salary. Now, this is altogether a mistake. To begin with, the overseers, as most of your readers will know, are not in any way connected with or responsible for the making out and collection of the Highway Rate, or for the collector's salary. The whole matter rests with and between the waywarden and the collector, and as the valuation list can be seen when necessary, either at the assistant-overseer's house or at the Union Offices, Lanchester, it must be clear that the Medomsley overseers cannot be blamed for the state of things appearing in your report under the heading, "A Collector's Troubles."—Yours, &c.,

Overseer.

Medomsley, December 4th, 1893.

THE SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.

Cases of small-pox from the Leadgate district, are being conveyed, at intervals, to the Fever Hospital; but the first batch of patients admitted, have been discharged. We are pleased to learn that the Rev Thos. Varley, vicar of Leadgate, is recovering slowly.

NOTES FROM STANLEY DISTRICT.

[By "Observer."]

I ought to have stated in my last week's notes that the Grange Villa concert was held in the Co-operative Hall, instead of their own chapel.

Mr J. T. Potts, of Consett, has opened out a drapery establishment in Stanley, which seems well furnished with goods.

In the same block of buildings, Mr Wm. Aynsley, the famous cheap grocer, has just opened his new premises, which appear well arranged and adapted for his numerous customers.

Two doors away stands Mr P. H. Kirkup's grocery and provision stores, newly opened out.

The influenza epidemic has once more visited this district, and several are having an experience of aches, coughs, and pains, which are the symptoms of this cruel monster. Keep yourselves free from chills and draughts, or he will pay you a visit.

The Beamish Brass Band held their ball in the Co-operative Hall, West Pelton, on Friday last, which was well patronised.

The Newbottle swindle is the topic of conversation in public and private circles. Curses and bad wishes follow Scott, the late manager.

Berry, the ex-hangman, has paid Stanley a visit. He engaged the Co-operative Hall, and made some startling revelations which he witnessed during his term as executioner. He explained convict life and the process of hanging by a magic-lantern. He had good audiences.

Near to East Stanley village stands Messrs Jas. Joicey and Co.'s large new colliery, known as Beamish Mary Pit, which is worthy of a note. The whole erection consists of massive iron framework, which presents a substantial appearance. The heapstead and screen works are protected from winds, wet, snow, and hail by an enclosed encasement of galvanized sheeting. The large winding engine is a perpendicular lever one, worked with valve gearing, and was built by Messrs Joicey's firm in Forth Banks, Newcastle, who are specialists in this class of engines. The Pit shaft is securely lined with walling throughout, and its depth to the Busty Seam is about 124 fathoms. The cages have two decks, and each deck contains space for two tubs; these tubs carry 10 cwt. each, so that each cage brings a load of two tons to the bank surface every time they are raised. The screening process is carried out by a series of iron belts, which are kept in motion by an engine which is connected to them by pinion and spur wheel gearing. The coals are poured on to these belts by the banksmen from the heapstead, and they are distributed in thin layers, which shows at once any pieces of stone or dirty *debris*, and men are situated at equal distances in order to pick out this rubbish, and by this easy and systematic method coals can be sent off free from all impurities. The coals are likewise separated into three classes, by a contrivance known by the term "jigger," which by its wonderful mechanism and arrangement produces coals known as best, good small, and duff. In close proximity to the pit shaft stands a double horizontal engine, which is connected to friction wheels for the purpose of haulage on the endless rope principle, and which, by friction wheels and clutches, with extensions, can cover the whole area of roadways. At the upcast side stands another double horizontal engine, which is used to keep the mine free from water, and is ready for use in case of breakage or accidents in the downcast shaft, and by which the men can be safely raised to the surface by going to the upcast, which is close by. Then, last but not least, is the large ventilating exhaust fan, which is 45 feet in diameter, and is named the "Waddle Fan." This massive wheel is connected to a beautiful substantial single acting horizontal engine, while a duplicate stands in readiness in case of a breakdown with the other one. A counter is affixed to the main shafting, which registers the revolutions of the fan, and consequently proves a true check against the engineman, who has instructions to run a stated number of revolutions per minute, in order to cause a uniform current of air to circulate in the mine. This engine is lubricated throughout with Stauffer's patent grease and lubricators. The engine-house is a large commodious building, and bespeaks architectural skill. A well-polished brass hand railing gives the whole an elaborate appearance; it is well lighted, and is kept in good condition. In this room stands a large chest, which contains two ambulance cars, blankets, splints, etc., ready for use in case of accidents. A specimen of economy stands in a corner—viz., an exhaust injector whose motive power is a fragmentary portion of exhaust steam. This strange and surprising arrangement supplies six boilers with feed water, at nearly boiling temperature. Fixed on the wall may be seen an instrument of simple construction, known as a "water gauge"; its office is to measure a difference in pressure resulting from a difference in weight in the ventilating columns, such difference being measured in inches and tenths by an adjustable scale. Near to the colliery stands a well-arranged cokeyard, with about 120 ovens of modern design, which produce a splendid quality of coke, made from "duff" coal. A very large substantial elevator is in course of erection. This is a brief, unvarnished account of what may be considered, and properly termed, a "model colliery"; and, judging from its style, construction, and adaptability, we are led to the conclusion that great patience, perseverance, and energy has been displayed by the persons responsible for its erection.

Royal College of Music.—We desire to call the attention of our readers to the advantages offered by the Scholarships of the Royal College of Music, Kensington Gore, London, of which H. R. H. the Prince of Wales is the Founder and President. Preliminary Examinations for 14 Open Free Scholarships will be held on Jany. 31st in various local centres throughout the United Kingdom. The Scholarships will be allotted as follows:—Composition 2, Singing 3, Pianoforte 2, Organ 1, Violin 1, Violincello 1, Wind Instruments 4. They are each of the value of £40 a year, and entitle the holders to a systematic free education in music, and are as a rule tenable for three years. In some cases maintenance is added. Further information and forms of application can be obtained on application to Mr George Watson, Registrar, Royal College of Music, Kensington Gore, London, S.W., up to the end of December.

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 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 catalogue with testimonials & Prices to J. White and Co. (Limited), Piccadilly, London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell you imitations of our Moc-main. J White and Co. have no agents.

STEELSMELTERS' DEMONSTRATION AT CONSETT.

PRESENTATION TO A NEWBURN WORKMEN.

MR HODGE DENOUNCES THE LOCAL MEN.

On Saturday evening, the members of the Consett Branch of the British Steelsmelters' Association held a demonstration in the Co-operative Lecture Hall, Consett. There was a good company present. Mr B. Ward, Consett, occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr John Hodge, general secretary of the British Steelsmelters' Association, and ex-president of the Trades' Union Congress, Manchester; Mr G. Meek, member of the Smelters' Executive Council, and secretary of the District Council, Newburn; Mr J. Orr, president of the Durham Mechanics' Association, and vice-president of the North-West Durham Liberal Association, Annfield Plain; Mr Hy. Jones, vice-chairman of the Cleveland Blastfurnacemen's Association, Consett; Mr T. Cockburn, a representative of the Local Branch of the Steelsmelters' Association, Consett; and Mr P. Monaghan, Newburn. The gathering was marked by the presentation of £100 to Mr P. Monaghan, who was partly disabled whilst following his employment at Newburn Steelworks.

The Chairman, having read letters of apology from Mr J. Wildsmith, local representative of the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, Consett, and Mr Hy. Lodge, ironworkers' representative, Blackhill, stated that the names he had mentioned were well-known to everyone of them, and they had done a great deal for Trades' Unionism in the district. (Cheers.) The object of the gathering was to explain to their fellow-workmen the benefits to be derived from combination, and also to present Mr Monaghan with a cheque for £100. They met together under circumstances that were mingled with feelings of regret and pleasure. They regretted the fact that through an accident one of their fellow-workmen had been injured to such an extent as would prevent him from following his usual occupation in the future. However, there was pleasure in the fact that Mr Monaghan, through a little foresight, had entitled himself to the cheque they were about to present to him. Mr Monaghan had been a good union man, and had always possessed a clear card, and showed everyone of them a splendid example. There was not one of them knew what a day might bring forth, and it behoved everyone of them to prepare themselves by keeping up their contributions, and thus entitling themselves to £100 grant. He considered the money would be welcomed by Mr Monaghan, and would keep him and his family from the hard pinch of charity. (Cheers.) Many of their successful tradesmen of the town had started business on a smaller sum. Whatever method Mr Monaghan adopted in investing the cheque he was certain he had the sympathy of every true unionist present. (Cheers.)

Mr Meek described the nature of the accident whereby Mr Monghan was injured. He stated that the accident happened on the 4th of January last at Newburn Steelworks. Mr Monaghan was employed as a second-hand. He had just entered upon his work connected with the second shift, and whilst in the act of "charging" he received his injuries. Mr Monaghan was busily engaged with a pig of metal weighing between 5 and 6 cwts., when he stumbled, and the "mound" fell on his hand, and crushed it most severely, thereby disabling him from acting as a second-hand in the future. Mr Monaghan had always been a true unionist. When he put in the claim for the £100 to the Newburn Branch, Mr Monaghan informed the officials that he did not wish to press the claim. It was not till three months had expired that he gave up all hopes of carrying out his work in the future. They all knew that they were a classes of men that were exposed to all dangers, but he would say stand by the Society and thus prepare themselves in case of accident. (Cheers.)

Mr Hodge, who was enthusiastically received, said the condition of trades' unionism in Consett was disgraceful. Men did not take an interest in societies from which they derived many benefits. (A voice: "Shame.") Some one had said the occasion was an unpleasant one, yet mingled with joy. Any workmen that got injured whilst following his employment had their sympathy. It was pleasant when a man, by his own forethought, and by keeping his contribution card clear, could come forward and claim the grant offered in case of accident. (Applause.) There was not one of them present who, when they went to their work in the morning, could tell what was going to befall them during the day. Since the accident grant came into force, in connection with their organisation, they had only had two claims, and they were met that night to present the second one. (Cheers.) When they had no surety that they would not meet with an accident, was it not wise, whilst in health and strength, and as a good husband, or as a dutiful son, to make provision for themselves and those that were depending upon them. (Applause.) The modesty of Mr Meek had prevented that gentleman from informing them of all that the Newburn men had done for Mr Monaghan whilst off work. The workmen had made special collections on his behalf, which had been done almost weekly, and had enabled Mr Monaghan and his family to live without resorting—as their chairman described it—to the hard pinch of charity. (Cheers.) This indicated that the man was respected for his sound principles. (Cheers.) He hoped the result of that meeting would be great, because they had several reasons for presenting the cheque at Consett. At Newburn, the workmen were all true union men; but at Consett, he was sorry to say, it was the reverse. The men were possessed with such a spirit that, he believed, if they put a copper in the blind man's tin box, they would steal his dog. (Sensation.) They refused to join an organisation, yet they would participate in its benefits. This was their principle, and it was a mean one. In connection with their own trade at Consett, they had some 40 pitmen employed at their works, and their was not one of them a financial member of the organisation. (A voice: "Yes, there is one.") Well, he would grant them one. Yet he considered it was a burning shame that such should be the case. They would have to set these men an example. Do not help them, keep them back, and they should treat them as lepers. (A voice: "They are too numerous.") If such was the case he would say don't touch the same tools, and don't mix up with them in any shape or form. (Applause, and a voice: "You can't do it.") They desired to show these men the benefits to be derived from trades unions. Some of the men who belonged to the higher classes, and opposed to them, were greater trades unionists than they were themselves. The greatest trades union in the country was the House of Lords, and look at the privileges and syndicates these men possessed. They had a perfect union compared to any union the working classes possessed in their country. The present organisation was formed in 1886, and up to the present time they had done a vast amount of good for their members. (Cheers.) The Consett workmen knew such was the case, because through the efforts of the union their wages were doubled, and their position raised, yet there were some men grudged to give a subscription to the benefit of the society. (A voice: "Shame.") Non-society men should take note of this If they did not do something to protect themselves, they would be made to suffer. Their employers would seek to take advantage of them, because they had not a society to fight their battles. Since the society was formed they had paid in funeral benefits £1,150; idle benefits, £9,100; trade protection, £4,700; accident grants, £200. He trusted the lessons learned from the meeting would be numerous, and that every man would see the necessity of keeping his card clear. Every member should act the part of a missionary and bring the laggards to the front. Let every member take an interest in the affairs of the society, and consider what benefited them benefitted all. (Cheers.) He ridiculed the idea of several of the first hands at Consett being in arrears with their subscriptions to the union, and contended if their names were mentioned in public it would do them good. In making the presentation Mr Hodge said that Mr Monaghan could stand up and take the same knowing that he was entitled to it through his own carefulness. On behalf of the executive committee and workmen generally, he would ask Mr Monaghan to accept the cheque, and use the same to his advantage in a wise speculation. (Cheers.)

Mr Monaghan suitably acknowledged the cheque, and thanked the executive council for so readily considering his case. (Applause.)

Mr John Orr followed with an interesting speech. He stated that it was under the tuition of Mr John Kane and Mr Ed. Trow, that he learned the first principles of trades unionism. (Cheers.) In all the districts of the County of Durham, Consett was the most difficult place to organise the working men, and the worst organised district they would ever come across. It was a disgrace that the pitmen at the Consett Steelworks should spare the association. He could tell them that such a state of things would not be allowed to exist amongst the class of men he represented. He did not believe in coercion, but in facts, and he could say that it was to the interest of all classes that men should organise and combine themselves together. It was a handsome donation they had just handed over to Mr Monaghan. (Cheers.)

Mr Jones said there were great benefits to be derived from trades' unionism, and what the working classes had received, had only been gained through combination. (Applause.) He congratulated the executive committee for the work they had accomplished amongst the steelsmelters, and hoped the men of Consett would take the advice of their leader, join the association, combine together so as to be able to protect their rights. (Cheers.)

Mr Thomas Cockburn also spoke. He said that he was proud of the position he occupied, and knew full well the benefits of organisation.

The customary vote of thanks terminated the proceedings.

WEARDALE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

STANHOPE LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the above Board was held at Stanhope, Dr Livingstone presiding. There were also present:—Messrs J. Brenston, J. Wears, D. McCallum, R. Muse, G. Moses, T. Philipson, W. Rippon, and J. Currey.

Notices have to be given at next meeting to increase the area of the Board's district.

Letters were read from Mr John Elliott, of Martin Street, and V. A. Rippon, Esq., J.P., Rogerly Hall, respecting the taking of the springs at Stanhope Moor for the use of the inhabitants of Stanhope. Mr J. V. Walton, of Witton-le-Wear, wrote the month previous against the same thing.

Richardson Bros, of Darlington, wrote the Board offering £10 for a stand at next September fair, for his roundabouts. It was thought a small offer for so great a nuisance.

One Board member said he heard the organ music dinging in his ears many a day after. He thought we would have a nicer fair without it.

Mr John Carey, of Darlington also wrote respecting a stand for his shooting galleries at the fair as before.

The Board thought it premature to let stands for the fair already, and it was consequently left over.

Mr Fred Smoker, Martin Street, Stanhope, wrote asking for leave to put a step on the footpath.

The Board thought it dangerous and refused.

Mr J. Shurthwaite also wrote respecting the dirty state of the street beside his house, caused by the building operations of Mr J. Currey.

Mr Currey said he could not cart stones to his houses for building purposes in wet weather without making dirt, but would make the road good and clean when done carting.

A letter was also read from the Local Government Board anent Dr Robinson's increased salary as medical officer, intimating it was contrary to usage to sanction a medical officer's salary when less than £20 per annum.

The Clerk was deputed to write and ask for an exception to be made in this case on account of the small district. The wages bill was £12 5s 9d.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE.

[By "Castlesideite."]

The sudden demise of Miss Laing has caused quite a gloom over the village. Her remains were interred on Saturday week, and were followed to the grave by a large number of friends and villagers, amongst whom were Mr Van Haansbergen, J.P., the servants from Woodlands Hall, also the servants from Burnhopeside Hall, where Miss Laing had lived as a servant previous to her going to Woodlands. The coffin which was of pitch pine, with brass mountings, was conveyed in a beautiful hearse. Her grave was covered with wreaths. Much sympathy is felt for the family and her intended. She would have been married shortly.

The mission services conducted by Miss Carley at Rowley Baptist Church, were brought to a close on Saturday week. Miss Carley's late mission has not been so successful as her first visit, but the church has been built up and edified. Mr Leybourn entertained the congregation to supper in the new school-room. The tables were attended by Mrs Maxwell, Miss Thompson, Miss Angus, Miss Nichol and others. On Sunday, Mr J. W. Golightly occupied the pulpit.

An entertainment under the auspices of the Primitive Methodist Band of Hope, was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Saturday night. An excellent programme was gone through by the following artistes:—Miss Raine, Mr T. Milner, Mr W. Nattrass, Mr J. Bewick, Mr J. Raine, and Mr A. Reid. They all did their parts well. The choir rendered good service. The chair was occupied by Mr W. Pattinson, after which a supper was provided in the school-room given by Mrs W. Pattinson. The tables were gracefully presided over by Miss Raine, Miss Harker, the Mesdames Pattinson's assisting. The supper realised the sum of £2 5s 6d.

No doubt many of your readers would see in your advertising columns, That Castleside Primitive Methodist Chapel has been duly registered for the solemnisation of Marriages, so that in future our young people need not be put to the inconvenience and expense of travelling to Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Consett, or even to Lanchester, as the ceremony can be duly performed in the above place.

The Wesleyan Church at Castleside, has commenced special evangelistic services which are being conducted by Rev A. E. Salmon. The services are being well attended. Mr Salmon is an excellent preacher, and likely to draw many to hear him, while he makes known the truth unto men.

The continuation classes or night school is being well attended and likely to be successful. The master (Mr T. Duckworth) is very anxious to do his best for his old boys, who have put themselves under his tuition for the winter season. He has some old boys under his care, some who have left school over thirty-five years ago, but who are a little anxious to keep in touch with the times and the modern methods of teaching, and with those old fellows he will have to exercise some little patience. Mr Brown, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors for the Norther District, visited the school or class and expressed himself as satisfied with the effort made for furthering the education of the young people and also with the class and its working.

Trade Notes.

THE CONSETT TINMILL WORKS.

On Monday night, part of the Consett Iron Company's Tinmill Works, which have been laid idle for over three months for water, were re-started.

USHAW MOOR COLLIERY CHANGES HANDS.

A change of ownership took place at this colliery, on Friday. Messrs Pease and Partners, Limited, of Darlington, having effected the purchase of it from the owner, Mr Henry Chaytor, of Witton Castle. Messrs Pease and Partners, are already owners of Esh and Waterhouses Collieries in the Dearness Valley, where their influence, both intellectually and morally, has been felt and appreciated. They are also owners of the Sleetburn royalty, worked by Messrs Cochrane and Co., Limited, at the high pit. The lease of this royalty also, we understand, closes with the latter firm at the end of the present year, when Messrs Pease and Partners will undertake the working themselves. This fact and other considerations in connection with the Esh Colliery royalty and workings has no doubt materially influenced the firm in the purchase of the Ushaw Moor Colliery, from which place both places can now be worked, we understand. The outputs both from Esh and Ushaw Moor Colliery are large, and those employed at the various places owned by the firm may congratulate themselves in having such an old-established and enterprising firm as owners. Through their influence at Esh Colliery especially, the comparatively few houses at New House and Esh Winning have been multiplied, and we have now quite a snug little town rising. Mr J. G. Crofton, manager of Esh and Waterhouses Collieries, has also been appointed manager at Ushaw Moor, thus indicating the confidence reposed in him by the firm, a post which will be no small satisfaction to himself and family, extending as it does the operation of his influence in an educational and improving direction. In connection with the changing of ownership of this Colliery, Mr Wm. Hill, Witton-le-Wear, Darlington, the agent of the past owner, was presented with a handsome testimonial of respect and esteem by the workmen, assisted by a few friends. The presentation took place in the Mission Room at the colliery. Mr Wardle, manager, was chairman. Mr Emmerson, the miners' lodge secretary, made the presentation, which consisted of bound volumes of "Macaulay's History of England," field glasses, pocket chronometer, and an aneroid to Mr Hill, and to Mrs Hill, a very handsome gold necklet and china breakfast dishes. Mr Hill suitably responded.

A Card. — An Important Discovery is announced in the *Paris Figaro*, of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, kidney diseases, and kindred complaints. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico. The Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Mansions Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., will send the description free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mention this paper.

Local Police Courts.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

FIRST COURT.

THURSDAY, November 30th.—Before W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq. (presiding), E. W. E. BALLENY, Esq., and R. G. BARCLAY, Esq.

WASN'T SURE ABOUT IT.

John Forster appeared to answer a charge of assaulting Thomas D. Todd, a little boy, the son of Margt. Todd.—In reply to the charge, defendant said: I am guilty one way and not another. I want to hear what they have got to say first before I can decide. (Laughter.)—The Bench: He's not very sure yet. (More laughter.)—The Clerk (Mr A. W. Granger): Are you guilty or not guilty?—Defendant: Well, I'll plead guilty. (Laughter.)—Mrs Todd said that some boy had been throwing a stone, and defendant ran after complainant, and mistaking him for another boy, hit him with a pit prop.—Defendant was fined 2s 6d and cost.

A MARRIED COUPLE'S TROUBLES: SEPARATED AFTER FOUR MONTHS.

Joseph Richardson, miner, Westwood, was summoned under the Married Women's Maintenance Act, for deserting his wife, Mary E. Richardson, on the 4th November.—Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) prosecuted, and Mr W. Dickinson (Consett) defended.—It appears that defendant, who had only been married to his wife four months, had been keeping her short of money, and when she complained he threatened to stab her with a knife. He had since gone and left her.—The Magistrates thought that defendant was not a very formidable looking person, and advised the parties to make up the matter.—Complainant said she could not do so.—Mr Dickinson said that defendant was quite willing to take her back again.—Complainant said she would not go, because defendant's mother now kept his house.—The Magistrates made an order for the payment by defendant of 7s 6d a week towards the support of his wife, the Bench strongly advising the parties to come to a reconciliation as soon as possible.

AN ACCIDENT ON THE HIGHWAY.

Benjamin James, hawker, pleaded guilty to being drunk while in charge of a horse and cart, at Square House, near Lanchester, on November 21st.—Inspector Daley, of Lanchester, deposed that on the date in question he had proceeded to Square House Cottages, when he saw the waggon standing on the road, the horse being between broken shafts. Witness learned that an accident had happened to James, his vehicle having collided with another waggon, the shafts being broken, and defendant was pitched on to the road. With assistance, the office got the horse loosed out. They found James lying upon the snow in a very distressed condition, and had he not been soon discovered, he would undoubted have been suffocated amongst the snow.—The Justices imposed a fine of 10s and 12s costs.

ASSAULT AT LANGLEY PARK.

Jane Raper, a young woman, was charged with assaulting Eunice Trueman, an elderly woman, on the 11th November, at Langley Park.—Mr J. Patrick (Durham) appeared for the complainant, and in opening the case he was so frequently interrupted by the defendant, till the Magistrates at length said that Mr Patrick must be representing both parties, as he was being prompted by the defendant. (Laughter.)—The evidence of the complainant, who had been dumb for about two years after her last confinement, and had lived at Langley Park 12 years, was that defendant, who was a neighbour, accused her of stealing a night-shirt. Raper struck Mrs Trueman in the eye, and kicked her as far as the corner of the house. Defendant found the night-shirt in her own house the same night. Mrs Raper denied striking the complainant, and said that she never charged her with stealing the night-shirt. Somebody threw the article into the house the same evening.—The Bench said that there had been an unprovoked and cowardly assault on the old lady, and defendant would be fined 10s and 15s costs.

THE DUPES OF THE POLICE.

James Wilson, innkeeper, South Moor, was charged by P.C.'s Stubbs and Vitty with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on November 4th.—The police said they found five men inside the house. There had been a pigeon flying match there that day, and there was a good deal of excitement.—By Mr J. G. Murray, solicitor, Consett (who defended): On neither occasion when the police visited the house, did they call the landlord's attention to the intoxicated men in the house.—Mr Murray pleaded guilty, and commented upon the fact of the police not trying to prevent an infringement of the law by calling the publican's attention to the drunken men in the house.—The Magistrates said it was no part of their duty to advise the landlord how to conduct his house, still the police might, whether it was their duty or not, call the attention of any innkeeper to the fact that tipsy people were on the premises. This was not a bad case, and defendant would be fined 10s and costs, the license not to be endorsed.

AN AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.

Patrick Nimmony, labourer, of William Street, Consett, was charged with unlawfully wounding his wife, Mary Jane, on the 25th ult.—It was stated that, during an affray, prisoner felled his wife across the head with a poker, inflicting three wounds, which bled freely.—P.C. Humphrey gave evidence of arresting the accused.—Dr Shannon, assistant to Dr Geo. Renton, of Consett, testified that he attended prosecutrix on the 25th ult., at 11 o'clock, at the Consett Infirmary, and found her suffering from three scalp wounds—one about two inches long at the back of the head, another at the back of the head an inch long and superficial, and one on the temple, superficial, and half-an-inch long. She had lost some blood. None of the wounds, however, were dangerous.—The defence was, that during the scuffle, complainant fell against the oven door. Complainant got the poker up to fell her husband, and he tried to wrench the weapon from her grasp. Prosecutrix was very drunk at the time, and she wanted to go and get more liquor, but he (Nimmony) tried to prevent her.—Supt. Benzies gave both parties a poor character.—The Justices agreed to treat the case as one of aggravated assault, and sentenced the prisoner to undergo one month's hard labour.

THROWING A PICK BLADE DOWN A SHAFT.

James Campbell, hewer, was charged with a breach of one of the special rules of the Morrison Pit, Annfield, by wilfully and negligently throwing a pick blade down the shaft. Mr W. H. Oliver (Durham) prosecuted, while Mr Hy. Forrest (Durham) defended.

The evidence of Michael Hanlon, banksman, was that on the 14th of November the gear tub went away down the shaft. Soon after the cage started to move, defendant dropped a pick blade, as he thought, into the tub. He missed his aim, however, and the blade went down the shaft. It was a very dangerous thing for anything to be dropped down the shaft.

In reply to Mr Forrest, witness denied that it was the custom for men to place their blades, picks, or gearing into the tub after the same had been placed on the cage. It was impossible to stop the cage after it had started away.

Thomas Weanington, "on-setter" at the top of the shaft, said he heard the blade fall down the shaft. Witness examined the shaft, and found that the blade had stuck into the "buntings" about five fathoms from the bottom of the shaft. Had it gone the full depth, somebody might have been killed.

Mr Forrest said it had been the custom for workmen, who were late in the morning, to rush to the shop and put their gearing on the tub after it had been placed in the cage. Defendant was carrying his three blades in the drill, intending to put them in the tub, but on arriving at the mouth of the pit, he found the cage had started downwards. One of the blades, however, accidently slipped out of the drill down the shaft. Defendant had not wilfully infringed the law, although he might be guilty of a certain amount of negligence.

The Justices fined defendant £1 and £1 2s costs.

ALLEGED DAMAGE TO A MINE.

Jacob Morris, miner, of Cement Cottages, was charged by Mr W. Parkinson, under manager of the Morrison Pit, Annfield Plain, with having, on the 8th November, hewed down a portion of the "stoole" at a board end so as to endanger the property of the South Moor Coal Company, the owner.—Mr Oliver prosecuted, and defendant was fined 10s and 12s costs.

A COALHEWER'S "HARD LINES."

John George Littlefair, coalhewer, was charged with entering a portion of the Morrison Pit, near Annfield Plain, where he was not authorised to go into.—Mr Oliver prosecuted, and explained that instead of working in the "stenting" defendant had gone into the head well course.—Liddell, the night-shift overman, proved the case, and, in replying to Mr Forrest, admitted that Robert Elliott, defendant's marrow, was working in the headway course, and had left a curve of nearly two feet for Littlefair to work at. There was water in the "stenting," but it was got out before defendant was ready to work. It was a bad place, and witness promised to consider defendant in consequence of the unequal change. It was not the custom for a man to follow his marrow, particularly in cases of emergency.—Mr Forrest: We will see about this. It is the custom of the country.—Further cross-questioned, witness acknowledged that both Elliott and defendant had been working in the head-way course for a week previously.—Mr Forrest declared that this was the most frivolous case that was ever brought into Court. Both defendant and Elliott had been working in this headway for a week. The "stenting" was half full of water, and was not fit for a hewer to go into. Moreover, it was to the advantage of defendant to follow his marrow, who had left two feet of curve for him. The owners had suffered no loss whatever, and allowed the man to finish his shift there, and further, they refused to compensate him for placing defendant in a bad place.—The Bench stated that the discipline of the mine must be maintained, and fined defendant 10s and costs.

TAMPERING WITH PAY-NOTES.

FRAUD BY A MINER.

Thomas Taylor, a miner, formerly employed at Messrs J Bowes and Partners, Pontop Colliery, Annfield Plain, was charged with larceny as baillie, of the sums of 5s 8d, 3s 2d, and 4s 2d, the monies of John and Joseph Rattler, working at the same colliery. Mr Welford prosecuted, while Mr W. H. Oliver (Durham) defended.

Thomas Bowes, under manager at the colliery, said that the prisoner had worked for them this past ten years. John Rattler was also employed at the pit. On Nov. 1st last, from what Rattler said to witness, he found that the books showed for No 21 pay £4 13s 5d due to John Rattler and son for the pay ending October 21st. The document produced would be the paynote handed in but the figures had been altered to £4 10s 3d. Witness again met Rattler in the pit on Nov. 7th and had a conversation with him. On the following morning, Rattler gave him the paynote produced, and on being compared with the colliery book was found to have been tampered with. He sent for Rattler the same night and had further talk with him. Defendant was working as a marrow for one of the Rattlers and received the paynote for Rattler and son. Another note produced had been altered from £5 2s 7d to £4 18s 5d. Defendant drew Rattler's pay for the next fortnight (Sept. 23rd), and the paynote had been altered from £3 18s 9d to £3 13s 1d. Witness complained to the police.

By Mr Oliver: Taylor got the paynotes as Rattler's agent. He had no pecuniary interest in the notes. The notes were given out on Thursday and the men paid on the Friday.

John Rattler, miner, working at Pontop Colliery, and living at Greencroft Old Pit, gave evidence of suspecting that there was something amiss and giving information to the colliery official.

Cross-questioned: He authorised defendant to draw his money at the colliery offices.

Joseph Rattler, miner, living with his father, also gave evidence with respect to the other two payments. He told Taylor that he thought the money must be wrong and that they had missed a shift out for his father. Accused replied that he did not know.

Sergeant Liddell spoke to apprehending prisoner and found the original ticket for the first pay.

This was all the evidence, and accused pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The Magistrates decided to disprove of the case summarily.

In the course of a long defence Mr Oliver argued that his client had not defrauded the colliery company in any shape or form. He simply acted as Rattler's agent to draw the money, and in reference to any cash that might be unaccounted for, the Rattlers' had a remedy in the County Court. They had no right to set the counsel law in motion against him, and it was absurd to charge Taylor with larceny as baillie. It was just a simple debt.

The Clerk (Mr A. W. Granger) said that Mr Oliver's defence was very ingenious, and he had better let the case go to the Sessions and be tried by a jury.

The Magistrates fined defendant £2.

POOR LAW ACT.

Fenwick Bewick, and *Edward Bewick*, brothers living at South Moor, were summoned at the instigation of Ralph Walton, relieving officer, for refusing to maintain their mother who had become chargeable to the union and was now in receipt of out-door relief. Defendants said they had offered a home to their mother, but if they had to pay for her maintenance she would have to go to the workhouse.—Mr Walton said that it was not necessary for the woman to go to the workhouse.—The Magistrates made an order for Fenwick to pay 1s 6d per week, and Edward 1s per week towards the support of their mother.

SECOND COURT.

Before EDMUND E. W. B. BALLENY Esq. (chairman), and WM. LOGAN Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

There were 81 cases of drunkenness disposed of, fines ranging from 10s to 5s and costs being inflicted in each case with one exception, which was dismissed.

BREACHES OF THE PEACE.

George Brown, and *Plews Howdon*, were both summoned by P.C. Milburn for fighting at West Stanley on the 18th ult. Defendants were bound over to keep the peace for three months, and pay 7s 6d each costs.

John Shield, and *Robert Cooper*, were charged by P.C. Stubbs with a similar offence at South Moor, on the 18th Nov.—Shield was bound over, but a warrant was issued against Cooper, who did not appear.

THREATS.

John Bracken, miner, was charged with threatening Henry Bracken, at Annfield Plain, on the 20th ult.—Bracken had almost terrified the members of his family.—As defendant had already been in custody for a week, the Justices discharged him.

EDUCATION ACT.

John Watson, of Cement Houses, Annfield Plain, was summoned by Mr John Gibson, on behalf of the Lanchester School Attendance Committee, for not sending his child to school.—The case was dismissed.

John Halliday, West Stanley, was summoned by Mr Seymore Reddick, acting for the Tanfield School Board for not making his son go to school.—As the lad was said to be incorrigible, he was removed to the workhouse with a view to being sent to an Industrial School.

William Alderson, West Stanley, charged with a like offence, was mulcted in a penalty of 5s.

ASSAULTS.

Geo. Dogg jun. *Geo. Dogg* sen, and *John Fletcher*, were charged with assaulting Albert Machinson, at West Stanley on the 18th ult.—Mr Welford defended, and after hearing the evidence, the Bench dismissed the summonses.

Thos Wright, and *Frank Winter*, were summoned for assaulting Matthew Minto at Cornsay Colliery, on Nov. 25th.—Wright neglected to appear, and a warrant was accordingly issued against him. Winter was fined 10s and costs.

Defendants were further charged with committing wilful damage to the property of George Caley at the same time and place.—Winter was fined 5s, and ordered to pay 5s damage and costs: and also fined 5s and expenses for drunkenness. A warrant was granted against Winter in respect of the wilful damage and drunken cases.

Margaret Coyle, was fined 10s and 9s 6d costs for an assault on Rhoda Platten, at Greencroft, on the 15th ult.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

FIRST COURT.

MONDAY, Dec. 4th.—Before COUNCILLOR JAMES ANNANDALE (chairman), W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, J. P. POTTS, and E. W. E. BALLENY, Esqs.

POACHING PREVENTION ACT.

Thomas Williamson and *Richard Jenkins*, labourers, of Consett, were summoned under the Poaching Prevention Act for having game in their possession on the 22nd ult.—The case was adjourned for the purpose of allowing defendants an opportunity of summoning witnesses.

ANOTHER CURIOUS CASE: RABBITS TO THE FRONT.

John William Harkness and *Henry Wilson*, two Consett youths, were charged, under the Poaching Prevention Act, with having conies in their possession.—Sergeant Dryden deposed that on Saturday morning, between 12·30 and 1 o'clock he met the defendants in Medomsley Road, Consett. They each carried a bundle. Harkness carried a loaf of bread in his parcel: but he had a couple of rabbits in his coat pocket. Wilson's bundle also contained two rabbits. The rabbits were quite fresh, and the men made various statements as to where they had got them.—In reply to the Bench, the Sergeant said he accosted the defendants because they were convicted poachers.—Defendants denied that they had been poaching. Two rabbits, they said, were given to them by Mrs Swinburne, the wife of a gamekeeper, at Shotley Hall, while the other couple were purchased from Mr Milburn, pork butcher, Consett, on Tuesday night for 2s 10d. They had been down at Allendale Cottages and Blackhall Mill trying to raffle the rabbits, but had not succeeded, and were returning home when intercepted by the police.—Evidence was given by Mr Milburn and Mrs Swinburne bearing out the defendants' statement, and the summons was dismissed.—The decision was received with applause which was immediately suppressed.

DOG LICENSE

William Oswald, miner, Lintz Colliery, pleaded guilty to keeping a dog without a license on the 14th ult.—P.C. Pemberton proved the case.—Defendant was fined 7s 6d and 7s costs.

A similar charge was preferred by P.C. Wall against Wm. Lax, miner, Burnopfield on the 22nd ult.—Fined 7s 6d and 7s costs.

ASSAULT AT BLACKHALL MILL.

John Whittle and *John O'Brien* were accused of assaulting Patrick Smith, miner, at Blackhall Mill, on the 25th ult.—A cross-summons was issued charging *Patrick Smith* with assaulting John O'Brien at the same time and place. Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) defended.—Prosecutor attested that about 11·30 at night whilst coming across the "bog" at Blackhall Mill he met the defendants, Whittle saluted him by saying "That he was the man he wanted to be at," and then struck him three times in the chest. He told defendants to go away as he did not wish to fight, but O'Brien took hold of him by the shoulders and kicked him below the knee.—Joseph Barker adduced that he saw Whittle strike Smith. He did not see O'Brien do anything.—Mr Welford repudiated the offence and called a man named Mason, who declared that Smith challenged O'Brien out to fight; but there was no blows struck. Whittle did not interfere.—John Armstrong corroborated.—O'Brien said he remembered Smith challenging him out to fight, and said if he did not do so, he would make him fight on Sunday morning. The assault upon him was committed through Smith getting hold of him by the waistcoat and giving him a good shaking.—The Bench fined Whittle 5s and 9s 3d costs, the charges against O'Brien and Smith were dismissed.

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF A HORSE.

Christopher Robinson, farmer, Castleside, was proceeded against by P.C. Haw for being drunk in charge of a horse on the 25th ult.—After hearing the evidence of the police the Bench consented to adjourn the case for 14 days for defendant to produce witnesses.

ANOTHER WOUNDING AFFRAY AT CONSETT.

WAS IT "AN IRISH ROW."

John and *Sarah McCourt*, husband and wife, were summoned for assaulting Frank Grimes, at Furnace Row, Consett, on the 17th ult. Mr W. Dickinson (Consett) prosecuted, whilst Mr Welford defended.

Prosecutor averred that shortly after 11 o'clock he went across the yard, when defendant's dog seized him by the leg. He took the animal to McCourt's, and when turning away from the house, the two defendants attacked in a most brutal manner. John McCourt knocked him down, and his wife struck and kicked him whilst lying in the gutter. A short while after this the defendants came to the door, and said they were ready for him now. He opened the door, and John McCourt again rushed at him, and both of them gave him a sound thrashing.

Cross-examined: Prosecutor did not recognise the poker (produced). He could not say how McCourt got his injuries, but they had both to be attended by a doctor, and have their injuries dressed.

Prosecutor's wife gave corroborative evidence.

In answer to Mr Welford, witness did not know whether it was "an English or an Irish row," but her husband was assaulted.

Mrs Jones adduced that the poker (produced) belonged to the Grimes family, and was used by them in the affray. There was a general row through the Grimes rushing out of the house and attacking the McCourts.

Frank Bates said he had examined the door of the dwelling-house occupied by the Grimes, and it was not injured in any shape or form.

After other evidence, the Bench fined McCourt 10s and 18s 6d costs. The charge against Mrs McCourt was dismissed, complainant having 10s costs to pay.

THREATENING LANGUAGE.

Frederick Davison, labourer, Blackhill, was summoned for threatening the life of Mary A. Shepherd, married woman, on the 22nd ult. Mr Dickinson prosecuted, and Mr Welford defended.—From the evidence tendered by the prosecutrix it appeared that defendant had used a considerable amount of threatening language towards her, and she was afraid the man would carry out such threats.—Mr Welford averred that complainant had charged defendant with stealing coals, and he had said some angry words; but not such as would frighten any woman.—The Bench bound defendant over for the space of six months in the sum of £5, and ordered him to pay 11s costs.

A similar charge was preferred against *John Davison*, for threatening the complainant at the same place on the 23rd ult.—The case was adjourned for Davison's appearance.

EDUCATION ACT.

The charge against *Robert Hogg*, miner, Dipton, under this Act, was dismissed.—The proceedings were instituted by Mr D. Mole, attendance officer, on behalf of the Collierley School Board.

John Jardine was also summoned by Mr Mole for failing to comply with the Act, and was fined 2s 6d and costs.

A SHEEP CASE AT BURNOPFIELD.

Matthew McKenna, a labourer at South Garesfield Colliery, was charged with causing damage to three sheep belonging to Matthew Adamson, farmer and butcher, The Leazes, near Burnopfield, the damage being assessed at £4 15s. Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) defended.

The prosecutor said that on the 19th ult, on Middle Friarside Farm, his hind found a black-faced Leicester tup lying dead; a black-faced ewe was almost dead, and a third sheep had been lamed.—Replying to Mr Welford, witness saw that one of the sheep was already killed, and fit for cutting up when defendant came to see him. He did not allege that the sheep had been worried; they had been run to death.

By the Chairman: Prosecutor said that he did not see the dogs removing the sheep. He was informed that it was McKenna's dog that did the mischief.

The Hind (Henry Smith) deposed going to the field and finding one of the sheep dead, another, lying 20 yards away nearly dead, and a third one missing altogether. He informed Mr Adamson of what had occurred, and presently the third sheep was found, having been lamed.

Two boys named Henry and George Cranston were called. The first witness said that he saw defendant's dog (a fox terrier) and a rabbit dog go into Mr Adamson's field, and begin barking, but they did not chase the sheep, although the latter ran away.

Mr Adamson said that was quite a different version of the story that had been tendered to him.

The Chairman: Did you see the dogs in the field or not? Witness: Yes; but they did not touch the sheep.

The other boy at first averred that he knew nothing about the case; but on being pressed, he acknowledged that he saw defendant's dog running after Mr Callendar's sheep, but he did not observe them after the prosecutor's.

Mr Adamson averred the two boys had been "squared," so as not to tell anything. He thought the magistrates would see such had been the case.—Mr Welford considered it very unfair for Mr Adamson to say that such had been the case when he was not in a position to prove it.

Mr Adamson: I know what the boys have told me.

The Chairman: Has anyone spoken to you this morning about the case.

Witness: Yes; my father told me to tell all I knew about the case.

P.C. Pemberton said that McKenna had acknowledged to him that his dog was one of those that chased the sheep.

P.C. Wall deposed that defendants said he heard that his dog was one of the culprits.

In the result, the Chairman announced that the magistrates were equally divided in opinion, and the case would have to be re-tried before a fresh Bench a fortnight hence, each side being at liberty to bring forward any additional evidence.

AN UNHAPPY COUPLE.

BETTER SEPARATED.

Robert Gilhespy, a steelsmelter, employed at the Consett Steel Works was summoned for committing an aggravated assault upon his wife, Clara Gillhespy, on the 17th ult. Mr T. W. Welford prosecuted, whilst Mr J. G. Murray (Consett and Newcastle), defended. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Mr Welford said it was his intention to apply for a judicial separation.

Prosecutrix deposed as follows:—I was married to defendant on the 6th May, 1891. All went well for about a month or six weeks. We first lived in a house in Siemen Street, and his mother had two rooms in the same house furnished for her own use. In July, 1891, I went down to South Shields and stayed about 10 days, my mother and father were there. I returned home very ill, and was confined to my bed from Tuesday to Saturday. I was attended by a doctor. On that particular Saturday he and his mother went off with the workmen's trip and left me in the house alone. I managed to get up and went to my mother's in the bus.

Mr Murray (interposing) said he did not know what Mr Welford was attempting at. According to the summons they were charged with committing an assault upon a certain date, and he would now ask Mr Welford to confine himself to such.

Mr Welford: We are applying for a separation order, and I have a perfect right to go back to certain dates to show what an unhappy life the two parties had been leading.

Mr Murray: I object to any such thing being done.

Mr Grainger (the magistrates' clerk): There must be a certain amount of evidence tendered to show why a separation order is required.

Mr Welford: I am quite in keeping with the order of the court.

Mr Murray: I don't know what the procedure of the court is here; but I do strongly protest against what you are going to do.

The Bench eventually requested Mr Welford to proceed with the case.

He came to my mother's house the same night and stayed till the Sunday night. He then brought me down home. When we did get home his mother kicked up a row with me for leaving the house on the Saturday and going home. A week later, on Friday night, he came home about 11·15 and he struck me a heavy blow. He was in a bad temper. I went upstairs and he followed me and brought me down, and said he would take me to my mother's and leave me. He made me get dressed, and he took me as far as Consett Water Company's Offices and said I had to stay at my mother's. I was so frightened I dare not refuse but go to my mother's. It would be between 12 and 1 o'clock at night. A week after he came to bring me back. He cursed and swore at my parents. I got my back against the kitchen door and asked him what he was going to do. He seized me by the shoulders and threw me to one side. He said, the house is open for her, and if she did not come she might take the consequences. I thought I had better go back and did so. That same night he abused me badly. The next day I sent a note to my father asking him to come down. He came. My father sat down, and my husband was taunting me the whole time he was in, he also tried to aggravate me as much as he could. I was crying. My father remonstrated with him and tried to pacify him as best he could. That night my husband went out and came in drunk. In March, 1892, we removed to Palmerston Street, Consett, the house was my mother's. My father agreed to sell him the house at the same price he paid for it. The day after the purchase was completed he came to me and asked me if he had to go to sign the deeds for the house. I told him no, it had been put into my mother's name. He threatened to take my life, I was terrified and ran upstairs, he followed and took hold of me by the neck, I screamed, he nearly choked me. In July the same year he was drinking heavily. I had £3 saved up and he knew it, he asked for it, and I would not give it to him, he then went and locked the yard door and the back door. Before going out to lock the door he said "I'll have the money or I'll take your life." (There was a razor in the machine drawer, and I thought he would get hold of it and cut my throat. I therefore got the razor and put it under the door mat. I then ran into the sitting room and locked the door, and heard defendant open a drawer, which I took to be the drawer of the machine. He wanted me to come out; but I refused. After he had gone, I came into the kitchen, and saw he had been at the drawer of the machine, as all the things were turned out of it. The same night, about 12 o'clock, he came in, and I gave him the money, he turned me out. I had no shoes on and was forced to go to my mother's. At that time I was exceedingly ill. Six weeks after this occurrence the baby was born. I stayed a week with my father. Defendant came and sought me, and I went back with him, and my mother got a girl to clean the house. A fortnight after my confinement a letter came to the house, addressed Mrs Gillbespy, Blackhill, but the postal authorities had struck out Blackhill and put Consett. I read the letter and it was to the effect "a bill of sale would be accepted over the furniture in Palmerston Street house, and a mortgage over policy of insurance. The letter was evidently meant for his mother, and he had directed the letter to be sent to his mother, to prevent me from getting to know anything about it. When defendant came home I showed him the letter and asked him what it meant. He said "you had no right to read the letter." I said "it was delivered here," and said he wanted to mortgage furniture and policy unknown. He replied you are a jealous woman and struck me several times. Defendant drank all that week, and badly used me every day, and wouldn't go to work. About three weeks after defendant kicked up a row with me, and knocked me down in the yard and tore my dress. The following Saturday he came in from work at two o'clock. After washing himself he took off his trousers, and put them in the fire and said he would not work again. He struck me several times and dragged me about the floor. My father came in shortly after and saw the trousers burning. The same night I went to my father's as I was afraid to stop. It would be about two in the morning when I went. I stayed 19 weeks. He took a house in Park Terrace. Last July my parents were at Harrogate, the child was ill. On a Friday he came in about dinner time, I was upstairs, he came up and asked me for his night clothes, I said what are you going to do with them, he swore at me, seized me, and threw me bodily down the stairs. Afterwards we removed to Sherburn Terrace. Defendant would come from work at five, and was all dressed at six, and would go out, and not return until 11·30 and 12 o'clock every night. On the 17th Nov. I was ill in bed and was attended by a doctor. My husband was not working as the works were laid idle. About two o'clock he went to the doctor's for some medicine, he asked me for some money before he went, I said you will get some when you come back, he said you lazy b—— get up, there is nothing the matter with you. I had nothing to eat from breakfast time, he did not come back from the doctor's till I had just got up and was intending to make myself a cup of tea, he sat for a few minutes, and then went out. He came back about 11·45 at night. He swore at me, and told me to go to bed, I was going, but he pulled me back and threatened to kill me. Afterwards he seized me and threw me over the rocking chair, he then got the coal rake and threw it at me, but it did not strike me. I ran along the passage, but he followed, and seizing hold of me, savagely opened the door, and with an oath, thrust me out and shut the door, I had only a night dress and skirt on and an old pair of slippers. I went to the police station and brought two policemen. When the policemen were there I knocked at the door. He said what set you here you b—— did I not put you out before. He put me out by the shoulders again. He then swore at the policemen, and said what set you b——'s here. He had the coal rake in his hand. The police remained at the door till I got my hat and clothes, as I dare not stay with defendant. When in the house he threw the coal-rake at me again. I was afterwards taken home by the police. A few days after I procured my part of the furniture, and the defendant had sold the remainder by public auction.

Cross-examined by Mr Murray: She did not possess a bad temper. In spite of all that people said she had a good disposition. The first pay she received was not thrown downstairs. The amount was £3. It was quite true she was thrown downstairs. Defendant was drunk. This was when the child was ill. His mother was present before this occurred. Defendant had been at work all night, and he brought a plant into the house when he came in. There was nothing to cause any disturbance. She simply asked him to stay in the house, and he threw her downstairs. He ill-treated her prior to her confinement on Sept. 15th. This was through some money she had in the house. He also struck her on this occasion. The whole thing did not arise out of her imagination. The week before and for weeks after her confinement he treated her badly. She had a girl who attended to the house work. On the 8th Oct., Elizabeth Telford was staying with her. She received the letter which was meant for his mother. On this night she did not scold him for coming in late. She never disbelieved him after he had told her where he had been. He did not go and seek Mrs Ward on one occasion, after she had doubted his word. He did bring Mrs Ward on one occasion, but she did not know what for. She believed it was for coming downstairs after her confinement. She never requested Elizabeth Telford to lock up the house before defendant came in. She frequently retired to rest leaving the door open for defendant to come in. Mrs Ward did tell her once that defendant had been at her house, and she did not say it was an untruth. She never slapped his face that night. She never kicked out one of the panels of the door. This thing was done through fun, and was caused by the defendant. She never kicked the kitchen door in a temper, and never threw a pail at defendant. She did not hear him say that if she had not been a woman he would have paid her back in her own coin. Defendant never came into the house at a decent time. She never left him at the first separation. She did go home and stay for 19 weeks, simply because she was afraid. She had the front door key of the house, and went occasionally. She never went to his mother's repeatedly after this occurrence. They did meet at Mrs Ward's, when he wished to see the child. Defendant did come to seek her to go back. Her mother had not interfered with their household affairs, and she had never troubled them since they were married. Defendant's mother was present at the house more than her's. On the 7th July, when the child was ill, she went to seek his mother. Her brother did stay with her, but never said she was a bad woman. She remembered defendant purchasing a fish globe, but there was no disturbance through him doing this. She was never aware that he slept at his sister's. On the 10th Nov. defendant was unkind to her. It was true he brought her breakfast to bed, but did not forget to blackguard her for having to do so. Defendant went for the medicine, and did not return home again till 5·30, the worse for liquor. Presently he went out again, and did not come back till close upon midnight. Mr and Miss Hewitt were in the house at the time. Defendant swore at her, and after Mr and Miss Hewitt had departed, the disturbance commenced. She dare not provoke defendant. He threw her over the rocking chair when she was preparing to retire to rest. Defendant said he would take her life if she did not get out of the house. Presently he put her out of the house, and told her he would take her life if she came back again. He threw the coal-rake at her. The police were standing at the door, and they asked defendant what he was doing. She never dogged his steps at night, and ordered him home at early hours. She remembered going to the Rose and Crown Hotel, Blackhill, on one occasion, at 11 o'clock at night, to get him to come home. Defendant said he would come as soon as he finished playing dominoes. She had never threatened to poison him or to take his life. Prosecutrix had never attempted to jump out of the window.

Sergt. Dryden testified to the complainant coming to the Police Station and making a complaint. He accompanied the prosecutrix to her house, and found the defendant very excited. Prosecutrix was frightened, and defendant threatened her whilst he stood at the door.

By Mr Murray: Witness stood at the door because complainant said she was afraid of defendant. When the latter came to the door he did not say, "What is the h—— is up here?" Defendant got hold of the woman, and pulled her into the house. Prosecutrix said that she had been assaulted. Defendant made use of some vulgar expressions, and became very noisy.

The Chairman (to Mr Welford): Do you apply for a judicial separation?

Mr Welford: Yes.

The Chairman: You had better let us hear some evidence as to the amount of wages the defendant earns.

Complainant said defendant's wages were from £5 to £6 per week.

Mr Murray: How do you know?

Complainant: I have seen his pay check.

The Chairman: What does defendant work at?

Complainant said defendant was a steelsmelter, employed as a "first hand."

Mr Van Haansbergen: Defendant will earn more than £5 per week.

Mr Murray: How much money did you receive?

Complainant: I never received more than £3 per week.

Mr Welford said he had a witness who would tell them what defendant's earnings amounted to.

The Chairman: It is not necessary.

Mr Welford: Very good. I will take defendant's wages at £4 per week.

Mr Murray said he had to give an *in toto* denial to the whole of the allegations that had been laid to the charge of his client. Defendant had received a great amount of provocation from his wife from time to time, but he had always treated her with kindness. Differences might have arisen, but yet defendant never used any violence towards prosecutrix. His wife had always been known for her temper, and had always endeavoured to keep her husband down in a servile and docile manner. The household affairs were continually being interfered with by the mother-in-law. They had endeavoured to do their best so as to annoy defendant, and he had at last retaliated against such treatment. His married life had not been a very happy one. They had had differences, and many words, but on no occasion had defendant used violence. These differences had always been carried home, with the result that the mother-in-law interfered, and grievances arose. The whole affair had been exaggerated. On the day of the alleged assault, defendant did not treat the prosecutrix harshly. Defendant got up, made the fire on, prepared his wife's breakfast, which all went to show that kindness had always been displayed by him towards her. Prosecutrix got up whilst defendant was out, and through her suffering from the bad cold, no doubt, made her imagine things were worse than they really were. Defendant never threw prosecutrix over the rocking chair, and did not inform her that if she went out of the house it would be the last time. However, she said she would go at once, but returned with the police. After procuring her clothes she went home, and the house was locked up. A few days afterwards the friends had got into the house by the window, and removed certain things which no doubt would cause them further trouble.

Hannah Morgan said she resided at 28, Roger Street, Blackhill. She lived with the defendant as servant for a fortnight after prosecutrix's confinement. There were no differences at any time, and defendant always treated his wife kindly. She did hear some differences between the defendant and his mother-in-law.

By Mr Welford: Witness said there might have been differences unknown to her. Defendant was generally in the house before 11 o'clock.

Elizabeth Telford said she went to stay at defendant's house on the 1st Oct., 1892. On the 8th of that month prosecutrix requested her to lock the doors of the house, but she refused. Whilst prosecutrix was in the act of doing so, defendant came in. He told her that he had been to her aunt's, and went and sought Mrs Ward to prove that he had been where he said. On the 15th of the same month, complainant slapped defendant's face, knocked a panel out of the door, and threw a bucket at her husband, who, in return, retorted that if she had not been a woman he would have paid her back in her own coin.

In answer to Mr Van Haansbergen, witness said complainant knocked the panel out of the door with her hand.

By the Chairman: It was not jealousy that caused her to do this. Complainant was a passionate woman.

Cross-examined by Mr Welford: There was no ill-feeling between her and the complainant. There was some money left, and she got her share. She did not blame the Brodies for anything.

The Chairman: Are you any relation?

Witness: I am complainant's cousin.

Joseph Siddle, butcher, Blackhill, spoke to being in defendant's company on the 10th Nov., and he left him perfectly sober.

Mrs Gilhespy (defendant's mother) said when the differences arose complainant came to their house repeatedly for the purpose of seeing defendant. She remembered the child being ill, and nursed the same three or four nights. On one occasion, when at the house, complainant went out and remained outside a considerable time.

The Bench said they had heard sufficient negative evidence.

Mr Murray said he was at a disadvantage, as he did not know what allegations were going to be brought forward. Mr Jacks would speak to certain provocation that he had seen take place.

The Bench: That will do.

After a brief consultation, the Chairman said there were faults on both sides; but an assault had been committed of an aggravated character. Defendant had no right to take the law into his own hands, and would be fined £1, with £2 4s costs. A judicial separation order would be made, and defendant would have to pay £1 per week toward's his wife's maintenance.

CONSETT UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION

On Sunday night, the committee of the Consett United Temperance Association inaugurated their usual Sabbath evening gospel temperance services for the winter in the Co-operative Hall, Consett. There was a very numerous attendance. This is the third season that these gatherings have been held in the town, and they have been productive of beneficial results. The chair on the present occasion was filled by Mr G. T. Egglestone, the genial secretary of the association, and the moving spirit in the organisation of these popular meetings. After Sankey's hymn, No. 3, had been sung, he opened the proceedings by furnishing a *resume* of what they contemplated carrying into effect during the coming season. Rev R. B. Hanley, Primitive Methodist Minister, Consett, delivered an able and instuctive address in the interval, and descanted upon the evil, the injury, and the misery inflicted upon children by drunken parents—a state of things that could not be tolerated any longer—and he strongly urged all present, who might not have signed the pledge, to do so without delay, and thereby set a good example to their fellow men and women. (Applause). The musical programme was rendered by the Consett Wesleyan Church Choir, which was supplemented by the orchestral band, Mr Wm. Lowrie, conducting, and Mr C. Stelling, accompanying on the pianoforte. The soloists were Miss Adamson and Mr Stelling. The band played a march, a prayer, and a selection. The choir sang the anthems, "Make a joyful noise," "Lord, for Thy tender mercies sake," and "The radiant morn." Mr Stelling contributed the solo, "Oh, that Thou wouldst bless me," while Miss Adamson favoured with "The Guardian Angel." Each item was rendered in fine style, and gave the greatest satisfaction to the enthusiastic and attentive audience. The singing of the doxology ended a successful meeting.

To-morrow (Saturday) night, the temperance association have arranged for Mr Lindon Travers to pay a return visit, and give another of his popular entertainments, entitled, "Song, scene, and story," in the Consett Co-operative Hall.

"HOW TO BEHAVE," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

"CATARRH OF THE BLADDER.—Stinging, irritation inflammation, all kidney and kindred complaints cured by Bucha-paiba." At Chemists. Newbery and Sons, Agent King Edward Street, London E.C.

[illegible] Remedy."—Greatest remedy on earth for dyspepsia, nervous weakness, indigestion [illegible] vital functions [illegible]

SHOTLEY BRIDGE CRICKET CLUB CONCERT.

One of the most enjoyable entertainments of the season—an event which is always anxiously anticipated—is the annual concert held under the auspices of the Shotley Bridge Cricket Club, and that given on Thursday evening week, in the Temperance Hall, at that place, most certainly proved no exception to the long-established rule, but rather, if anything, eclipsed the standard of excellence attained in preceding years. For this happy consummation, the thanks of the inhabitants are due to Mr R. W. Town, who, with the able assistance of Mr J. W. Forster and the members of the committee, had spared neither trouble or expense in gathering together such a formidable and brilliant array of talent as is seldom found simultaneously under a single roof. There was a very large and fashionable attendance, and it is needless to add that the audience was a thoroughly critical one, and could appreciate a good thing. The undermentioned artistes were engaged:—Miss Cecelia Armytage, soprano, of Newcastle; Miss Mimi Beers, contralto, Newcastle; Mr D. S. Macdonald, tenor, Durham Cathedral; Mr J. T. Symington, baritone, Newcastle; Mr T. Hoffman, humourist, Newcastle; Mr Radcliffe, tenor, Newcastle; Mr J. H. Beers, solo violinist, Newcastle; and Mr G. H. Erskine, accompanist, Newcastle. The initial item on the programme was a duet, "Home to our maintains," which was contributed by Miss Beers and Mr Macdonald in fine style. Mr Radcliffe next appeared in the song "Mona," which was capitally rendered, the vocalist receiving a large measure of applause. In fixing upon Levey's popular Irish song, "Killarney," Miss Armytage undoubtedly made a very wise selection, her rich, inflexible voice being nicely adapted for doing justice to this beautiful air. The fair artiste was heard to the utmost advantage, and as she had full scope for displaying the compass of her voice, she was rewarded for her charming efforts with enrapturous cheers, which really amounted to an *encore*. In the violin solo, "Il Trovatore," Mr Beers gave a grand exposition of his power and ability to handle the instrument. It was a brilliant performance, and from start to finish was listened to with rapt attention. He was vociferously applauded. Mr Symington, who is a local favourite, gave a highly creditable interpretation of the song, "Out on the deep," which was well received. Miss Beers favoured with a sweet and delightful rendering of "Angels call," this charming melody being much enhanced by a violin obligato by Mr Beers. She was rewarded with an outburt of approbation. Mr Macdonald gave with much dash and vigour, Adams's song "By the fountain," which hit the popular taste. Mr Hoffman fairly convulsed the company with his humourous song, entitled "The recruiting sergeant," the recital of which was productive of endless fun and amusement. His comic songs are given in inimitable style, and in response to a long sustained *encore*, he obliged by singing "The little coster girl."

The second part of the programme, which was contributed in an equally creditable manner, was as follows:—Trio, "Oh! memory," Miss Armytage, Miss Beers, and Mr Macdonald; violin solo, "Fantasia Ecossaise," Mr Beers; song, "Blow! blow thou winter wind," Mr Symington; song, "Call me back," Miss Armytage, with violin obligato by Mr Beers; song, "My sweetheart when a boy," Mr Macdonald; song, "The better land," Miss Beers; humourous entertainment, including the "Artful dodger," Mr Hoffman, assisted by Mr Radcliffe. Mr Erskine ably fulfilled the duties of accompanist.

The singing of the "National Anthem" brought a most successful and enjoyable concert to a termination.

LEEK AND VEGETABLE SHOWS.

CONSETT.

On Saturday last, a most successful leek and vegetable show (open to a two miles radius) was held at the house of Mr Wm. Quinn, Duke of Wellington Inn, Consett. Considering the lateness of the season, the exhibition was a really splendid one, the leeks being of large dimensions and good quality, whilst the red cabbage, celery, carrots, and savoys were fully up to the average. The exhibits had been set up to the best advantage, and during the time the show remained open (which extended over Monday) it was visited by a large number of people. It is intended to make the exhibition an annual one, and as the worthy host and hostess invariably do their utmost to give satisfaction to all, we may next year confidently expect to see a leek and vegetable show second to none in the district at the Duke of Wellington. Mr Geo. Lovett, Delves Lane, Consett, discharged the duties of secretary in a most efficient manner, while the awards of the judge (Mr Wm. Smith, Bradley Cottages) gave unqualified satisfaction. Appended are the results:—

LEEKS.

1, Chas. Surtees, Leadgate, 7s; 2, C. Walton, Crookhall, 6s 6d; 3, T. Reed, Boggle Hole, 6s 3d; 4, J. Butcher, Leadgate, 6s; 5, T. Maher, Boggle Hole, 5s 6d; 6, Geo. Lovett, Delves Lane, 5s 6d; 7, J. Atkinson, Delves Lane, 5s 3d; 8, C. Lumley, Consett, 5s; 9, Wm. Quinn, Consett, 4s 9d; 10, G. Walton, Leadgate, 4s 6d; 11, J. Donaghy, Consett, 4s 6d; 12, R. Oxley, Leadgate, 4s 3d; 13, J. Johnson, Bradley Cottages, 4s; 14, W. Fittes, Leadgate, 4s; 15, J. Anderson, Leadgate, 3s 9d; 16, G. Cooper, Crookhall, 3s 6d; 17, J. Thompson, Delves Lane, 3s 6d; 18, C. Maughan, Leadgate, 3s 3d; 19, J. Walker, Delves Lane, 3s 3d; 20, Mrs W. Quinn, Consett, 3s; 21, P. Ward, Consett, 2s 9d; 22, T. Westhorpe, Carr House, 2s 6d.

VEGETABLES.

Celery—1, J. Anderson, Leadgate, 2s 6d; 2, J. Butcher, Leadgate, 1s 9d.

Red cabbage—1, C. Lumley, Delves Lane, 2s 6d; 2, J. Butcher, Leadgate, 1s 9d.

Savoys—1, T. Johnson, Bradley Cottages, [illegible]; 2, G. Walton, Leadgate, 1s 9d.

Carrots—1, Chas. Surtees, Leadgate, 2s 6d; 2, T. Johnson, Bradley Cottages, 1s 9d.

LECTURE ON BEE KEEPING AT CONSETT.

The Northumberland and Durham Bee-keepers Association has arranged for the delivery of a few lectures by Mr G. Wells, of Aylesford, Kent, one of which will be delivered at Consett, on Tuesday, December 12th, in the Assembly Rooms, Trafalgar Street, at seven o'clock.

Mr Wells is the inventor of a system of keeping bees with two queens in each hive, by which he obtained from 11 hives, in one season, an average of 125½ lbs. per hive, and made a net profit of £47. He has also demonstrated by practical experiments the superiority of his system over the plan of working with single queened hives. It cannot be contended that Mr Well's great success is due entirely to the suitableness of the County of Kent for bee culture, as he has quoted instances amongst his neighbours, whose bees, although nearer to the nectar yielding flowers than his own, did not give their owners any surplus. Mr Wells has many secrets of management, which have contributed to his success, which he desires to impart to North-country bee-keepers, and is bringing with him, a Wells' hive and other appliances for inspection. The lecturer is convinced that every labourer and agriculturist has, in bee culture, the means of adding to his income, while, at the same time, producing a wholesome article of diet. He therefore requests the presence of those who do not keep bees, in order that he may convince them of the profit to be derived from bee culture by proper management. To the question—Does bee-keeping pay?—Mr Wells' success is an answer in the affirmative, and to come nearer home, we have the instance quoted by Sir James Whitehead, in introducing a deputation of bee-keepers to the Lord Mayor of London on Nov. 1st, of a small tradesman in his native country of Westmoreland, who had 81 hives. During the Spring and Summer, when the flowers in the fields were in full bloom, and up to the time when the bees had swarmed and made their casts, he kept them in the valleys, and afterwards took them to the moors, where they could gather honey from the heather, and the result after paying all expenses was a profit of £1 5s per hive, or £100.

The net profit to be derived from bees depends on their successful treatment. The Consett bee-keepers will soon have in their midst the most successful honey producers in the kingdom, and the useful hints that they will obtain from Mr George Wells will, no doubt, be turned to practical account.

MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour. It acts directly upon the roots of the hair, invigorating them, cleanses the scalp, removing dandruff, rendering the hair soft, silky, and glossy, and induces it to remain in any desired position. [illegible] hosts of admirers, male and female young [illegible] Sold by Chemists and Perfumers.

"HOW TO DEBATE."—This is a handy little work containing the rules of debate, hints on public speaking, and other useful information for members of debating societies. The work, which is published at the small price of sixpence, may be had at Robt. Jackson's bookseller, Front Street and 20 Newmarket Street, Consett

Business Announcements.

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A GRAND PERFORMANCE of Handel's "MESSIAH," will be given in the above Hall, on Wednesday, December 20th, 1893, by the STANLEY DISTRICT PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—CHANGE OF RESIDENCE.

THE BUSINESS of MR THOMAS WILKINSON, VETERINARY SURGEON, LANCHESTER, will be carried on at ASHFIELD HOUSE, on and after the 16th December. 764m

BEE-KEEPING.

UNDER the auspices of the Northumberland and Durham Bee-keepers' Association, a LECTURE will be delivered at CONSETT, on Tuesday, December 12th, in the Assembly Rooms, Trafalgar Street. Doors open at 6·30, to commence at Seven p.m. prompt. Admission Free. 728m

NORTH-WEST DURHAM WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, December 13th, 1893.
Miss ROBINSON, of Liverpool, will give a LECTURE on "South African Wars," with MAGIC LANTERN ILLUSTRATIONS.

IF you have HEADACHE or PAINS in the BACK, forerunner of Influenza, go at once to PATTRICK, Chemist, Front Street, Consett, who has made some marvellous Cures. 450 Bottles of Medicine prescribed since June 19th, speaks for itself. Adult Medicine, 1s 6d per Bottle; Children, 1s. Advice gratis on all complaints. 702m

FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR, AND BIRTHDAY CARDS, TOYS, GAMES, AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS OF GREAT VARIETY, CALL AT

J. LUMLEY'S,

FRONT STREET, WEST STANLEY.
Newsagent, Stationer, Tobacconist, Dealer in Glass Pictures, Mouldings, Mounts, &c.
Agent for Bradbury, Dyers. 729m

CHURCH AND STATE.

AN ADDRESS will be given by H. BYRON REED, Esq. (Late M.P. for East Bradford), in Harmsworthy Schoolroom, on Monday Evening, December 11th. Subject: "THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND NOT STATE-MADE: THE CLERGY NOT STATE-PAID." Chair to be taken at Seven p.m., by the Hon. J. G. P. VEREKER. All are invited. Admission Free. Questions and Discussion freely allowed. 728m

NEW VICTORIA THEATRE,

WEST STANLEY.
Proprietor - - - - T. C. RAWES.
Manager - - - - MARK H. LINDON.

THIS THEATRE will be CLOSED for TWO WEEKS in order to make Preparations for GRAND CHRISTMAS PANTOMINE of "DICK WHITTINGTON," which will Open on December 23rd, 1893. 748m

CONSETT UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

PLEASE TO NOTICE that Mr LINDON TRAVERS will give another LIME-LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT of Song, Scene, and Story, on Saturday Night first, December 9th, 1893, in the Co-operative Hall, Consett. Also again, with entire new Programme, on Saturday Night, December 16th. For particulars see Bills.
Also, remember the usual SUNDAY NIGHT GOSPEL TEMPERANCE SERVICE, in the Co-operative Hall, at Eight p.m. Programme by the Consett Primitive Methodist Choir. 749m

DERWENT VALLEY PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.

THE MEMBERS of the above Society met at the Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley, on Tuesday, Dec. 5th, and decided to give £23 in Prizes, as follows:—
Class 1.—(Open), £6.
Class 2.—For Wheels, £5.
Class 3.—Swing, £5.
Class 4.—For Lads, under 18 years, Swing Ploughs, £5 10s.
Best Groomed Horses and Harness, £1 10s.
Class 2, 3, and 4 confined to a radius of 7 Miles from Ebchester.
Ploughing Competition to take place on January 17th, 1894.
G. BELL, T. OSWALD, } Hon. Secs.

CONSETT & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB.

ANNUAL

ENTERTAINMENT

IN NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 1893,
BY THE
BLACKHILL MINSTREL TROUPE,
ASSISTED BY THE WELL-KNOWN
HUMOURIST—MR. T. HOFFMAN, Newcastle,

Admission:—Reserved Seats, Single Tickets, 2s; Family Tickets for 4 or more, 1s 6d each; Second seats, 1s; Back Seats, 6d (no Tickets). Plan of Hall can be seen, and Seats Booked, on application to Mr JAMES KELLY, Tyler's Boot Shop, Consett, and the Hon. Secretary, W. RAMSAY, N. E. Bank, Blackhill. 741m

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, CONSETT.

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

THE COMMITTEE of the above Society have great pleasure in announcing that they have arranged for a COURSE OF

LECTURES

ON

"POLITICAL ECONOMY,"

To be Delivered by the
REV. A. WATTS, F.R.G.S., F.G.S.,
Rector of Witton Gilbert, and late Vice-Principal and Science Lecturer, Bede College, Durham,
and the
REV J. R. SHORTT, M.A.,
Chaplain of University College, and Classical Lecturer in University of Durham.

The Lectures will be Delivered as follows:—
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH.—Subject—"Sources of Wealth, Land, Labour, and Capital." Lecturer, REV A. WATTS. Chairman, T. L. Gledstone, Esq.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20TH.—Subject—"The Wages Question." Lecturer, REV J. R. SHORTT.

Doors open at 6·15; Lectures to commence at 6·45 prompt. Questions invited.
ADMISSION FREE. 689m

DISTRESS AT BLACKHILL.—The following are authorised to receive SUBSCRIPTIONS on behalf of the WORKMEN at the CONSETT TINMILL WORKS:—HENRY LODGE, Treasurer, 38, Roger Street, Blackhill; T. KANE, Secretary, 66, Princess Street, Consett; W. SMITH, 2, Ridley Street, Blackhill; or any Member of the Committee. The following subscriptions have been received:—

	£	s	d
Money acknowledged	226	18	9
Annfield Plain Co-op. Society: goods to the value of	20	0	0
Proprietor of *Consett Guardian*	6	13	0
A Ramsden & Co.	1	1	0
J T Potts, draper, 2nd subscription	1	0	0
Mrs Peile, 3rd subscription	1	0	0
Mrs Wilson, 7th subscription	1	0	0
Mrs Renton, 3rd subscription	0	10	0
Joshua Lax, 5th subscription	0	5	0
F Walker, 2nd subscription	0	5	0
Collected at the Police Station Consett	1	0	0
Collected on Friday afternoon at Crookhall	1	3	11
Brick Flats	0	13	0
Waggon Shops	0	3	1
Puddler's Row	0	9	0
Collected at Consett Offices on Friday afternoon & Saturday	7	13	3
Total income	270	0	0
Total expenditure	258	10	11
Balance in hand	11	9	1

Consett Iron & Steel Co., 1 ton of potatoes.
Mr W Jenkins, one load of turnips. 750m

Public Notices.

CONSETT NEW WESLEYAN CHURCH.

ALL SEATS FREE.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH.
Morning, 10·30 } REV A. E. SALMON,
Evening 6, } Leadgate.

BLACK STAR MINSTREL TROUPE.

THIS Troupe will give PERFORMANCES at the following places:—
THE SPEN, DECEMBER 9th, 1893,
STANLEY, " 16th, "
SHOTLEY BRIDGE " 23th, "

ANNFIELD PLAIN WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

ON SUNDAY, December 24th, 1893, THREE SERVICES will be given by Mr H. ASHBY, Student, Didsbury College. On CHRISTMAS DAY, the Rev J. CRAWSHAW will PREACH at 10·30, and Preside at Service of Song in the Evening, "Tom O Jack's Lad," to be given by the Choir and Sunday Scholars. A Bachelors' Supper at close.

TEMPERANCE HALL, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

TUESDAY EVENING, 19TH DEC., 1893.

HUMOROUS, MUSICAL, AND DRAMATIC RECITALS, SKETCHES, AND COMEDIETTAS,
BY

MR. LESLIE KENYON,

(GOLD MEDALLIST)
Of Mr Edward Terry's Comedy Company,
(who will be remembered gave a highly successful ENTERTAINMENT, at Shotley Bridge, in February last), and

MISS MARY RABY,

Of the Principal London Theatres.

The following Gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Stewards, and Tickets may be secured through them:—
Mr R. G. BARCLAY, Mr W. R. TOWN,
Mr J. W. FORSTER, Mr T. R. WILLIS.

For further particulars see Programme, which may be obtained from the Stewards.

Reserved Seats, 2s; Second Seats, 1s; Gallery, 6d. Doors open at 7·30, to commence at 8; Carriages, 10·15. 722m

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. John Crawford.

John Crawford's Sale Rooms, Victoria Street, Consett.—Saturday first, December 9th.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD will SELL BY AUCTION, a large Consignment of UNREDEEMED PLEDGED GOODS, Household FURNITURE, &c., at the above Rooms.
Sale to commence at Two o'clock. 744m

Saturday, December 16th, 1893.—Johnson's Cottages, Iveston, near Leadgate.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed by Mr LATHEN, who is declining housekeeping, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the above Cottages, the whole of his valuable Household FURNITURE, without reserve.
Sale to commence at One o'clock.
See Posters. 746m

Monday, December 18th.
John Crawford's Sale Rooms, Consett.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed to SELL BY AUCTION, at the above Rooms, a large Consignment of New and Second-hand FURNITURE.
Sale to commence at One o'clock, 745m

Consett Auction Mart, Gibson Street, Consett.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD will hold his usual MONTHLY SALE of HORSES, CARTS, HARNESS, &c., at the above Mart, the first Wednesday in every month.
Entries respectfully solicited. 747m

High-class Italian Works of Art.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD will SELL BY AUCTION, at his Sale Rooms, a FINE COLLECTION of SCULPTURE and WORKS OF ART, at an early date.
See Posters. 743m

JOHN CRAWFORD, AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION and HOUSE AGENT. Also, appointed Bailiff by his Honour Judge MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

By Mr. George R. Hobson.

Town Hall Sale Room, Catchgate, Saturday Dec 16th, 1893.

MR. GEO. R. HOBSON is instructed by Mr J. RICHARDSON, who is declining housekeeping, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, the whole of his Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS,
Particulars in posters.
Sale to commence at 1·30 o'clock.
Sale Office, Catchgate, Lintz Green. 739m

Town Hall Sale Room, Saturday Dec. 23rd, 1893.

THE ANNUAL SALE of GEESE, TURKEYS etc., will be held as above.
Early entries solicited.
Sale at Seven p.m.
740m GEORGE R. HOBSON, Auctioneer.

By Messrs Green and Dowson.

LANCHESTER AUCTION MART.

CHRISTMAS SALE and PRIZE SHOW on Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 1893, at 1·30. Present Entries:—
20 Prime Fat Cattle.
3 Calves.
180 Prime Sheep and Hoggs.
10 Cows, calved and to calve.
4 Ladders.
Consigned from noted Prize Feeders, and will be found to contain some choice sorts. All stock competing, seven days keep given, and on all FAT STOCK, unless otherwise stated.
All Stock to be in Mart at 11. a.m.; Judging at 11·20.
Entries taken to Monday, Dec 11th, for Show, to J. GREEN, Ratley, Tow Law. 737m

By Mr. T. Swainston.

SALE OF READY-MADE CLOTHING, &c.

MR THOMAS SWAINSTON, Auctioneer, Consett, is instructed by Mr TOM GRIEVES, to SELL the remainder of his STOCK of READY-MADE CLOTHING, BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Saturday, December 16th, at Two and Six o'clock, Also on Monday, December 18th, at Two and Six o'clock. 724m

By Mr John S. Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 1893, at 11 o'clock.
15 Fat Cattle.
130 Fat Sheep.
Veal and Keeping Calves.
Pork and Store Pigs.
12 to 15 Cows and Heifers.
1 Geld Cow, in dispute.
A few Store Cattle.
Patent Blocks, Stackyard Ladders, 16 to 20ft.
3 dozen Steel Gripes and shovels.
Sheep Blocks and Ropes.
Poultry, &c., &c.
Sale to commence at 11 o'clock
758m J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

THE CHRISTMAS PRIZE SHOW and SALE will be held on Monday, December 18th, when will be shown, upwards of 100 FAT CATTLE, 200 SHEEP, 30 PORK PIGS, 50 to 80 Country-fed Geese, Turkeys, &c.
Entries for Show close Tuesday first, December 12th.
A week's free keep on part of Cattle and Sheep.
Prize List may be had on application to
759m JOHN S. MURRAY.

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
has
THE
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT
ROYAL AUCTION MART SALE OFFICE, BENFIELDSIDE.
Appointed by His Honour JUDGE MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr J Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, Dec. 11th, 1893.—70 to 75 Dairy Cows and Heifers; 21 Fat Cattle; 180 Fat Sheep and Hoggs; 7 Store Cattle; 10 Finger Calves; 40 West Highland Kyloe Heifers, 4 new Ladders.
Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 10-30 a.m.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

THE NINTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PRIZE SHOW and SALE of Fat Cattle and Sheep, Monday, December 18th, 1893.
£30 IN PRIZES.
Prize Schedules now ready.
Entries closed Dec. 11th.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Dipton.—Monday, December 11th, 1893.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, favoured with instructions will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house lately occupied by Mr. Coates, Co-operative Houses, Front Street, Dipton, a large quantity of Valuable Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS. See particulars in Bills.
Sale to begin at One o'clock.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Valuer, House, Land, and Emigration Agent, will undertake AUCTION SALES upon most reasonable terms, and conducted in the best style. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all Sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE, &c., bought right out for Cash. Appointed by His Honour Judge Meynell under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Office—Front Street, Dipton, by Lintz Green Station

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

T. D. DRYDEN, AUCTIONEER FRONTSTREET, CONSETT.
Sales, Commissions, Valuations, and Auctioneering in all its Branches, at Moderate Charges, and Quick Settlements. T. D. D. has been commissioned by Judge Meynell to Levy Distress Warrants under the Agricultural Holdings' Act. Authorised Emigration Agent for the Allan, American, Guion, and Other Lines.
OFFICES—67, FRONT STREET, CONSETT
(Next Door to North-Eastern Bank.)

WILLIAM RAW, AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, Land, House, and Commission Agent. Auction Sales conducted with experience, ability, and care. Prompt Payments. Appointed by His Honour, Judge Meynell, to levy Distress for Rent under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Also, Architect and Surveyor. Plans for Houses Designed, and Building carried out for Convenience, Ease, and Comfort. Sale Office, Durham Road, Blackhill. 465m

J. BAGNALL, AUCTIONEER, VALUER HOUSE and LAND AGENT, will undertake Auction Sales upon most reasonable Terms, and conduct in the best style. Letters by Post will have prompt attention, and all sorts of Goods, Furniture, &c., bought right out for cash. Sale Offices, Holly Lodge, Shotley Bridge, and Hat and Feather Inn, Medomsley, R.S.O. 455m

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
W. Aynsley, Esq.
James Oliver, Esq. } Trustees.
Hedley Nicholson, Esq.
The next MEETING for receiving Subscriptions and Loans will be held in the Small Hall of the NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, between 7 and 8 o'clock on MONDAY, 18th December, and every Fortnight afterwards at the same time and place.
Loans received at 4 Per Cent. Interest, Repayable on 14 Days' Notice.

BLINDS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION MADE TO ORDER.

VENETIAN BLINDS MADE TO ORDER.
OLD BLINDS CLEANED, MADE EQUAL TO NEW.
ALL SUNDRIES KEPT IN STOCK.
Estimates Given. Price Lists on Application
STUDDY AND ALEXANDER,
BLIND MANUFACTURERS,
PICTON PLACE, Opposite BLYTH AND TYNE STATION,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

NEWCASTLE BUSINESS COLLEGE AND SCHOOL OF SHORTHAND.

SMART & CO.,
42, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
(Branch, 4, Fawcett Street, Sunderland).
Open Daily from 10 a.m. till 9 p.m. (Saturday 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
WRITING.—By Smart & Co's renowned system of Instruction the worst style of writing is transformed into a good Business hand in a single Course of Lessons. Success guaranteed. Fee, One Guinea.
BOOKKEEPING by Single and Double Entry. Students are taken through a complete course of study, adapted to their requirements, for a fixed Fee, without limit to lessons.
Shorthand.—Pitman's Phonography, Elementary and Advanced. Unlimited facilities are afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge. Tuition and speed practice all day, from 10 a.m. till 9 p.m.
Typewriting, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Composition, and all the Branches of a sound, Commercial Education taught individually by specialists.
Private Rooms for Ladies. 640m

GLENDENNING'S
BEEF & MALT WINE
Composed of Liebig's Extract of Beef, Kepler's Malt Extract, and old Port Wine. It is therefore a concentrated nutritive digestive food, blood-making, flesh-forming, and strengthening. Of the utmost value to children, invalids, and those who require strength.
Price: 3s. 9d. Per Bottle; 2s. Per Half-Bottle.
Prepared only by W. Glendenning, Newcastle.
LOCAL AGENTS:—
CONSETT.—RICHARD MURRAY, WINE MERCHANT. T. D. DRYDEN & Co., FRONT STREET. THOMAS MILNER, CHEMIST; W. AYNSLEY, GROCER, &c.
WITTON GILBERT.—J. HODGSON, STATION HOTEL.
MEDOMSLEY.—R. M. RUTHERFORD, ROYAL OAK HOTEL.
DIPTON.—ROBERT ARMSTRONG, WINE MERCHANT.
STANLEY.—WM. CHARLTON, STANLEY HOTEL. W. AYNSLEY, GROCER, &c.
ANNFIELD PLAIN.—WM. TAYLOR, RAILWAY HOTEL.
BURNOPFIELD.—WM. STONES, BURTON HOUSE.
TANFIELD.—JOHN IRWIN, PACK HORSE INN.
BLACKHALL MILL.—T. ARMSTRONG, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT.
SOUTH MOOR.—R. DIXON, THE OAK INN.
TOW LAW.—J. MOSES, POST OFFICE, HIGH STREET.
LEADGATE.—JOHN SNAITH, QUEEN'S HEAD HOTEL. W. AYNSLEY, GROCER, &c. 862h

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
(THREE DOORS BELOW BLACKETT ST)
Private Entrance: First Six Doors in High Friar Lane
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
CHEAP WATCHES.
GENUINE ENGLISH LEVERS £1 10s 0d
SILVER GENEVAS 10s 6d
SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.
OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Tresr."—Yes. Sorry it was overlooked last week. Send us your address.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, December 8th, 1893.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

(By "Incedo.")

PRECAUTIONS.

A good deal of slip-shod criticism has gone its monotonous round in connection with the frank and fearless observations made by the Rev P. C. Fortin in relation to the precautions which ought to be taken anent the spread of that loathsome malady, small-pox. It would be a good thing could leaders and teachers of men be induced in all round way to advocate the same principles, and to make the same bold stand. In that case the world would hear less of the existence of such diseases, and the ratepayers in the various communities would have heavier purses. My knowledge of the sayings and doings of Dr Geo. Renton dates from the beginning of 1870, and from that date until now he has never wearied in propagating in summer and winter, seed time and harvest, the desirability of precaution, believing no doubt—although I never heard him say as much—that prevention was better than cure. Long years before the days of infectious diseases hospitals came to the front, Dr Geo. Renton was wont to place considerable stress on carefulness and caution—twin sisters. Shotley Bridge was never free of either one epidemic or another, despite the counsel and caution enjoined by the worthy doctor named. I remember being much amused one evening when passing a cotterie of gossips in Wood Street, Shotley Bridge, when one of the group—a Scotch woman—held up her hands in alarum, as she ejaculated: "Preserve us a', for dye ye ken that Dr George says the fever will bide in a nail hole in the wa' for twa lang years, an' come oot and tak' somebody after a'."

AFTER MANY YEARS.

Few will feel disposed to begrudge the advance of salary granted, or sanctioned rather, by the Local Government Board to Messrs Ralph Walton and John Moon, relieving officers. Both gentlemen have served the local authorities long and well, and it is consequently quite in order that faithful public servant should be adequately remunerated for duties fulfilled and work performed. The routine of duties devolving on the gentlemen named are far from being of an enviable character. A relieving officer requires the wisdom of a Solomon, and the discrimination of a judge; but natural aptitude for the work, and long years of experience have conduced to render Messrs Walton and Moon experts in their individual walk, with the satisfactory result that there has been a well-deserved increase to their basket and their store.

THE RE-STARTING OF THE TINMILL.

Never in the annals of Consett did such a calamity befall the working classes in the town and district as the closing of the Tinmill Works. Had Captain Newton or any of the wise men from the east or elsewhere, foretold such an occurrence, we would have laughed them to scorn. Nay, had a profit risen from the shades and proclaimed it, we would have wagged our pows and turned the warning to derision. To say that the unexpected always happens is a trite saying, but it is true all the same and no better illustration of its truth is needed than the closing of the iron rolling mills at Consett. No more man would have ever dreamed of such a calamatuous occurrence, and many a day and year will come and go before it is erased from the minds of the men and women who have felt the pinch of poverty by the cutting short of the weekly supplies. A commencement has now, however, happily been made during the current week, and as no class of workmen in the North of England keep so regular time as the Consett millmen, it may be taken for granted that every day and hour at the disposal of the men will be turned to good account. The loss to the Company by the laying idle of so much valuable plant must be excessive, not to speak of the decreased output and general turn over. "Time nor tide will no man bide" says the adage, and hence the loss entailed by the protracted stoppage of the works is quite beyond recovery. This applies of course to the workers as well as the Company. It is most desirable that men who lay out their means in the propagation of trade and commerce should meet with the encouragement they deserve in the way of interest. When men of means cease to speculate, an epoch of trade depression follows as natural as night the day, but there is at the same time no overlooking the fact that the results of the recent water famine are more to be regretted on account of the suffering brought upon the working classes, than for the temporary limitation of the profits of the well-to-do.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

Consett Auction Mart.—Mr John Crawford held his usual monthly sale of horses, pigs, &c., at the above mart, Gibson Street, on Wednesday last. There were 13 horses and ponies entered, and all were sold at prices from £1 to £18, also 15 young pigs making from 16s to 19s each. Spring carts, coup carts, and a large consignment of harness. There was a large company present.

On Wednesday evening, the second lecture on "Co-operation and Socialism," was delivered in the Co-operative Hall, Consett. There was a fair company present, presided over by Mr G. Hyden, Consett.—The lecturer was the Rev J. R. Shortt, Chaplain of the University College, and classical lecturer in the University of Durham, who dealt with the subject in a creditable manner.

We beg to draw the attention of our readers to the announcement containing full particulars of the Consett and District Cricket Club's annual entertainment, which is fixed to take place, in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, Dec. 20th. Exceptionally good value for money will be provided by the artistes engaged.

The Ex-Hangman as a Lecturer.—On Saturday night, Mr James Berry, the ex-public executioner, delivered a lecture, illustrated with limelight views, in the New Town Hall, Consett, on "English prisons and prisoners." There was not a large audience. Mr Berry has assisted at some 500 executions, and has personally hanged 193 murderers. He claims to have brought the science of hanging to a final state of perfection.

Death of Mrs Aynsley.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mrs Aynsley, the esteemed wife of Mr W. Aynsley, provision merchant, Consett, and one of our leading public men. Mrs Aynsley has been indisposed for some weeks, and she passed quietly away in the early hours of Wednesday morning, at the age of 47 years. As the wife of the senior churchwarden she devoted much interest to parish and church affairs, and proved herself a good mother and a generous friend of the poor. Her death is generally deplored and the husband and family have the heartfelt sympathy of all in their sad bereavement.

BLACKHILL.

Mr E. J. Sloane, L.Mus., L.C.M., supplied an admirable programme of music at the annual Masonic Ball held in Crook on Wednesday evening. The performers were:—Mr T. Neumars, Newcastle, (violin); Mr T. Woods, bandmaster, Newcastle, (cornet); and Mr E. J. Sloane, (piano.)

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

Forthcoming Recitals.—Mr Leslie Kenyon, of Mr Edward Terry's Comedy Company, who, it will be remembered, gave a highly successful musical and dramatic entertainment at Shotley Bridge, in the spring of this year, will re-visit that place the week before Christmas, giving recitals at the Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 19th, and Thursday evening, Dec. 21st. Mr Kenyon will, on this occasion, be accompanied by Miss Mary Raby, of the principal London Theatres, and who is well-known in Newcastle and district for her remarkable performances in "The Trumpet Call," and other London successes. Miss Raby will appear with Mr Kenyon in several sketches, while Mr Kenyon will contribute several musical recitals, mimitic drolleries, and recitations with musical accompaniments. On the last occasion, all the seats were quickly booked in advance, and now that Mr Kenyon's ability is better known, the hall should be too small for the audiences. Since Mr Terry's return from Australia, Mr Kenyon has been associated with him, and on the recent reproduction of "The Times," the press stated that in several of the scenes, he fairly divided the honours with Mr Terry, by his portrayal of the exceedingly difficult part of the Honorable Montague Trimble. The programme will include a number of new and novel items, and a recital by the late Lord Tennyson, for which Mr Kenyon has been awarded honour in competition.

MEDOMSLEY.

Formation of a Ploughing Society.—A meeting was held in the hostelry of Mr R. Rutherford, Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley, when a large number of farmers and others were present. It was unanimously decided to form a ploughing society, to be called the Derwent Valley Ploughing Society, and hold a ploughing day on an early date.

Musical Entertainment.—On Saturday evening, the Black Star Minstrels—a troupe which has only been in existence a few weeks—gave their first entertainment in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Medomsley. The troupe numbers 30 artistes, and a full orchestral band. There was not a large, but it was an appreciative audience. There was an excellent performance and went off without a hitch of any kind. All the artistes sustaining their parts in a highly creditable manner. The entertainment was such an enjoyable one, however, that the company were requested to pay another visit to Medomsley.

SWALWELL.

The usual meeting of the Swalwell Band of Hope was held in the school on Monday night, when a thrilling address was given by Mr W. Thompson of Heaton. Songs were rendered by Mr Hewgill, Mr Golightly; instrumental music by Messrs T. and S. Armstrong, which was highly applauded; recitations by Miss Haytine. Mr E. J. Spencer, presided and Miss Maggey Speirs presided at the piano.

KYO.

Wesleyan Mission.—On Saturday evening, Mr Victor Herbert, evangelist, who is conducting a month's special revival services in connection with the Kyo Wesleyan Mission, delivered one of his popular lectures on "Mission work, its sights and shades." Mr J. Humble presided. Mr Herbert described scenes from his life his work amongst the slums of London and other places, hop pickers, soldiers, colliers, &c. Votes of thanks were accorded to the chairman and lecturer.

During the past three weeks special revival sermons have been conducted by Mr Herbert in connection with the Kyo Wesleyan Mission. Mr Herbert is an evangelist of much experience, who fully understands his work, and he delivers his message with no uncertain sound.

WEST STANLEY.

Excelsior Quadrille Party.—The members of this party held their usual weekly assembly on Tuesday last, when upwards of 40 couples danced to the music rendered by Messrs Blaylock.

LANCHESTER.

At the Lanchester Petty Sessions, yesterday (Thursday), John Linskey and Stephen Doyle, *alias* McCurley, were remanded by Mr Edmund Balleny on a charge of stealing a new pair of boot tops, belonging to Mr Alex. Dodds, butcher, Quebec, on Tuesday night.

WATERHOUSES.

Oddfellows Supper.—On Saturday evening, the members of the Oddfellows Lodge, held their annual supper at Mr George French's, Station Hotel, where upwards of 65 members partook of a substantial repast. After supper the rest of the evening was spent in a pleasant manner.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES.

Tea and Supper.—The Primitive Methodists at Allendale Cottages are at present working strenuously for the reduction of the debt which still exists upon their building. In connection with their efforts a tea and supper was held on Monday, the provisions being generously supplied by Mrs Peggy Bell. The amount realised was £7. Accomodation for the sewing meeting workers was provided by Mrs W. Fenwick.

Evangelistic Services.—Mr Thomas Stainsby, of Shincliffe, has commenced a four weeks' mission at Allendale Cottages in co-operation with the Primitive Methodist Society.—On Saturday evening, Mr Stainsby gave the first part of a lecture entitled "Billy Bray, the Cornish miner"; the second part will be given further on in the mission.

WASKERLEY.

Sudden Death.—On Tuesday, Wm. Graham, of Waskerley, died in a sudden manner at the age of 65 years. The deceased was an engine-driver for the North-Eastern Railway Company at Waskerley. He was following his customary work on the date named when he dropped down dead. He had been off work sick for one day some time ago, and has been attended by Dr. Macintyre, of Consett. It is stated that death was due to failure of the heart's action, consequently no inquest has been held.

BYER MOOR.

Mission Hall.—Since the opening of this hall by Bishop Sandford, it has been found to supply a much felt want in that portion of Marley Hill Parish known as Byer Moor. As a sum of about £40 is still required to defray the cost of the building, it has been determined to give a series of social teas during the winter months on each alternate Tuesday evening. The teas are given by parishoners, and a charge made for admission. The Byer Moor football club undertook to give the first one. By the aid of their mothers and sisters, the members of the club carried their undertaking to a successful issue on Nov. 28th. Tea was on the tables from four to eight, and during that period nearly 200 people partook of the excellent tea provided. The satisfactory result was that the secretary of the football club Mr W. H. Dawson, was able to hand over to the treasurer of the building fund the sum of £5 16s.

WOLSINGHAM.

The Rev. Chancellor Espin, of Wolsingham, was absent from the Petty Sessions on Tuesday on account of indisposition. It is supposed he had caught a chill whilst travelling.

A concert in aid of the funds of the Wolsingham Improvement Association was held in the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening, at which a number of local and other artistes rendered excellent selections of music, &c., to an appreciative gathering.

SOUTH MOOR.

Supper.—On Saturday se'nnight a supper was held at the house of Mr Jas. Wilson, Smith's Arms, South Moor, by the members of the Durham Colliery Mechanics' Association when about 30 sat down to partake of the good things provided by the host and hostess. After supper Mr Joseph Snow, of Stanley, was voted to the chair, assisted by Mr Jos. Lumley in the vice-chair. The usual toasts and formalities having been gone through the remainder of the evening being spent with songs from several members of the company and violin solos by Mr J. Trevena. On the whole a most enjoyable entertainment was brought to a close by singing "Auld Lang Syne."

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

The Rev W. W. Howard, of Liverpool, preached on Wednesday afternoon, in the Wesleyan Chapel, and in the evening, lectured. The subject given was "The Creator and the Creation." Mr J. A. Wilson occupied the chair, and the proceeds were in aid of the Beacon Hill Wesleyan Chapel Organ Fund.

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—In connection with this chapel, divine service was held on Saturday night last. The service was conducted by Miss M. E. Johnstone, of Heaton, who preached. After service, a coffee supper was held, when a good number partook of the good things provided. On Sunday special sermons were preached in the morning at 10.30 and in the evening at 6 o'clock by Miss Johnstone, whose burning eloquence created a deep impression upon her audience, and whose great earnestness showed that her chief object was their salvation. In the afternoon at two o'clock, a service of song entitled "Rhoda, or the Gipsy girl's mission of love" was given in admirable style by the chapel choir, great credit being due to the conductor, Mr Joseph Barlow, for the high state of proficiency in which the singers were found. Miss Armstrong presided at the harmonium in her usual efficient manner. The reader was Miss I. Turnbull, whose fluent style at once won the attention and admiration of her hearers. During the day the Milkwell Burn Mission Brass Band paraded the village and played selections of music in a creditable manner, under the leadership of Mr J. Harrison, the result of which was that the audiences were greatly augmented and at the close of the services all felt that it had been a time of deep spiritual fervour.

BURNOPFIELD.

Primitive Methodist Chapel Band of Hope.—A Band of Hope meeting was held in the above place of worship on Wednesday night—Mr S. Meddick in the chair. Mr G. Whitfield, of Newcastle Band of Hope Union, gave an illustrated address on "Two Bottles" to a fair audience. The difference between water and alcohol was explained, and he afterwards gave a reading, entitled "Jim the Nurse." A vote of thanks was given to the lecturer, and the meeting was brought to a close.

Lecture by Rev F. Walters.—On Saturday night last a lecture was delivered in the large hall of the above society by the Rev Frank Walters, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The subject was "The Humour of Shakespeare." There was a very attentive audience. The lecturer pointed out how, in many parts of his plays, Shakespeare had enforced the moral of his subject by the playful humour he has put into the mouth of his "Fools," and instanced in particular how he has sketched the character of many men by the self-conceit of the foolish Dogberry. He also showed how the unlively character of Falstaff, which, in the opinion of some, should not have been introduced into the play helps under the genius of Shakespeare; to make his readers feel that they cannot help seeing something to admire in Falstaff. Many other instances were given of how Shakespeare's humour, and love of fun are shown in his plays. At the conclusion of the lecture, admission to which was free, a vote of thanks was moved to Mr Walters for his lecture. The Seconder of which said that up to the present he had always had a sort of prejudice against Shakespeare but that after hearing Mr Walters lecture, his ideas had undergone a change, and that he found their was much more in Shakespeare than he thought. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

TANFIELD LEA.

Reading Institute Report.—This Institute has been closed about three months, during which the building has been thoroughly re-arranged and renovated by the owners of the Colliery. For sometime the young men of the village, have been doing their best to secure a billiard table for the Institute, and have at last presented their case in such a way, that the owners have contributed most handsomely towards the purchase of a table, for the large room provided for it. The billiard table was opened last Friday by Mr Thomas Pringle, M.E., and Mr Tom Pringle, under-manager, playing the first game, in the presence of the committee and a large number of members. The committee and members have decided to forward their thanks to the firm of Messrs James Joicey, and especially to Sir James and Major W. J. Joicey, for the valuable assistance they have rendered. Much credit is due to Messrs R. Hansford, H. Northey, I. Warty, E. Rounsby, George Grinner, A. Gardiner, R. Stanton and others who have made the Institute as great a success as possible.

WEARDALE.

Mr John Watson, of St John's Chapel, died on Wednesday morning. The deceased gentleman, who was about 80 years of age, and has been retired from business for many years, was well known in Weardale.

FROSTERLEY.

Accident.—A serious accident happened to Miss J. Moffatt at Frosterley on Wednesday morning. It appears she had been coming down stairs and tripped and fell to the bottom and has been suffering from concussion of the brain and shock to the system since.

PELTON FELL.

A Charity Concert was held in the Miners' Hall, Pelton Fell, on Monday evening, in aid of the widow and children of the late Wm. Winward, who was a miner at Pelton Fell. The hall was crowded, and the usual kind friends were ready to come forward, and an excellent programme was gone through. Mr R. G. Wilson, presided, and about £30 was raised for the family.

A Sewing Meeting Tea, promoted by the young women of the Primitive Methodist Society, was held in the chapel on Monday afternoon. The tea was under the care of Misses A. Christelow, P. Carney, I. Dixon, P. Green, E. Howes, P. Harding, P. Hedley, A. Powell, E. Richardson, M. A. Tipledy, and J. Tindle, and was followed by a concert, Mr H. Smith, of Chester-le-Street, in the chair. The members of the P. M. String Band, under the leadership of Mr Proud, played several selections, and the following gave songs:—Misses Tindle, Richardson, Hedley, Carney, and Messrs Robert Williams, James Dixon, and Matthew Proud. A good company was present, and the proceeds, £8 15s, were in aid of the chapel fund.

LECTURES ON "POLITICAL ECONOMY."

Under the auspices of the committee of the Consett Co-operative Society, a course of lectures on "Political Economy," have been commenced in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, by Rev. A. Watts, F.R.G.S., F.G.S., rector of Witton Gilbert, and late vice-principal and science lecturer, Bede College, Durham. At the first lecture, on "Wealth and Money," Mr Ainsworth, Saxby Lodge, Consett, presided.

The Lecturer said:—Political economy has nothing to do with politics, though every politician should know something of it. It has to do with economy, the economy of life. It is the science which investigates the nature of wealth, and the laws which govern its production, distribution, and consumption. To-night we deal with its nature. Some of its laws will receive attention in the subsequent lectures. To determine the true nature of wealth we must begin with man. What is a man? What are the conditions of human life? Though the question "What am I?" is behind the conditions of my life, it is outside our present enquiry. I commend this question to you subsequent frequent and careful consideration, but must pass from the speculative to the practical by considering the conditions only. Our first duty is to live, to preserve the invaluable gift of life. To do this we must work, work in order to live, produce in order to consume, and he that will not work he shall not eat. To work efficiently health and strength must be maintained, health of spirit, mind and body. Hence we all have wants and whatever will supply our wants is wealth. Human wants are cumulative luxuries tend to become necessaries, hence services become wealth. Though anything which supplies these human wants is truly wealth. Political economy uses the word wealth in a restricted sense. Besides being useful it must be capable of changing hands; it must have an exchange value. In this narrower sense, only that is wealth which is the product of human labour. The products of labour alone are economic wealth. A strong constitution, a good appetite, high mental powers are true wealth but there they are the gift of God, and not the product of labour and being gifts cannot be bought and sold, and having no exchange value, are not economic wealth. Air and water are true wealth, since they are absolute necessaries of life, but ordinarily they are not economic wealth. Now we can define wealth as "anything that is useful to man and has an exchange value." By anything we mean any material object or any service. Food, clothing, dwellings, tools, weapons, ornaments, machines, ships, factories, railways, roads, piers, harbours, churches, schools, public-halls, horses, cattle are all wealth in the form of material objects. Services too, and those who yield them men are wealth: an honest man is indeed the highest form of wealth. Soldiers and sailors, policemen and magistrates, lawyers and judges, poets and painters, singers and actors, doctors and students, teachers and preachers, and above all discoverers and inventors are wealth. Henceforth, when we speak of wealth we shall mean any material object or service that is useful to man, and has an exchange value. Most of these commodities and all these services are the products of work. Workers then, producers of wealth, are of two kinds—1st, muscle workers, the producers of useful commodities; and 2nd, nerve workers, the producers of useful services. The highest form of service is a useful idea. By a useful idea I mean one that can be embodied, one that can take to itself a material body. The whole development of the human race, the whole history of advance in civilisation is the work of those men who had useful ideas. They are the greatest benefactors of the human race. The earliest useful ideas are embodied in weapons, whose aim is food or protection, and so bodily necessaries were secured. The next advance was to embody useful ideas as tools and machines, whose aim is comfort, not necessaries but luxuries. These gave leisure, and mental luxuries could be indulged by the production of ornaments and works of art, to the great development of affection, and to produce all that which we cover by our lovely word, home. Money is not wealth, though the material of which it is made may be. Money is an accepted representative of wealth, and so is only useful where wealth exists. The materials selected have been various. Any material generally accepted as a representative of wealth may be money, as cattle and hides, cubes of tea or salt, calico, shells, beads, iron, tin, copper, bronze, nickel, silver, gold, and in many civilised lands paper money is largely used. The conditions which recommend materials as money are ductility, durability, portability, fixity of value, capacity of division. The functions of money are two—1st, to measure values, and 2nd., to form a medium of exchange. Money is truly the offspring of barter and the step-mother of modern trade and commerce. We may therefore define money as "any substance selected by universal consent as a measure of value and as a medium of exchange."

The lecturer met with a hearty reception, and the lecture called forth repeated applause. Several questions were asked and answered. Votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

THE WEEK.

THE SULTAN'S BREACH OF PROMISE.

As Miss Mighell has failed in her appeal against the judgment of the Queen's Bench, it may be assumed that the Sultan of Johore is safe from her avenging anger, so far as the courts of law are concerned. It is possible that she may carry her case to the House of Lords, but such a proceeding would be ill-advised. Two courts have now decided that the Sultan of Johore is not amenable to legal jurisdiction in this country on account of his broken pledge to Miss Mighell. He is said to have wooed that lady when he was in this country, and when he concealed his illustrious rank and lineage under the commonplace appellation of Albert Baker. Whether Miss Mighell loved him simply as Albert, or because she suspected him to be an Eastern potentate in disguise, we do not know. She may have the most unquestionable wrongs, but if so it is certain that Albert Baker, *alias* the Sultan of Johore, is beyond the arm of justice. Possibly Miss Mighell expected to reign as sole Sultana, though in this she must have reckoned without the connubial possibilities of an Oriental prince; or she may have reflected that in any case there were lakhs of rupees which the deceiver might be compelled to disburse without any deduction for the low price of Indian silver. Damages, if any, would of course be calculated in English money, and damages paid by a Sultan might be reasonably expected to reach a handsome figure. However, Miss Mighell is disappointed, and we are willing to believe that she loved the Sultan for himself alone, and without a businesslike eye upon his lakhs. The case ought to be a warning to spinsters. We are literally overrun by Indian princes, who are very susceptible to the charms of the English girl. It ought to be the business of every careful mother to keep at a respectful distance gentlemen of dark complexion who call themselves Albert, and even add the surname of Baker. Mothers must be on their guard, and their blooming daughters must steel their hearts against the Oriental whose complexion probably looks most seductive in contrast to tennis flannels.

A MURDERER'S NOVEL REQUEST.

Henry Rumbold's conception of heroism is in its way worthy of a Viking or one of Mr. Stevenson's pirates. He is a seaman, and only the life of the sea, we imagine, can produce such a philosophy of death as Henry Rumbold expounded when he was sentenced to be hanged for the murder of his sweetheart. He acknowledged the justice of the penalty with phlegmatic brevity, but requested that he might be allowed plenty of cigars and cigarettes before the execution; for without tobacco he might break down. "He wanted to die like an English hero. He expected to meet the deceased girl in the next world and if she knew he broke down in this simple affair she would poke fun at him." There is something almost stupendous in the elementary paganism of Henry Rumbold. Here is no whining about hard fate, no shifty device to escape punishment. He has had his revenge, and must pay for it. All he wants is to die like "an English hero," and face the girl elsewhere without any shame for his conduct in the "simple affair" of his taking off. He wishes to smoke before starting, so as to present himself unabashed to the woman he has sent before him. His idea of misery in the world beyond is that she should "poke fun at him" because his nerves gave way for lack of tobacco! Imagination fairly quails before this theory of a future state. It is perfectly consistent with the ancient idea of Hades, and with the classical view of a becoming departure for that region. But Henry Rumbold's confidence that the shade of the murdered woman will not reproach him, but will indulge in banter if he cannot keep his spirits up now with cigars and cigarettes, has a distinct touch of originality. The *manes* of his victim have no terrors for him. He expects her to be sportive, and he dreads her possible "chaff"! It would be interesting to a student of heredity to know something of this strange man's ancestry and personal history. Mr. Rudyard Kipling tells a story of a clerk in London whose singular though spasmodic knowledge of life on board a Greek galley two thousand years ago convinced a friend that he had been a galley-slave in a prior state of existence. Does this explain the philosophy of Henry Rumbold? Is he the latest incarnation of a Scandinavian pirate contemporary with Odin, who in his transition through the ages has acquired nothing more modern than a passion for smoking?

HATS OFF, PLEASE!

Fashions, as we know, are ruled from Paris, and are supposed to proceed from the fertile brain of M. Worth. But even that potentate has sometimes confessed his impotence. When entreated not to make the ladies of civilised communities wear the feathers of rare birds, M. Worth replied that personally he detested the use of feathers, but was overruled by the taste of his clients. It now appears that there is another authority in Paris superior even to the great man-milliner in his own sphere. Some official has issued what is described as "a very autocratic order" that bonnets in theatres are not to be of such dimensions as to obscure the view of the stage to people who happen to sit behind them. A lively French journal recently described the behaviour of a lady in a gigantic hat. She entered a theatre with her husband, and was promptly informed by the *huissier* that her hat could not be worn in the *parquette*. She refused to take off the stupendous edifice, and was politely informed that upstairs in the amphitheatre she might wear it. She marched to that part of the house in great dudgeon, and after a while removed the offending hat. Her husband was surprised, and she said simply, "Oh, it is useless to wear it here. *It does not annoy anybody.*" This, of course, is the flippant satire in which the mere man always indulges when lovely woman strives to assert her independence. But there is no doubt that the law in France has prohibited large hats at the theatre. In this country there is not so much complaint of the feminine hat at places of public entertainment, as it is the fashion for women to uncover their heads in a theatre and cover them in church. But it is impossible to tell that the despotic action of the French officials may not set a very grave example to countries where freedom is supposed to prevail. Can we be sure that the headgear of English women will not be controlled before long by the First Commissioner of Works? It behoves the sex to be up and doing, lest a worse servitude than they now endure should befall them.

PASSING EVENTS,

(From a London Correspondent.)

Royal "Privileges"—Lady Smokers—London Bank Forgeries—The Ziernenberg Case—Queen's Proctor's Interventions—Literary and Theatrical Notes.

The race of independent Sovereign princes can hardly feel honoured by the fashion in which their rights and privileges have been maintained by the illustrious Sultan of Johore. It is not usually considered very good form for debtors to take advantage of such a technicality as having contracted obligations in their minority, or outside the six years' limit. Nor is it thought chivalrous to libel a man within the safe limits of privilege. Then why should royal honour be held cheaper than plebeian? A "Sovereign prince" who goes about seeking whom he may devour in mufti, and shields his perjuries under the absurd privileges of a rank unknown to his victims, is not quite a cousin of whom those *sans peur et sans reproche* can be proud.

Mrs. Crawford has been giving a sympathetic account of the increase of smoking among ladies, and she is able to cite a large number of feminine royalties who either indulge in cigarettes themselves or countenance their use by the ladies of their courts. They can do as they like in Russia, Italy, and elsewhere, but pending the time predicted by Mrs. Crawford, when it will be the correct thing for cigarettes to be brought into the drawing-room with coffee, the blunt English estimate of smoking women is sufficiently indicated in the plea of the defendant in a breach of promise case the other day. The acquaintance began by him seeing her from the street at a window, smoking. It ended in her ruin.

The bald statement made in the Bow Street Police Court the other day, as to the cheque forgeries on some of the London banks, gave little indication of the extent, or daring, or ingenuity of the operations of the man Norton. There is strong reason to believe that the two specific cases mentioned are but samples of systematic and wholesale forgeries. The curious thing is that, instead of suspicion being excited, it seems rather to have been allayed by the fact that, the signatures having been reproduced in fac-simile, by chemical methods, from the cheques "borrowed" by young Blunt, they were transferred, not to the engraved forms issued by bankers to their customers, but to blank slips of paper, on which the fraudulent cheques were drawn. Moreover, the body of the cheques was in quite a different handwriting, and they were for large sums. Yet the girl Fenn was able to cash them, as Norton's tool, with impunity.

As for young Blunt, who is said to be the son of a well-known City solicitor, the vulgar story of gambling debts is the all too familiar explanation of his making free, for Norton's purposes, with the signatures of Messrs. Venables' clients.

In the absence of an unforeseen collapse it is evident that the Ziernenberg libel case must continue to occupy the attention of Mr. Justice Hawkins's court for many a long day to come. Mr. Labouchere's counsel have boldly committed themselves to the full st possible justification of the allegations in *Truth* as to the character of the "St. James's House for Female Inebriates," and a cloud of witnesses are in attendance to prove the case for the defence. Whatever the result, the costs will be enormous, even for the possessor of Mr. Labouchere's purse.

It would be useless to deny that the Queen's Proctor had a heavy fall by reason of the utter collapse of his intervention in the Carew divorce suit, but those who are suggesting his resignation seem to forget that his only interest is to ensure opportunities for arriving at the real truth. It is his bounden duty, in cases where there is any suspicion of collusion, to intervene and put blocks in the way of a decree being made absolute without further investigation. That his intervention in the present case was not skilfully conducted is, perhaps, rather the fault of the counsel who represented him than of himself. Of course, if it can be shewn that Mr. Lockwood is right in suggesting that he too readily allowed himself to become the victim of Mr. Carew's wiles, and to be pulled by his wires, that in an official is one of the blunders which amounts almost to a crime. It is only on such grounds that his resignation can be called for.

It is said that the millionaire proprietor of the *Pall Mall Magazine* has paid £100 each for several of the articles which appear in the Christmas number.

A wide circle of boys (and for the matter of fact of girls too) will feel that in the death of Mr. Talbot Baines Reed there has been lost to them one who, by his power of putting himself in their place in his stories of school life, had come to be looked upon as almost a personal friend and adviser. The tales which he found time amid the calls of his business as a typefounder, to write were singularly wholesome, and set forth high ideals of honour and manliness without the [illegible] suspicion of preaching. Mr. Reed was not only a practical typographer, but he was learned in the history and tasteful in the application of his art.

LOCAL METHODISM.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CIRCUIT.—The quarterly meeting took place at Consett on Saturday afternoon, the Rev W. Raistrick, of Blackhill (superintendent minister), presiding. There was a good attendance of members.—The financial statement was deemed to be of a highly encouraging character, considering the recent depression in trade, the circuit having been enabled to wipe off £25 of an old standing debt.—The two ministers (the Revs W. Raistrick, Blackhill, and R. B. Hanley, Consett), were invited to remain a second year, and they accepted the invitations.—A decrease in the membership was reported, but this was accounted for by the fact that special services were held during the previous quarters.—Mr A. S. Coates, Consett, was re-elected circuit steward, with Mr Jos. Kirk, of Blackhill, as vice-steward.—A committee was appointed to carry out the arrangements for the Newcastle and Sunderland District May meetings, to be held at Consett.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

On Tuesday evening, the annual meeting of the Consett Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held in the Science Room of the National Schools Consett. There was a good company present. The Rev F. Steggall, vicar of Consett presided. The other gentlemen on the platform were Revs H. M., Cox, B.A. president secretary, who attended as a deputation from the Parent Society; R. W. Butterworth (Wesleyan), Thos. Durant (Baptist), Consett, Alex. Baillie (Presbyterian), Blackhill, and the treasurer (Mr C. P. Douglas) Consett. After the proceedings were opened the treasurer presented his annual report as follows:—Your committee have to report that the amount received as free contributions during the past year is £24 6s 10d, against £16 13s 4d received during the previous year; and £19 19s 7½d the year before. The committee have to regret the loss, by the removal from the district of Rev J. H. who has been succeeded by Rev R. W. Butterworth who has shown a warm interest in the society.

During the year Rev H. M. Cox, B.A., assistant district secretary, visited Consett and addressed the mothers' meeting and afterwards a juvenile meeting, amongst whom a considerable interest was awakened, resulting in a large increase to the contributions and at the same time exciting their active interest in the work of the society.

The free contributions during the year showing a large increase over the previous year, the committee most thankfully acknowledged the active services rendered by the lady collectors who in addition to the Juvenile collectors, rendered the most substantial help by their self-denying efforts. No opportunity has yet offered for having an annual sermon preached; but the committee keep this great object in view, and are proposed to avail themselves of any which may occur. In addition to the present staff of collectors, the committee cordially invite the aid and sympathy of any others who may wish to take a share in the work and they think that several, especially amongst the young, may come forward and cordially join in advocating the society's claims applause.

The report was considered to be of a most satisfactory character. After the chairman had distributed prizes to the collectors, instructive and interesting addresses were given by Rev H. M. Cox, B.A., and several of the local members. Votes of thanks terminated a successful meeting.

Sporting Items.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT MEDOMSLEY.—The annual pigeon shooting handicap, promoted by Mr John Foreman, of Allendale Cottages, who added £2 to an entrance fee of 3s a lot was held on Saturday afternoon in a field granted by Mr J Hunter, Grange Farm, and near the house of Mr R M Rutherford, Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley. In spite of the severe weather there was a good muster of spectators. The birds flew well, and the shooting was all that could be desired. The conditions were:—18 to 24 yards rise, 60 yards fall; double breechloadings guns, 1¼oz shot, use of both barrels, single guns, 1¼oz shot. Details:—Sep Burrell, 21, 1 1 1 0; Rob, 21, 1 1 0; P Milburn, 21, 1 1 1 0; Rap, 21, 1 1 1 1; Deptford 21, 0; John Turnbull, 19, 1 1 1 1; John Turnbull (No 2) 1 1 1 1; Hornsby 21, 1 1 1 0 Miss Chicken 18, 1 1 1 0; Braes of Derwent 19, 1 1 1 0; Three Tuns 18, 0; Crookhall 21. 0; Ghost 19, 0; J Turnbull (3rd lot) 0; Elemore Street, 21, 1 1 0; Thompson 21, 0. Stake divided.—A small sweepstake followed at 5s per lot. Results:—Rap 21, 1 1 1 1 1; Turnbull 19, 1 1 1 0; Rum Cold 21, 1 1 0; M Robinson, 18, 1 1 1 1 1; Ghost, 18, 1 1 1 1 0. Mr Wm Hunter, Witton Gilbert, was referee; Mr Jas. Hornsby, trapper; and Mr R M Rutherford, score keeper.

EBCHESTER ROWING CLUB.—On Saturday night, the members held their annual supper at the Chelmsford Arms Hotel, Ebchester. About 50 partook of an excellent repast, which was provided by Mrs Temperley, the hostess. After the removal of the cloths, Mr J Charlton, of Westwood, occupied the chair, Mr R Robson, Hamsterley Colliery, being vice-chairman.—Mr Charlton, secretary and treasurer, presented the financial statement, which was very satisfactory.—During the evening, songs were rendered by Miss Miller, South Shields; Messrs A Brough, W Hetherington, S Seymour, T Storey, T Millaghan, and others. Mr N Storey presided at the piano. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

RABBIT COURSING AT TOW LAW.—W Brown's rabbit coursings were brought off in the presence of a fair company. Business commenced with a sweepstake by 16 small dogs. In the final Rumley's Flayaway and Clennell's Ought agreed to divide first and second money, Holden's Poser and Rumley's Hero taking third and fourth. The next event was a sweepstake by greyhounds, in which there were 12 entries. In the final Canny Sam and Stop at Home divided first and second money, after two no goes.

ATHLETIC TOURNAMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA: VICTORY OF A WEARDALE MAN.—The annual athletic tournament took place at Johannesburg on November 11th, and. despite the high prices of admission, ranging to two guineas was crowded the Amphitheatre to see the assault-at-arms, military sports, and wrestling. Excellent order was maintained in the spacious arena, and excitement was greatest over the wrestling contest, the entries for which embraced a large number of all nationalties and weights. Consequent on some friction which arose out of objection to the County of Durham representative—T Nattrass, son of the veteran host of the King's Head, St. John's Chapel—at the Caledonian gathering, feeling ran high on the present occasion. At the request of the manager, a trio of the boxers gladly undertook attendance on Nattrass in the intervals of the several rounds, which were productive of brilliant displays. Amidst much excitement and the plaudits of his fellow north-countrymen T Nattrass threw his opponent in the final falls and was declared the winner. The ex-Weardalian is a lithe young fellow, under 11 stones, aged 24, who is now following his calling as a miner in the gold fields whither he went 18 months ago; and he looked much abashed on being compelled to bow his acknowledgments to the huge audience.

RABBIT COURSING AT TANTOBIE.—The rabbit sweep promoted by Mr E Gaffney, who added £8 for 32 dogs at 13s per lot, was resumed and finished on Saturday afternoon in a field near the house of Mr Matthew Snowdon, Commercial Hotel, Tantobie, before a good muster of spectators. Results:—First round (continued)—Jingler beat Cunningham's Golden Drops, by 2 to 1; Go-as-you-Please, beat Grace Darling, by 2 to 1; Rattlesnake beat Be Careless by 2 to 0: Pat beat Grace Darling by 2 to 0. Second round—Pat beat Go-as you Please by 2 to 0; Rattlesnake beat China Eyes by 3 to 0; Little Min beat Pigeon by 2 to 1; Little Ned beat Pit Shoes by 2 to 0; Our Aggie beat Moor Lad by 2 to 0; Jingler beat Honest Bob by 2 to 0; Never at Home beat Young Turk by 2 to 0 Spry beat White Wings by 2 to 1. Third round—Pat beat Rattlesnake by 2 to 1; Little Min beat Little Nell by 2 to 0; Our Aggie beat Jingler by 2 to 0: Spry beat Never at Home by 2 to 1. Fourth round—Little Min beat Pat by 2 to 1; Our Aggie beat Spry by 2 to 1. Final—Collin's Little Min and Palmer's Our Aggie divided. Referee, Mr E Gaffney; pistol-firer, Mr H Scott; score-keeper, J Elliott.

SPARROW SHOOTING AT WEST KYO.—A sparrow shooting was held on Saturday, near the house of Mr T Gatiss, Earl Grey Inn, West Kyo, and was promoted by Mr J Walker. Score:—T Foster, 1 1 1; W Thompson, 1 1 1; T Hunter, 1 1 1; Last Try, 1 1 1; Little Jack, 1 1 1; R Smith, 1 1 1; Contractor, 1 1 1; Joe, 1 1 1; Harry, 1 0; South Derwent, 0; Moor Cock, 1 1; Jowt, 0; Young Goss, 1 1; Novice 0; Sowko, 1 1; Just For Fun, 1 1; Nancy, 1 0; Bendigo 1 0; Post Office, 1 1; W Russell, 1 1; Tow Law, 0; Win If I can, 1 0; Enniskillen, 0; Kyo Boy, 0; Kyo Gem, 1 0; Peter Look up, 0; Bonnie Louisa, 0; Swift, 1 0; J Warwick, 0; Cornwall, 0; Jack, 0; Jack, 2nd lot, 1 1; P Stoker, 0; R Smith, 0; Jewitt, 1 1; Jackson, 1 1; Newfield, 1 1; Ashton, 0; Burnhope, 1 0; J Walker, 1 0; J Hunter, 1 1. Stakes divided.

HANDYSIDE'S CONSUMPTION CURE

Those who are afflicted with Consumption, Tumours, Cancer, and Influenza, should go to Handyside's Rooms or Carriages and hear from the patients themselves what this medicine has done. If the lungs are eaten away all that it will do will only ease the pain, but if taken in time no one need die of Consumption or Lupus, and Cancer can be considerably reduced.

The Blood Food prepared by G. Handyside is simply a vegetable extract, and thereby God's natural remedy for building up the body, and when the body is strong it defies all disease. It contains no medicine, and therefore cannot ruin the constitution as doctors' medicines do. Everyone should take it for Indigestion, Costiveness, Sleeplessness, Dizziness of the Head, Fits, Asthma, Bronchitis, Change of Life, and is a most marvellous thing for Influenza. Delicate people should take it for-ever.

Handyside's Rheumatic Cure does not fail once in a hundred cases, when it is applied according to directions. 20,000 people have been rubbed at Handyside's Rooms, and 99 out of every 100 have been cured, but a good many who rub themselves have failed, because they did not go by the directions. Whenever it fails they should communicate with Mr Handyside. Anyone who has to live by his industry, and unable to walk through Sciatica or Rheumatism, a cab will be sent for him, and cured free, and enabled to walk in three-quarters of an hour, if his age is below 60; if above 60 it is more difficult to cure.

These preparations were not brought out entirely for money, therefore they are given away to all who are unable to pay for them at all Handyside's places of business, and at 12 Bentinck Crescent, Newcastle, every Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m. Everyone should go and hear and see the marvellous change this preparation produces on all diseases.

The Pills prepared by G. Handyside, are composed of rhubarb root and other vegetable extracts, and they are earning a great name. They contain no medicine, therefore cannot ruin the constitution, as it is well known that those who take the most doctors' medicine have the worst health. And it cannot be otherwise, for most of it irritates the stomach, and drives the food out of the system before it has nourished the body, but these Pills prepared by G. Handyside, feed the digestive organs and enable them to digest the food, and after they have been taken for some time the residue of the bowels show natural digestion, while those who take doctors' medicine the food is driven away from an irritated stomach. But this is not all. The stomach contains millions of small tubes, no thicker than a fine hair, to convey the gastric juice to mix with the food. The continual irritation of the stomach through purging medicines, must have a tendency to fill up these small tubes and prevent a proper supply of gastric juice, which is necessary for proper digestion, therefore it is not surprising that everyone who take the most doctors' medicine have the worst health. Purging pills do good for a day or two, and then you are worse than ever. You take more; relief is given to you again for a day or two. You are worse than ever, and you go on till your constitution is ruined. Two doctors are now needed where one was sufficient fifty years ago, when people preserved their health by God's natural remedy, the fruits of the field. Both sexes should continually take the Pills after the age of forty, for the heart after that age ossifies. No delicate person or growing youth should be without them. And they should be taken strictly by the directions. Thousands of testimonials; extracts sent post free.

A thousand pounds has been deposited in the hands of Messrs Watson and Dendy of this city, and challenged all the doctors' medicines three years ago, but has never been accepted. The challenge is still open, and a hundred pounds will be given to the person who brings a doctor forward to accept this challenge.

If you cannot get them from your chemist, write to G. Handyside, Bentinck Crescent, Newcastle. All the preparations are sent out without the money, and they can be tried before the money is sent, and if you are not satisfied that it has done more good than all the medicines have done no money is required. Ask your butcher or baker or any other tradesmen to sell under these conditions. If they did they would get little money, and if these were not exceptionally grand preparations I dare not do it.

No one should be persuaded from these preparations by tradesmen recommending other preparations for the sake of extra profit.

DR. ORTON'S HAIR RESTORER.

Time is the almighty changer of all things. It makes dull the most brilliant intellect; brings infirmities to the most elastic step of youth; dims the most bewitching smiles, and pales the rosy lips of beauty, but on nothing does it press its unwelcome hand so much as a lady's head of hair. Everyone who wishes to preserve a luxuriant crop of hair, should use DR ORTON'S HAIR RESTORER, and thereby be enabled in old age to retain all the bewitching loveliness of youth. It contains no poison as most hair restorers do, therefore cannot injure the brain. The maker will give £10 to anyone who can discover a poison in this preparation. It is a grand hair wash, and from its cleansing properties it invigorates the skin, and enables the skin to grow the hair. Price 1s. per bottle: equal to some that are sold at 5s. per bottle.

DIGESTIVE SYRUP
PREPARED BY DAB and Co.
Wholesale Chemists, Bentinck, Newcastle.

This has been publicly known for two hundred years, and from the good work it is doing the sales are increasing enormously; more of this medicine is sold for Indigestion, Costiveness, &c., than any other medicine known. Some even prefer it to Handyside's Consumption Cure, which is considered the best Medicine in the world. It may not build up the constitution so well, but it acts quicker in giving relief. A great many intelligent, thoughtful people ingnore the doctor, and the digestive syrup is the only doctors they ever have. Price 1s. per bottle. The usual price is 2s. per bottle. As the makers of this preparation buy their materials largely at first hand for cash, they are enabled to sell this preparation at ONE-HALF the cost of other makers.

LIVER PILLS
Prepared by DAB & Co.

These Pills are what the greatest physicians order for a defective liver. They were used by the great John Wesley, who retained his boyish ruddiness, and juvenile elasticity up to a ripe old age. Each Pill contains half a grain of calomell. They are a grand Pill for the liver, an overloaded stomach, or after drunken dissipations. They contain strong and effective medicine, and should only be taken when needed.

COUGH MIXTURE prepared by DAB & Co.—Coughs should always be arrested at the beginning or they often lead to Consumption, or other ailments. The mixture prepared by Dab & Co. is a grand thing for arresting it, and preventing an early grave. Price 1s. per bottle, being half the usual price this mixture is sold for.

"ROUGH ON RATS."—Ask Chemists, Grocers, or Oilmen for "Rough on Rats." It clears out rats, mice, beetles fleas bed-bugs, roaches, ants, insects, ground moles, &c. 1s. and 6½d. boxes.

"BUCHU-PAIBA."—Complete cure of all kidney and kindred complaints, stinging, irritation, inflammation. Of Chemists. F. NEWBERY, and SONS, Agents 1, King Edward Street London, E C

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL & STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES, quickly correct all irregularities, remove all obstructions, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes, 1s 1½d. and 2s 9d of all chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 stamps by the Maker, E T TOWLE, Chemist, Nottingham. Beware of IMITATIONS.

HUMAN LIFE.—Fifty years' record of Facts Principles, and Discoveries relating to the Origin and True Treatment of Disease and the preservation of Human Life on Earth. By Dr Samuel Birley M Ph.D.; author of "Patriarchal Longevity Reasonable," "Earth-Life," &c., &c. A series of most valuable articles in 52-paged books, containing Diet Rules—what to eat and what to avoid in various complaints, together with other useful and valuable information. Invaluable to every Sufferer. Sound and Practical. Write to-day for presentation copy from the publishers, Messrs Gordon, Murray, and Co., 48, Theobald's Road Holborn, London, W. C

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SHROUDED IN MYSTERY;

OR,

WHICH GIRL DID HE MARRY?

A LEGEND OF TWO CONSETT GIRLS

BY SKIPP BORLASE,

Author of "Darker than Death," "Riches to Ruin," "An Ocean Secret," "Recalled to Life," "Who Killed John Cameron?" "The Police Minister," "For True Love's Sake," &c., &c.

CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

Don't think of them, my dear, for the warning may have been meant for someone else since, you may depend upon it that this bright spring morn will bring forth many another bride, in the county of Durham, besides my own winsome pet; though I'll be bound not one as fair, no, certainly not one as fair. Let us talk of your dress, dear, and, my word, you'll soon have to don it, for to get it even to meet will be a work of great patience, and of hard labour in addition, and how we shall be able to arrange your hair over those new cushions, and yet wholly hide them, is more than I can tell."

The good lady's fears were not without some solid foundation, for those were pre-eminently the days of hand-span waists, and of skirts that stood out over enormous hoops, whilst on all public and important occasions girls wore their hair drawn tight up off their foreheads and trained outside cushions to a height as great as that of a modern Grenadier's bearskin, or Highlander's plumed head-gear, whilst it was thoroughly smothered with powder, and, out of doors, a tiny hat was perched upon its very apex.

Rose consented to have all the finery spread out out before her on the bed, and pretended to feel an absorbing interest therein, but which anyone a single degree more shrewd than Mrs. Radcliffe would have detected as counterfeit almost immediately.

She did nothing of the kind, however, for, truth to tell, she was playing a part also, and, whilst pretending to be gay and light-hearted, she was, motherlike, thinking far more of the daughter who was wedded to misery and poverty, than of the one who was about to be united to wealth and a proud position.

Presently her pent-up feelings found vent in words, and she exclaimed, involuntarily as it were:

"Oh, if my poor Ruth were only here, a joyous girl once more, and going to be one of your bridemaids, my happiness and content would be complete."

"I don't think that her's would be, and papa in the way, that is, unless all was exactly as it used to be. You know what I mean.

"Yes, darling, I—I thought that I expressed as much in my speech—for oh, as matters stand, he will never forgive her, and, consequently, I shall never behold her more."

"Now, don't give way to despair, mother, but encourage bright hope instead, for Ruth's wretched husband will soon drink himself to death, and she will then be a widow, and thereby the entire complexion of things will be changed. Perhaps, indeed, she is a widow already—who can tell? Papa will surely find it easy to forgive her, Greenwood once dead, and—and so we may all of us be happy together once more even yet."

Mrs. Radcliffe started, looked at Rose keenly, and searchingly, and then said, in agitated tones:

"How do you know that Ruth's husband drinks? How do you even know who he is? Your papa and I have striven, with all our combined tact and strength, to save you from the shame and the disgrace of learning anything about the matter, and she and he played their infamous game so craftily and so secretly, that even tattling Jarrow got little or no inkling of the scandal. You must have seen your sister, I do verily believe. She must have come to you. Oh, for pity's sake, tell me all about her, Rose, for, whatever she has been guilty of, she is still my own, my darling child.

"I have not seen her," retorted Rose, almost hysterically, whilst three or four tiny beads of blood formed in her under lip where she had vindictively bitten it. "The fact is, mother—mamma—she wrote me a letter, and in it was just what I have told you, and—and much more as well, but she entreated that I would show it to no one—not even to you."

"That was cruel of her, for she should have known that a mother's love is even greater than a sister's; but what was the 'much more' she told you? Was she very miserable? Was she in poverty—perhaps in actual want; oh, tell me!"

"She was not happy, but, on the other hand, she did not seem to be so very miserable. Her grief was mainly about how she left you, and concerning what she had done immediately before going; and next it was connected with her husband, who drank deeply, and frequently very nearly poisoned himself—when in his cups—with arsenic, which he was taking for some kind of skin disease. Ruth was fearful that he really would do it, some day—and—and—and perhaps even very soon."

"This is a strange tale that you tell me," said Mrs. Radcliffe, with a troubled and half-frightened look. "But hist! dear, we must think and talk about other matters, now, for time flies, and here comes your maid to dress you."

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CHAPTER V.

The Bridesmaids' Offerings, and the Bride's Very Remarkable Emotion.

The bride was dressed all in good time, and very lovely she looked in her powder, paint, and patches, all of which were considered essentials on such occasions, no matter how fresh and youthful their recipient might be.

When she was ready she was led into the adjoining sitting-room, by her proud mother, where her four bridesmaids were waiting to receive her, and to offer her their congratulations and their presents.

They also wore powder, paint, and patches, pinched-in waists, immense hooped skirts, huge ruffles at their elbows, and an abundance of flounces and frills on dresses of every conceivable colour.

Little hats, of the shape and size of sunflowers, were perched atop of their towering peignoirs, and their corsages were cut so low in In fact, they looked more like pretty Dresden china figures than aught else, but they "gushed" over the bride in the most human and feminine manner conceivable, for a bride and a baby have always been considered meet objects for feminine idolatry in all ages.

"Rose, darling," exclaimed Sylvia Talbot, "here is a crooked sixpence that has been in our family for more than a hundred years. Accept it, dear, as a sure protection against the evil eye and the evil wish."

"And here is a little bone that was found in the heart of a lamb no later back than last week. See, pet, I have had it polished and enclosed in amber and silver, so place it under your pretty fluttering breasts, and for ever wear it there, because hidden in so sweet and cosy a nest it attracts good and repels evil, and neither ghost or hobgoblin will venture either to injure or to terrify you whilst you thus carry it."

This from Enniel Winnington, Close Court, a magnificent blonde, who knew well that the new home to which Rose was about to be borne away housed the most fearful and renowned spectre in all the north, save and except, perhaps, the black and headless horse of Houndsgill; and so she had been at great pains to obtain this counter spell against its known malignity.

"Accept this from me, my sweet Rose, this box of fairy butter which was gathered in the sawpit of the old timber yard hard by the Block House at last full moon, after the good little folks had finished their feasting at the bottom. Fairy Butter will avert a threatened calamity, and none of us know how near we may be to one," said Maroner Hare, the daughter of Dean Hare, who had just edited the "Psalms," with notes, and formerly been chaplain to the Army in Flanders, under the great Marlborough. She was a tall and stately brunette, though the latter fact could only be gathered from her eyes.

"And please to accept from me, dear, this little Bible, which, I think, you will find a safer and surer guard against evil than anything else that I could have brought you; and when I tell you that it once belonged to my grandfather and your godfather, Sir Charles Lyttleton, and preserved his life from a rebel bullet in the Royalist rising of 1659, I'm sure that you will value it," said gentle Lois Lyttleton, as she, the fourth and youngest of the bridesmaids, tendered her gift in turn.

But Rose Radcliffe placed the little, morocco bound, and silver clasped tome hastily down on the table, as though it had been red hot and burnt her fingers. Then a shudder ran through her exquisitely proportioned frame, and seeing plainly that it was observed, and also wondered at, she said nervously:

"I can't help it. I suppose someone is walking over the spot where my grave will be. 'Tis said that that's what's happening when anyone shivers in warm weather. Well, dears, I thank you all for your kind presents, yes, from my very heart I do, and believe me, there's not the least occasion to look so concerned, for there's nothing whatever the matter with me. I went down to have a peep at the flooded river late last evening, clad in little more than my dressing gown and slippers, and I suppose I have paid the penalty with a cold. A shiver is a sure sign of a coming cold, you know."

"Oh, don't let us talk about that dreadful river," exclaimed Sylvia Talbot, who was greedily eager to do so, nevertheless. "I declare I shall never be able to look at it again without shuddering, after what most probably happened last night. You may thank your lucky stars that you saw nothing awful, Rose dear, for if you'd seen what there was to be seen, you would not be in a very fit state to be married this morning."

"What was there, then, to be seen?" demanded the bride, now more agitated than ever.

"Don't tell her."

"How could you have broached such a subject, Sylvia?"

"Oh, how very inconsiderate of you."

These exclamations came from the three bridesmaids, but Miss Talbot was a regular little gossip, and longed to make public property of her entire budget of information.

She therefore replied, deprecatingly:

"I am very sorry for my slip of the tongue, but now that I've unwittingly let out so much, our dear Rose may as well know all. Well, love, it's the strangest story that you ever heard, and this is it: A young lady, mounted on a brown horse, and quite alone and unattended, arrived at the hostelry, Iveston, about nine o'clock, last evening, stabled her nag, and engaged a bed there for the night, and then, without partaking of any refreshment, or saying where she was going, or at what time she would be back, wandered forth on foot towards Conside. No one could get even so much as a glimpse at her face, because of the broad-brimmed hat and thick black veil that she wore. Well, poor dear, she never arrived back at the Inn at all, so at daybreak this morning people from the inn set out to look for her, and whilst some came down to make enquiries in Conside, others searched for traces of her up and down the opposite shore, and one of the searchers, when opposite to the outlet of the mill stream, saw her hat and veil floating on the Derwent, caught in a branch of a tree that was washed down by the flood. They were easily got at because close to the shore, and for the past two-hours they have been hanging up for identification in the public market place; though, alas, all to no purpose, I believe, for no one seems able to hazard even so much as a plausible conjecture concerning them, or as to who their wearer could have been; and it looks very much as though the poor creature had come to Conside on purpose to drown herself where she wasn't known, so that, if found, it would be impossible to identify her corpse. The river is to be dragged in quest of her."

"Sylvia, look what you've done!" exclaimed the other bridesmaids, in a shrill chorus, at this juncture, at the same time springing forward to catch the bride, who had closed her eyes, shuddered, reeled, and now went off in a swoon in their arms.

Poor Sylvia Talbot was, figuratively sat down upon at once, and Mrs. Radcliffe, on returning to the boudoir, was hurriedly told of what had occurred, and how it had been brought about.

"Ah, it's little wonder, poor dear, that the narrative affected her so deeply, for it was the belief that she heard some helpless drowning creature's cries for help which made her rush down to the swollen Derwent's bank last night out of this very room. I discovered her on the point of fainting then, so sure was she that something dreadful had happened, and it's through the mercy of Providence that she didn't swoon whilst still out of doors, and lie on the cold, damp grass for perhaps half the night, or, indeed, even fall into the river herself."

At this juncture Mr. Radcliffe's sharp, imperious voice was heard shouting out from the drawing-room door, which was on the other side of the hall: "Now, then, will you women never be ready? We've all been waiting here a very devil of a time, and I'll warrant me the parson's swearing like a trooper up at the church, for he wants, as do most of us, to get this job over in time to reach the other side of Allansford Wood before the hounds throw off. Come, do hurry up, will you!"

But when the lovely girl smiled upon him, and then asked quite calmly, "Well, papa, don't I look very nice? Do you observe anything the matter with me? Isn't my head-dress all right?" he rejoined, confusedly, "There is nothing wrong about you, my dear, and you certainly look charming. I give you joy."

He then bent awkwardly forward, and would have kissed her on the cheek, had not his wife perceived his intention, and, brave through her agony of fear that his invariably hearty salute might displace a patch, or smear the delicately laid-on rouge, dashed forward and lugged him back by his coat tails, a liberty and assumption of authority in one which so astounded him that he forthwith subsided quite helplessly into a chair.

This little incident (inasmuch as it was well known what a despot old Radcliffe generally was in his own household) amused the assembled guests mightily, amongst whom were to be seen old Lord Somers, of Grove Court, who sometimes lived there when not resident at his town house; Mr. Thomas Littleton, to become Sir Thomas, on the death of his father, the fine old Cavalier of 82, of whom we have already made mention, and whose, at the period of our tale, six years old son was destined to be still better known than even his heroic grandsire, for he lived to be the first Lord Lyttleton, and to become a distinguished poet, senator, and historian.

Then there were also present General Talbot, nearly related to the then Dean, and so great a pedestrian that he frequently walked over ninety miles, in a single day; Doctor Francis Hare, of whom we have made mention previously; Sir John Berkeley, whose father was a famous amateur gardener, and founded the "Berkeley Hospital Charity"; Mr. Thomas Wilde, who lived in the old Bastion as it was popularly termed, which had been sold in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Henry VIII., for the sum of £493, to his remote ancestor, Thomas Wilde, clothier.

The two young Winningtons of Close Court were also of the party; Francis, the eldest of whom died three years later in Vienna, whilst Thomas, the youngest, lived to become a statesman of some note.

Whilst we have been thus briefly sketching some of company assembled in the drawing-room of Conside Hall," the tuneful bells of St. Ann's have continued to clang out their merryest peals, though all Conside and neighbourhood seemed to be wending its way towards the little old church of St. Paul's.

Mr. Radcliffe had insisted that Rose should be married there because its vicar, the Rev. R. Bellos, was an especial crony of his own, and had, furthermore, christened both his daughters.

We have said that all Conside and surrounding districts seemed to be thronged in its direction the women attired for the most part in dark blue bed-gowns, clean check aprons, coarse russet skirts, black worsted stockings, and trim, buckled shoes; their bright-coloured handkerchiefs covering their heads and tied under their chins, and their fingers plying knitting needles, or busily sewing up the seams of gloves, whose manufacture, commenced nearly a couple of centuries previously, gave employment at the period of our tale to many thousands of hands.

The men folk, who were making for the same rendezvous, wore, for the most part, velveteen jackets, fustian knee breeches for (trousers were the invention of nearly a century later), and felt hats.

Under the deep porch, a bevy of pretty little girls, bareheaded, bare necked, and bare armed, and carrying baskets of flowers, were impatiently waiting to strew their sweet Spring blossoms in front of the bride as the procession approached the sacred fane; and the blue-jacketted, brass-buttoned school boys were playing "leap frog" over the tombstones until the time came when they should form in line on each side of the church porch, with their invariable petition on such occasions of "Please to remember the poor lads!"

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CHAPTER VI.

A Wedding and a Ducking.

Meanwhile the bridal procession issued forth from the Hall.

There were twenty couples altogether, and they walked arm-in-arm, the gentlemen with their toes very much turned out, and their dress rapiers glittering at their left hips, or, at all events, as far as the cut steel hilts and the filligree silver or gilt work that decorated the velvet scabbards went.

At the head of the procession three fiddlers scraped away, with more zeal and fervour than strict attention to time or tune, "Haste to the Wedding," and so buoyant were the spirits of even old folks in those days that every now and then one of the couples would break into a sort of tripping dance, and the example would prove highly and universally infectious.

Meanwhile, on either side of the way, the deeply interested inhabitants leaned over their half doors, or peered out of their little, pokey, thickly leaded, and diamond panes, at the sight, and the inns and public-houses along the line of route sent out quite crowds of early customers to wave cups and pewter measures on high (glasses were only as yet used at the inns) and drink health and happiness to the bride and bridegroom.

At length the churchyard gate was reached, and at this point the bevy of pretty, white frocked little girls, who had been so long waiting there, began to strew the way with flowers from out of their baskets in front of the bridal cortege, and a mighty cheer from those who had already assembled at that point to see the show.

Such was the general hilarity and good humour that the very watchman, acting on his sole responsibility, set free a rascal who had been clapped in the stocks hard by for being found sleeping in an empty house near the old church; he, the watchman, no doubt thinking that all Jarrow should rejoice on such an occasion, and that even so great an apparent outcast should not be begrudged a peep at so lovely a bride and so great a procession.

The individual who had been thus realeased from "durance vile" was a young and good looking fellow, but possessed of an evil, vicious, and dissipated expression of countenance.

His dress seemed to be the cast-off habiliments of a man of fashion, but neither his face nor his hands corresponded with his attire, whilst the latter, rich though it had evidently once been, was now tarnished and frayed as to its lace, and wine or beer stained as to its material.

He looked, too, as though he had far from fully recovered from a recent and severe illness, for he was pale almost to ghastliness, and there was a strange wild light in his deeply sunken eyes.

This apparent stranger in the place seemed to be even more eager to get a good view of the wedding cortege than were the very townspeople themselves, for the instant that he was set free from the stocks he started off at a run, vaulted over the low churchyard wall at its nearest point, and on alighting in the sadly neglected graveyard he pushed his way through the assembled crowd by dint of vigorous elbowing, and without the slightest regard to either ribs or toes, though their stout leather stays made the sides of the women almost invulnerable against the former mode of attack.

The stranger, however, rapidly worked his way almost to the edge of the pathway, which the bridal party were advancing along in a slow, pompous, and stately manner towards the church, and, then, slipping behind a huge sepulchral monument, having a stone urn upon its top (for in those days, and up to much more recent ones, it was the extraordinary fashion to borrow our symbols of death from Paganism instead of from Christianity), he waited, evidently in a state of positively painful, though, at the same time, suppressed excitement, for the marriage procession to pass him close by, as it was bound to do.

First came the little, bare-necked, white frocked girls, walking backwards, and strewing the paved path with primroses, blue bells, daffodils, and violets, as they receded; then the three fiddlers, scraping away like mad, and next Rose Radcliffe, leaning on her burly father's arm, who, with a face as red as a boiled lobster, was every minute lugging his huge turnip watch out of its fob and studying its white dial, whilst making fresh mental calculations as to whether there still remained the slightest chance of his getting to the other side of Allansford wood in time to join in that morning's hunt.

"'Tis she, indeed!" suddenly exclaimed with an oath, a voice from behind the big, urn-crowned monument, in ill-suppressed accents of mingled hate and triumph; or, at all events, they sounded like such, and his words were heard by, and very naturally attracted the wondering attention of many who were standing close to him.

But the bride, nor her father, nor even the bridegroom, who, with his best man, General Talbot, the great pedestrian, walked immediately behind, were of the number, and the whole bridal party reached and entered the sacred fane of St. Paul's without what would have been a decided unpleasantness, if nothing more and worse, marking its course.

No sooner, however, had the last gay and light-hearted couple disappeared inside the yawning north door, than a young countryman, whose ribs the excited stranger had rather freely elbowed, and whose sweetheart's toes he had furthermore trampled on, and who had consequently followed him some way across the churchyard in order to bestow upon him a good thrashing as soon as all had been seen that there was to be seen, suddenly perceiving a much more easy and effectual way of avenging himself than by the erst contemplated drubbing (such way having been suggested by the stranger's most uncomplimentary reference to the young and lovely bride, of which he had caught every word), called out, in his broad, country dialect:

"Here's an old sweetheart, by gum, and as jealous as a pixie into the bargain. Called the bonny bride a cat, he did. There's nice manners for you. Say, mates, ain't it Durham law to give an old lover, as comes uninvited to the marrying of his gal to a better man, a good ducking?"

"Of course it be," came a general shout in reply, for the crowd desired nothing better than some such lark wherewith to pass the time pleasantly away whilst the wedding party was in the church.

So there immediately arose other cries of "Duck him!" and a laughing, hooting, and reviling mob quickly surrounded the supposed stranger, who now, most probably, began very heartily to wish that he had never been let out of the stocks.

We say "supposed stranger" advisedly, because in point of fact, he was nothing of the kind.

He knew at least half of the people present, and they would have known him also had he still been the same bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked young fellow who had left Conside so suddenly and mysteriously some three years previously, instead of the mere ghost of his former self.

He made no appeals to former friendship, however, as a means of getting out of the very unpleasant fix into which his strange conduct and speech had placed him, for it was verily and indeed a rude Conside customer that the young countryman had referred to.

A shilling fine generally procured immunity from punishment, but then a man who resorted to an empty house to sleep in wasn't at all likely to be possessed of a shilling everyone thought.

No one, therefore, so much as proposed to him the alternative, and as to his feeble struggles to escape his fate, and the oaths and curses which he freely indulged in as soon as he realised that it was inevitable, they didn't benefit him the least bit in the world, but, on the contrary, only exposed him to a prolongation of his punishment.

He was pounced upon, overpowered, tied up in a pack sheet, and borne triumphantly off to the close adjoining the Derwent.

The place of punishment reached, the rough, practical joke was ruthlessly carried out, for the unknown was nine times ducked underneath the icy cold water, roars of laughter greeting his gaspings, splutterings, and pantings every time that he was lifted thereout.

At length, half-choked, half-blinded, and wholly speechless, his mummy-like swaithings were unrolled and he was set upon his feet.

Only, however, to be given a score of yards "law," and then to be chased across the salt grass with shouts, jeers, and groans, pursued by every missile that lay handy, and was less hard than a stone or a brickbat.

Where he found refuge at last no one seemed to clearly know, though many affirmed that it was in the hut of the old witch, Goody Barry, as she was called, which stood close under the wall of the ruinous flour mill on the south side of Leadgate Road, and in the very dampest part of the moss field.

After he had vanished from sight, but not before those who had remained in the churchyard begun to wonder who he could be.

"'Tis the young spark as used to be after Miss Rose as much as a year-and-a-half ago," muttered one beldame.

"Aye, I've seen 'em together in Allansford Wood, and on the road to the "Tavern" as well," crooned a second.

"And I, when they was both a sitting under the fairy blackthorn in Lodge Wood, close against the upper bend of the river, and all Durham county knew that love vows spoken there end either in nothing or worse than nothing."

This, with a solemn and suggestive head shake, from a third. But a fourth thereupon remarked, with what sounded like a gleeful chuckle:

"Why, this chap is shorter by a head than that 'un wor, and, to my thinking, is a deal more like the flash groom that runned away with Miss Ruth—the 'tother twin. Aye, and he did run away wie her, whatever folks may say to the contrary, and her own father and mother among 'em. Oh, they tried to keep it precious dark, I know all about that, cummers, but marriage will out as well as murder, and may I never have a new scarlet cloak come next Sunday if it baint he, there now."

"Good-lorjus-days, neighbour Boughton, I can't credit that, nohow; for, if t'were he, what for should he be a rampaging and a cussing at Miss Rose's wedding for? One sister would be enough for any one man I should reckon."

"But this 'un baint a bit like young Halcamus Greenwood. Why, he wor as red as a rose, and this chap is a deal more like a turnip—aye, a turnip lantern. I'd a deal rather say that he was one of that gang o' bloodthirsty villains as helped young Palmer to murder his poor mother and her maidservant, and who afterwards murdered, in like manner, Mrs. Cormal. Several of the gang got off scot free, the principals was hanged in chains, and murderers, as every one knows, are often tempted back to the scenes of their crimes, no matter to what part of the world they may first have flown. I tell ee——"

But before the old man could finish his say the single bell of St. Paul's clanged forth to announce that the ceremony was over, and instantly the silvery peal of St. Ann's burst out afresh into a perfect symphony of sweet sound, borne on the gentle breeze, whereupon the crowd began to hurry forward to see the return of the bridal party.

(To be Continued.)

VALE OF DERWENT NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.

The monthly meeting of this society was held at Burnopfield on Saturday week, when a paper on "Bark Beetles, and their effect on Forest Trees," was read by Dr Somervile, M. A., Professor of Agriculture and Forestry at the Durham College of Science. The lecture was illustrated by the limelight lantern. This insect, whose scientific name is Tomicus bidentalis, was shown to the audience, and interesting views of it were shown on the screen. Drawings illustrative of the evil effects of its operation on pine trees were shown, together with actual specimens of its boring beneath the bark of the trees. The lecture, which was frequently applauded, concluded with some practical suggestions as to how the ravages of the insect may be contracted. After Dr Somerville's paper, a lecture was delivered by Professor Potter, M.A., Professor of Botany, at the above college, the subject being *Buds*. This was also illustrated by the limelight lantern. Some extremely interesting views were shown, and information imparted as to how nature provides for the protection of these buds in winter, and how they gardually become changed into leaves and branches as the spring advances. Buds of ash, horse-chestnut, and other trees were illustrated, and the audience informed how potatoes are formed, and how what are called the "eyes" of potatoes are simply buds. At the conclusion of the lecture hearty votes of thanks were carried to the professors, who were also elected by application to be honorary members of the society.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

TOW LAW.—Mr J. Vickers had forward on Monday, 30 dairy cows and heifers, 33 fat cattle, 8 store cattle, 4 calves. 260 fat sheep and hoggs. Cows made up to £9 10s, fat cattle to £18, store cattle to £8, calves to 14s, pork pigs to 39s 6d, fat black-faced wethers to 31s—top, Mr Atkinson, Redden House; fat mule ewes to 31s 6d—top, Mr W. Walturo, Witton-le-Wear; fat mule hoggs to 33s 9d—top, Colonel Blenkinsopp, Hoppyland Park.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Mr Murray had forward at this mart on Monday, a fair supply of stock, for which he had a good demand. Numbers and prices:—18 fat cattle, up to £16 10s—top, Mr John Allison, High Waskerley. 135 sheep to 44s 6d—top, Mr George Bolam, Pontop Hall; lambs to 35s—top, Mr [illegible]water, Low Bradley; Scotch ewes to 31s 6d—[illegible] Mr T. Surtees, Blackfine; Scotch wethers to 36[illegible] top, Mr Teasdale, The Riding. 7 calves to 41[illegible]gs to 40s. 15 cows to £19 15s: Scotch Kyloes to £7 15s. Horse, £6; cart, £6 10s. Poultry, 10d to 2s 6d each. Beef, 7s 6d per stone; mutton, 7½d per lb; pork, 7s per stone.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES OF GOLD are no doubt of great value to society, especially at a time like the present, when the money market is so tight and poverty so distressing. Still, however, there are some things in this world far more precious than gold, in spite of the immense influence it wields over mankind. Health, for instance, cannot be purchased for money, but it may be preserved and secured by the use of Holloway's Pills. No family should be without them, as they are equally good in their effects for either old or young. No complaint can for long withstand their healing power. They drive out all impurities from the blood, strengthen the digestive organs, and cleanse the stomach.

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Football.

. Secretaries of football clubs would greatly oblige us by despatching their reports so that they may reach our office not later than Tuesday morning.

ASSOCIATION.

Waldridge White Star 2nd beat Burnhope Rovers 2nd, on the ground of the former, by eight goals to one.

Shotley Bridge Rovers 2nd defeated Hamsterley United 2nd, on the former's ground, by one goal to nothing.

Wolsingham Church Bible Class beat Witton-le-Wear Juniors, on the former's ground, by two goals to one.

Hedley Hill Terrace Rangers beat West Stanley United, on the ground of the latter, by four goals to two.

Blackhill Park 2nd v Consett Fell Rangers.—Played at Blackhill, and resulted in a victory for the Park by three goals to two.

Lanchester Albions v Esh Shamrocks.—Played on the former's ground, the Albions winning easily by seven goals to two.

Consett Church Y.M.C.A. v Crookhall 2nd.—Played at Consett, and resulted in a win for the Y.M. by four goals to nil.

Cornsay Albions v Esh Excelsiors.—Played on the former's ground, and ended in a victory for Cornsay by two goals to one.

West Stanley Athletic v Marley Hill Temperance.—Played on the latter's ground, and after a well-contested game the visitors won by four goals to three.

Witton Gilbert Excelsiors v Esh Juniors.—Played on the former's ground, the home team winning by two goals to nil. W. Collins and R. Chicken scored the goals.

Consett Church Y.M.C.A. v Consett Y.M.C.A. 2nd.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a very exciting game resulted in a draw of two goals each.

Blackhill St. Bede's v Consett Juniors.—Played on the latter's ground, and resulted in a win for the visitors by four goals to three. P. Agnew and Smith played well for the winners.

Allendale True Blues v Blackhill Heroes.—Played on the former's ground, and resulted in a win for the home team by four goals to nil. W. Calvert, H. Longstaff, and T. Hanley played a splendid game for the winners.

Marley Hill St. Cuthbert's v Byer Moor.—Played on the former's ground before a good muster of spectators. Byer Moor won the toss, and played with the wind, but it was soon seen that they were no match for the "Saints," who had the best of the game throughout, and ran out easy winners by seven goals to none.

Consett Ramblers v Consett Lilywhites.—Played on the former's ground. The Ramblers played up the hill in the first half, and scored three times. The second half was rather noisy, the home team pressing, and McArdle added three further points for the Ramblers, who gained an easy victory by six goals to nil.

Cornsay Rovers v Esh True Blues.—Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a victory for the Rovers by three goals to two. Cornsay team—Goal, W. Moralee; backs, Geo. Simpson (capt.) and E. Clark; half-backs, G. Sargent, M. Boddiner, and A. Hendy; forwards, R. Walker and J. W. Sargent, right wing; J. Aston, centre; T. Kidd and Peacock, left wing. Linesman, H. McGowan. Referee, Mr Renwicks.

Collierley Board School v Lintz Board School.—Played on the former's ground. Although Lintz had the advantage of the wind in the first half, the home team pressed hard, but failed to score. Dipton put on two goals in the second period, and won by that number to nil. The following represented the winners:—Goal, J. Settrey; backs, J. Allan and R. Thornton; half-backs, J. Bell, J. Hodge, and F. Harrison; forwards, J. Bowes and J. Hogg, right wing; G. Thompson, centre; A. Coultnard and C. Bowes, left wing.

Crookhall Wanderers v Iveston Villa.—Played on the former's ground. The home captain won the toss, and elected to play against the wind. The visitors first attacked, but were repulsed, and the Crookhall forwards getting away scored amid loud cheers. Smith equalised with a good shot, and at the interval the score was one goal each. The Wanderers pressed in the second half, but the Villa custodian saved some splendid shots. Result—

Wanderers ....One goal
Iveston ....One goal

Leadgate United v Leadgate Boys' Brigade.—Played on the former's ground. The visitors' captain won the toss, and elected to kick with the wind. Play opened very evenly, but United afterwards had hard lines in not scoring on several occasions. At the interval nothing had been scored. On the resumption, Crowther got possession and passed to Wilkinson, who shot a splendid goal for United. The homesters continued to press, and scored five goals in quick succession. Result—

United ....Six goals
Brigade ....Nil

South Moor Violets v Lizzie Celtics.—Played on the former's ground. The visitors played with the wind at their backs, and after a scrimmage in goal T. Robson scored. From the centre kick, the Celts ran down and scored again, the home custodian making a very poor show. The home forwards made a good run up the field, but the visiting backs checked them and sent the leather well down. The Lizzie added two more goals before half-time, which found the score standing—

Celtics ....Four goals
Violets ....Nil

Shield resumed for the home team, who pressed at once and scored their only goal. Soon afterwards the visitors rushed up the field, and after a short struggle in the goal-mouth scored their fifth point. From now till the close play ruled very even, and the final score was—

Celtics ....Five goals
Violets ....One goal

Shotley Bridge Rovers v Hamsterley United.—Played at Shotley Spa before a good company of onlookers. The home captain winning the toss, choose to play up the incline. United kicked off, and the home forwards getting possession at once made tracks for the visitors' goal, which ended in Lishman scoring with a splendid shot three minutes from the start. The United tried hard to equalise, but were unable to do so, owing to the grand display of the home backs. Robson put the globe to Watson, the latter making a good run, and although tackled by the backs, succeeded in scoring No. 2 with a good screw shot just on the point of half-time, when the score was—

Rovers ....Two goals
United ....Nil

Murray re-started for the home team, and play ruled in midfield for a few minutes. The Rovers were not to be denied, and a nice piece of passing enabled Lishman to score No. 3. Result—

Rovers ....Three goals
United ....Nil

The Rovers' team was—Goal, T. Errington; backs, G. Robinson and R. Robson; half-backs, J. Seed, H. Surtees, and E. Proud; forwards, R. Watson and R. Walton, right wing; Murray, centre; Lishman and Joice, left wing.

Leadgate West End v Consett Y.M.C.A.—Played on the latter's ground, which was in a terribly hard condition owing to the severe frost. The visitors won the toss, and Gambles set the ball in motion for the home team, who had the assistance of the wind. West End pressed early, and Turner scored with a grand shot. Noble (the old West End goalkeeper) having no chance to save. The visitors continued to press, the home goal having some near escapes, and the whistle sounded half-time with the score—

West End ....One goal
Y.M. ....Nil

Robson resumed for the visitors, who continued to have much the best of matters, Milburn sending both ball and goalkeeper through. The home team afterwards played up much better, but could not pierce the defence of the visitors, and the result was—

West End ....Two goals
Y.M. ....Nil

Waldridge White Star v Felling Church Institute.—Played at the Felling. The Stars won the toss, and after the kick-off, they went up the field with a rush, and scored a minute from the commencement. This roused the homesters, and working down, the centre forward was allowed to equalise with a rather soft shot. The Felling now went at it hammer and tongs, but the visitors' goalkeeper (Scott) kept out all attacks. The Waldridge left wing securing possession, ran up and shot through, the score at half-time standing—

Waldridge ....Two goals
Felling ....One goal

On re-starting, the homesters commenced to press and equalised. End to end play followed for ten minutes, and then Hull again gave the Stars the lead. After this the visitors began to slow up, but Potts, Selkirk, and A. Scott put in some grand defensive work. The Stars, however, eventually had to retire beaten, the final score being—

Felling ....Five goals
Waldridge ....Three goals

Langley Park Albion v Usworth Swifts 2nd.—Played at Usworth before a good company of spectators. The Albions won the toss, and the home team kicked off, but the visitors soon obtained possession and made tracks for the Swifts' goal, where they had hard lines, the leather just going a trifle wide. From the goal kick, the Albions again got hold of the globe, and some good passing on the part of F. Vickers and Lamb enabled the latter to score No. 1. The Swifts got nicely away, but were pulled up by Dodgson, who was playing a grand game at back. The visitors experienced hard luck on two occasions, but eventually scored No. 2 from the toe of Smith. Score at half-time—

Albions ....Two goals
Swifts ....Nil

On resuming, Lamb kicked off for the visitors, who were soon hovering round the home goal, but a free kick for hands relieved the pressure. The home right made a good run down the field, but the backs easily pulled them up and sent to F. Vickers, who scored a grand goal, and Lamb followed with a fourth. The Swifts continued to play up pluckily, and tried hard to score, but could not break through the magnificent defence opposed to them. A pleasant game ended as under—

Albions ....Four goals
Swifts ....Nil

The following represented the Albions:—Goal, J. Vickers; backs, J. Shorten and E. Dodgson; half-backs, J. Eggleston, F. Walker, and J. Wardle; forwards, W. Pattinson and F. Vickers, right wing; T. Lamb, centre; J. Smith and R. Cooper, left wing. Linesman, T. Eccleston.

Medomsley White Stars v Lintzford Reserve.—Played at Lintzford before a fair muster of spectators. The Stars pressed at the start, Robinson sending the globe through, but the point was disallowed on a claim for hands. The home right made a rather dangerous run into the Medomsley territory, but shot past. After a spell of even play, the visitors' left took hostilities near the Lintzford goal, and some very neat passing ended in W. Hunter (the Medomsley captain) shooting a good goal. Encouraged by their success, the Stars pressed again in splendid style, and Brown scored No. 2 with a swift high shot. Lintzford took the ball to the other end, where a capital chance was missed, W. Walton relieving the pressure with a big kick. The visiting forwards secured, and by the aid of Leathard registered a third point. Half-time score—

Medomsley ....Three goals
Lintzford ....Nil

The second period opened evenly, some rough work being indulged in. The home forwards worked the globe down in good style, causing Makepeace to save, which he did in capital fashion. The Medomsley forwards received and took the leather well up, but were repulsed by the home backs, who gave to their forwards. The latter tried hard to score, but were kept at bay by the strong defence of the Stars. Pearson gave to Brown, the latter making a good run and passing to Hunter, who scored a splendid goal from a rather difficult position. From the centre kick, the home team got away and scored their only goal. Gillender soon after added another point for Medomsley. Result—

Medomsley ....Five goals
Lintzford ....One goal

CONSETT TOWN v. LEADGATE PARK RESERVE.

This fixture was played at Consett. The Park brought a strong team, including five first team men. Harkness won the toss, and played with the wind and sun at his men's backs. The game opened fairly even, and Burnhope was given plenty to do in the Leadgate goal, but he kept his charge intact. The Park left was then prominent, and shortly afterwards they scored their first goal, the ball, however, having previously been over the goal-line, but the referee allowed the point. Consett then took the leather up, and from a centre by Rafferty, Dunn equalised the scores. Joe Wilson soon after had a splendid chance, being past both backs and goalkeeper, but sent by. Score at the interval—

Park ....One goal
Consett ....One goal

The second half was almost a repetition of the first, both sides playing a hard game, and fouls being of frequent occurrence. The Park, however, managed to score a second goal, and this was sufficient to give them a very lucky victory. Score—

Park ....Two goals
Consett ....One goal

The following team did duty for Consett:—Goal, J. Winter; backs, Geo. Eustace and T. Skelton; half-backs, R. Wake, J. Carruthers, and B. Smith; forwards, P. Rafferty and R. Russell, right wing; T. Dunn, centre; M. Eustace and R. Harkness (capt.), left wing. Linesman, J. W. Bryant. Referee, Mr W. Kempster.

NEWCASTLE UNITED v. DIPTON WANDERERS.

The above teams met at Dipton. The day being fine, and it being the first visit of one of the League teams to Dipton, was the means of bringing together a good company, about 800 spectators lining the ropes. The visitors brought their full League eleven, and winning the toss they decided to play towards the entrance goal, with a bright sun at their backs. Coghlan kicked off for Dipton, and some very even play followed, each goal being visited in turn, and neither side could claim any advantage until the game had been in progress 30 minutes, when Wallace put in a good shot, which Rowell headed out. Thompson received and landed the leather into the net, scoring the first goal for the visitors. From the centre kick, the United once more got into the Dipton quarters, and registered their second point. The Wanderers now made their way to the top end, Coghlan sending in a long shot which Lowery saved in good style. Almost immediately afterwards Hunter put in a screw shot which caused Lowery some trouble to negociate, he having to concede a corner, which came to nothing. Midfield play ensued, and the whistle sounded half-time with the score—

United ....Two goals
Dipton ....Nil

On resuming, play slackened considerably, and all interest in the match began to subside. The visitors were the first aggressors, forcing a corner, but it was of no use. The home team were now beginning to show signs of fatigue, and had it not been for the excellent play of the half-backs, the United would have undoubtedly piled on a big score; but as it was, they could not again beat Freek. Towards the finish the Wanderers showed something approaching their old form, and forced a couple of corners, but could not improve upon them, and when the whistle sounded for time Dipton retired defeated after a pleasant game by the following score—

United ....Two goals
Dipton ....Nil

The Wanderers were represented by the following team:—Goal, R. Freek; backs, J. Iley and T. Rowell (capt.); half-backs, F. Harle, E. Buck, and Robt. Coates; forwards, S. Gardiner and I. Gilliard, right wing; W. Coghlan, centre; J. Hunter and T. Walker, left wing. Linesman, T. Swinbank. United—Goal, Lowery; backs, H. Jeffrey and Rodgers; half-backs, Oreilly, Graham, and McKane; forwards, Quinn, Crate, Thompson, Wallace, and Lowe. Referee, Mr Hogarth, Burnopfield.

BISHOP AUCKLAND AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

WOLSINGHAM v. HUNWICK ROVERS.

Played at Wolsingham. The visitors started with the wind and sun in their favour, and as Wolsingham only shaped poorly at the commencement, they soon scored their first goal, an appeal for off-side being disallowed. The Rovers scored again from a scrimmage close to goal, and then the home team opened their account. Score at the interval—

Hunwick ....Two goals
Wolsingham ....One goal

On crossing over, the home team pressed, and gave the Rovers' back division any amount of work. The game became very fast, and Wolsingham added two more points to their total. Several capital runs were afterwards made on both sides, but nothing further resulted. Final score—

Wolsingham ....Three goals
Hunwick ....Two goals

ENGLISH AMATEUR CUP.

THIRD ROUND.

LEADGATE EXILES v. BERWICK RANGERS.

This game in the third round of the competition was played at Berwick. The ground was certainly not fit for a cup-tie, being one of the poorest that could possibly be selected for a game of such importance. The visitors lodged a protest against the ground before the commencement of the match. The Exiles won the toss, and elected to play down the hill, with the wind in their favour. The ball was soon in the home territory, and after a few exchanges was sent through one minute from the start. The home team made several attempts to get near O'Neil, but the wind assisted the Exiles in keeping their opponents at bay. The defence of the Rangers was excellent, and it was not until three minutes from the interval that a very clever piece of play on the part of Conroy enabled that player to shoot a splendid goal. Half-time found the score standing—

Exiles ....Two goals
Rangers ....Nil

In the second half, the Exiles' forwards put in some good work for the first ten minutes, but after this they were compelled to fall back on the defence. O'Neil, McGee, and Haggan baffled all attempts at scoring, and it was fully 25 minutes from the resumption before O'Neil was beaten from a scrimmage. The Rangers still kept up the pressure, but could not break down the Leadgate defence again. When time was called the Exiles had won a good game, with the score as under—

Exiles ....Two goals
Rangers ....One goal

The Exiles' team was as follows:—Goal, J. O'Neil; backs, J. Haggan and Wm. McGee; half-backs, B. Rogers, T. McGrachan, and Jas. Monaghan (capt.); forwards, Wm. McKie and Jas. McGee, right wing; J. Hill, centre; T. Conroy and H. Callaghan, left wing. Linesman, Thos. Kennedy. Referee, Mr A. Donaldson, Newcastle.

DURHAM SENIOR CUP.

FOURTH ROUND.

TOW LAW v. HOWDEN RANGERS.

These teams met at Tow Law in splendid weather, before a large attendance. The opening exchanges were much in favour of Howden, who played a very lively game, and were several times dangerous. The home team, however, defended finely, Thompson at back playing splendidly, whilst Allison saved neatly on two occasions. A centre from the right enabled the visitors to score first, but Tow Law quickly equalised. Connor scored again for Howden. Result at half-time—

Howden ....Two goals
Tow Law ....One goal

On resuming, the play was quiet until Hobson equalised, when the struggle commenced in earnest, Tow Law putting any amount of energy into their play. A grand shot from Potts gave the home team the lead, which was greeted with deafening cheers. Several exciting scrimmages took place in the visitors' goal, but nothing further resulted, a hard fought game resulting as under—

Tow Law ....Three goals
Howden ....Two goals

Tow Law team—Goal, J. H. Allison; backs, J. W. Temperley and W. Thompson; half-backs, T. Waites, W. Waites, and W. Simpson; forwards, J. Coulson, R. Wilson (capt.), T. Hobson, T. H. Potts, and J. McIntosh.

RUGBY.

Blackhill Rovers 2nd v Hamsteels 2nd.—Played at Hamsteels. The Rovers had all the best of the game, and won by three tries (nine points) to one try (three points.) Leybourne (2) and Hobday scored for the winners, while Dodds got over the line for the losers.

Blackhill Junior Rovers v Blackhill Park Juniors.—Played on the former's ground. Robinson kicked a penalty goal for the Rovers in the first half. Shortly after resuming, Bell ran in for the Juniors, but Wilkinson made a poor attempt to place a goal. Robinson again placed the home team ahead by kicking another penalty goal, and a pleasant game ended as under—

Rovers ....Two penalty goals (six points)
Juniors ....One try (three points)

BLACKHILL ROVERS v. GOSFORTH.

This important fixture had to be abandoned, owing to the severe frost, the Rovers again losing a home match.

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

[By "Off side."]

A DISAPPOINTMENT AT DIPTON.

There is no doubt that the Dipton Wanderers executive are a most enterprising and plucky lot. Should they by any means be left without a fixture, they may be depended upon to leave no stone unturned to provide some amusement for their numerous patrons. This was the case last week, and local footballers were surprised to learn that the Wanderers had arranged for the League team of Newcastle United to visit them. This was a large order with a vengance, more especially as the United were represented by their strongest available eleven. Under the circumstances, I was somewhat surprised at the moderate attendance, but doubtless this was owing to bitterly cold weather that prevailed, and which was certainly enough to freeze the marrow in one's bones.

—o—

Those who stayed away, however, did not miss much, as the game turned out to be one of the most stale, flat, and unprofitable encounters I ever recollect witnessing. Certainly it may be urged that the ground was not conducive to good football; but whatever the reason, the fact remains that nine-tenths of those present left the enclosure thoroughly disappointed. It was impossible to raise any enthusiasm over the match, which throughout partook largely of a holiday character. There seemed to be no earnestness about the efforts of the players, and the game was not to be compared to an Alliance fixture or a cup-tie, to say nothing of a struggle between two of our crack local clubs. I am sorry to have to write in this strain, for the Wanderers' committee undoubtedly intended to give local enthusiasts a treat, and no blame whatever attaches to them.

—o—

The feature of the game was the grand defence of the United. Lowrey was not much troubled, but he gave one the impression of being a really capable custodian. Jeffrey played magnificently, his clean and powerful kicking and resolute tackling being a treat, while he never made a mistake. Rodgers was an able colleague, and filled Millar's place in a manner which left little to be desired. All the halves were good, and I should not like to say which was the best. Graham perhaps played the most taking game, but he was very little in front of McKane and Oreilly. The forwards were only so-so, and the least said about their shooting the better. The left wing was much superior to the right—Wallace being about the pick of the quintette, while Crate was the worst. The most prominent man on the Dipton side was Harle, who worked like a nigger all through, and robbed the United front rank time after time. Buck and Coates also did useful work, while Walker and Gardiner were the best of the forwards.

—o—

THE STARS WIN COMFORTABLY.

Lintzford Reserve, although having the advantage of playing at home, proved no match for the clever White Stars of Medomsley, who ran through their opponents in hollow fashion. Had the senior eleven of the home club appeared instead of their reserve, a much more interesting game would have been witnessed by those present. The Stars, who were considerably lighter than their antagonists, displayed greatly superior form, their combination being distinctly creditable. Lintzford for the most part indulged in the "long kick and rush" business, but it seldom came off. The best part of the losing team were the backs, but the forwards only showed moderate form.

—o—

Coming to the winners, Makepeace in goal had little to do, but did that little well. Both backs played a sound game, Walton being rather more prominent than his partner. Wilson was in dashing form at centre half, but Pearson and Wheatley ran him very close. The forwards, ably led by their captain (W. Hunter), gave the home defence any amount of work, and played a beautiful game. Brown and Leathard passed and dribbled splendidly on the right, while Gillender and Robinson were not far short on the left. Hunter displayed capital form in the centre, feeding his wings well and passing most judiciously.

—o—

THE ALBIONS AGAIN VICTORIOUS.

Langley Park Albions travelled to Usworth on Saturday to play the return fixture with the Swifts of that place, and again came out right side up, with a majority of four goals to their credit. John Vickers (the Langley custodian) ably dealt with the few shots which troubled him, while J. Shorten played a champion game at back, and was the best man in that position on the field. Dodgson likewise showed up splendidly. Wardle was the pick of the halves, playing with great judgment. Eggleston did not play at all a bad game, while Walker displayed improved form, and fed his forwards much better than on the previous Saturday. F. Vickers stood out prominently on the attack, and is probably the best forward the Albions possess. T. Lamb is rapidly developing into a clever centre forward, and with a little more practice will be bad to stop.

—o—

WALDRIDGE BEATEN, BUT NOT DISGRACED.

After an absence of three weeks from the field, Waldridge White Stars appeared at the Felling on Saturday to oppose the strong Church Institute club of the latter place. Although the Stars played a capital game, they had to retire defeated by five goals to three. Hull played a grand game among the Waldridge forwards, while A. Scott, Selkirk, and Potts defended well. C. Scott in goal had a rather rough time of it. The forwards were the most conspicuous part of the home side, albeit the halves defended strongly, and the backs and goalkeeper shaped well.

—o—

OLD RIVALS AT TOW LAW.

There was a large gathering on the Tow Law ground on Saturday, when the home club met their old rivals, Howden Rangers, to decide which of them should go into the Durham Cup Competition proper. A special train ran from Howden, conveying a large number of supporters of the Rangers, and the partisans of each team were confident of success, with the result that a rattling game ensued. Plenty of good solid bumping was indulged in, but not many fouls took place, the players apparently being on better terms with one another. The Rangers had decidedly the best of matters in the opening half, and should have secured a substantial lead before half-time, but owing to the slippery frost-bound ground and the splendid defence set up, they were only a goal to the good at the interval.

—o—

It was not until twenty minutes of the second period had elapsed that Tow Law equalised, but afterwards they held the trump card, and ultimately were hailed winners by three goals to two. Thompson showed excellent form at back for Tow Law, while the halves were in grand trim. The forwards all deserve praise, especially Coulson, Potts, and McIntosh. For the losers, Laverick in goal did not play up to his usual form, the same remark applying to Jolly, Dunn, and Maddison. Norwood was a safe back, and found able coadjutors in the halves. Conner, Lumsden, and Bromley shone amongst the forwards.

—o—

WOLSINGHAM GAIN TWO POINTS.

Wolsingham entertained Hunwick Rovers on Saturday, the game being one under the auspices of the Bishop Auckland and District League. The ground was all against good play, and therefore the game was scarcely so interesting as it otherwise would have been. The home team just managed to pull through by three goals to two, which means the addition of another couple of points to their record. The defence on both sides was good. Waistell and Williams were very conspicuous for the winners, all of whom, however, played a hard and determined game. I understand that this is the first time Hunwick have been beaten in the League this season.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

	Plyd	Won	Lst	Drn	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Gateshead N.E.R.	8	5	2	1	22	17	11
Sunderland A.	7	5	2	0	20	12	10
Newcastle United A.	10	4	4	2	24	19	10
Shankhouse	7	3	1	3	20	8	9
Hebburn Argyle	5	4	1	0	11	4	8
Rendel	7	3	3	1	18	16	7
Dipton Wanderers	8	2	4	2	15	20	6
Willington Athletic	5	1	1	3	7	6	5
Blyth	7	2	5	0	12	17	4
Southwick	5	0	6	0	1	30	0

—o—

MEMS.

A correspondent writes to suggest that a league should be formed for the second-class clubs in this district who are members of the Durham Association. He thinks that this would have the effect of causing clubs to play their return fixtures, and also bring more clubs into the Association, which, he thinks, might provide a set of medals for the winners. He mentions as likely clubs for the proposed league:—Exiles' Reserve, Park Reserve, Dipton Reserve, Lintz Rovers, Oakey's Lilywhites, and Ouston.

Still another team gone to the wall. Tow Law Wanderers wish to cancel all fixtures, as they are unable to raise a team.

The chief feature of the game between Consett Town and Leadgate Park Reserve, last Saturday, seems to have been the unpleasant manner in which it was fought out.

Several accounts have reached me commenting on the foul tactics which prevailed; but under the circumstances I think it best to say nothing further about the match.

Is it true that another well-known Park man will shortly be seen sporting the Dipton Wanderers' colours?

I have it on good authority that such is the fact.

I am given to understand that the appointed referee in the Park and Exiles' match to-morrow (Mr J. T. Lowthian), has declined to officiate, on account of the small-pox at Leadgate.

J. Costello.—We have mislaid your communication of last week. Will you kindly write us again?

The Exiles brought off another splendid performance last Saturday, when they made the long journey to Berwick and knocked the Rangers out of the Amateur Cup.

The "greens" are having a wonderfully successful season—a result due in a great measure, in my opinion, to the fact that they turn out almost the same eleven every Saturday. This is one of the secrets of success in football.

I have received a long letter from Cornsay disputing some of the facts recorded in the article on "Football and small-pox," which appeared in our last issue.

A communication on the same subject—and practically covering the same ground—appears in our correspondence columns, so that it is unnecessary to publish the letter alluded to above. I may mention that I am not responsible for the article under the heading of "Football and small-pox."

Mr E. Saunders (hon. sec. High Row Sportsmen A.F.C.) writes an indignant letter respecting the conduct of South Moor Violets in not turning up at High Row last Saturday to play their fixture with the Sportsmen. Mr Saunders wants to know why the Violets did not go or else send him some word, and thinks their conduct disgraceful. His epistle concludes—"If Mr Middleton cannot give any excuse for his club not coming, perhaps he will, in the name of South Moor Violets, apologise."

—o—

MATCHES WANTED.

Consett Fell Rangers 2nd would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 11 to 14. Apply, W. E. Christer, 18, John Street, Consett.

Blackhill Rising Stars would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 12 to 14. Apply, A. Simpson, 32, Cort Street, Blackhill.

Allendale Rising Stars would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Apply, H. Longstaff, Cross Row, Allendale Cottages, Medomsley.

Leadgate Exiles would like to arrange a fixture with a local team for Christmas Day.

Cornsay Albions have still some vacant dates, and would like them filled up with junior teams. Ages, 16 to 18. Address: T. Robins, Union Square, Cornsay.

Quebec St. Michael's have several vacant dates, and would like them filled up at once. Ages, 14 to 16. Apply, J. McHatton, Marley's Houses, Quebec.

Marley Hill Temperance have several dates vacant, and would like them filled up with moderate second or good junior teams. Apply, John Patterson, No. 91, Marley Hill, Swalwell, R.S.O.

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

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

Drunkenness Cured.—A Wealthy American Lady whose only son for years was a slave to Intemperance, Nervous Depression and Exhausted Vitality, after seeking in vain for a cure, and trying all known remedies, at last found a simple means that cured and saved him from a drunkard's grave. Anyone suffering or desiring to help others in this worthy cause, by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mr James Holland, 25 Hart Street, High Holborn, London, will recieve all information, free of charge. Mention this paper.

Business Announcements.

ECONOMY! FRUGALITY!!
WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE! HALF PRICE
HOLBROOK & CO.'S

WHITE SEWING MACHINES.
Light Running, Speedy and Noiseless, Simple in Construction, and of Thorough Workmanship.
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For Family Use, Corset Making, Dressmaking, Mantle-making, &c. Hand Machines, convenient for carrying about, Prices from Fifty Shillings. Hand and Treadle Machines. Large Machines for Tailors and Manufacturers; in short, suitable Machines for all classes of work.

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Guaranteed for Five Years; no charge for repairs in that time, and despite the large numbers sold, the Company has never failed in a single instance to make good its guarantee.
Weekly or Monthly Payments, without Additional Cost.
Price Lists and Samples of Work by Post, Free.
Beautiful Samples always on View.
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Over 1,100 Agencies in Great Britain.
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J. & E. STELLING, 30, Roger Street, Blackhill.
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HEALTH STRENGTH
Dr LALOR'S PHOSPHODYNE
FOR THIRTY YEARS has maintained its world-wide reputation as the ONLY SAFE, RELIABLE AND PROMPT CURE for Brain Wreckage, Sleeplessness, Hideous Dreams, and all Functional and Diseased Conditions of the System caused by the Deficiency of the Vital Force.
Supplies the Blood with its Brain, Nerve, and Bone-forming element—Phosphorus, and by its tonic action on the Nervous System, stimulates Heart, Lungs, Liver, Kidneys and Stomach to the healthy performance of their several functions.
The effects of Dr Lalor's Phosphodyne in Nervous Debility and its Kindred Evils is immediate and permanent, all the Miserable Feelings and Distressing Symptoms disappearing with a rapidity that is really marvellous.
Is unsurpassed as a Tonic after Influenza and all Debilitating Diseases.
Thousands of unimpeachable Testimonials from all parts of the world, and from the Highest Medical Authorities.
Sold in Bottles, 4s. 6d. and 11s. each, by all Chemists.
Address—Dr. LALOR'S PHOSPHODYNE LABORATORY HAMPSTEAD, LONDON, N.W.

TO RESTORE THE FRESHNESS OF WORN CLOTHING.

Take, for instance, a shiny old coat, vest, or pair of trousers, of broadcloth, or diagonal. The scourer makes a strong, warm soap-suds, and plunges the garment into it, souses it up and down, rubs the dirty places, if necessary put it through the second suds, then rinses it through several waters, and hangs it to dry on the line. When nearly dry he takes it in, rolls it up for an hour or two, and then presses it. An old cotton cloth is laid on the outside of the coat, and the iron passed over that until the wrinkles are out; but the iron is removed before the steam ceases to rise from the goods, else they would be shiny. Wrinkles that are obstinate are removed by laying a wet cloth over them, and passing the iron over that. If any shiny places are seen, they are treated as the wrinkles are; the iron is lifted, while the full cloud of steam rises, and brings the nap up with it. Cloth should always have a suds made especially for it, since in that which has been used for white cotton or woollen clothes lint will be left and cling to the cloth.

NICE DISHES.

Buttered Lobster.—Pick the meat from a medium-sized lobster, cut it into dice, and throw into a gill of good gravy; season with a dash of nutmeg, salt, and pepper; thicken with a lump of butter rolled in flour. Place the white parts of the leaves of a French class lettuce round a china dish. Pour the buttered lobster in the centre. Serve with half lemons.—*Truth.*

Eggs and Tomatoes.—Boil some ripe tomatoes and pass them through a coarse sieve, stir in three eggs, pepper and salt to taste, and a little fresh butter. Fry all together lightly. A little finely-chopped onion is a very great improvement if liked.—"Tasty Tit-Bits and Dishes Dainty."

Kedgeree.—Boil a cupful of rice 20 minutes, and four eggs till they are quite hard, then take any kind of cooked white fish and pull it in pieces, taking care that there are no bones left. Chop the eggs very fine, add three or four ounces of fresh butter, season with salt and cayenne pepper, beat the whole together and serve as hot as possible.

Boned Leg of Mutton, Stuffed.—A small leg of mutton, forcemeat. Make a good forcemeat, bone the leg of mutton without spoiling the skin, and cut off some of the fat. Fill up the hole with forcemeat, and sew it up underneath to prevent its falling out. Bind and tie it up compactly and roast it before a nice clear fire for two-and-a-half hours. Remove the tape, and send to table with good gravy.

Beef Steak.—Take a nice steak from the rump or sirloin. Pour over it two large spoonfuls of salad oil, and let it stand all night. Place the salad oil in a frying-pan with some finely-chopped parsley and a very little onion minced finely. Turn the steak by slipping a knife under it, and fry till the gravy dries up, and the steak looks a nice brown. Place on a very hot dish and pour the sauce over it, add pepper and salt. Serve with sauté potatoes.

Boiled Ham.—Soak the ham some hours before it is to be cooked. Twelve hours' soaking is enough for a large and seven for a small one. Put it in warm water, not boiling, and let it simmer slowly, giving about 23 minutes to each pound. Allow the ham to nearly cool in the water in which it is boiled. Skin it, and cover it with a good glaze—that is, a rich gravy made clear with white of egg thickened with gelatine. Melt the glaze and brush it over the ham. It will take three coats or brushings to make it look clear.

Pea Soup.—Very good soup can be made of the liquor in which any piece of meat has been boiled. If too salt, add more water, some brown sugar, and plenty of turnips and carrots. Whatever be the foundation of the soup, the peas should be added to the liquor when it is actually boiling, and they should be kept boiling till thoroughly cooked. A quart of split peas, nicely washed and soaked, will thicken a gallon of soup. The more vegetables that are added the better, and when tender all should be passed through a sieve. Return the soup again to the pan, stir whilst it boils five minutes, add parsley and mint, and serve. The water that rice or artichokes have been boiled in is a great improvement to pea soup.

UNION LINE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD FIELDS. [illegible]
WILLIAM ELLIOTT, 5, Mount Pleasant, Consett.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."
CLARKE'S WORLD FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER AND RESTORER
For Cleansing and Clearing the Blood from all Impurities it cannot be too highly recommended.
For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds, it is a never-failing and permanent cure.
Cures Old Sores.
Cures Sores on the Neck.
Cures Sore Legs.
Cures Blackheads or Pimples on the Face.
Cures Scurvy.
Cures Eczema.
Cures Ulcers.
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases.
Cures Glandular Swellings.
Clears the Blood from all impure matter.
From whatever cause arising.
It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains. It removes the cause from the blood and bones.
As this mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, from infancy to old age, the Proprietors solicit sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.
THOUSANDS OF TESTIMONIALS.
"CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE is entirely free from any poison or metallic impregnation, does not contain any injurious ingredient, and is a good, safe, and useful medicine."—Alfred Swan Taylor, M.D., F.R.S., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology.
"257, St. George's-road, Hull, Jan. 12, 1892.
"I thought it was my duty to let you know what Clarke's Blood Mixture has done for me. After suffering for three years with abscesses on my arm and leg, and the doctors not being able to do me any good I am thankful to say, after taking a few bottles of your Clarke's Blood Mixture I am restored to perfect health again, and would have the whole world know of your wonderful medicine.—Yours truly,
"Miss Robinson."
"7, Canonbury-park North, London, N., Jan. 12, 1892.
"I had a very bad arm for eight or nine months, and had medical advice, which did not benefit me much. I met a gentleman at the Crystal Palace, and he told me a friend of his had a carbuncle on his leg, and that your Blood Mixture cured him right out. He advised me to try it, which I did, and after taking four 2s 9d bottles, I am glad to tell you the place healed quite up, and I have not felt anything of it since.
"I have no objection to you publishing this cure.
"Yours faithfully,
"A. Bonner."
IMPORTANT ADVICE TO ALL.—Cleanse the vitiated blood whenever you find its impurities bursting through the skin in pimples, eruptions, and sores; cleanse it when you find it obstructed and sluggish in the veins; cleanse it when it is foul—your feelings will tell you when. Keep your blood pure, and the health of the system will follow.
Sold in Bottles 2s 9d, and 11s each, and in cases containing six times the quantity, 11s—sufficient to effect a permanent cure in the great majority of long-standing cases. By all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the world, or sent to any address on receipt of 33 or 132 Stamps by the proprietors, THE LINCOLN & MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, LINCOLN.
Write for the New Pamphlet on Skin and Blood Diseases with full directions for diet, &c., to Secretary, Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln. Sent post free.
TRADE MARK, "BLOOD MIXTURE."
ASK FOR CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE, and not be persuaded to take an imitation

GALVANIZED CORRUGATED IRON
ROOFING SHEETS,
Large quantity of Slightly Defective Sheets:—
5ft. long by 2ft. wide .... 1s 3d each.
6 ,, ,, ... 1s 6d ,,
7 ,, ,, ... 1s 10d ,,
8 ,, ,, ... 2s 1d ,,
9 ,, ,, ... 2s 6d ,,
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For all practical purposes the above are as good as perfect sheets, being water-tight, fire-proof, &c.
If painted with red Oxide 2d to 6d per sheet extra.
Red Oxide Paint specially prepared for iron work and ready for use. Price on application
Galvanized Ridging, Gutters, and Down Spouting Nails, Screws, Washers, &c., and all Materials for fixing.
BRUCE AND STILL,
CONTRACTORS FOR
IRON ROOFS AND BUILDINGS
DESIGNS AND ESTIMATES FREE.
75, NORFOLK STREET, LIVERPOOL.

THE ORIGIN OF CRICKET.

A painstaking writer in "Baily's Magazine" traces back the history of cricket with the hope of finding out when the game was first known. He gets as far back as the middle of the thirteenth century, on the evidence of a grotesque diagram of two male figures; but it seems very doubtful whether the game they are playing bears any real resemblance to cricket. The mention of "creag," referred to in the year 1,300, has been accepted as a reference to the national game of England; but here again the evidence is far from convincing, though it certainly does appear that one obtains a glimpse of the real thing in a drawing of 1344, which is described as representing "a figure, a female in the act of bowling a ball (of the size of a modern cricket ball) to a man, who elevates a straight bat to strike it; behind the bowler are several figures, male and female, waiting to stop or catch the ball, their attitudes grotesquely eager for a chance. The game is called club-ball, but the score is made by hitting and running, as in cricket." It has been thought or guessed that the alleged females are in reality monks, whose gowns must have been sadly inconvenient to play in, however. A hundred years later, in 1477, for playing "handyn and handoute"—declared to have been cricket—it was decreed that men should be "fined £10 or to be in gaol for two years"; and for permitting these and other similar games to be played in his yard a man was liable to three years' imprisonment. The object of this is certainly hard to understand, though, apparently, the idea is that these sports led to "the vice of gaming." The first mention of the word cricket in the English language is said to occur in 1593, and to refer to the pastime half a century earlier. In the "Constitution Book of Guildford," a manuscript collection of records, which were once the property of that town, occurs the following:—"In the thirty-fifth year of Elizabeth, one John Derrick, gent., aged 59, gave evidence that when he was a boy of nine, and a scholler in the free scholler of Guildford, he and several of his fellowes, did run and play there at Crickett and other plaies." Cricket, therefore, was known under its present name as far back as 1543 A.D., and this is the first mention, so far as the student has been able to ascertain for certain.—"Evening Standard."

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD

The ordinary meeting of this body was held on Wednesday evening, in the Public Building, Parliament Street, Consett, Mr G. Ainsworth presiding. The other members present were: Messrs J. W. Davison, Jas. Oliver, G. T. Hyden, N. Elsdon, G. D. Powell, J. Daly, the Clerk (Mr T. W. Welford), the Surveyor (Mr W. Rippon), and the Treasurer (Mr T. L. Gledstone).

A VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.

Prior to the commencement of the business, the CHAIRMAN asked the members of the Board to join with him in an expression of their great regret at the severe loss sustained by their esteemed colleague Mr Aynsley, through the death of his wife, and proposed that the Clerk be requested to convey to him the sincere condolence and sympathy of the members of the Board with him in the very great trial through which he was passing.

This was seconded by Mr DAVISON.

Carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

A letter, dated the 2nd Dec., 1893, from Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Company, was read, relative to the removal of 19 ordinary lamps and erection of seven Bray's lamps and five new ordinary lamps.

The Committee recommended that the Gas Company be written to, and informed that the Board will bear the cost of removal and re-erection as heretofore.

The following accounts were recommended for payment:—

	£	s	d	£	s	d
W. Rippon: Wages...	71	13	6			
W. Rippon: Bills...	10	19	0			
				82	12	6
Walker and Robson				50	0	0
F. and G. J. Christopher				89	18	2
T. C. Rawes and Co.				2	14	0
B. and D. Whitfield				32	18	5
" "				20	0	0
Ord and Maddison				41	1	7
Hy. Morgan				4	7	1
Consett Iron Company				2	10	0
Wm. Suddes				2	14	0
M. J. Elliott				1	2	6
J. Whitehead				4	4	0
J. Hall				2	0	11
D. Ormerod				0	8	0
J. D. Brown				18	16	5

On the motion of Mr OLIVER, seconded by Mr HYDEN, the report was approved of, and the necessary cheques were signed.

THE FARM COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Was read, which included the following from the manager:—

GENTLEMEN,—The oats were thrashed on the 3rd ult., and there are a few tons of oat straw I recommend you to sell. The farm road has been mended, and ashes laid on as directed by you. The farm building has been repaired—more light let into the stable and byre.

We are now irrigating Consett Park Field. Six loads of cabbages have been sold during the month for £5 12s 9d.

I recommend you to purchase a chilled plough.

J. D. BROWN.

The Committee recommended that three tons of straw be sold.

On the proposition of Mr HYDEN, seconded by Mr DALY, the report was confirmed.

CONTRACT.

The seal of the Board was affixed to the contract of Messrs B. and J. Whitfield for the making of Barr House Avenue.

PLANS.

The Building Committee recommended that the plans for the Consett Iron Company for two houses, ten-stalled stable, &c., be passed and sealed.

On the motion of Mr POWELL, seconded by Mr DALY, this was agreed to, and the plans were stamped and signed.

POSTAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE TOWN.

The Clerk informed the members that he had had an interview with Mr Smith anent the postal accommodation for the town; he informed him that the town was provided with such accommodation, in accordance with the amount of business that was transacted; also, that such accommodation had to be provided by the postmaster himself. He also read the following letter from Mr Atherley-Jones, M.P. for North-West Durham:—

House of Commons,
November 30th, 1893.

DEAR MR WELFORD,—I duly received your letter of the 29th inst. I have by no means lost sight of the question of post office accommodation at Consett. I have had several interviews with the Postmaster-General, and as the result thereof I would suggest that you should prepare a short but explicit statement of your case. That I will submit to Mr Morley, and he has intimated to me that he will be happy to confer with any gentleman whom you may elect for that purpose. Perhaps you will let me receive the statement at an early date.—Believe me, faithfully yours,

L. A. ATHERLEY-JONES.

Thos. W. Welford, Esq.

The Clerk said he replied as follows:—

Post Office,
Dec. 1st, 1893.

DEAR SIR,—I am obliged for yours of yesterday hereon.

Before sending you a statement (which I will do at the earliest opportunity), I should like to have—and it is I think a most important point—particulars of the amount of the amount of business done at Consett Post Office for insertion in it. I am unable to obtain these from the authorities here or at Durham, and I rather understood that you would do what you could to obtain information for me on this and any other points which you might think serviceable.

I have also been unsuccessful in obtaining particulars of the procedure adopted in the case of Sunderland.

Mr Bowey, the Town Clerk, having informed me that nothing had been done in the matter by his corporation, and that the improvements were entirely one to the Post Office authorities themselves.

L. A. ATHERLEY-JONES, Esq.

The Clerk said in answer to his letter he received the following:—

DEAR MR WELFORD,—I think if you will omit the question of amount of business done at Consett Office, I will get Mr Morley to enquire into it for me, and that will serve the purpose.

As soon as I get the other facts from you, I will submit them to Mr Morley, and you shall further hear from me.—Believe me, faithfully yours.

L. A. ATHERLEY-JONES.

The letters were referred to the Postal Committee for consideration, with instructions to forward the necessary information required.

Several of the members came to the conclusion that the postal accommodation provided for the town was insufficient.

THE QUESTION OF BACK STREETS.

A letter was read from Mr J. Crawford to the effect that he understood that the Board intended making a Back Street adjoining his land above William Street, twenty feet wide. As this was only a back street, he protested against it being made any more than 18 feet wide. Further, as there was no building on his side of the street, he asked that the making of the same should be postponed.

Another letter was read from Mr Crawford pointing out the great inconvenience that had been caused to him through the Board having made Bake-house Yard. At one time his coach-house, slaughter-house, and stable, were easily accessible from the yard, which was flagged and paved right up to the doors. Carts could easily be taken in and out, but now the street had been lowered about nine inches, and it was impossible to get a cart in or out without great danger of breaking the springs.

Mr HYDEN said the condition of the street was just as Mr Crawford had described it.

The two letters were referred to the Roads Committee.

ANOTHER COMPLAINT.

A letter was read from Messrs Taylor and Co., stating that they had a letter from Mr Lawrence Clark, saying he received notice from the Local Board last August with reference to the removal of the railings for the purpose of making Matthew Street. They were informed that the Inspector authorised the contractor to take down the railings.

The Clerk said he replied to the effect that the Board decided to have Matthew Street, made and for this purpose served proper notice under the Public Health Act on the property owners to make the street.

The work was done by the property owners themselves, and not under contract. The temporary railings had to be removed for the purpose of allowing the street to be made.

The members considered the Clerk's reply quite sufficient in answer to the letter.

It was decided that notices should be posted, notifying that the street would be taken over by the Board.

THE NEW RAILWAY TO ANNFIELD PLAIN.

A letter was read from the North-Eastern Railway Company acknowledging the receipt of the letter from the Board pointing out to the Company that it was most opportune time for them to make a commencement with the Consett portion of the Annfield Plain Railway when so many men were out of work.

THE WASTE QUARRIES.

A communication was received from the Board of Agriculture pointing out that they had no jurisdiction of the waste quarries, and therefore declined to advise in the matter.

Mr ELSDON: The playground question is quashed.

Mr POWELL: The quarries belong to some one.

The CHAIRMAN: That is for you to find out. (Laughter.)

Mr POWELL: I am doing so.

The matter dropped.

ALLEGED NUISANCE.

Mr Wm. Harrison, manager for Messrs Salter and Salter, Middle Street, Consett, wrote calling the Board's attention to Mr Ed. Lockey's butcher's midden, situate behind Middle Street, and complained that the offal from his slaughter-house was allowed to stand from four to six weeks. The stench from the same was past bearing when it was emptied.

The Surveyor said he took the Government Inspector (Mr Wilson), when he was in the district, to look at this place, and there was no nuisance existing. The offal was removed most regularly, and he had no cause to complain.

The letter was accordingly referred to the Surveyor, so as to inspect the place again.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following report was read:—

Office, Parliament Street

On Monday, the 20th November, 1893, Dr H. McLean Wilson attended at the Board-room to hold a preliminary enquiry under an order of the Local Board to inspect the Consett Local Board District in connection with a general cholera survey.

As he had previously intimated that he should be glad to see any members of the Board who might be interested in the proceedings, and notice having been sent to the members to this effect, Messrs Davison, Cellinson, and Oliver attended.

Dr McLean Wilson enquired into several particulars relating to the Board, and stated that he would make such representations to the Local Government Board as seemed necessary, and they would then send down instructions to the Local Board, and the Clerk would be asked to call a special meeting.

He afterwards inspected the district of the Consett Local Board in company with the Surveyor and Inspector, and also the Fever Hospital; and on Tuesday, the 21st Nov., 1893, inspected the Sewerage Farm, attended by Messrs Elsdon and Oliver and the Clerk.

THOMAS WM. WELFORD.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Wm. Rippon) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the past month the maintenance of your highways has been carefully attended to, and portions of your roads have been covered with broken limestone.

The steam-roller commenced on Thursday, and is rolling the stones in as fast as the weather will permit, about 750 tons having been laid on the roads, and I should like you to determine how long the roller shall remain in your district.

Messrs Whitfield have finished their contract in Bakehouse Yard, and I have apportioned the cost, as instructed; and the same contractors are proceeding with their contract in Barr House Avenue in a satisfactory manner.

I have closely inspected your district, and found the ashpits and privies as a whole to be fairly well looked after. On November 28th I was accompanied by Dr H. McLean Wilson, one of the Local Government Board Inspectors, who made a careful inspection of your district, and I expect he will report thereon.

Gas burnt during the month—189 hours.

The following amounts have been paid in to your treasurer:—

	£	s	d
General district rate	92	10	4
Penalties	0	7	6
R. Murray—private street improvements	8	14	6
Consett Co operative Society—street improvements	57	18	3
Private street improvements—			
W. Raw	19	4	7
Wm. Curry	10	9	11
N. Elsdon	53	7	2
I. Christopher	14	7	7
Chas. Routledge	10	0	0
Market tolls	1	16	0

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WM. RIPPON.

The report was adopted, and the Surveyor instructed to hire the steam-roller for three weeks.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

The Local Government Board approved of the appointment of Mr Wm. Rippon as Inspector of Nuisances, &c.

NEW LAMPS.

The CHAIRMAN said the Board should erect a lamp opposite the Post Office.

Mr HYDEN said there were other streets that required attention in the shape of lighting.

The whole question was referred to the Gas Committee.

This was all the business.

ELECTION OF ASSISTANT-OVERSEER AT ESH.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, a poll was conducted in the school-room, under the supervision of the Vicar (Rev F. White), for the purpose of electing an assistant-over to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr Smith. There was a good deal of excitement, and the result was declared as follows:—

Miss A. Smith, Esh	381
Mr Wiggen, Langley Park	245
Mr Rutter, Esh	236
Mr Wright, Esh Winning	54
Mr Towns, Cornsay Colliery	36
Mr Minto, Esh Winning	3
Mr Foster, Witton Gilbert	2
Mr Renwicks, Esh Winning	1

The salary is £60 a year, including all emoluments. Miss Smith, who is a sister of the late assistant-overseer, was declared to be duly elected. The four last-named gentlemen withdrew from the contest.

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 favoured 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 with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets by grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Limited, Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Cocoaine or Nib Extract Tea-like 486m

THE FATAL CAGE ACCIDENT AT BURNHOPE COLLIERY.

A CORRODED WIRE ROPE.

INQUEST AND VERDICT.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr John Graham, coroner, resumed the enquiry at the Colliery Inn, Burnhope, on the bodies of the four men—George Holt (60), Aaron Laycock (41), John Hall (31), and George Shaw (28), shifters—who met with their deaths in the Fell Pit of the Burnhope Colliery, near Lanchester, on Thursday night, 23rd Nov. Mr Thomas Bell, of Durham, Chief Government Inspector of Mines, and Mr W. Walker, assistant inspector were present. Mr Cooper (Messrs Phillipson, Cooper, and Goodger, solicitors, Newcastle) represented Ald. Utrick A. Ritson, J.P., the owner of the colliery; Mr Matthew Urwin, engineer for the Harton Coal Company; Messrs J. Wilson, M.P., and J. Johnson, representing the Durham Miners' Association; Mr W. H. Lambton, on behalf of the Durham County Enginemen's Association; Mr Lancelot Trotter, for the Durham Colliery Mechanics' Association, and Mr Ernest Forster, for the Cokemen's Association. Mr Hedley, solicitor, Sunderland, appeared for Mr Webster, the manufacturer of the rope.

The Coroner read over the evidence of John Scott, which was heard at the opening inquest. He resided at 4, Burnhope Cottages, and was employed as "waiter-on" at the bank of the Fell Shaft. On this particular night, several relays of men went down the shaft in perfect safety. The eighth cage that descended contained the four deceased men, and they departed from bank about 9·20. He saw them get into the cage on the east side of the shaft. There was not a tub in the cage, and the men placed themselves two on each side, sitting on their "hunkers." When he got the "rap" from the bottom of the shaft, he set the cage in motion. Laycock and Hall were destined for the Hutton Seam, a distance of 45 fathoms, whilst the other two men were proceeding to the Busty Seam, a further distance of 46 fathoms—the total depth being 91 fathoms. The men rode against an empty cage, on the west side, which was coming up from the Busty Seam. The cage had not descended the shaft more than 20ft. when he noticed the far-side rope drawing up the empty cage shake terribly. Before he could go across to the other side to look down the shaft to see what was wrong, he saw the broken rope end of the east cage come up and fly over the pulleys.

Wm. Soulsby, Church Row, Burnhope, employed as "on-setter," descended the Fell Shaft with the first cage, along with three shifters. They went down the west side of the shaft, straight for the Busty Seam, where he remained in charge of the "rapper." Twenty-eight men descended the shaft safely before the accident took place. About 9·20, witness gave the "rap" from the Busty Seam to bank for the cage on the west side to ascend, the east cage being at bank. He saw the west cage away, and it had not gone more than 15 fathoms before he heard a rumbling noise in the shaft. He ran away from the rapper, because he was in danger through some timber falling. Presently some broken timber rushed down the shaft, known as the "buntings and skids." As soon as he could he seized the rapper and pulled the same three times, to signal "hold." He saw by the light of his lamp a body of a man, whom he identified at Holt, lying dead, with his head in the cage-hole, on the scaffold, with his feet to the north side of the shaft. Hall was lying crossways over the body of Holt. Laycock was in the cage-hole, on the west side. Shaw was hanging in the shaft, on the east side, the deceased's clothing or legs having caught the point-end of the "skid," about 12ft. from the bottom of the shaft. Hall, Laycock, and Shaw were also dead. In a cabin near the bottom of the shaft the shifters were waiting for the master-shifter, for orders prior to proceeding to their work. Witness shouted to these men, and assistance was speedily procured. They removed the bodies, and brought them along the waggon-way to the Annie Pit Shaft—a distance of a quarter-of-a-mile—and the unfortunate men were conveyed to bank.

Scott, interrogated by Mr Bell, said there was "kepps" on both sides of the shaft. The cage was not set on the "kepps" at all that night, but stood an inch therefrom. The "kepps" were actually put in each time the cage came to bank ready for use, therefore there was no necessity for a bend up to lift the cage off the "kepps."

By Mr Wilson: He had worked off and on the heap for about three years, but not regularly as "waiter on." New ropes were put on by the shaftmen and blacksmiths. He had no means of knowing when a new rope was put on.

By the Coroner: It was the general practice to have the cage standing about an inch from the "kepps."

John Walton, brakesman at the Fell Pit engine, and lived at the Wood Rows, Burnhope, said he was at work when this accident happened. He discovered that something was wrong about 9 20. He found a shock on the drum on the east side rope. Witness then stopped his engine, and heard a rumbling noise in the shaft. He called out to the "waiter-on" (Scott), who informed him that the rope had broke. After attending to the engine, witness went outside and found the east rope lying on the flat sheets. He directed Scott to turn the water off the hydraulic, and to seek Mr Gibson, engineer. The banksmen, and sometimes witness, oiled the east and west ropes, once a month, with some special oil. It had been oiled three weeks prior to the accident. Before the disaster happened he did not observe anything at all amiss with the rope. The foreman blacksmith (Patterson) was the person who examined the ropes.

By Mr Wilson: According to rule, witness must see the ropes on the drum; but he could not examine them at both sides. At the time the cage was at bank, the portion of the rope that broke would be on the drum.

Cross-examined by Mr Lambton: He had been brakesman at Burnhope Colliery 24 years; but he did not consider it to be his duty to examine the ropes and report upon their condition; nor had it ever been put to him that it was part of his duty.

By Mr Cooper: He was acquainted with special rule No. 69, and he had observed it.

By Mr Wilson: He had never seen any fault with the ropes, and therefore had not reported anything wrong.

In reply to Mr Bell: The oil was put on the rope with a brush. The time for examining the ropes was generally about three o'clock p.m. He had never seen any broken wires in the rope. The drum on the west side had made four revolutions—about 12 fathoms—before the shock came, and the engine was stopped. Patterson usually felt the rope the full length with his hand. There was no slackness of steam or "jerking" that night. The boiler pressure was 23, but the engine was only one half that. There had never been any accident to this rope previously, nor had it ever had a "fast-hold." There had never been anything fallen down the shaft to damage it in any way.

Robert Patterson, of Pavillion Terrace, Burnhope, foreman smith, said he also acted as foreman engine driver for 12 years. He observed special rules, 65 and 66, his duty being to examine ropes, chains, &c., and repair the same.

Mr Wilson pointed out that witness's duty was confined to an examination of the ropes and chain of the "crab," which was quite different to the ropes of pit.

The Coroner said Mr Wilson was perfectly right. He read rule No 64, and witness acknowledged that this more accurately applied to his duties.

Witness (proceeding) stated that he examined the shaft ropes daily. He inspected both ropes of the Fell pit at 3 15 on the 23rd Nov. He stood against a rail at the top of the shaft, and let the rope slide through his hand, and looked at it the same time. He did not observe any signs of any broken wires or any other defect or reason to suspect anything wrong. He made his report, and the book was put in showing that the rope was all right.

By Mr Wilson: He had received stabs in the hands with broken wires, and he had entered the same in his book. One such case was reported on July 31st, 1889, at the Annie pit. It was not possible for a rope to be stranded to run through his hands unless it was broken in the interior part. Even if oil and dirt covered the rope, still he did not think it was possible for a broken wire on the outside of the rope to slide through his hands without detection. This particular rope was put in on 2nd Nov., 1889, quite new. The rope had never been changed end for end, but was re-socketed on two occasions, the last time being the 22nd May, 1893. Three to four feet was cut off each time to keep the engineman to his mark, and not because there was anything wrong. On June 8th the west rope of the same pit was re-socketed. The wires were just as good as when new, and all turned back without breaking. It had stretched six feet or more since it was put on. For the last twelve months the shaft had only been used for drawing men, but before that coals were drawn up the shaft to fire the engine.

By Mr Bell: The rope was scarcely worn at all. He did not think the water falling down the shaft had affected the rope.

James Gibson, engineer at the colliery, spoke to examining the ropes occasionally. When a new rope was wanted, he sent a requisition to the firm's office at Newcastle on the 8th January, 1888. The rope was kept in the store-room until put on. He ordered a 113 fathom 3 inch Plough steel wire rope, to be guaranteed as Smith's highest quality, for mining purposes, for Fell winding engine. The rope was supplied in accordance with the requisition. He had since examined the damaged rope and found no signs of broken wire except at the part severed by the accident. The rope did not appear to be scarcely worn at all except the outside wire. Witness had had two pieces of the rope, 18 feet from the break, and one cut off the drum end also 20 feet further up the rope, besides a second piece of rope which had not come off the drum, also 20 feet. Both pieces were taken to the River Wear Commissioners test, at South Docks, Sunderland, and tested in witness's presence. The second or new piece broke at 36 tons; whilst the other portion of rope nearest the break stood the test of 10 ton 10 cwt, and snapped at 11 tons. Witness had cut 20 feet of the corresponding portion of the west side, when one outside strand broke at a pressure of 30 tons.

Mr Bell said the ropes were different makes.

Further examined, witness remarked that internally where the rope had broken the strands were corroded, which could not have been seen before the accident by an external examination, however minute. He had cut other parts of the rope, and found that the internal strands of the piece they had had at the test was corroded at both ends. The west rope was only corroded very slightly internally. The previous ropes had been used over five and six years. The rope which broke was "Laing's patent compound rope." The other rope on the opposite side was Laing's patent "lay" but was not a compound one. It was not a wet shaft. He had no means of accounting for this iron corrosion. Witness examined the shaft after the accident, but up to the point where the cage left the guides about 41 fathoms down he found nothing to account for the occurrence. At 45 fathoms he first saw that both "skids and buntings" and hydraulic pipes had been knocked out. That state of affairs occurred till he found the cage, which had canted up, fixed in the shaft at a depth of 55 fathoms. These unfortunate men must have been thrown out of the cage at that point. Witness had examined the rope to ascertain where it broke, and found it 75 feet from the socket, and which would place it eight feet upon the drum when the cage was standing at bank; the circumference of the drum being 18ft 10. The previous ropes were taken off because broken wires were found, and they showed signs of wear. These ropes were used for lighter work on the surface such as haulage, &c. The rope that broke was got from a person who had the reputation of being a good maker.

By Mr Wilson: The rope had never been tested since it came to the colliery. They were not allowed to test the rope 75 feet above the cage till after the inquest. The water, of course, must fall on both ropes alike; any bad water dropping on the rope would cause it to corrode.

Mr Lambton asked witness if he could suggest why the rope had broken at a weight of less than two tons?

Witness replied that he could not suggest anything, except corrosion or hardness of the wire, which must have been the worst where the rope was severed.

Mr Lambton: Is it not possible the cage has "hanked" a little bit in the shaft, and then dropped?

Witness: It might be possible, but there is nothing to show that such is the case.

By Mr Hedley: The piece of rope nearest the break was tested five cwt. at a time, so that the rope would be expanded or contracted 28 times before it really broke. The other part of the rope was not at all corroded. They had no reason to doubt that the rope was precisely what they required. The distance from the socket to where the rope touched the drum was 67 feet, and from the centre of drum to outside of engine house was ten feet. The cage was set at rest about 10 feet down. He did not suggest any corrosion in the rope when delivered from the makers. He did not think the part of the rope which proved defective had been exposed to the wind and wet. He examined other pieces of the rope, and the corrosion gradually became less.

By Mr Bell: He could not say if the rope had been well tarred or greased, it would prevent water penetrating the centre of the wires. The wire ends of the broken parts were hardened and corroded, and could be readily bent up and broken. The first timber was knocked out just below the Hutton Seam.

Re-examined: This special oil was supplied by a Manchester firm, and was free from acid.

John Thomas Forster, certificated manager of the colliery, produced the counterfoil order submitted to the maker, the rope having to be guaranteed.

The Coroner explained that there was an absence of any guarantee; but

Mr Cooper, however, held that the words, "Smith's highest quality Plough's steel wire rope" was a sufficient warranty.

Mr Forster (proceeding) said the rope was used for winding men and boys up and down the shaft, and would be in use intermittently for 4½ hours out of every 24 hours. The cage weighed 10 cwt., chains 1 cwt., four men about 6 cwt., making a total of 17 cwt. When drawing coals, the weight was 21½ cwt. The rope had not half much strain put upon it during the length of time it had been in use. The price paid for the rope was 63s per cwt., its total cost being £29 1s, and weight 9 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lbs.

By Mr Wilson: The rope was intended to carry 30 tons. He thought the examination as described by Patterson could not be improved upon, and was sufficient to comply with the rules. He did not think if catches had been in the cage, so as to click hold of the guides, they would have saved these poor fellow's lives. He had heard, however, of men's lives having been saved by these "catches." The engine was a Jack engine, but did not jerk at all.

By Mr Hedley: He did not think there was anythink wrong with the rope when supplied to them. The break, in his opinion, had occurred from corrosion. The wires of the fractured part were rusted and decayed. They would not have borne the strain had the wires been in that condition when the rope was being made. He thought the rope having been made of so many small wires would have a tendency to cause them to be sooner eaten away by corrosion.

By Mr Bell: The corrosion would, he thought, make the wire brittle; 5,496 tons of coal had been drawn from that pit over the past four years.

Portions of the rope, cut off near the breakage, and the drum end were now scrutinised by the Coroner and jury.

Mr Matthew Urwin, South Shields, chief engineer for the Harton Coal Company, said Smith's highest quality Plough wire rope was considered to be very good. He had examined the rope, but discovered no indications of the breaking of the rope externally, except where it had come in two. There were no signs of corrosion externally. There was not much appearance of wear. If witness had examined the rope before the accident, there was nothing externally to raise any suspicion in his mind. The rope had not been excessively used since first put up, nor had it been in operation too long considering the light work the rope was doing. He had tried the same firm's ropes in his pits, which were deeper than Burnhope Colliery, and had satisfactory results therefrom.

By Mr Wilson: The pits at Boldon and Harton drew coal as well as men. The fact of the rope hanging so long would not have any effect upon its endurance, if properly looked after. Water might have a deteriorating effect upon the rope.

Mr Blackett, manager for the Charlon Coal Company, Limited, testified from the outside appearance no one could tell that the rope was in a dangerous state. He considered it an extraordinary thing that with two ropes running side by side, one should be corroded so much, and the other should hardly show signs of corrosion at all.

Mr Bell: But the ropes are of different makes, you know.

Witness: Yes; but both of them Lang's "lay." Having described the difference in the make of the two ropes, witness thought that if water once got into a rope it would not matter whether the rope was standing in the shaft or moving. Instantly the effect of the water would likely be the same.

Witness was cross-questioned by Mr Wilson as to the mode of examining the rope, and could not suggest any better plan than that in vogue at Burnhope Colliery.

This was all the evidence; and the Coroner, in summing up, said he would not attempt to minimise the importance of the matter in the slightest degree. Having regard to the fact that four men had lost their lives, and that not only at that colliery, but at nearly every colliery in the county of Durham similar ropes were in use, it was of the utmost importance that some method should be devised with a view to preventing the recurrence of such accidents in the future. They had heard from competent authorities that the mode of examining the ropes was the best that could be adopted. Yet the results showed defects in the rope. He would like to see some scheme arranged for detecting faults in the interior of the ropes. They might take it for granted that once water got inside the rope it commenced to corrode. They knew that some 70 feet of the rope was more or less corroded, therefore the process must have been going on some time. There was also the question raised whether the ropes should be made of the smaller wires or the thicker wires, but that was a point which did not enter into the question before them.

After an investigation lasting about six hours the jury retired to consider their decision. After a quarter-of-an-hour's absence the foreman (Mr Wm. Gray) announced that they had arrived at the following conclusion:—

"That we attach no blame to the rope maker; and likewise the owners and officials of Burnhope Colliery have done their utmost in trying to detect any faults in the rope, wherever they might have been, and it was impossible for them to detect any flaw of this sort in consequence of the corrosion being inside the rope; and that we consider the accident to have been purely accidental."

The Coroner accordingly entered a verdict of "Accidental death" in respect of the four deceased persons.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

TO MORROW'S FIXTURES (SATURDAY, DEC. 9TH.)

Leadgate Park v Leadgate Exiles, on the Park ground.
Blackhill Rovers v Stargate, at Stargate.
Dipton Wanderers v Blyth, at Blyth.
Dipton Wanderers Reserve v Rendel Swifts, at Dipton.
Consett Town v Tow Law Reserve, at Consett.
Medomsley White Stars v Blackhill Park, at Medomsley.
Lintzford v Marley Hill St. Cuthbert's, at Marley Hill.
Lintzford 2nd v Heworth 2nd, at Heworth.
Lintzford Juniors v Stanley Athletic, at Stanley.
Esh True Blues v Brandon Rovers, at Brandon.
Blackhill Rovers 2nd v Stargate 2nd, at Blackhill.
Hedley Hill Terrace Rangers v Toronto, at Hedley Hill.
Consett Church Y.M.C.A. v Benfieldside Church Choir, at Shotley Spa.
Shotley Bridge Rovers v Consett Y.M.C.A., at Shotley.
South Moor Violets v Wardley Blues, at South Moor.
Waldridge White Star v Gateshead Prior Juniors, at Waldridge.
Lizzie Celtics v Cornsay Rovers, at the Lizzie.
Waterhouses Wanderers v Murton Wanderers, at Murton.
Crookhall Wanderers v Allendale Park, at Crookhall.

DURHAM SENIOR CUP.

FOURTH ROUND.

LEADGATE PARK v. LEADGATE EXILES.

These teams will meet on the ground of the former to-morrow, and as the winners will qualify for the Cup Competition proper, the game is sure to be very keenly contested. The Park team will be chosen from the following:—J. Crowther, F. Foreman, W. Mansell, J. Wilson, T. Snowdon, W. Bell, J. Robson, G. Wattsford, H. Wattsford, A. Burnhope, Joe Wilson, R. Wilson, C. T. Foreman, and R. Graham. The Exiles will be represented by the following:—Goal, J. O'Neil; backs, J. Haggan and Wm. McGee; half-backs, B. Rogers, T. McGratchan, and J. Monaghan (capt.); forwards, W. McKie and Jas. McGee, right wing; J. Hill, centre; T. Conroy and H. Callaghan, left wing. Linesman, T. Kennedy. Kick-off at 2-15 prompt.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v. STARGATE.

This match will be played at Stargate, when a good game should result. The following will represent the Rovers:—Full back, T. Elliott; three-quarter backs, E. Robson, J. Aitken, A. Dickinson, and J. Askew; half-backs, Geo. Smailes (capt.) and J. Brown; forwards, Geo. Sayers, W. Brown, J. Anderson, A. Taylor, A. McGhee, Geo. Aitken, R. Stobbs, and J. Grant.

BLACKHILL ROVERS 2ND V STARGATE 2ND.—These teams will meet at Blackfine. The following will do duty for the Rovers:—Full back, H. Murray; three-quarter backs, W. Leybourne, J. Carr, Wm. Smith, and J. Carr; half-backs, Thos. Lumley (capt.) and C. Bellingham; forwards, J. Morgan, Bradley, G. Bell, J. Stokoe, E. Gibson, W. Kays, Wilkinson, and Raisbeck. Referee, Mr Jos. Askew.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d, tins 1s 1½d., labelled "JAMES EPPS & CO., LTD., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease."

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, &c. are made to serve man, by 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 Fevers Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pill, 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 36 stamps. Wm Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester

Mr. Stephen Christian, the much-respected Resident Magistrate on Norfolk Island, has been coming into unusual prominence lately through his energetic and far-seeing methods of administering the affairs of the little Colony. The worthy magistrate belongs to the "best family" on the island, being a direct descendant of the famous character of the same name who was such a prominent figure in the historical mutiny of the Bounty. The little community on Norfolk Island appears to be going along prosperously, notwithstanding the fact that the whaling industry is not what it was. As whales have become scarce, the people have devoted more attention to agriculture, and this has proved profitable in an unexpected degree.—*Echo*.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[BY "ANNFIELDITE."]

P.M. CHAPEL.

On Sunday last, the members and congregation of the above chapel had a rare treat. Mr T. R. Oates, of Capsey Row, preached two excellent sermons. The afternoon subject was directed mainly to the duty of all Christian workers, and at night he dwelt on the great cause of all evils in the world—social, moral, commercial, political, and religious—and their remedy.

TOWNSHIP MEETING.

On Thursday se'nnight, a ratepayers' meeting was held at Mr J. Lumley's, innkeeper, Annfield Plain. Mr P. Reay was voted to the chair, who, in opening the business, read the notice calling the meeting. The chief business was the sanctioning of precepts for the Burial Boards of Collierley and Beamish for the next six months. The former being for 1½d, and the latter 1d in the pound. Arrangements were made for collecting the same, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman. After the meeting, a conversation took place on the prospects of the Parish Councils Bill as now before the House of Commons, and also the Limited Liability Bill.

COLLIERLEY BURIAL BOARD.

On Thursday se'nnight, the ordinary meeting of this Board was held in the Board-room, Hare Law. The members present were: Rev J. Gornall (in the chair), Messrs H. Brown, W. Rutherford, P. Reay, J. F. Elliott, and the Clerk (Mr W. S. Telford). The late storm having done some damage to the chapel, it was ordered that the repairs be attended to at once. The necessary circulars for the calling of meeting, &c., were ordered to be procured, also a load of coals for the use of the place. Cheques were signed for the following accounts:—Clerk's quarterly salary, £2 10s 0d; rates, 3s 6d; caretaker's salary, £5; leaving a balance at the bank of £47 9s 5d. The meeting then adjourned.

DEATH.

With deep regret we record to day the death of Mrs E. Thompson, wife of Mr F. Thompson, assistant-master of Greencroft Board Schools, and daughter of Mr J. Lumley, innkeeper, Annfield Plain. Some very sad deaths have recently occurred, amongst whom are Mr G. March, of Cement Houses, and Mrs Bullerwell, wife of Mr J. Bullerwell, of Bradley Lodge, Dipton. The influenza seems to be making progress in the district, many having been taken with it during the week.

THE COAL TRADE.

The collieries in this district have been very much stopped from want of trucks to take away their products. Some of them have not been able to be at work more than half time, while they have large orders on their books for speedy delivery. Why the North-Eastern Railway Company do not keep pace with the demand is the great question. Sad, indeed, it is when the cry has to be raised almost daily, "No Waggons. Loose the pits out. Only half-a-day to-day again." Why not have compensation, then perhaps a change would soon come. Let the owners delay the trucks overtime, and then comes a claim. Why not *vice versa*?

BLAYDON.

CONCERT.—A series of concerts during the winter has been arranged by the Blaydon Primitive Methodist Society, and the first was held on Saturday evening in the Temperance Hall, Blaydon. The chair was occupied by Mr W. Jones, and there was a very large audience. An excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by Misses Robson and Bewick, Messrs J. T. Pickering, Hedley, Geo. Murray, J. Hill, Ascough, and T. Watson.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year, more than £800 000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches, that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism 3061

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATHS.

CONSETT—Cleadon House, on the 6th inst., aged 47 years, Annie, the beloved wife of William Aynsley. Interment at Benfieldside, on Friday, Dec. 8th, at 2 p.m.

MEDOMSLEY—Fines Cottages, 4th inst., aged 60 years, Margaret, dearly-beloved and faithful wife of Thomas Stoddart. 738m

WASKERLEY—On the 5th inst., aged 65 years, William, the beloved husband of Ann Graham. To be interred at Muggleswick, on Saturday, Dec. 9th. *Cortege* to leave residence at 1·30 p.m. Friends please accept this intimation.

DIPTON—Bradley Lodge, 2nd inst., Isabella, the wife of John Bullerwell.

3rd inst., aged 78, William, husband of Margaret Turner.

CEMENT HOUSES, near Annfield Plain—2nd inst., aged 50, George, husband of Elizabeth March.

TANFIELD—3rd inst., Sarah, relict of the late Anthony Simpson.

SOUTH MOOR—Stanley Burn Farm, 3rd inst., aged 48, John, husband of Elizabeth J. Wheatley.

TOW LAW—2nd inst., Jane, wife of Thomas Sherwood.

LANCHESTER—Victoria Street, aged 65, Mary, wife of Edward Robson.

In loving memory of Thomas Monkhouse, the dearly-beloved son of Margaret and the late John Monkhouse, who died December 8th, 1891.

"Gone from sight, but still to memory dear."

In loving memory of Margaret, wife of George Lumley, late of Consett, who departed this life November 22nd, 1879. Also, James Lumley, their son, who departed this life December 8th, 1879.

"Gone from sight, but still to memory dear."

In loving memory of Alice, the beloved daughter of John Edward and Annie Harrison, who died at White-le-Head, on December 3rd, 1892.

"I mourn her in secret and in silence unseen. Gone before." 739m

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