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[M]ourning Coaches. Carriages for [Weddings], Brakes and Waggonettes for Pleasure Parties.
[Posting] in all its Branches done upon the most reasonable terms.
[Attendance] at yard from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. [Or]ders may be left . 330g

AUCTION MARTS.

[BLACK]HILL FARMERS' MART CO., LTD.—The [week]ly mart under the auspices of this [newly-fo]rmed company (late the Benfieldside [Au]ction Mart) took place on Monday, Mr [...] Green acting as auctioneer. There were [...]9 fat beasts, 2 incalved heifers, 1 newly-[calved he]ifer, 7 calves, 190 fat sheep and lambs, besides a large quantity of poultry. [...]f averaged 7s 9d per stone; mutton, 8d [...] There was an unusually large attend[ance a]nd a most successful sale resulted. [...]Fat cattle from £7 7s 6d to £18 17s 6d, [...] J. Pattinson, High Waskerley; calved [...]ll 10s, from Mr J. Cant, Consett; in-[calved] heifers, £14 17s 6d and £16 17s 6d, top Mr [...]son. Lambs up to 35s, top Mr Wake[...]; sheep to 44s, top Mr S. Brewis, [...]stall. Calves from 9s to 23s. Poultry, [...]de satisfactory figures.
[...]LAW.—Mr Vickers had forward on Mon[day] dairy cows and heifers, 7 fat cattle, 13 [...] and 120 fat sheep and hogs. Calved [cows] £12 12s 6d to £15 17s 6d; calved cows, [...]d to £21 15s; incalving heifers, £12 2s 6d [...]s; incalving cows, £13 17s 6d to £18 10s; [...]e to £15 12s 6d, from J. T. Morton, Tow [Law...] £1 10s, from Mr R. Raine, Spainsfield; [...] 31s. Fat sheep to 22s 6d, from Mr J. [...] Rear Dene; — 6d, from Mr W. Wear-[...] Ball Hill; 39s 6d, from Mr J. T. Morton, [Tow La]w; 32s, from Mr J. Durno, North Roddy-[moor...] 21s 9d, from Mr N. Smailes, Tow Law; [fro]m Mr T. Argument, Willington. Fat [...] 21s 9d, from Mr G. Bowes, Evenwood; [...] from Mr J. T. Morton, Tow Law; 28s, [...]r R. Hodgson, Etherley; 23s 3d from Mr [...], Hamsterley; 35s, from Mr J. Durno, [...] Roddymoor; 23s, from Mr N. Smailes, [Tow La]w; 28s, from Mr J. Dowson, Newlands. [...] trade and keen competition for fat stock [adva]nced prices; other classes unchanged.

[T]O POLICY-HOLDERS AT THE FRONT.

[Altho]ugh those who have given any thought [to the] subject would expect to find a fair pro[portio]n of soldiers of the Queen included in the [ranks] of the policy-holders of the Prudential [Assur]ance Company, it is astonishing in the [highes]t degree to learn that in a very short [time n]ow no less than 10,000 of the company's [policy-holders] will be facing the enemy. The extra [risk o]n this immense body—an army in itself—[is ver]y real, as is evidenced by the fact that the [direct]ors have already paid claims upon the [lives o]f soldiers who fell at Glencoe and Elands[laagte]. Nevertheless, actuated by sentiments [which] will be appreciated not only by those who [are d]oing the fighting, but much more so by [their d]ependents and relatives at home, the [direc]tors have decided not to impose any [additi]onal premium for war risk in the case of [indus]trial policy-holders at the front. Further, [it app]ears that many of the company's agents [have] been called out with the reserves, and [arran]gements have been made to hold their [situati]ons open to them on their return, and to [pay] half their salaries to their wives while [they] are away on duty with their regiments.

[M]OURNING CARDS in all the Newest Patterns printed neatly and expedi[tious]ly at the "GUARDIAN" OFFICE, CONSETT.

"We attend to our own Business." Everybody to their Business.

OUR Business is not only to supply Oak and Polished Coffins of a superior description at the lowest Prices, but we also Supply Hearses, Coaches, Cabs for Weddings, and Horses and Conveyances of all kinds. Trips by Brakes specially Contracted for.

The Mourning is under our personal supervision, and everything is done when care and respectability is needed, and to suit the pockets of all Classes. A Stock always on hand that can be finished at a few hours' notice.

T. C. RAWES & Co.
FUNERAL FURNISHERS,
CONSETT. 940b.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Births.

[SI]DDLE.—42, Sherburn Terrace, 28th inst., the wife of Joseph Siddle, jun., of a daughter.

Marriages.

[BE]LL—PHILLIPS.—St. Mary's Church, Gateshead, Nov. 24th, 1849, Robert Bell to Esther Phillips, of Oxhill.—Golden Wedding.
[W]EATHERALD—BIRTLE.—Aysgarth, on Nov. 24th, 1849, Mr A. Weatherald to Miss Mary Birtle at Aysgarth Old Church, Yorkshire.—Golden Wedding.

Deaths.

[BI]NNEY.—Chester-le-Street, 29, Front Street, on the 28th ult., aged 71, Bridget Binney.
[BE]LL.—Vicoria Garesfield, on the 23rd ult., aged 29, Matthew Bell.
[...].—Dunston, Drury Lane, on the 27th ult., aged 1 year, William Lewis Doyle.
[FO]WLER.—Sunderland, Worcester Terrace, on the 24th ult., in his 79th year, Thomas Fowler.
[HO]GG.—Roughside, on the 27th ult., aged 64, Hannah Hogg, late of Allendale Town.
[HE]NDERSON.—Lints Hall, Lints Green, on the 23rd ult., in her 87th year, Phyllis Henderson.
[JE]FFREY.—School House, Consett, 29th ult., in his 77th year, Joshua Jeffrey, master tailor.
[LA]YBOURNE.—Swalwell, on the 27th ult., aged 44, Elizabeth Laybourn.
[MO]ORE.—Satley, on the 22nd ult., aged 45, Annie M. Moore.
[PR]INGLE.—Birtley, on the 28th ult., aged 32, Catherine Alma Pringle.
[PE]ARSON.—Consett, 15, Green Street, on the 28th ult., at the residence of his son, John W. Pearson, aged 74, Richard Pearson. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery on Friday, at 2.30. Friends please accept this, the only intimation. No cards. No flowers.
[RI]DLEY.—Pelton Fell, 10, Thornton Street, on the 27th ult., aged 29, Julia Ridley.
[R]USSELL.—[...]shaw Moor, on the 28th ult., aged 24, Elizabeth Jane Russell.
[R]OBSON.—Emmaville, on the 28th ult., aged 47, William Robson.
[RIC]HARDS.—Blackhill, 9, Siemen Street, on the 29th ult., aged 43 years, Mary, the beloved wife of James R. Richards. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery on Saturday Dec. 2nd, at 2.30. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.
[S]MITH.—Winlaton, School Board Lane, on the 26th ult. at the residence of his daughter, Mrs Parker), aged 73, William Smith.
[W]ESTHORP.—Leadgate, 473, Church Square, on the 23rd ult., aged 60, Robert Westhorpe.

[I]n affectionate remembrance of Ellen, the beloved wife of Dobison Martin, Fell Farm, Consett, who departed this life December 1st, 1898.
[R]emembered by her son William and family.
[I]n loving memory of Ellen, beloved wife of Dobison Martin, who died Dec. 1st, 1898, at Fell Farm, Consett.
With care you watched my dying bed,
With many a dropping tear,
But angels beckoned me away,
And took me from your care.
[E]ver remembered by her husband and family.

[M]rs Richardson, 5, Queen Street, Blackhill, desires to thank all friends for sympathy shown to her in her recent bereavement.
[M]r and Mrs Williamson and family, Leadgate, desire to return their heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of sympathy during their recent lamented bereavement.

ROBERT BEALL,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR IN GRANITE, MARBLE, AND STONE, HIGH LEVEL APPROACH, NEWCASTLE. Largest Stock in the North. Designs and Estimates on application. 721a

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Printed and Published by ROBERT JACKSON, at the Atmospheric Printing Works, 93, Front Street, Consett, December 1st, 1899.

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A NEW TREATMENT.
Without Operation, for Cataract and all Diseases of the Eye; Deafness in all its forms; Noises in the Ears; Discharges from the Ears cured; Deafness from Influenza cured. Hundreds of letters in testimony of success. Write for testimonials and printed form of questions to answer sent free. Mr T. ISON, Oculist and Aurist, 71, Great George Street, Leeds. At Leeds every Tuesday and Alternate Saturdays Dec. 2nd and 16th Hours, 10 to 7.—Artificial Eyes, Spectacles, etc
NOTICE. — Mr Ison (of Ison's Eye and Ear Dispensary, Ltd., Leeds) personally attends same hotels as for last twelve years. Sutties' Clarendon Hotel, Clayton Street, Newcastle, Monday, Dec 11th; Hours, 12 to 4-30. Queen's Hotel, Stockton, Wednesday, Dec. 13th Hours, 10-30 to 4-30. White Swan Hotel, York, Thursday, Dec. 14th; Hours, 10-30, to 4

The Consett Guardian

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AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

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HARBURN'S PHOSPHORISED TONIC
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Money.

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Contracts.

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Lost and Found.

LOST, near South Moor, on Tuesday, Nov. 28th, a Cheviot SHEEP. Finder rewarded.—Apply, WATSON, Butcher, Stanley.

LOST, a Silver Lever WATCH, between Walton Street, Blackhill, and Barr House Quarry, Consett.—Finder rewarded on returning to PHILIP CAMPBELL, 1, Walton Street, Blackhill. 33g

LOST, between Catchgate and Redwell Hills, on Monday night, Nov. 27th, a Parcel containing DRAPERIES, wrapped in Brown American Leather. Reward given.—Apply, *Guardian* Office. 55g

LOST, on Sunday night, between Durham Road, Blackhill, and Front Street, Consett, a Lady's Silver Geneva WATCH and Chain, number known. — Anyone returning same to Mr. A. E. TURNER, Tailor, 47, Durham Road, Blackhill, will be suitably rewarded.

Wanted.

WANTED, DAY GIRL. — Apply, 29, Medomsley Road, Consett. 36g

WANTED, HOUSEKEEPER, without encumbrance.—Apply, *Guardian* Office.

WANTED, Steady, Reliable CARTMAN.—Apply, G. NICHOLSON, Contractor, Dipton. 60g

WANTED, GENERAL SERVANT, not over 20, able to Wash.—Apply, *Guardian* Office. 22g

WANTED, a GIRL, not under 16 years of age.—Apply at once, GEORGE HUNTER, Butcher, Tantobie. 29g

WANTED, a useful GIRL, about 18 years, able to Milk.—Apply, Mrs. HENDERSON, Pickering Nook, Burnopfield. 30g

WANTED, immediately, Steady Man, as CARTMAN.—Apply, 2, Baxton Burn, Blackhill. 50g

WANTED, good GENERAL or DAY GIRL.—Apply, 6, Havelock Street, Consett. 35g

WANTED, an Experienced Young WOMAN for Shop.—Apply, with references, to JOHN HUME AND SON, 9, Middle Street, Consett.

WANTED, a Strong MAN, to go with Corporation Cart, or Contract work.—Apply to ROBERT WATSON, Chopwell Woods.

WANTED, Every PITMAN to read the "PITMAN'S SOCIAL NEET". Bright, Humorous, Clever.—Ask your Newsagent for it.

WANTED, a Strong LAD, able to Milk, live in Farm.—Apply, Mr. HANSBERGEN, Woodlands, Consett. 676f

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THE CONSETT REGISTRY OFFICE for Domestic Servants.—Apply at Mr. COCKBURN'S, Stationer, &c., 13, Front St, Consett.

WANTED, SERVANT GIRL, wages 5s. per week.—Apply, Mrs. Rawes, Taylor Street, Consett. 77g

WANTED, a SHARE of your kind patronage, by MRS. GEO. A. WILLIAMS, who has opened the SHOP lately occupied by Mrs. Daglish, in TAYLOR STREET, CONSETT, with Tobacco, Confectionery, &c. 76g

DERWENT GANISTER COY'S QUARRIES.
WANTED, two MEN to work at Baring, in above Quarries.—Apply, T. C. ELLIOT, Castleside. 956f

WANTED.—ALL CLASSES of People to send their BOOTS Repairing to J. ORTON, Raglan Street, Consett, and Oxley Street, Blackhill.

WANTED, £500 PRIVATE MORTGAGE, on Good Freehold Business Property, in Consett. — Apply, by letter, Box "K," *Guardian* Office, Consett. 47g

WANTED, a DISTRICT AGENT for the General Friendly Society; good opening for a Suitable Man.—Apply, A. MARSHALL, 13, Shuttleworth Street, Newcastle. 64g

WANTED, PUPILS for Painting, Free-Land Drawing, and Shading. Painting 1s per lesson, or 10s 6d quarter.—Apply. Miss M. A. HENDERSON, 22, Park Road, Consett.

WANTED, PICTURES TO FRAME, in Oak, Gilt, or various kinds of Moulding, from 1s. upwards.—T. C. BELL, 37, Rosebery Terrace, Consett. 784e

WINLATON SCHOOL BOARD.
WANTED, a Certificated Assistant Master, for the Boys' Department of the Winlaton Board Schools, Salary, £80 per annum. Applications with copies of recent testimonials (not exceeding three) to be delivered to me, not later than noon on Wednesday, December 13th. —HENRY DALTON, Clerk, Winlaton School Board, Blaydon-on-Tyne.
November 29th, 1899. 998f

WANTED, by the Consett Co-operative Society, a Male APPRENTICE to the Drapery business, also Female APPRENTICES to the Millinery.—Applicants to meet the Committee on Monday night, Dec. 11th, 1899, at 7 o'clock. By Order, the Committee, EDW. HUNTLEY, Secretary. 18g

ANNFIELD PLAIN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.
WANTED, an APPRENTICE to the Grocery business, at the Medomsley Branch of the above Society, must not be under 14 years nor over 16 years of age. Confined to Members trading at Medomsley. Wage paid according to the Society's scale.—Application to be made to the Committee, on Monday night first, Dec. 11th, at 7 o'clock. WM. R. PIGG, Secretary. 13g

WANTED, to be known everywhere, that the best Assortment of Cycles will be on view at the NEW SHOP PREMISES; Also, Accessories of all kinds; Repairs, Re-plating, and Enamelling done on the shortest notice; Also, that WRINGING MACHINE ROLLERS of very best quality are being Fitted and Guaranteed for 12 Months at 10s per pair, by J. DAWSON, Wringing Machine Roller Turner, &c., Front Street, West Stanley. 216e

WANTED, all Customers and the General Public to know that W. E. TURNER has REMOVED HIS STOCK to more Commodious Premises.—Note the address: No. 6 FRONT STREET (next door to Mr. G. Pattrick, Chemist), where they will find a choice selection of Hats, Caps, Ties, Collars, Shirts, Suits, Cyclists' Outfits, and Accessories.—Monster CLEARANCE SALE of CYCLES. A large variety of Pipes, Tobaccos and Cigars. Try the noted "Supremacy," 7 for 1s. 982e

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TO LET, Lock-Up SHOP, at Front Street, South Moor.—Apply, JOHN MARTIN, 43, Poplar Street, South Moor. 52g

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TO LET, 122, Durham Road, Blackhill, containing 8 Rooms, Bath, W.C., and other conveniences.—Full particulars apply to S. GRADON, on the premises. 26g

TO BE LET, or entered into, on May Day next, 1900, GREENWELL FARM, in the Parish of Ryton Woodside. Acreage, 170 acres. —For particulars apply to the Towneley Estate Office, 24, Grainger Street West, on Tuesdays or Saturdays, between 10 and 12, or by letter.

To Let.

TO LET, HOUSE, 30, Park Road, Consett.—Apply next door. 775f

TO LET, HOUSE AND SHOP, in Consett.—Apply to MR. GEO. WADE, Butcher, Consett. 73g

TO LET, Three-roomed COTTAGE and Garden at Knitsley; One-room Cottage at Sawmill Wood, woman worker out preferred. —Apply to Mr. CRAGGS, Woodlands, Consett.

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FOR SALE, 14 Young PIGS, about 11 weeks old.—Apply, JOHN MARTIN, 43, Poplar Street, South Moor. 53g

FOR SALE, Important Business PREMISES, in one of the best positions in Consett.—For particulars apply to T. D. DRYDEN, Auctioneer. 38g

FOR SALE, Six-roomed HOUSE, with Scullery, &c., in Belle Vue Terrace, Consett. — Apply, C. HODGSON, 39, Stephenson Street, Bensham, Gateshead. 965f

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Fine Old SCOTCH WHISKEY, 1s 9d, 2s 4d, and 3s per Bottle.
The "Adore" Blend of Old HIGHLAND WHISKEY, 3s 6d per Bottle. Mild and Mellow, and specially recommended.
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PORT WINE, 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. per Bottle.
BURGUNDY, 1s. 6d. per Bottle, 2s. 2d. per Flagon.
Detailed Price Lists Free on Application.
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FOSTER, RUSSELL, & CO.'S, NEW SEASON'S FRUITS.
Have arrived and cannot fail to evoke the hearty appreciation of all who see and try them. They are
CLEAN, FLESHY, DELICIOUS, ECONOMICAL.
Large Variety of Goods suitable for Christmas and New Year.
SPECIALITY: Challenge Check Tea at 2s. and 2s 6d. per lb.; 6d Check with every pound.
Their Grocery and Provision Departments are Stocked with a variety of CHRISTMAS GOODS—Currants, Raisins, Muscatels, Oranges, Apples, and a Large Assortment of Cakes at Lowest Prices. They have also a supply of excellent Bacon, Shoulders, Rolls, Butter, Lard and Cheese of various kinds—including Prize Cheshire from the great Cheese Shows.
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The Favourite IVORY FLOATING SOAP for Children, 2d and 4d per Tablet.	CITRATE OF MAGNESIA.
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SUPPLIED ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS. 23y
FURNITURE REMOVED. ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

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The COUNTY MUSIC WAREHOUSE,
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Wardill's Genuine International Gold Medal PIANOS are admired by all the leading Musicians of the Country. His Stock comprises Pianos by all the leading makers such as Collard and Collard, Haake, Scheidmayer, Justin Browne, Sames, Neiber, Challin and Sons, Chappell and Co., &c., &c. Organs by Mason and Hamlin, Packard, Estey, Sames, and many others too numerous to mention.
Call and hear the celebrated Haake Piano for which W. E. Wardill holds the sole agency.
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Being a large Importer of Foreign Musical Instruments, he is able to offer such bargains as cannot be equalled in England; also, being a Wholesale Dealer, Cash Customers have exceptional advantages. All who are thinking of buying a Piano or Organ will do well to look through his Stock before purchasing. No pressure will be put upon you to buy.
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LARGE AND CAREFULLY SELECTED STOCK OF THE VERY BEST
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DISTRICT AGENTS FOR THE BOWES' PATENT "WELL FIRE"
Great Heat. Economy of Fuel. Perfect Combustion. Controlled Draught. Saves Labour. Burns 10 hours without attention.
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Mantlepieces, Grates, Tiles, Ranges.
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Attends CONSETT every MONDAY from 1 to 8 o'clock, at MRS. ELLIOTTS, 9, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.
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AMERICAN DENTAL SURGEON,
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Attends at MR. JONES' 10, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, every MONDAY, from a.m. to 5 p.m.; and at MRS. SMITH'S, 48, LONG ROW, STANLEY, every PAY FRIDAY, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.; also, at MRS. HEPBURN'S 3, SOUTH STREET, LANGLEY PARK, every ALTERNATE TUESDAY, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Made with all the Latest Improvements and Best Materials at 5s, 7s. 6d., and 10s. 6d, per Tooth. Can also supply a cheaper Tooth if required. They are retained in the Mouth by Suction, a recent American Invention, without the aid of Springs. OLD SETS REMODELLED OR NEW TEETH ADDED, guaranteed to be as good and strong as new. All Sets made not giving Entire Satisfaction, will be attended to if they call at above Address.
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PRICE OF
BEST FLOUR
ONLY 1s. 4d. PER STONE.

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MARSHALL AND SONS,
NEW TOWN HALL,
CONSETT, AND BLACKHILL,
BEG TO ANNOUNCE THAT they will give to all Purchasers of their Best ENGLISH LEVER WATCHES during EASTER and the following Month,
A SOLID SILVER ALBERT,
Stamped every link. Watches Warranted FIVE YEARS.

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A Splendid Assortment of CLOCKS at all Prices and Warranted. An Excellent Display of JEWELLERY of all kinds.
779d ORDERS BY POST PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

WILLIAM STRACHAN,
PLUMBER, GASFITTER, BELL-HANGER, TIN AND IRON PLATE WORKER,
Begs to inform the inhabitants of Consett that he has OPENED A BRANCH SHOP in
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,
where he will carry on the above Business in all its Branches, and hopes by strict attention, good workmanship, and moderate charges to meet with liberal support.
Authorised Agent for the WELSBACH INCANDESCENT LIGHTING CO.
A Choice Selection of Gas Fittings of all descriptions, Burners, Mantles, Globes, Chimneys &c. Baths, Washbasins, Beer Pumps, Spirit Taps, and everything connected with the Trade kept in stock.

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BEGS to announce to the Public of Blackhill, Consett, and District, that he intends beating all previous records, in CHRISTMAS GOODS, CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S CARDS. SPECIAL MECHANICAL TOYS of all kinds.
If you want to please the Bairns call and inspect our Stock.
SHOW ROOM AT BLACKHILL AS USUAL. 11g

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GROCERS, PROVISION, WINE, SPIRIT, AND BEER MERCHANTS,
65, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
SPECIAL LINES
IN 1890 CLARET, 2s 6d per Bottle. ORION BURGUNDY. 2s Flagons.
ALLSOPP'S ALE IN 9 GALLON BARRELS. SPLENDID CONDITION.
SPARKLING ALES.
BAXTER'S IN 6, 9, AND 18 GALLON CASKS. 9s, 10s, 12s. In splendid condition.
ALLSOPP'S ALES AND STOUT (FULL PINTS), 2s. 6d. PER DOZ.
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HAMS. ROLL SHOULDERS. SIDES
FINEST DANISH BUTTER.
DRYDEN'S GLENFYNE WHISKEY, 3s 6d. DRYDEN'S LIQUEUR WHISKEY, 4s.
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SPECIALLY RECOMMENDED AFTER INFLUENZA.
SPECIAL XMAS PRICE LISTS WILL BE ISSUED THIS WEEK.

Burnopfield Boot and Shoe Emporium.

EDWIN ROBINSON

Has OPENED the above with a large assortment of BOOTS, SHOES, SLIPPERS, and CLOGS. Leather and Grindery Stores.

REPAIRS DONE ON THE PREMISES.

Note Address—

BUSTY BANK, BURNOPFIELD.

FOOTBALL.

MATCHES.

CEMENT ROVERS v. LOUISA TERRACE RANGERS.

Played on the latter's ground, and resulted in a win for the visitors by two goals to one. M. Thompson and J. Forster played an excellent game for the visitors.

SOUTH MOOR v. TANFELD LEA LILYWHITES.

The above teams met on the ground of the former, and the visitors won a hard game by three goals to two. T. Armstrong (2) and F. Stevens scored the goals for the Lilywhites, while Brown and Smailes put through for the home team.

DIPTON UNITED RESERVE v. BLACKHILL UNITED.

Played at Blackhill and resulted in a win for Dipton by two goals to one. The following did duty for Dipton—Goal, W. Curtiss; backs, Anderson and Trodden; half-backs, W. Carr, O. Wears, and R. Carr; forwards, Willey, Layton, Greenwell, Allaker, and Cook.

DIPTON UNITED v. TANFIELD.

Played at Dipton, and resulted in a win for the homesters by six goals to nil. The following played for Dipton—Goal, A. Temple; backs, Sables and McCabe; half-backs, Rumson, Smith, and Dixon; forwards, Slater, Panting, Rumson, Thompson, and Gill.

ALLENDALE PUTTERS v. HAMSTERLEY LILYWHITES.

This game was played at Allendale in fine weather, and after a one-sided game Hamsterley won by six goals to one.

Chopwell United have all dates vacant, and would like them filled up as soon as possible; ages, 12 to 14. Apply, J. Henderson, 8, Wear Street, Chopwell Colliery, Lintz Green.

SPEN RED AND WHITE ROVERS v. LEMINGTON.

At Lemington on Saturday, and resulted in a win for Spen by 6 goals to nil. The following did duty for Spen:—Goal, J. Eltringham; backs, C. Hugh and J. Tomkins; half-backs, J. Doby, T. Harbottle, and J. Gill; forwards, J. Richardson, J. W. Harbottle, P. Short, W. Bell, and E. Best.

SHIELD ROW WHITE STARS v. NO PLACE LILYWHITES.

Played at Shield Row, and after an exciting game resulted in a win for Shield Row by two goals to one. The following did duty for the Stars:—Goal, Wright; backs, Carr and Jackson; half-backs, Sterling, Morgan and Wilson; forwards, Reayer, Lee, Morgan, Curry, and Murray.

MARLEY HILL ST. CUTHBERTS' v. KIP HILL RED ROVERS.

This return game was played on the Kip Hill ground, and ended in a win for the visitors by six goals to two. The following did duty for the winners—Goal, J. Donnely; backs, J. Clark and C. Hogg; half-backs, G. Riddler, J. Harland, and T. Prinn; forwards, W. Triglawn, C. Morton, F. Robson, R. Irwin, and S. Triglawn.

HOBSON WHITE STAR v. TANTOBIE RED STAR.

Played at Tantobie in very cold weather. The home team won the toss and elected to play to the home goal. On starting, play became fast and exciting, when McMann scored for the visitors, and when the whistle sounded for half-time the score was:—

Hobson ... Three goals
Tantobie ... Two goals

On resuming, play became all in favour of the visitors, who scored twice in quick succession, and Tantobie scored, when the whistle sounded for the final:—

Hobson ... Five goals
Tantobie ... Four goals

The following did duty for Hobson White Star:—Goal, Davinson; backs, Fisher and Adamson; half-backs, Croudace, Wilkinson, and Watson; forwards, Hurrell, Hall, McMann, Hindhaugh, and Clark.

TANTOBIE CO-OPERATORS' WEDNESDAY v. CONSETT SWIFTS' WEDNESDAY.

This friendly fixture was brought off on Tantobie ground last week. The visitors won the toss and elected to kick down the slope with the sun at their backs. Play ruled in mid-field for a time, but the Swifts made vigorous efforts to score when one of their forwards got past Spinks, the home custodian, and shortly after another was added, greatly to the delight of the Consett spectators. When half-time arrived the scores were as follows:—

Consett ... Two goals
Tantobie ... Nil

On resuming after the interval, Tantobie had the best of matters, and Hanover scored No. 1 when soon after the scores were equalised from a free kick close into the goal-mouth. Play then became exciting, Atthey grazing the cross-bar. A good run down the wing resulted in Hanover again doing the needful. Both teams now tried to score, and the Co-ops. were awarded a penalty about three minutes before time. Hanover took the kick and put on No. 4 amidst cheers. When the whistle sounded for time the score was:—

Tantobie ... Four goals
Consett ... Two goals

The following did duty for the Co-operators:—Goal, J. Spinks; backs, W. Dawson and T. Hanover; half-backs, J. Dawson, J. Offord, and T. Atthey; forwards, T. Burns, R. Reay, M. Burns, B. Buglass, and Ramsey.

Referee, Mr J. McKever.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT JUNIOR LEAGUE.

LEADGATE ATHLETIC v. CATCHGATE LILYWHITES RESERVE.

These teams met at Leadgate before a fair attendance of spectators. Leadgate won the toss, and elected to play with the wind in their favour. From the kick-off, the visitors pressed but were repulsed, Collinson forcing a corner from a corner well-placed by Walker and Graham scored a fine goal. The same player scored from a penalty shortly afterwards:—

Leadgate Athletic ... Three goals
Catchgate Lilywhites ... Nil

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

BYER MOOR v. BLACKHILL ST. CUTHBERT'S.

Byer Moor made their debut of the season in a league game on their own ground on Saturday, when they entertained Blackhill. The visitors were nearly an hour after the advertised time in arriving. Weedy, for the Moor, won the toss, and choose to play towards the village end. From the kick-off the home vanguard got hold, and went to the Blackhill goal, where Leighton drew first blood after three minutes' play. Blackhill rallied, but the home team held them in check, Keefe scoring No. 2. The visitors broke away, but off-side nullified their efforts, and soon Weedy ran the leather down and forced a corner, which proved abortive, other three which followed also being barren of result. Half-time came with the score—

Byer Moor ... Two goals
Blackhill ... Nil

Resuming Nicholls kicked off. Blackhill got down, but the home backs drove them back, and for 15 minutes the Moor pressed incessantly, the monotony of which was only relieved by the spasmodic rushes of the visitors, and had the home forwards shot better their score would have been considerably augmented. So hard were the "Saints" pressed that one of their backs deliberately fisted the ball inside the 12 yards' line, and E. Leighton made no mistake with the subsequent penalty kick. The twilight was now fast fading, the referee being compelled to stop the game 25 minutes from time. Result—

Byer Moor ... Three goals
Blackhill St. Cuthbert's ... Nil

Referee, Mr J. Gray, Tantobie.

BURNHOPE v. TANFIELD LEA.

Played at Burnhope in delightful weather, and before a good muster of spectators. The following did duty for Burnhope:—Goal, Laycock; backs, Cassidy and Talbot; half-backs, Hodgson, Wallace, and Murray; forwards, Talbot, Wallace, Flynn, Talbot, and F. Flynn.

Referee, Mr T. Amos, Hobson.

The home captain won the toss, and the visitors kicked off, and soon were in the home territory, but were brought back by Talbot. After a brief spell Green returned, and some give-and-take play followed, the visitors giving the home half-backs plenty of work. Not to be denied, the homesters took the leather down the field, and the visitors' conceded a corner, which Flynn placed well, and the custodian saved from Wallace. Smith received and sent up the field, but Murray returned, and Wallace got possession and scored a beautiful goal amidst cheers. From the re-start the visitors went well up the field, and Laycock had to save. Hodgson put well across the field, where the home left raced down and forced a corner. Talbot took the kick, but put harmlessly past, and half-time found the score—

Burnhope ... One goal
Tanfield Lea ... Nil

Flynn again set the ball rolling, and Burnhope made things warm for the visitors, but they stuck to their guns, and gave the home defence plenty of work. Cassidy put in a huge kick, and relieved the pressure. The homesters took into the visitors' goal-mouth, and after some rushing play Talbot scored Burnhope's second goal. This seemed to rouse the visitors, who went away with a rush, but were checked by Flynn, who put across to Talbot, and a corner was conceded. The last-named placed well, and Wallace headed past by inches. From the goal kick the right wing got away, and Laycock had to run out to save, which he did in good style. Wallace and Talbot passed the backs, and the last-named had the goal at his mercy, but shot past. The visitors put in some useful work, but try as they would they could not beat Cassidy and Talbot. Thus a good game ended in a win for the homesters. Score—

Burnhope ... Two goals
Tanfield Lea ... Nil

CONSETT SWIFTS RESERVE v. MARLEY HILL.

The above Derwent Valley League game was play at Consett on Saturday. The kick-off was advertised for 2-30, but the teams were a quarter-of-an-hour late in making their appearance, and in consequence it was decided to play two thirty-fives only. The Swifts' captain was successful in the spin of the coin, and decided to play towards the entrance goal, with a slight breeze in his favour. From the kick-off Walton made a smart run up the right and got in a rattling shot, which Grant only saved by giving a corner. This was well placed by McAleer, and from a spirited melee another corner resulted, which was cleared smartly by Grant. After this the visitors' right wing carried play down to the Swifts' goal, but were early sent back by the home backs, who placed well up the field, but eventually Boyle put behind. The play now became fast, the Swifts doing most of the pressing, but could not penetrate the splendid defence set up by Grant and his two backs, the right back being especially prominent. Cullen led his forwards well down the field, but Ellwood relieved by putting into touch. From the throw-in the Consett forwards got well towards the Marley Hill goal, and sent in a good shot, which Grant saved with difficulty, the ball eventually going behind. From the goal kick Boyle received the ball and made a good run up the left, but Atkinson spoiled him of what appeared to be a certain goal. Play was now very quiet, and half-time shortly after arrived with the score—

Consett ... Nil
Marley Hill ... Nil

Upon the resumption of play Marley Hill began to press, and seemed determined to score, but Coleman relieved the pressure. Mid-field play followed, neither side appearing to exert themselves, and play consequently became very uninteresting. From a burst away by the Swifts' forwards Boyle beat the Marley Hill backs, and scored with a low shot, giving Grant no chance. This roused Marley Hill, and their forwards ran straight up to the Swifts' goal, Cullen especially showing up above the rest, but Coleman was always on the alert and saved some good shots. Wilson got in a good kick, from which the Swifts ran down to the other end. Pratt having hard lines in not scoring, the goal-keeper missing the ball with his hands, but the leather hit his foot and bounced out, a goal kick being the only result. Play from now was very uninteresting, each end being visited in turn, and the final score read—

Consett Swifts Reserve ... One goal
Marley Hill ... Nil

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

HEBBURN ARGYLE v. BIRTLEY.

This return Alliance match was played on the Ellison Grounds, Hebburn, on Saturday, before a moderate attendance. When the referee sounded the kick-off the teams lined up in the following order:—

Hebburn—Goal, Collins; backs, Gates and Scott; half-backs, Pearson, Walker, and Davison; forwards, Lavery, Sturdy, Mackin, Howe, and Bradshaw.

Birtley—Goal, Biggars; backs, Greene and Martin; half-backs, Hills, Dover, and Banks; forwards, Doyle, Spence, Dixon, Palmer, and Atteridge.

Dixon gave the ball the necessary impetus to send it on its journey, and the home right wing immediately got down and Lavery sent over. Hebburn again got away, but Greene cleared in grand style. Then Sturdy got away and when within the six yards circle he missed the goal. The Birtley forwards got up, but the ball was sent past. After Collins had kicked away from Dover, Hebburn got away, but off-side play spoiled the attack. Another rush down ended in Lavery sending over, and then Sturdy made the best of a good opportunity, and he opened the scoring with a low shot from close range. Shortly after Mackin deliberately fouled Dover, and from the free kick a corner was forced, but it was without result. Sturdy was next conspicuous for some very tricky play. The Birtley right frequently got well up, but never near enough to shoot. Hebburn were now doing the bulk of the pressing, but the Birtley defence was sound. A low fast shot from Howe nearly went through, Greene missing the ball, and Biggars just saved in time. However, a little later Sturdy put in a long shot and Mackin rushing up easily scored. Shortly after Mackin passed several players, but shot over. Spence almost directly after received a nasty kick in the face and left the field for a short time. Biggars fisted out grandly from Bradshaw, and then Birtley got up. Spence put in a grand shot, and Collins, in kicking away, conceded a corner, which was abortive. Biggars again saved magnificently from Pearson who put in a terrific shot. Scott soon after took the ball from Dixon's toes when the latter had worked himself into a good position. Birtley were now showing improved form, and Collins had to save from Atteridge. The display which the home backs were giving was really magnificent, and they successfully held the Birtley men at bay until half-time, when the score was—

Hebburn Argyle ... Two goals
Birtley ... Nil

On resuming, Mackin and Sturdy got away with the ball, and as a result Biggars just saved a grand shot from Walker by giving a corner. A run up by Mackin resulted in another corner being forced, but nothing resulted from it. A free kick against Hebburn, taken by Dover, proved futile. A hot attack by Birtley nearly resulted in a goal being scored, but Doyle shot over. From a fine run up by Mackin Martin had to concede a corner, which proved of no avail to Hebburn, although it was some time before the ball left Birtley territory. With an open goal in front of him Spence failed to net the ball, and so lost a grand chance of scoring. Hebburn got up and Howe scored the third goal with a grand shot. Birtley dashed down from the kick off, and Doyle sent past. Bradshaw rushed up and centred, but Sturdy missed. Birtley got down, and had there been anything like combination amongst the forwards they might have scored. Towards the finish play became a little rough, but no serious damage was done. Hebburn got up, and forced a corner, which was futile. No further scoring taking place, time arrived with the score:—

Hebburn Argyle ... Three goals
Birtley ... Nil

STANLEY v. LEADGATE PARK.

For the third time of asking these teams met at Stanley this season on Saturday last, the present engagement being their initial meeting in the Northern Alliance tournament. Considerable interest was centred in the encounter, as in the two games already played, being cup ties, the home club were unable to put their full strength on the field, and the home supporters were fairly confident of being able to turn the tables on their erstwhile conquerors. There was consequently a good attendance of spectators, who assembled to witness the match under favourable weather conditions. Owing to the absence of Bell and Redpath, Joyce was called upon and partnered Saunders, while Ellis was brought from the goal to the half-back line, and Beckwith took charge of the sticks. The only change in the visitors team as selected was the substitution of C. Walton for B. Cook. The teams were:—

Stanley—Goal, E. Beckwith, backs, Saunders and Joyce; half-backs, Allison, Ellis and Coates; forwards, Douglass, Robson, O'Connor, McGarry, and Masterman.

Leadgate Park—Goal, M. Hedley; backs, G. Temple and J. Wilson; half-backs, J. Birtley, R. Wilson, and J. Bowes; forwards, C. Walton, J. Grant, W. Crowther, S. Thompson, and G. Forster.

The visitors won the toss, and O'Connor moved the ball towards the railway end. Leadgate were first to press, and kept the ball for a few moments in the home territory. Allison, Masterman, and McGarry shifted the venue, and a pass to Joyce ended in a free kick to Stanley, and O'Connor shot wide. A lot of loose and badly combined play ensued until McGarry gave the spectators a taste of fine tactical work. He was, however, not supported, and the game was carried back to the centre. A foul against Stanley gave Wilson a free kick, which was well placed, and as smartly returned. Exchanges followed, in the course of which Stanley claimed a corner, but the referee (Mr Anderson, of Hebburn) only allowed a goal kick. Clever work by Joyce, McGarry, and Masterman gave promise of tangible result, but the Park right back was more than equal to the occasion, and effectively covering Hedley, he warded off the danger without the alert goalkeeper being called upon. McGarry was prominent in this attack. After some even but uninteresting play, Douglass made a good attempt to find the net, and was unlucky to fail. Immediately afterwards Forster made a splendid run up and just failed to beat Beckwith. This was followed by a scramble in front of the Park goal, where Stanley were awarded a free kick, but were unable to get behind the visitors defence. The Stanley right wing showed a bit of welcome combination, but just when they were nicely placed a foul was given against O'Connor, and the effort was consequently nullified. The home forwards used their heads to advantage, and Masterman receiving from McGarry sent in a fine shot, which Wilson and Hedley managed to clear. Hedley was again tested, and a goal kick ensued. The home lot were playing the stronger game at this period, and from a pass by Ellis, Masterman again tried Hedley, who somewhat easily cleared. After a brief attack by Leadgate the homesters made a rush, and Coates had a hard try for the net, but missed by a few inches. Stanley made a determined onslaught, but both O'Connor and Masterman missed the goal, the latter being unable to get sufficient force into his kick, which otherwise must have scored. The visitors retaliated, and Beckwith had to save from Crowther. Up to the interval the Park men were having the best of matters, when the game stood:—

Stanley ... Nil
Leadgate Park ... Nil

On resuming, the visitors asserted themselves and quickly forced a goal kick. Stanley got away, and Robson, with the goal at his mercy, made a very bad miss. Martin Joyce twice checked the Park forwards, who, however, played a forcing game, but were gradually driven back. Some wild play ensued on both sides until the home left wing sorely troubled Hedley, who was equal to the occasion. From a throw-in the ball was worked to the Park line, the first corner of the match accruing to Stanley. It was nicely placed, but cleared. The homesters were having most of the play, and O'Connor receiving from Masterman came near scoring, Hedley just managing to save. Immediately afterwards, however, the long looked for goal was registered, O'Connor completely beating Hedley. Both sides now warmed to their work and considerable excitement prevailed. O'Connor played a strong game, and was an evident thorn in the Park side. Robson was badly fouled, but as the referee did not see it the play was continued. Another corner fell to Stanley, but from the placing it was sent high over. A capital chance was given to Douglass, who had only Hedley to beat, but he tackled the work in the weakest possible manner, and the opportunity was lost. McGarry was injured after half-an-hour's play, and had to temporarily leave the field, and Thompson having hurt his leg went in goal for a few moments. The sides, however, were soon made up again. The light was now getting bad, and play to the finish became slow and uninteresting. Nothing further was scored, and Stanley thus registered their first Alliance victory for the present season. Final:—

Stanley ... One goal
Leadgate Park ... Nil

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

By "OFF-SIDE."

HEBBURN AGAIN BEAT BIRTLEY.

The return Alliance match at Hebburn between Hebburn Argyle and Birtley resulted in the Tynesiders winning by exactly the same score as they did at Birtley, namely, three goals to nil. Hebburn were the better team, and were much sharper on the ball than Birtley. The home defence was superior to that of Birtley, but the two sets of halves were about equal. The Hebburn forwards seemed to be far quicker, and to have more combination than the Birtley front rank. Altogether, the best team won, and the score just about represented the play, although Birtley perhaps deserved a goal. Hebburn have now taken four points out of Birtley, and in the two games have scored six goals, while Birtley have failed to find the net.

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STANLEY'S FIRST ALLIANCE WIN.

Stanley have again parted with the wooden spoon. A few weeks ago they presented it to Shankhouse, who returned it with thanks, and now they have magnanimously handed the relic over to St. Peter's Albion, who, by virtue of more games played, and a worse goal average, take their seat on the bottom rung of the Alliance ladder. Stanley have now played seven games, exactly the same number as they had played last season up to the same date, and curiously enough their next engagement is with Gateshead, as it was last December. At the latter meeting they were beaten by 2 to 1, but they had seven points to their credit, whereas next Saturday they will meet the railwaymen with only three on the book. They were again weakened on Saturday last by the absence of Bell and Redpath, and they are sadly in need of a good goalkeeper. I have considerable doubt as to their ability to bring points away from Gateshead, and more especially if the play is no better than that shown against Leadgate Park.

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There was a want of combination, and I was surprised at the Park men not taking full advantage of frequent instances of weakness on the part of their opponents. Saunders, Allison, Coates, O'Connor, and McGarry kept matters in thim as far as they could. Masterman was not given sufficient to do, but what he did was done well, with the exception of one shot, behind which he lacked force. Beckwith had not so much to do as Hedley, and it was as well, for however able he has been in the past, and however willing he is at present, he is neither so young nor so alert as in times gone by. It would be unreasonable to expect much of him now. Hedley gave a fine account of himself in goal, and saved some hard shots. He was in no way to blame when O'Connor beat him with the only goal of the match. Where Stanley are weak, Leadgate are strong, for Hedley has a splendid understudy in J. Crowther. The Park were much stronger in their defence than in their attack, and they would do better if they were more aggressive, and aimed more eagerly at goal getting. The forwards need have no fear of the backs, who seem to know and do their work well.

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A LUCKY DRAW FOR TANTOBIE.

The all conquering "Tobies" visited Leadgate on Saturday to meet the Park Reserve in a Derwent Valley League game. After the way in which Tantobie have been shaping in the cup-ties it was fully expected that they would book the points without much difficulty, especially as the Park were only moderately represented, and had to play three or four juniors. The Co-ops. had the same team (bar Thompson) that has been doing such great things in the cup competition. Those who anticipated a runaway win for the visitors soon began to find that they were mistaken, as the home lads, playing a very smart game, fully held their own. In fact, with a little bit of steadiness in front of goal the Reserve should have led at the interval by a couple of goals. As it was, there was a clean sheet at the cross-over. The "Tobies" were dangerous on a few occasions, and twice over Jack Calvert made daring saves, fairly taking the ball off the toes of the Tantobie forwards. However, the Park had much the best of the game in this half.

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Hostilities had not been long resumed ere the visitors managed to score from a free kick, Jack Calvert being unceremoniously bundled into the net, and having no chance of saving. At this point the home men fell off a great deal, and victory seemed assured for the Co-ops. However, in response to the cries of their supporters, the Reserve woke up, and for the rest of the game the visitors had a trying time in defending their goal. Some good goalkeeping by Lishman warded off several well-meant attempts to equalise, but some ten minutes before the finish Kelly had a fine opening, and steadying himself the youngster gave Lishman no chance with a fast shot, the equaliser being received with cheers from the Park supporters. The Reserve continued to attack, the visitors being seldom dangerous, but nothing further resulted in the way of scoring, so that each team bagged a point.

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The Co-ops. candidly admitted at the conclusion of the game that they were extremely lucky to make a draw. One of them declared that on the day's play the home lads were three goals the better team. The great defect of the Park was their shooting, which was wretched. Harper, who played well in the open, was a great sinner in this respect, and missed some beautiful chances. Todd was in capital form, and Kelly is a promising youngster. McAloon did not do badly at centre forward, and Gleadow is a smart player, but is inclined to be selfish. Cartmell worked like a horse at half, whilst Willie Calvert should develope into a splendid player. Dawson did fairly after a long rest, whilst at back Robson played a great game, being in one of his best moods. Thompson (of the juniors) showed promising form, whilst Jack Calvert kept goal exceedingly well. Some of the visitors informed me that they played nothing like the same they did at the Plain, and I should think this very probable, as on Saturday's form it would be difficult to understand how they could beat the Celts. Lishman fully maintained his reputation, and saved the "Tobies" from defeat. Adamson played a good game at back, but he had a very poor partner, who kicked weakly and used no judgment. McKever was prominent at half, notwithstanding an injury received the previous week, but the forwards were off colour completely, and played a disappointing game.

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CONSETT JUNIOR LEAGUE.

A meeting of this body was held at headquarters last Thursday night, but owing to some misunderstanding neither of the secretaries were in attendance. Consequently the meeting was not able to transact much business. D. Dorward was transferred from Consett Shamrocks to Blackhill St. Cuthbert's. The following referees were appointed for Saturday first:—Blackhill St. Cuthbert's v. Consett Shamrocks, W. Bell; Annfield Plain Juniors v. Medomsley Juniors, T. Toole; Leadgate Athletic v. Leadgate Exiles, J. Emmerson. The question of the unfinished game between Blackhill and Consett United was left over until the meeting to-night (Thursday), in order that the referee (Mr. Turnbull) might attend the meeting or else send a report.

BURNHOPE WIN AGAIN.

Whatever they may do away Burnhope can generally be relied upon to scoop in all the points at home. They are certainly making a good show in the Derwent Valley League competition, and in many quarters they are fancied for premier honours. After a fortnight's rest Burnhope entertained Tanfield Lea on Saturday, and the latter had to retire beaten by two goals to nil. The winners undoubtedly deserved their success, as they were the better team, albeit Tanfield played a plucky game. Laycock (the home custodian) had not a great deal of work, but was always there when wanted. Cassidy and Talbot played a splendid game at back, and were bad to beat. The halves were in tip-top form, and stopped the visiting front rank time after time. The forwards played a neat game, but still have a bad fault of passing too far ahead. With regard to the Leaites, the custodian had no chance with the shots that passed him. Green was the pick of the backs, and will make a fine player. The halves shaped well, whilst Smith was prominent amongst the vanguard, as were also the outside left and right respectively. Tom Amos made a capable referee.

MEMS.

Stanley gained their first Alliance victory.
At the expense of Leadgate Park.
It was but a moderate game.
And such play is not class enough for the majority of Alliance teams.
McGarry and O'Connor played well.
Bell and Redpath were absent.
Leadgate missed Cartmell.
More dash in the forward line was needed.
Charley Crute improvised a cigar box, and made a collection for the reservists fund.
A good sum was realised.
To which a percentage of the takings was added.
Bravo, Stanley!
On the last Saturday in November neither Stanley nor Birtley had a match.
The Alliance match for September 30th was postponed.
Owing to cup ties.
Birtley were asked to play off the match on November 25th.
But refused, and amused themselves by practicing at home.
Surely this was unreasonable.
And a fit subject for discussion by the Alliance Committee.
Hebburn Argyle again beat Birtley.
The Tynesiders have relieved the ironworkers of six goals and four points.
That's more than they can do with Stanley.
With whom they played a draw of three each.
I am pleased to hear that several of the local clubs are going to do something for the reservists' fund.
Consett Swifts will devote a portion of the gate at Saturday's game with Allendale to this worthy object.
Leadgate will do the same in their match with Bearpark on Saturday first.
I trust that the attendance at each may be large.
So that the fund may materially benefit.
It is an object deserving of every support.
Allendale went to the Plain on Saturday to meet the Celts.
In what should have been a North-West Durham Alliance game.
But no referee turned up, and the upshot was an unsatisfactory friendly.
This is to be regretted, as it comes hard on the visitors especially.
I was sorry to hear that Peter Daly met with an accident at work last week-end.
Otherwise he would have accompanied the Park team to Stanley.
That promising young forward, Hughes, is on the sick list.
He was unable to turn out for the Park Reserve last Saturday.
Nearly everybody expected Tantobie to beat the Park Reserve.
But the "Tobies" were very lucky to draw.
On the day's play they were thoroughly beaten.
A good display of custodianship by Lishman was the only thing that saved the Co-ops.
The shooting of the Park forwards, too, was shocking.
Harper missed some splendid openings.
He is a capital forward, but seems to lose his head when near goal.
Gleadow is very smart, but should part with the ball more.
He made one fine single-handed run three-parts the length of the field, and nearly scored.
The Park have a coming half in Willie Calvert.
He is young yet, but should make a champion.
Jimmy Thompson is a very promising back.
To the delight of his friends, "Spuff" Robson played one of his best games.
I don't know a harder worker than Dan Cartmell.
He keeps it up the whole ninety minutes.
The Tantobie left back was very weak.
And he landed the ball out at every opportunity in the second half.
McKever is a really fine player.
And uses his head to great advantage.
The forwards were disappointing.
I expected something out of the common from them.
But they shaped only moderately.
The right wing was given far too much work.
The "Tobies" will have to shape differently in the first round of the competition proper.
Or else they can hand in their checks.
What is the matter with the Allendale A team this season?
They are playing very few games in the Junior League.
I am told that Milburn Hunter has left the Hobson and gone to Langley Park.
It is expected that he will assist the Parkites.
Another old Allendale player in Ernest Morris is also at Langley Park.
But I believe he is troubled with a weak knee.
And so may not be able to indulge in football.
This is a pity, as Morris was a capital forward.
And would have improved.
Byer Moor played their first league game of the season at home on Saturday.
Blackhill St. Cuthbert's were the visitors.
The Saints appeared on the field at 3.30.
Which compelled the referee to stop the game 25 minutes off time.
The Moorites were then leading by three to nil.
In a case like this it is hard lines for the game to have to be re-played.
As no fault whatever attaches to the home team.
And then they are a long way back in their league games.
With practice Byer Moor are getting into something like their proper form.
And are determined to make an effort for one of the pots.
Leighton is scarcely playing in his old form as yet.
For the matter of that, neither are any of the team.
This is not surprising when we consider that only on one or two occasions has a representative team been placed in the field.
Hamsterley visit the Moorites on Saturday.
When the meeting of the finalists for the Charity Cup should produce a good game.
Burnhope gained other two points on Saturday.
Their victims being Tanfield Lea.
Burnhope have not been beaten at home this season.
Who will be the first to do the trick.
Laycock was not much troubled.
But stopped all that came his way.
Talbot and Cassidy were seen to great advantage.
And played a splendid game at back.
One of their best of the season.
Stick in, Paddy!
The halves are a grand trio.
Hodgson is making a name for himself.
And this is only his first season.
Murray and Wallace are a source of strength.
The Talbots are useful forwards.
I hear that South Moor United has withdrawn from the Consett Junior League.
Wallace was in capital trim and scored a good goal.
A. Flynn was all right, but his brother seemed a bit off-colour.
Burnhope are a warm lot at home.
Joe Birtley, the Park footballer, is also a good cricketer.
He has won the bat for the best average in connection with the Leadgate Temperance C.C.
The bowling average prize has been carried off by the veteran Exile half, Jimmy Monaghan.
I notice that Monaghan has been elected skipper for next season.
With Joe Birtley as vice.
The Park will probably try a new forward on Saturday in their game with Bearpark.
The forwards gave anything but satisfaction at Stanley.

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MATCHES WANTED.

Cement Heroes have a few vacant dates and would like them filled up as soon as possible; averages ages, 16 to 17 years.—Apply, G. Bland, 14, Cement Houses, Annfield Plain.

Hobson Rovers have all dates vacant, and would like them filled up as soon as possible; ages 12 to 13 years.—Apply, J. W. Maddison, 15, Mason's Terrace, Hobson, Burnopfield, R.S.O.

Hamsterley Lilywhites have all dates vacant and would like them filled up as soon as possible; ages, 13 to 15 years.—Apply, R. Maitland, 12, Prospect Terrace, Hamsterley Colliery, near Ebchester.

Ouston Juniors have all dates vacant, and would like them filled up as soon as possible; age 17 to 19 years.—Apply, I. Skeen, 4, Tipperary Row, Ouston.

Louisa Terrace Rangers have Dec. 30th, Jan. 13th and 27th, Feb. 10th and 24th vacant at home, and also New Year's Day home; and Feb. 3rd and 17th, and March 1st away; ages, 14 to 16 years.—Apply, T. Watson, 3, Stone Terrace, Annfield Plain.

Allendale Putters would like to play Hamsterley Lilywhites for a ball on neutral ground; meet at Trainer's public-house.

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 Tuesday morning.

HINTS TO LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Sir,—We have all been shocked at the terrible list of crimes to which Judge Greenwell called attention at the recent Durham Assizes, and which deeply disgrace our county.

His courage in pointing out the main cause with such clearness, and his suggestion that both magistrates and police have great responsibility has set me thinking that on us all, as citizens, rest the final onus for this state of things.

Our duty is clearly to support and encourage the police in what is often a very difficult task, by giving them necessary information when possible, and by calling their attention to cases when we observe them.

I believe the police are anxious to do their duty, but one man cannot see as much as a hundred. If every law abiding man and woman in the County will do his or her best to bring home breaches of the law in supplying drink to those already intoxicated, and will also report to the police all public-houses from which drunken men are seen to come, I am sure we may quickly wipe off this great reproach. I remain, yours faithfully,

CIVIS.

JUSTICE GRANTHAM ON "DRINK AND CRIME."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Sir,—The remarks of Justice Grantham at the opening of the Assizes at Durham, affords melancholy reading to lovers of our country, and the county of Durham in particular. That it is possible to make such remarks and to know that they are true is deplorable. The police have a very difficult duty to perform, and in doing so it is hard to discriminate between the public and the publican. It is, I think, rendered doubly so when we consider the effect of any particular action they may take. In many cases the police bring charges against the publicans, and when the case is tried the magistrates inflict a paltry fine of 5s., "and the license will not be endorsed." The policeman gets disgusted at such results. Another difficulty, which is not an imaginary one by any means, is the action of certain brewery companies and pubicans engaging ex-policemen as touts and managers. So long as such is allowed there is always the tendency for the Inspector to wink at breaches of the law. Why, sir, in spite of the County Council resolution, we can see every day children carrying drink from the public-house when they have hardly strength to carry a quart of beer, not to speak of thirteen years of age. I would suggest that some one of our County Councillors at the next meeting of that body should propose a resolution on the following lines. That each Superintendent of Division, present a return of each ex-policeman, sergeant, or inspector, receiving superannuation allowance from the County, shewing their present occupation, and if engaged by any brewery company or licensed victualler, the amount of salary from such occupation; also, ascertain, as far as possible, the amount of licensed property held by Justices' Clerks in the County.

The pension allowed our retiring constables should be efficient to keep them easily in comfortable circumstances, and if not, it should not be possible for them to anticipate an income of from £2 to £4 per week from acting as publican's touts as they are doing now. Thanking you in anticipation, I am, &c.,

J.W.E.

Felling.

The Consett Wounding Case

At the Consett Police Court on Monday—before Mr. W. Aynsley—Matthew Coleman, a labourer, of Consett, was brought up on remand on a charge of having wounded Wm. Wall, a labourer, of 19, William Street, Consett, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm, on November 25th.

Prosecutor, who appeared in Court with his head bandaged up, said that on November 28th, he lived at 9, William Street, Consett, but removed on that date to No. 19, William Street. He was so drunk that he could not remember anything about the affair. He had been drinking from eleven o'clock in the morning. The first thing he could remember was Dr. Bratton dressing his head in his lodgings at No. 19, William Street. He had had most of the drink in the house where he was stopping, No. 9, William Street.

Inspector Best, of Consett, said while on duty in William Street, Consett, on Nov. 25th, about ten o'clock, in company with P.C. Pringle, he heard the prosecutor and prisoner quarrelling about the war, in the house of Daniel McInteer. Prisoner rose to his feet, went towards the fireplace, and picked up the bar of iron produced. Prosecutor then got on his feet, when the prisoner struck him on the left side of the head with the iron. Prosecutor stepped a yard or two into the middle of the floor, when the prisoner struck him again on the top of the head, and while the prosecutor was falling prisoner struck him a third blow on the head. Witness took prisoner to the police station, and sent for Dr. Bratton to attend Wall, and charged Coleman with wounding William Wall with intent to do him grievous bodily harm, when prisoner made no reply. Prisoner was in the act of striking him a fourth time when he rushed in, and stopped him. Wall was then lying on the floor bleeding.

P.C. Pringle corroborated.

Dr. Wm. Bratton, Consett, said on Nov. 25th, about ten p.m., he visited No. 19, William Street, and found the patient suffering from severe injuries to his head. One was an incised wound, while the other two were lacerated wounds. Each wound on the top of the head was two inches long and one inch deep. The wound in the centre was cut to the bone. All the wounds were in dangerous places.

Prisoner said on the night of November 25th prisoner knocked the old woman (the landlady) down. Both him and prosecutor were "drunkish." Prosecutor threatened to kill both his wife and himself. Prosecutor ran against prisoner's wife, and he took the first thing he could lay hands on, and struck him with it.

Janet Coleman, wife of the prisoner, said on Saturday night, November 25th, when Wm. Wall went seeking lodgings at McInteer's he asked her to seek him his things from No. 9, but she refused. The man did knock her down, and black her arm, but she believed he never intended to knock her down. She afterwards went out to do some shopping, and was not present when the affair happened. All she saw was that when she returned, the prisoner was standing with the bar of iron in an elevated position, near the prosecutor. She sought Dr. Bratton.

Prisoner was remanded to the Durham Quarter Sessions in January.

THE RESERVIST FUNDS.

EAST CASTLE.

The men employed at East Castle Colliery have contributed 6d each, and the boys 3d each, to the fund for the dependents of the reservists. It has also been decided that in future the men shall contribute 3d each per fortnight, and the boys 1d., to the same fund.

BENFIELDSIDE.

A meeting was held at Shotley Bridge, Mr. C. Parnaby presiding over a good attendance, when it was resolved to inaugurate a fund to be connected with the county branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association for the parish of Benfieldside. It was decided to open subscription lists at the local banks, the different works and factories, and Mr. R. G. Barclay, J.P., was appointed treasurer, and Mr. J. B. Lazenby secretary.

WOLSINGHAM.

A highly successful concert was held in Wolsingham Town Hall last week, in aid of the Improvement Association. The chair was taken by the Rev. A. D. Rigby. The hall was crowded, many being unable to obtain admission. A very effective programme was rendered. Mr. Mackay, during the interval, very ably recited Mr. Rudyard Kipling's new poem, "The Absent-Minded Beggar." At the close of the recitation the hat was sent round, and the sum of £2 7s 6d was collected, which will be forwarded to the "Daily Mail" Reservists' Fund. Messrs Pallister and Milburn were as usual accorded a hearty reception. The Rev. A. D. Rigby, Mrs. G. Wooler, and the Misses Fenwick, Eales, Lambert, Watson, Calvert, and Spence, were all very heartily received, and encores were numerous. Great credit is due to the hon. secretary (Mr. A. Wooler) for his untiring efforts to make the concert the success it was.

STANHOPE.

At a committee meeting of the workers in connection with the Reservists' Fund, at the Rectory, Stanhope, Mr J. W. Roddam, J.P., presiding, the collectors and canvassers brought in their books. The results are very good. The total amount raised so far is £75 16s 7d, with other subscriptions promised later on. The volunteers are raising £3 per fortnight as long as the war lasts. Other donations have already been forwarded from people in Stanhope, which are not accounted for here. The Misses Littlefair, newsagents, have a box in the shop to receive subscriptions. Stanhope is expected to raise £100. The results of the canvassers' books are as follows:—Mrs Crawhall and Miss Fenwick, £3 10s; Misses Boddam and Thompson, £2 3s 7d; Misses Pulleine and Gray, £3 16s [illegible]; Misses S. and M. Pulleine, £1 13s 6d; Misses Woodham and Jones, £4 2s 6d; Messrs G. Roddam and W. Livingstone, £3 3s 6d; Messrs W. Tweddle and J. Hogarth, £3 5s 9d; Messrs J. Lonsdale and C. Tinkler, £3 3s 3d; Messrs G. Bainbridge and G. Pallister, £22 16s 3d; Messrs W. Egglestone and F. Batute, £9; Mr J. Ridley, £3 5s. The collectors' books are kept open a few weeks, so that anyone wishing to subscribe may still do so.

Mr James Ridley, post office, Stanhope, has collected £3 5s from the young men of Stanhope for the Reservists' Families Fund.

WEARDALE.

On Friday night, an enthusiastic meeting was held in the Town Hall, St. John's Chapel, over which Dr. J. Easton presided.—After the Chairman had eloquently epitomised the object and movement, on the motion of Coun. O. Monkhouse and the Rev. F. Hunter (Wesleyan minister), it was decided to have a house-to-house canvass for subscriptions in aid of the county fund. Mr J. T. Carr, postmaster, Cowshill, being appointed secretary, and Mr T. Dawson, postmaster, St. John's, treasurer. Committees were appointed for each of the chapelries, with power to add to their number, and make appointments for having the canvass made by ladies. By way of reply to the complimentary vote the Chairman (Dr. Easton) recited "The Absent-minded Beggar" in excellent style, Coun. O. Monkhouse going round with his hat. A handsome collection was taken. Amongst the other efforts Mr T. G. Watson proposed a concert in the Town Hall, while the volunteer company, commanded by Sergt. J. T. Carr, have agreed to give the proceeds of their annual concert at Wearhead to the fund, and Mr T. Pentland, postmaster, Ireshopeburn, has consented to give the programme gratis.

Tennis Club Social at Annfield Plain

On Wednesday week the annual social in connection with the Annfield Plain Tennis Club was held in the Annfield Plain New Infant School, kindly granted for the occasion by the Kyo School Board. To the 250 invitations sent out there was a hearty response. The room was tastefully decorated for the occasion by the Misses Burdon, Miss Errington, Miss Gray, Messrs Willis, Gray, Purvis, Dawson, Irwin, and Mr. and Mrs. Copley, the curtains being kindly lent by Mr. J. E. Smith, of Annfield Plain, to whom the members wish to tender their sincere thanks. The refreshments were catered for by Mr. J. Wright, confectioner, of Annfield Plain, and were of a first-class quality, giving the utmost satisfaction. The M.C.'s, Messrs J. E. Gray and E. Purvis, discharged their duties efficiently, while Mr. J. Copley made a very capable secretary. The music was supplied by Mr. T. R. Simpson and Mr. J. Collin, of Catchgate. Amongst those present were:—

Mr. J. E. Gray, Annfield Plain.
Misses Errington, Kyo.
Mr. G. and Miss Wilkinson, Oxhill.
Misses Burdon, Oxhill.
Miss Hartley, South Moor.
Mr. E. Purvis, Annfield Plain.
Miss Wilson, Loud Cottages.
Mr. Hendry, Annfield Plain.
Mr. Gleer, East Castle.
Mr. R. Irwin and Miss Tina Gray, Annfield Plain.
Miss McGowan, Kyo.
Mr. Dawson, Annfield Plain.
Miss Guthrie, Annfield Plain.
Mr. Parkin and Miss Herdman, Kyo.
Mr. Willis, Annfield Plain.
Mr. Dory and Miss Willis, Annfield Place.
Mr. Dixon, Annfield Place.
Mr. Moore, Annfield Plain.
Mr. G. Dawson, Catchgate.
Mr. Watchman, Annfield Plain.
Mr. Murray, Pontop Pike.
Miss Robinson, Catchgate.
Mr. R. Collin and Miss Johnson, Annfield Plain.
Mr. Balleny and Miss Irwin, Catchgate.
Mr. Tones and Miss Tones, Catchgate.
Mr. Wilson, Maiden Hall.
Miss McKenzie, Dipton.
Mr. and Miss Marley, Annfield Plain.
Mr. and Miss Edgar, Moor Pit.
Mr. Peacock, Annfield Plain.
Mr. Mitchison, Park Head.
Mr. Dowson, Lanchester.
Mr. Cawthorn, Pontop Colliery.
Mr. J. Brown, Howdon Bank.
Mr. Herdman, Annfield Plain.
Misses Lederer, Annfield Plain.
Miss Jobs, Annfield Plain.
Mr. Hunter, Fen Green.
Mr. and Mrs. Copley, Annfield Plain.

Annfield Plain Property in the Market

On Wednesday week, at Mr. Joseph Lumley's, Railway Inn, Annfield Plain, Mr. A. Phillipson, auctioneer, Dipton, offered several freehold dwelling-houses, situate in Jubilee Terrace, and Providence Terrace, Annfield Plain, for sale, in three lots. There was a good attendance. After the conditions of sale had been read, the first lot, comprising four freehold dwelling-houses, of three rooms each, and all conveniences, situate in Jubilee Terrace, Annfield Plain, was offered. The bidding was opened by Mr. J. Moore, of Annfield Plain, who offered £500. Bidding continued until £700 was reached, at which price the lot was withdrawn, and the houses offered separately. Mr. Moore then bid £150 for No. 3 house, and after several offers were made, it was withdrawn at £200. No. 4 was then put up, but was withdrawn at £204. Nos. 5 and 6 were offered, but were also withdrawn. Lot 2, a five-roomed freehold dwelling-house, No. 24, Jubilee Terrace, Annfield Plain, belonging to Mr. Robt. Watt, was next put into the market, but was withdrawn at £300. Lot 3, a four-romed freehold dwelling-house, in Providence Terrace Annfield Plain, was next offered, but was withdrawn at £260. Lot 2 was afterwards sold to Mr. J. Chipchase, of South Medomsley, for £320.

South Moor Sewage Disposal Works

Dr. T. E. Hill, County Medical Officer of Health, in his quarterly report recently issued, has the following reference to the Sewage Disposal Works at South Moor:—"The new works at South Moor in the Stanley U.D., in which the sewage of that portion of the district is passed through bacterial contact tanks, were formally opened in July last. The tanks have now been working for nearly nine months, and the result has been most satisfactory. During the past quarter I have continued to make numerous analyses of the sewage and tank effluents, and every sample of the final effluents was clear, colourless, free from smell, and underwent no change on standing while the amount of purification effected exceeded 90 per cent in every case."—Mr. Routledge, Surveyor to the Stanley Urban Council, to whom the credit is due for having so successfully carried out the works, has had visits from various representative bodies in the County, to whom he has explained the works.

The Drink for the Season.

Absolutely a New Drink.

Awarded 8 Gold Medals.

LEMO.
LEMO CHAMPAGNE.
LEMO.

Try it. An Ideal Summer Drink.

MADE ONLY BY

J. KERSHAW and SONS,

LEADGATE and GATESHEAD.

YEARLY FUND SUPPER AT MEDOMSLEY

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. JAS. KELLY.

On Saturday night the members of the Royal Oak Yearly Fund held their annual supper at the above-named hostelry. The worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. T. Trainor, placed a most sumptuous repast upon the tables, and one which reflected great credit upon them. This was admirably served up under the superintendence of Mr. Forster, of Consett, who had the assistance of an able band of attendants. Some 45 guests sat down to supper. Upon the removal of the cloths, Mr. Robert Moffitt was voted to the chair, with Mr. Geo. Platt (chairman of the fund) as vice-chairman. There were also present—Dr. Downs, Mr. D. McKinnell (secretary), Mr. Jas. Kelly, Leadgate (treasurer), Messrs N. Houston, J. Settrey, B. Saunderson, and J. Taylor (members of the committee), &c.

The Chairman said there was a toast usually given at all loyal gatherings of British subjects, and that was the toast of "The Queen and Royal Family." (Applause.) There were a few "wasters" who did not honour this toast, but he did not believe that they had any in Medomsley. (Applause.)

The Chairman, in giving "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," said this was a toast which they would all receive heartily (Applause.) It was one which at the present time required little recommendation. They had all seen the papers, and would know what the army and navy had done. (Applause.) He would couple with the toast the name of Mr. D. McKinnell, who had seen service in the army. (Applause.)

Mr. McKinnell, in responding, said they were all proud of their army and navy. He had served in the army for eight years, and was proud of his connection with it. (Applause.) The gallant deeds of the army in the Transvaal had won their highest admiration. As regards the navy, they knew what they did at Elands Laagte, and the commander of the detachment was a Durham man, and a brother of the Earl of Durham. (Applause.) He trusted that the war would soon be at an end, and that they would teach the Boers a lesson that they would not forget in a hurry. (Applause.)

The Vice-chairman next proposed "Success to the Royal Oak Yearly Fund," and expressed the pleasure it gave him to again be present at their annual gathering. This was the third dinner of the fund he had attended, and he had always enjoyed himself very much. (Applause.) They had had a successful time in the past, and he trusted that they would go on and prosper. He had been chairman of the Society for the past two years, and they had all worked harmoniously together. (Applause.) He had no doubt but what the fund would continue to prosper, and that they would have many more pleasant gatherings similar to that one. (Applause.)

Mr. D. McKinnell, in reply, congratulated the members upon the successful year they had just passed through. They had 37 members, and the contributions amounted to £25 14s 2d, whilst the expenses were £12 15s 2d, leaving a balance of £12 19s. This worked out to 7/- per member. (Applause.) He thought this very satisfactory, and trusted that the fund would be as successful in future years. (Applause.) He had no doubt about this if the members continued to pull together in the same way as they had done in the past. (Applause.)

The Chairman then rose and said he had a pleasant duty to perform, and that was to make a presentation to their old friend, Mr. Kelly, and likewise to Mrs. Kelly. (Applause.) They had never had a better-hearted landlord in the village than Mr. Kelly. There was never a good object promoted but what he was willing to support it, and he was well worthy of that little token of their respect. (Applause.) Mr. Kelly had now left them, and they all hoped that he had improved his position. (Hear, hear.) He (the chairman) had no doubt but what he would do well and prosper in his new house at Leadgate. (Applause.) He would now, on behalf of the Royal Oak Yearly Fund, present that pipe in case, and tobacco pouch to Mr. Kelly, with a gold brooch for Mrs. Kelly, and he hoped that wherever Mr. Kelly's lot was cast, those presents would serve to remind him of the esteem felt towards him by the members of the Yearly Fund. (Applause.) He was satisfied that Mr. and Mrs. Kelly would do their best for the comfort of their patrons, and he wished them long life and happiness. (Loud applause.)

After the health of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly had been accorded musical honours, the former rose to reply, remarking that to find words to express his thanks for the presentations made by the chairman was impossible. The kind words used, and that token of their esteem, had certainly taken him completely by storm. It was three-and-a-half years since he first came to Medomsley a perfect stranger, but he found a lot of good fellows who supported him by their patronage and good conduct. (Hear, hear.) His impression was when he came to Medomsley that he should have learnt the noble art of self-defence, but he was agreeably disappointed. The class of people he met were all that could be desired. He could assure them that he had always had one object in view, and that was to give the man with the moleskin trousers the same treatment as the man with broadcloth. (Applause.) He left Medomsley with very great regret. During the time his wife and himself were at Medomsley they had several social dinners, and their aim had been to make everybody comfortable. (Hear, hear.) The man who did not try to please his customers, the sooner he was out of the business the better. He thanked them for the handsome presents. Also on behalf of Mrs. Kelly he thanked them. If she had been there she would have felt grateful and pleased at their good wishes. At Leadgate he had found many who had rallied round him. (Hear, hear.) His one effort was to please all that came to the house. If he did not succeed it would not be his fault. He wished the fund all prosperity, and the members every happiness. (Applause.)

Dr. Downs, in a humorous speech, proposed "The Press," to which Mr. J. Ross ("Consett Guardian") responded.

Mr. Kelly gave the toast of "The Visitors," to which Mr. I. King replied in a most able speech.

The Chairman, in proffering "The Host and Hostess," said that although Mr. and Mrs. Trainor were strangers, comparatively speaking, they had quite satisfied everybody by their catering. (Applause.) If they went on as at present he thought they would give every satisfaction. They heartily appreciated the spread that they had had that night. (Hear, hear.) Mr. and Mrs. Trainor might find them rough and ready, but their hearts were in the right place. (Applause.) He hoped that their worthy host and hostess would live long to provide many such suppers. (Applause.)

Mr. Trainor returned thanks, expressing his pleasure at having satisfied the company. His wife and himself would always do their best for the comfort of their patrons. (Applause.)

The other toasts included "The Chairman," and "The Vice-chairman," which were drank with musical honours.

During the evening songs were rendered in good style by Dr. Downs, Mr. Kelly, Mr. A. Burns, and Mr. J. McKinnell, whilst the two former also gave recitations, Mr. Kelly's being "The Absent-minded Beggar," and a collection on behalf of the reservists resulted in 27/- being realised. Mr. Dobson also rendered good service on the violin. The enjoyable proceedings concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. We are pleased to hear that the prospects of the fund for next year are very bright, a number of new members having joined.

SAD DEATH OF MR THOS. MILNER, OF CONSETT

Quite a consternation was created in Consett on Friday morning, about 10.30, when the news was spread that Mr. Thos. Milner, who carried on a successful business as a chemist in Shakespeare and Front Streets, Consett, had died with alarming suddenness. Mr. Milner went to attend to his daily avocation as usual, when between ten and eleven o'clock a.m., he was seized with an apoplectic fit, and fell down in the shop. He was immediately conveyed to his apartments in Edith Street, and visited by Dr. Wm. Bratton, but shortly afterwards expired. The deceased, who was 46 years of age, was single, and had been in business in the town for over 16 years. He was a native of Bagby, near Thirsk, where several members of the family reside, another brother being a chemist at Thirsk. Both parents are dead. Mr. Milner, who was well known in the town and much liked, was a steward of the "Constance" Lodge of Freemasons (No. 2,135), a sidesman at the Parish Church, a director of the Consett and District Permanent Benefit Building Society, and a member of the committee of the Consett Reading and Recreation Rooms. On Monday morning, a special service was held in Christ Church, Consett, in memory of the late Mr. T. Milner. The body, which was enclosed in a polished pitch pine coffin, with brass mountings, was borne from his residence in Edith Street into the sacred edifice by Messrs E. J. Colmar, E. Lockey, McLachlan, W. S. Kirkup, W. Ward, and others. The brethren of the "Constance" Masonic Lodge, of which the deceased was a steward, preceded the cortege, and following the hearse supplied by Mr. G. J. Christopher, were the representatives of the Permanent Building Society, the Reading and Recreation Rooms, and the church officials. The chief mourners were Mr. Jonah Milner and Mr. Andrew Milner (brothers), Mrs. Scott, and Mr. J. T. Pescod. The service was impressively conducted by the Rev. W. D. Croudace, M.A., vicar, and the Rev. M. J. B. Bennett, M.A., curate. The hymn, "Days and moments quickly flying," was sung during the service, at the conclusion of which the Freemasons sang their hymn, "May we all meet together in that grand lodge above." The wreath sent by the Freemasons represented "a square and compasses," while other beautiful wreaths were sent by the churchwardens and sidesmen of Consett Parish Church, the directors of the Permanent Building Society, the employees of Mr. Milner, Mrs. Scott and family, and the members of the Consett Reading and Recreation Rooms. Mr. W. Suddes, of Consett, was the undertaker, and the mourning coaches were supplied by Messrs Rawes, Consett, and the hearse and one mourning coach being supplied by Mr. G. J. Christopher, of Consett and Blackhill. Bro. G. Dryden, jun., A.L.C.M., presided at the organ. Afterwards the cortege proceeded by road to Durham, from where it was conveyed by the 11.30 a.m. train to Bagby, the burial place. In the first coach were Mr. W. Hardcastle, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Hetherington, and Mr. J. T. Pescod. The second coach contained Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Yager, Mrs. Barras, and Mrs. Hardcastle. The party in the third coach comprised the underbearers, Messrs Colmar, Kirkup, McLachlan, Ward, and R. Pescod, who journeyed to Bagby. The fourth coach consisted of the Freemasons, Bros. J. R. Brodie, T. D. Dryden, G. Pattrick, and G. T. Hyden. Amongst the Freemasons at the service were Bros. F. A. Coltman, G. J. Christopher, C. Stephenson, W. E. Turner, G. Dryden, sec., E. Wylam, W. S. Shell, W. Lee, E. Lockey, Taylor, T. Green, Dr. Moore, Dr. Reed, W. Ramsay, G. J. Robinson, G. T. Wilson, and others. Amongst the general public were Mr. T. L. Gledstone, Mr. Taylor, Mr. J. S. Murray, Mr. Jos. Murray, Mr. G. D. Powell, Mr. John Davison, Mr. C. Lumley, Mr. E. Lamb, Mr. J. Swindale, Mr. J. Heslop, and others.

New Fermented Drink for Summer and Winter!

BURDOCK.

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BURDOCK.

TO BE HAD FROM ALL RETAILERS, OR WHOLESALE FROM THE

ANNFIELD PLAIN ÆRATED WATER CO.,

MAKERS OF HIGH-CLASS MINERAL WATERS AND SPECIALLY FERMENTED DRINKS,

ANNFIELD PLAIN

AITCHISON & CO.,

(Late R. Hewitt),

NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, MIDDLE ST., CONSETT,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

FRUITERERS, FLORISTS, AND CONFECTIONERS.

CHOICE FRESH CUT FLOWERS ALWAYS ON HAND. BALL SPRAYS, BOUQUETS, WREATHS, CROSSES, &c., MADE ON THE PREMISES.

LARGE ARRIVALS OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES DAILY.

Also at GATESHEAD 8621

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rded 8 Gold Medals.

CHAMPAGNE.

LEMO.

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nd SONS,

ESHEAD.

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ATED WATER CO.,

WATERS AND SPECIALLY

DRINKS,

PLAIN

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SPECIFIC.

BILE BEANS FOR BILIOUSNESS

HAVE WROUGHT SOME

WONDERFUL CURES IN YORKSHIRE.

A CASE OF LOST APPETITE CURED

4, Neale-place, Leathley-road, Hunslet, Leeds, October 10th, 1899.

The Bile Bean Manufacturing Co.
Gentlemen,—

I have for some time been a great sufferer from internal pains, tightness across the chest, and severe distention after meals. So bad was the latter that I used to dread meal time coming, and eating became a trouble to me instead of a pleasure. I have tried several patent medicines and consulted numerous doctors on different occasions, but all to no avail. I was fortunate one day in meeting a friend, who spoke to me of Bile Beans for Biliousness, and the wonderful cures they had effected in serious cases. He suggested that I should give them a trial, and I finally decided to do so, and glad am I that I accepted his advice, for I can conscientiously say that they have done me the greatest amount of good. I might add that meal time, once such a dreaded period, has now become a pleasure. My appetite, indeed, is particularly good, and I can eat as heartily now as ever I could in my life, and without the slightest fear of pain or trouble following. I have pleasure in giving you permission to use this letter as you think fit, as I shall also certainly recommend Bile Beans to all my friends.—Yours truly,

(Signed) WILLIAM HAWKINS.

SEVERE HEADACHES AND INDIGESTION EXTERMINATED.

THE RECOVERY OF MRS. MOSS.

A REMARKABLE LEEDS CASE.

The following facts were given to a "Leeds Saturday Journal" reporter by Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Moss, who lives at 7, Pear Street, Green Road, Leeds:—


THE EFFECTS WERE ONLY TEMPORARY.

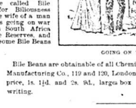
Mrs. Moss is a pleasant featured woman, who should be found in charge of a cosy farm or a spotless country dairy; instead, she lives in Leeds, in an atmosphere tainted by smoke and dirt. Like many others in large cities, she was a martyr to severe Headaches, Biliousness, Indigestion and pains in limbs and body. She and her husband keep a Confectioner and Tobacconist Shop, and while the husband works at an establishment in the locality, the wife attends to the wants of the customers.

"The doctor said that I should be a deal better if I could get out more," said Mrs. Moss, to a "Leeds Saturday Journal" representative; "but what can I do? The shop must be looked after." The good woman then told the visitor a remarkable story.

"All my life," she began, "I have suffered from Biliousness and Sick Headaches, ever since being a child in fact. This last few years I have been worse. As I got older and my health did not improve, I consulted a doctor, and took any amount of quinine and iron tonics, besides boxes of pills and bottles of patent medicine. I have spent pounds in trying to cure myself. But it was all in vain. Some of the medicines did me a little good, but the effects were only temporary. The Headaches were the worst things I had to contend with. They were simply frightful, and sometimes my eyes were quite swollen up with pain. At times I have been so bad from my various ailments, that I have even had to pay people to mind the shop so that I could go to bed."

Mrs. Moss went on to say that she suffered from pains in her arms and shoulders as well; in fact all over her body.

"All this is changed now, though," she continued. "I heard of a medicine called Bile Beans for Biliousness from the wife of a man who was going on war duty in South Africa with the Reserves, and taking some Bile Beans with him. I finally decided to try them, too, and to my great surprise almost the first dose gave me relief; I continued with them, and to-day I am an altogether different woman. I can eat anything, and go about my work with a freshness and energy that quite astonishes me. The Indigestion and Headaches have left me altogether since I have taken Bile Beans."


GOING ON WAR DUTY.

Bile Beans are obtainable of all Chemists, or post free from the Bile Beans Manufacturing Co., 119 and 120, London Wall, London, E.C., on receipt of price, 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., large box. Please mention this paper when writing.

A LONG-STANDING CASE OF INDIGESTION CURED.

A LETTER OF GRATITUDE.

29, Scarborough-road, Norton, near Malton, Sept. 27th, 1899.

The Bile Bean Manufacturing Co.

Dear Sirs,—Gratitude compels me to write and tell you of the wonderful benefits I have received by taking three boxes of Bile Beans. Ever since I was a child I have been a victim of chronic indigestion and constipation, with pains in the shoulders, back, and chest, from which I have scarcely ever been free during the last 20 years. I have spent pounds in doctors' bills, and have tried dozens of patent medicines without avail. About six weeks ago a friend recommended me to give Bile Beans a trial. I did so, but without any hope of relief; but the result I can describe as nothing short of marvellous.

I am now a stranger to both indigestion and constipation. I have not a pain in my body. After suffering all my life, you can imagine the wonderful relief I feel, and I think it only my duty to tell you the main facts of the case for the benefit of other sufferers. You may publish this letter if you think fit.

I remain, yours gratefully,
(Signed) ELIZABETH TYSON.

Bile Beans FOR Biliousness — Bile Beans FOR Biliousness

BILE BEANS FOR CHILDREN.

A FATHER'S LETTER.

15, Ward-street, Hunslet, Leeds, October 7th, 1899.

The Bile Bean Manufacturing Company.

Gentlemen—I have lately been trying your Bile Beans for my little boy, who was 10 years old last birthday. He has for some time been suffering from loss of appetite, retching, and sickness—particularly after dinner. I firmly believe they have done him a great deal of good, as he now takes his meals heartily and without any of the unpleasant after-effects from which he suffered before. We commenced with one bean after dinner, and half at bedtime; and, keeping up this quantity regularly, a marked improvement was soon evident in his condition. His health is now all that could be desired. If my little testimonial will do you any good, you are quite welcome to use it.—I am, yours truly,

(Signed) W. E. BEST.

CHARLES FORDE'S

BILE BEANS FOR BILIOUSNESS

possess the peculiar properties of acting on the bowels without purging or otherwise weakening the patient. This is because the substance that relaxes the bowels has about the same action as the natural bile. Bile Beans are purely vegetable, and a course of them will probably successfully oust the most chronic cases of LIVER and STOMACH TROUBLE, HEADACHE, INFLUENZA, COSTIVENESS, PILES, BAD BREATH, RHEUMATISM, INDIGESTION, DIZZINESS, BUZZING IN THE HEAD, FULNESS AFTER EATING, CONSTIPATION, LACK OF AMBITION, DEBILITY, FEMALE AILMENTS, PIMPLES, and a host of other ailments that owe their origin to defective bile flow, assimilation, and digestion. They will also be of great service in Nervous Disorders, Loss of Appetite, Debility, Shortness of Breath, Blotches on the Skin, Liver Chills, Scrofula, Insomnia, and Troubled Sleep. They act quickly in restoring females to health, and for a general aperient and tonic remedy they are almost unequalled.

ARE

BLEST BY BILIOUS BRITISHERS.

AUCTION MARTS

BLACKHILL FARMERS' MART COMPANY, LTD.—At the weekly sale on Monday, Mr. Joseph Green, acting as auctioneer, there was forward 2 calved cows, 2 incalving heifers, 37 fat cattle, 5 stirks, 2 calves, nearly 200 sheep and lambs, 1 horse, poultry, etc. The Chester-le-Street Christmas show and sale being held the same day somewhat affected this mart, trade was heavy, nevertheless there was a large attendance, and last week's prices were maintained. Lambs made up to 35s, top Mr T. White, Fotherelay Buildings; fat sheep up to 42s, top Mr Teasdale, The Ridding; calves up to £1 12s; calved cows from £15 to £19, top Mr Harry Elson, West Low; incalving heifers up to £15 5s, top Mr Jonathan Pattinson, High Waskerley; fat cattle from £9 17s 6d to £18 17s, top Mr John Arnison, Field Head. A big lot of poultry made good prices.

TOW LAW, Dec. 4th.—Mr Vickers had forward 49 dairy cows and heifers, 8 fat cattle, 14 calves, and 175 fat sheep and hoggs. Calved heifers, £12 12s 6d to £17 17s 6d; calved cows, £14 2s 6d to £20 12s 6d; incalving heifers, £12 2s 6d to £16 17s 6d; incalving £13 10s to £18 17s 6d; fat cattle to £17 17s 6d, from Mr J. Barron, East Park; £13 17s 6d, from Mr H. Fairless, Westgate; £13 12s 6d, from Mr R. J. Snowdon, Greenfield; calves made up to 45s. Fat sheep, 22s 6d, from Mr J. Forster, Rookhope; 25s, from Mr T. Stephenson, Ambling Gate; 29s 6d, from Colonel Blenkinsopp, Happyland Park; 23s, from Mr W. Wearmouth, Ball Hill; 28s 6d, from Mr T. Dawson, Joffass; 27s, from Mr J. Jopling, Broadwood; 23s 6d, from Mr J. J. Stephenson, Broadwood; 24s 9d, from Mr J. Emerson, Hag Gate, 20s, from Mr H. Stephenson, Flass; 20s 3d, from Mr W. Vickers, Eastgate. Fat hoggs: 24s 6d, from Colonel Blenkinsopp, Hoppyland Park; 25s, from Mr M. Batton, Wooley; 22s 9d, from Mr C. D. Brownless, Wolsingham; 26s 9d, from Mr J. Stobbs, Wiserley; 24s, from Mr Hall, Old Park; 31s 9d, from Mr T. Nichol, West Shield; 25s, from Mr A. Stephenson, Flass.

CHRISTMAS PRIZE SHOW AND SALE AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.—In mild, if somewhat moist weather, Mr James Turnbull, of the Chester-le-Street Auction Mart, held his 17th Christmas Prize Show and Sale of fat stock on Monday. The stock entered comprised 112 fat cattle, 2 fat bulls, 475 fat sheep, 25 pork and bacon pigs. The number of cattle entered was about the same as last year; but there was a large advance in sheep. It is well known that there is this year a great falling off in the supply of fat Christmas beef ready for the market, and in view of this the entry of cattle in fine condition and of rare quality was considered most satisfactory. Both in numbers and in quality the sheep entered were a fine lot. Among those who had consigned stock were the Earl of Durham; Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart.; Messrs T. Smith and Son, Derwent Crook; Jos. Thornton, Tribley; Robert Ryle, High Flats; Joicey and Co., Ltd., Pelton; Bear Park Coal Company; Bell Bros., Ltd., Nafferton; Edmondsley Coal Company; North Hetton Coal Company; B. Salvin, Burn Hall; H. Potts, Harbour House; J. Brewis, Waldridge Hall; J. M. Snowdon, Washington; J. S. Pattison, Seaton; Peter Oswald and Son, Harraton Hall; and others. The competition in all the classes was wonderfully close and keen, and the work of the judges was no easy task. The whole of the stock enterd was for absolute sale. Judges:—Cattle—Messrs Jos. Watson, Stanley; R. Bryson, Durham; Jos. Y. Robson, Chester-le-Street. Sheep—W. Gibson, Sherburn; C. Charlton, Sunderland; J. T. Luke, Durham. Awards:—Class 1—Pen of 4 fat cattle, any sex (open)—1, Mr J. Thomlin, Tribley Hall; 2, Messrs Bell, Bros, Nafferton. Class 2—Fat Bullock (open)—1, Earl of Durham; 2, Mr J. Thornton. Class 4—Fat Bullock (tenant farmers)—1, Mr J. Thornton. Class 5—Fat Heifer (tenant farmers)—1, Mr J. Thornton; 2, Messrs J. Smith and Son, Derwent Crook. Class 6—Fat Cow (tenant farmers)—1, Mr Jos. Thompson, Chester-le-Street; 2, Mrs Taylor, The Haining. Class 7—Best animal in show, fed on Roger Errington's cattle spice—1, Earl of Durham. Class 9—5 fat hoggs (open)—1, Mr B. Salvin, Burn Hall; 2, Mr T. Young, Broomy Holme. Class 10—5 fat shearlings (open)—1, Mrs a Young, Plawsworth; 2, Mr R. Rutter, White House. Class 11—5 mule shearlings (open)—1, Mr T. Kirton, Birtley Cottage; 2, Messrs Joicey and Co., Beech Grove. Class 12—5 fat ewes (open)—1 and 2, Charlaw Coal Co. Class 13—5 h.f. wedders—1, Mr Geo. Heppell, Newfield; 2, Mr R. Ryle, High Flass.

Mr Salvin's prize hoggs made 78s each, to Mr R. Nicholson, Easington Lane; while the Craghead Stores secured Mr Young's second prize pen for 66s 6d each, and Mr Thornton's h.c. pen for 54s a-head. Mr Kirton's prize shearlings were bought by Mr R. Nixon, Chester-le-Street, at 52s; while Mr Rutter's second prize lot went to Mr W. Hunter, Sacriston, for 39s. Mr Rutter's hoggs went to Durham Stores for 36s.

In the cattle classes the Earl of Durham's animal was sold to W. Gibson, Sunderland, for £27 10s, the same price being paid by the Chester-le-Street Stores for Mr Thornton's champion heifer. The same buyers also securing Mr Thornton's bullock for £23 5s. The Tribley four altogether realised £90 5s, while Messrs Bell Bros.' second prize pen made £76 17s 6d. Mr Henderson, Chester-le-Street, secured Mr Ryle's heifer for £30 10s. The Birtley Iron Co. had a fine lot of ten, which made £175 15s, buyers being Messrs Parkinson, Low Fell, and J. G. Robson, Chester-le-Street. Messrs Smith and Sons animal went to Hetton Downs Store and Birtley Stores, at £26 and £25 10s respectively. Other satisfactory prices were made, the buyers being Messrs Trotter, Middlesbrough; Gibson, Sherburn; Watson, Stanley; Bryson, Durham; Oxley, South Moor; Watson, Spennymoor; Swainston, Craghead; an others.

Bacon pigs made to £6 2s 6d, and porkers to 49s.

The best quality averaged to beef was from 8s to 8s 6d a stone, and mutton from 7½d to 8½d, and in some exceptional cases at 9d per lb.

Rev. J. W. Ogden at Shotley Bridge

Interesting Lecture

On Monday evening the Rev. J. W. Ogden, F.R.G.S., of Tynemouth, who is widely known as a lecturer of exceptional ability, delivered an interesting lecture, entitled "The geographical development of the British Empire in the Victorian Era," in the Shotley Bridge Wesleyan Chapel. The chair was occupied by Dr. Wm. Allan, who, in the course of a few remarks, said the subject was one close to all their hearts, and he hoped it would be as interesting as the subject demanded. He concluded by calling upon the reverend gentleman to deliver his lecture. (Applause.)

The Lecturer, who dealt with his subject in a most able manner, and illustrated the same with a fine series of lantern slides, said they were to see that evening some aspects of a phenomenon in many respects absolutely unparalleled in the history of the world. They were to see the realization of an ideal of which only poets used to dream. The enviable position of Great Britain had not been reached at a bound, but was the outcome of the great law of the surest progress, a law unalterable in the nature of things, the law of the survival of the fittest. There had been times of revelation; of restoration; times of energy; and times of physical enterprise. What did they mean when they talked about the British Empire? By the British Empire they meant the United Kingdom; they meant an empire that was equal to four Europes, with a population of four hundred millions, or equal to one-third of the human race, and which brought a revenue of two hundred and sixty million pounds annually. He thought they would be more impressed by pictures than anything else, and his remarks would therefore be illustrated by such. First of all they took ship at Liverpool, and then crossed the Atlantic. By the splendid boat-service distance and time had been defied, and a voyage across the Atlantic was now no formidable experience, but a pleasant week of separation from the turmoil of the world. The lecturer afterwards threw upon the screen a series of views of Montreal, remarking that the population consisted of 220,000 inhabitants, half of which were French, and half English, but both equally loyal to the British throne. (Applause.) It was a city of fine buildings; of many churches; and of palatial hotels. Ottawa was the political capital of the dominion of Canada; the city in which were located the Houses of Parliament, and all the principal Government offices; Hamilton, on the west-end of the Lake Ontario, Toronto, Niagara Falls, the Canadian Falls; Winnipeg, the principal city of Manitoba, which was very small when Queen Victoria ascended the throne, a city which would have remained in its old isolation but for the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was a feat of extraordinary boldness. So great was the enterprise thrown into this scheme that it was completed in half the stipulated time in the year 1885, the line terminating at Vancouver, the starting place of the steamers for New South Wales and Fiji. The lecturer then exhibited a number of slides showing the principal buildings in the Australasian colonies, the West Indies, South Africa, and the empire of India, together with several fine photos of those gentlemen who had been the pioneers in the development of the colonies. In concluding the lecturer said that his audience ought to be proud that they were English people with whom the colonies were becoming federated and confederated in such a bond of union that was more permanent now than it had ever been. (Applause.)

Votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

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The 'Castle' Watch-works, Stanley, is the place for the Finest and Cheapest display of Xmas Presents.

Chester-le-Street Cricket Club

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Chester-le-Street Cricket Club was held in the Church Institute on Tuesday evening week—Mr C. Groves presiding.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In the absence of the secretary (Mr J. Cuthbertson), the hon. treasurer (Mr W. Jopling) reported that the first team had played 18 matches, of which 9 had been won, 4 lost, and 5 drawn, of these eleven had been league matches, and these had resulted in 5 being won, 4 lost, and 2 drawn. The second team had played 12 matches, won 4, lost 6, and drawn 2, and the Wednesday eleven had played 12 matches, won 5, lost 5, and drawn 2.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

The balance sheet showed that the income for the season amounted to £136 14s 5d, and the expenditure, including a credit balance of £7 10s 6d, to £169 11s 2d, leaving the club in debt to the extent of £32 16s 9d.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The president and vice-presidents were all re-elected, and the other officials appointed, were, captain (first team), T. L. Gray; vice-captain, Jas. Bewick; captain (second team), W. Cowings; vice-captain, T. Lodge; captain (Wednesday team), T. R. Hall; vice-captain, J. Cowings; secretary, Mr C. Groves; assistant-secretaries, Messrs T. H. Hall and J. Watson; treasurer, Mr W. Jopling; committee, Messrs G. Halliday, J. K. Bewick, W. Bell, D. G. Crichton, J. Milburn, and Jas. Hand; auditors, Messrs J. G. Bell, R. V. Dickinson, and T. Alderson; county representative, Mr Jas. Turnbull.

FRIENDLIES ONLY.

Mr T. L. Gray moved that the club leave the Durham Senior League and only play friendly matches.

Mr Jas. Turnbull seconded, and on a vote being taken the motion was carried with only two dissentients.

AVERAGES.

The following are the batting and bowling averages for the past season:—

BATTING.

	Inns.	Not out.	Runs.	Most in Inns.	Avg.
J. K. Bewick	14	1	421	91	32.38
G. Halliday	16	4	373	128*	31.08
Jas. Bewick	18	5	325	44	25.00
F. Coyle	15	1	336	89	24.00
D. Crichton	6	1	93	59	18.60
G. Robson	15	0	233	31	15.53
E. F. Hutchinson	12	1	151	45	13.72
A. Smith	10	1	100	62	11.11
L. Gray	11	1	109	24	10.90
T. Middleton	8	2	54	19	9.00
R. Walker	6	0	30	17	5.00
F. Taylor	10	5	19	8	3.80

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avg.
F. Coyle	215	78	382	52	7.34
Jas. Bewick	130	33	332	30	11.06
G. Robson	126	31	345	30	11.50
J. K. Bewick	61	18	184	32	11.50
R. Walker	21	8	52	4	13.00
D. G. Crichton	33	9	81	5	16.20
T. L. Gray	21	5	106	3	35.33
T. Middleton	15	6	36	5	7.20
H. P. Child	37	9	119	9	13.22
A. Smith	9	1	35	2	18.00

SECOND TEAM.

BATTING.

	Inns.	Not out.	Runs.	Most in Inns.	Avg.
W. Cowings	10	2	143	65*	17.8
J. G. Bell	5	2	49	43	14.8
T. H. Lodge	6	1	46	14	9.2
W. S. Bell	12	1	68	14	8.0
J. G. Hand	6	1	37	28*	7.4
J. Grieveson	7	0	43	15	6.1
J. Cowings	8	0	46	15	5.7
W. Sykes	7	0	37	25	5.4

BOWLING.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avg.
J. Greiveson	68	18	177	17	10.4
W. S. Bell	53	16	101	9	11.2
J. Elliott	69	22	193	16	12.06
W. Cowings	116	38	260	18	14.4

WEDNESDAY TEAM.

BATTING.

	Inns.	Not out.	Runs.	Most in Inns.	Avg.
Coyle	11	1	242	73	22.00
S. Richardson	6	1	90	34*	18.00
J. Cowings	10	3	87	44	12.40
Jas. Bewick	7	0	81	33	11.50
W. Speed	11	0	121	53	11.0
A. Tate	10	1	75	34	8.3
T. R. Hall	11	0	45	11	4.09

BOWLING.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avg.
Coyle	155	36	341	52	6.5
J. Cowings	25	5	75	10	7.5
W. Cowings	33	5	104	10	10.4
Jas. Bewick	75	17	190	16	11.8
W. Speed	29	3	110	7	15.8

The Tanfield School Board and Mr Abbott

The Annfield Plain and District Association of Teachers, which includes all the certificated teachers in the employ of the Tanfield School Board, and many other teachers in the surrounding district, at their quarterly meeting unanimously agreed to the following statement being sent to the press:—

(1.) In our opinion, an enquiry such as was held should have been conducted privately; and it is unfair, and certainly not in accordance with English custom, to exclude the accused from such an enquiry.

We are confident that a magistrate would have allowed the accused to hear what was going on, and would have entirely exonerated the master.

(2.) The man Dews' statements respecting the boy's age, the length of time he was absent from school, that Mr. Abbott struck the girl with a stick, and that he would use a walking-stick to strike a child, were absolutely false, and were made to prejudice the mind against the teacher; yet he was neither required to prove them nor yet to withdraw them, as he would have been before an impartial tribunal.

(3.) The fact that neither teachers nor children, with two exceptions, knew anything about the alleged assault, would show that if it did take place it must have been of a very trivial character. It will be readily understood that a teacher having charge of a large schol might completely forget the circumstance, yet a member of the Board discredited Mr. Abbott's statement when he said that he could not remember the incident.

(4.) The finding of the committee was that Mr. Abbott had struck the boy, and that his "running ear" was the result. Now there is abundant evidence to show that both the brother and sister and the boy himself had suffered previously from "running ears."

(5.) A member said that the only boys who knew anything of the alleged assault were two boys whom Mr. Abbott had put aside. As a matter of fact, Mr. Archdall had put these two boys aside. The implications respecting the master speaking to the children were, although withdrawn, most unsatisfactory, and left a very wrong impression. Not a child or a teacher in the school knew there was to be an enquiry till the committee arrived at the schools. Mr. Abbott, after being at the Board meeting and seeing how a case was being manufactured by Mr. Dews, said to the boys in Standard V. on the Wednesday morning, "Now, boys, I want to be at the bottom of this business, so tell me what you know about my striking Dews.' I only want the truth, so don't be afraid to speak." Only two boys knew anything about the matter, and they told the committee exactly what they told Mr. Abbott.

(6.) Mr. Dews denied that the boy was at school on the Tuesday after the alleged punishment. He must have known from the boy himself, or from the boy's mother, that he was present, yet a section of the Board appeared to prefer to believe that the teacher had wilfully altered the registers. To imply that Mr. Abbott or any of his staff could be guilty of this is a gross insult. The Education Department would cancel a teacher's certificate for such an act. There is also clear evidence from the boy's drawing-book that he was at school on that day.

(7.) We think that inquiries so conducted have a damaging effect on school discipline, and tend to make the control of children needlessly difficult. We beg to express our sympathy with Mr Abbott, and our regret that the Board should have adopted such a method of dealing with the matter.

BEARPARK.

STACK FIRE.—On Saturday afternoon, shortly before five o'clock, a haystack at the Bearpark Colliery Farm was discovered ablaze. An alarm was raised, and news of the outbreak despatched to Durham. The city fire brigade arrived on the scene of the fire about seven o'clock, but by this time the flames had been practically quenched by local effort. The whole of the stack, containing about 20 tons of old-land hay, was destroyed, and the damage, about £80, is covered by insurance. The hay was the property of the Bearpark Colliery Company.

J. T. Castle, Front St., Stanley, is not excelled in the district for Wedding Presents in Sterling and Electro-Silver.

VISIT OF THE REV. A BROMLEY TO CATCHGATE

"THE TRANSVAAL QUESTION: POLITICALLY AND HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED."

A BRILLIANT LECTURE.

Recently the Rev. A. Bromley, of Sunderland, delivered an appropriate and instructive lecture in the Catchgate Free Church on "The Transvaal Question: Politically and Historically Considered." Mr B. Sheldon, of Annfield Plain, occupied the chair, and in his opening remarks said it gave him great pleasure to be present that evening, especially to hear Mr Bromley. It would need no words of his to tell of the capabilities of Mr Bromley as a lecturer. The subject of the lecture was thoroughly up-to-date, as no question was receiving more consideration than the question of the Transvaal. He was sorry that they, as a nation, were not united on the question. Some condemned the action of the Government, whilst others upheld it, and said the Boers were completely to blame. He had great pleasure in calling upon Mr Bromley to deliver his lecture. (Applause.)

Mr Bromley, who, on rising, was accorded a hearty reception, said it afforded him equal pleasure to respond to the invitation of the Chairman. He was glad to have the opportunity once again of standing before a Catchgate audience, and to enter into consideration with them of the great question which was agitating the mind of the nation at the present hour. He was no party politician; as he stood before them, he was there not in the interests of any political party, but simply in the interests of truth. He would not endeavour to arouse any partisan passion to favour this politician or encourage other politicians, but simply endeavour whilst addressing them to place before them the bare historical facts of the case—(hear, hear)—and after placing the whole history of the question which had led up to the present war, he would ask them to be the jurors, and arrive at their own verdict. The continent of Africa was not a recent discovery like America or Australia. It entered into the oldest traditions of the world; it figured in the most ancient histories of nations while yet Europe was the home of wandering barbarians, long before Abraham left Chaldea, long before the wonderful civilization had begun to work out its destiny on the banks of the Nile, that classic and biblical river whose source so long sought for had only been found within their own days. And yet the continent on which one of the oldest civilizations of the world was born and developed through thousands of years, was even less known than America, discovered only four hundred years ago. Africa had only during the past few years been taken seriously in hand by the great civilizing powers of the world, the nations who had in their power the making of the world's commerce and history. Ten years ago there began a national scramble for territory in Africa, led on by Germany. The whole of Africa was partitioned off by Germany, England, Portugal, and others. Whatever they might think of the division by civilised powers of land which belonged to the barbaric tribes, it could not be denied that such divisions resulted eventually in the betterment of the country and the people who dwelt therein, and the world at large. Contrast the case of Africa with that of America and Australia. Four hundred years ago America was discovered. Columbus made the discovery of the new world, a world having a land area of 16million square miles, and with a population of four million people; but now there were 130 millions of people, and in place of the feeble, indigenous civilisation of the superstitious barbarism, of the tribal exterminations carried on by the Redskins, they had all the arts and sciences, all the industries and culture of the highest civilisation flourishing in America as in Europe. (Applause.) Moreover, the annual value of the trade returns of the United States alone was equal to the annual trade returns of either France or Germany. It was little more than a century since the first European settlement in the continent of the southern hemisphere took place, as ise Australia was a little less than Europe. When first discovered the native population did not exceed half-a-million people, who belonged to the very lowest tribe or type of humanity. But within the last half century the half-a-million degraded savages of Australia had given way to over three millions of civilised people who had so developed the natural resources of the continent that the total trade amounted to above 120 millions annually. Compare those two instances of continental expansion with the stagnation of the continent of Africa. Here was a continent of five thousand miles long from north to south, 4500 miles wide, containing an area of 11½ million square miles, enormously rich in its mineral wealth, with a native population estimated at about 140 million people, and yet at the end of the 19th Century Africa remained largely unknown, unexplored, unused, a waste continent so far as civilisation was concerned, and a standing danger to the civilisation of Europe for it was the only remaining barbarous continent in the world, and stood in dangerous proximity, at the very door of Europe itself. Was it not in the best interests of all concerned that that country should be taken over by the civilised powers from the barbaric tribes, and taken into possession by the people who had the power to use it for the good of the world from those who had not the power to use it? The lecture had to do particularly with the taking over of the southern part of the continent of Africa, and the history of South Africa began with the end of the 15th century. Then Portugal was one of the great maritime powers of the world. It was from Spain and Portugal there sailed forth the great discoverers Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America, and Sebastian Cabot, the discoverer of Newfoundland. The Portuguese then wanted to discover a new way to India, as at that time the only way known to India was by the Mediterranean, and Venice conducted by far the greater part of the East India commerce. Her ships carried the commerce to India across the Indian Ocean to the shores of Arabia, then merchant caravans took it through the desert of Arabia to the shores of Syria to Egypt, and to Tarshish, where it was re-shipped and taken along the Mediterranean, thus entailing enormous expense and a great amount of time. The Portuguese sailors thought it was possible to find another way to India, and began sailing down the west coast of Africa. They traded at several ports, such as Sierra Leone, then sailed further south, keeping west to the coast of India, and in 1486 Bartholomew Diaz sailed down to the southern end of Africa, where now was Capetown. Here a storm sprang up, and his ship was driven at the mercy of wind and wave, and he lost sight of land. When the storm subsided he sailed due east, and failing to find land he sailed north and came to the coast. But when in 1496 Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape it was so terrible a rounding that the King of Portugal, on the report of Vasco da Gama, called it the Cape of Storms. When Francis Drake, one of the greatest English sailors, after circumnavigating the world on his return voyage from India had such peaceful, halcyon weather that be re-christened it the Cape of Good Hope. Vasco got as far as Durban, and on arriving later at a place on Dec. 25th, 1496, he called the country Natal, or Natalia, the natal day of our Lord Jesus Christ, hence the place is called Natal to the present day. In 1601 the first fleet fitted out by the English East India Company put into Table Bay at Capetown, so called from the fact that a large mountain lying back from the bay had a very flat top. The English East India Company sent the fleet to India round by the coast of Africa, finding the new way to India, and made Table Bay a stopping place on the way there. England was one of the very first trading powers to commence trading in South Africa, but about the same time the Dutch East India Company was formed, and the Dutch fleets began to use Table Bay as a port of call. In 1648 a Dutch ship was wrecked in Table Bay; the crew struggled to shore, and for six months they lived on the marshes where they found some forty native Hottentots now called Kaffirs, existing on shell-fish, which they picked up about Capetown. On the return the Dutch fleet called at Table Bay and took the shipwrecked mariners on board, and on the report of those men the Dutch East India Company decided to establish a station, and six years afterwards the Dutch colonists introduced slavery into the country. The slaves were obtained by the Dutch East India ships calling at the ports, where raids were made upon the native negroes from the Sierra Leone district, who were captured and taken on board the Dutch ships, landed at Capetown, and sold in Cape Colony. Then the ships took people from Asia, people from Jaffa, and Malay, and the colony became a mixed population. In the middle of the 17th century there was a great religious persecution in France, caused by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by the French King, and the French Huguenots had to flee from their native country to save their lives. The Spitalfield silk factories in London owe their origin to the persecution, while many others emigrated to Cape Colony. The century passed away, spent by the Dutch settlers in strife with the natives, raiding th elands and robbing them of their cattle. The Dutch colonists also became disaffected to the company who had sent them out, in consequence of misgovernment on the part of the company. The Dutch East India Company had never made a proper attempt to colonise, but simply regarded the colony as a sort of cabbage garden to supply the ships with fresh food. In 1781 war was declared between Great Britain and the Netherlands. Great Britain was casting a longing eye upon Cape Colony as a desirable half-way house to India. The Dutch East India Company, however, declined every proposal. The British fleet was sent out to Capetown, but beyond damaging a few French vessels beside Durban, no serious attempt was made by England to capture the Colony, and for several years longer the Dutch retained possession of Capetown. But in 1795 the Dutch rule came to an end. Europe at that time was convulsed from end to end with the Napoleonic wars. Holland had thrown in her lot with France, and instead of having a monarchy she declared herself a republic. Her monarch had fled to England for refuge, and a second time the English sent out a force to seize Cape Colony, and after a slight resistance the Dutch settlers surrendered, and England took possession of the Cape, and thus ended after an occupation of 143 years the rule of the Dutch East Indian Company in South Africa. Seven years passed away, and peace was restored in Europe. Napoleon was about exhausted, or if he was not, his nation was. He wanted a breathing time in order to get ready for his next campaign, and so entered into a treaty with England, signed by the French, the Dutch, and the English. One condition was that Cape Colony captured by them in war should be restored to the Dutch, and so in 1803 the Dutch garrison replaced the British troops, and Cape Colony became a direct dependency of the State of Holland. Only three months elapsed after the signing of the treaty when Napoleon again began his game of war, and the Dutch Republic threw in their lot with them, and so England was once more at war with Holland, and by force of arms England once more took Cape Town from the Dutch. Then in 1815, Napoleon defeated on land and sea, had to surrender to British prowess, and was sent a prisoner to the isle of St. Helena, and European peace seemed secure. The exile Prince of Orange, who had been taking refuge in England, meanwhile returned to Holland. He was received by the people there as their legitimate sovereign, and from a Republic Holland became again a monarchical state. Up to the time the British Government had regarded Cape Colony not as a national possession, but merely as a conquest of war that might be restored to the original owner on the conclusion of peace. Instead of restoring Cape Colony, an arrangement was entered into with the Prince of Orange that for the sum of six millions of money Cape Colony should be ceded to the British Government. The agreement was made and signed at a Convention held in London in 1814, and with this agreement and the payment of six millions of money the claim of the Dutch to Cape Colony was extinguished for ever. The colony thus became British possession in double right. They had now arrived at an important period in the history or South Africa. Up to that time the colonists were mainly Dutch, but when the colony became a British possession in 1815 there was a large influx into it of British people. For several years after the peace which followed the final overthrow of Napoleon at Waterloo, much distress was felt by the labouring classes of Great Britain. Work was scarce, wages low, and food and clothing dear. Large offers were made to English workmen to induce them to go to South Africa. The Government offered to find a free passage for able-bodied men, to provide them with food on the voyage, and when they got to Cape Colony the Government allowed them to have 100 acres of land, provide them with seed for sowing, with agricultural implements to work the land, and if the men would remain on the land and work it for three years the land would become their own private possession absolutely and entirely. Many working-men availed themselves of the offer, and the country became populated with peoples of different nationalities. Race feeling ran high; the Dutch in a large majority still could not easily settle down to English forms of Government. Some of them by inter-marriage with English people had their racial antipathy toned down, but many of them retained a strong disaffection and bitter hatred to the British race, which had continued to the present day, and was really and truly the very source of that trouble they were now having in the Transvaal. The disaffection of the Dutch to the British rule came to a crisis as the result of some new legislation which had reference to the treatment of the native race. By Dutch legislation the Dutch were not allowed to wander over the country without passes, which were not easy for a native to get. The result was that men were restricted in their operations. When the children were eight years of age they were compelled to serve in the employment of the master who had work in the locality, for ten years, and the children became the serfs of the employer all their natural life. The missionaries, to their honour be it said, especially those of the London Missionary Society, protested against the restrictions imposed upon the native races and claimed for all people of all colours exactly the sam treatment. (Hear, hear.) In consequence of the missionaries' representations to the British Government, in 1828 an ordinance was issued abolishing those restrictions, placing all on a political and social level with the European races. The new legislation angered the Dutch, who wished to keep the natives in an industrial and political serfdom. Another cause of irritation to the Dutch was the emancipation of the slaves. For nearly 200 years the Dutch practised slavery in Cape Colony. When it became a British possession they resisted all attempts to mitigate the social condition of the slave population. In 1816 laws began to be made by the British Government reducing the power of the masters, and affording rights to the natives. Against those laws of mitigation the Dutch organised public meetings for the purpose of protest. They became so violent in character that the Government of Cape Colony had to prohibit the Dutch meeting in public assembly. In 1831 an order was made reducing the hours of labour to nine hours a day, after an order had been enforced for the quantity and quality of clothing which must be provided for the natives. The slaves were being underfed, and so it was ordered that they must be fed with food of such a quality as they ought to have. Those sumptuous laws proved conclusively to his mind that legislation was considered necessary to prevent the underfeeding and over-working of slaves by their employers. The excitement of the Dutch in consequence of those restrictions upon the slave trade was so great that they sent a deputation to inform the Governor they were quite prepared to suffer the penalties of breaking the law, but were not prepared to keep it. In 1834 the disaffection to British rule came to a crisis. The Slave Emancipation Act was enforced, and in South Africa the slaves were to have the same civil rights as the settlers, and compensation to the amount of three millions of money was awarded to the slave-owners, although he was well aware the three millions were not actually paid but only 1½ millions were paid. No amount of compensation would have satisfied the Dutch; what they wanted was not emancipation money, but the slaves. Another source of irritation to the Dutch was the salutary attitude adopted by the British Government towards the native races. The Kaffir tribes had risen against the harsh and cruel treatment to which they had been subjected by the Dutch colonists. The British had to put down the native rising by force of arms, but on finding that the native tribes had ample justification for their rebellion, the British, as a matter of simple justice, relinquished their possession of the native territory. They were driven to desperation by the systematic injustice of which they had been the victims, and had a perfect right to extract by force the redress which they could not expect otherwise to obtain. That magnanimous and generous spirit towards the natives, that beneficent legislation on the part of the British Government towards the African tribes, proved too much for the Dutch. There seemed only one course open to them, to flee from Cape Colony, seek a new home in the wilderness, and put themselves beyond the reach of British rule. Then commenced the great "trek," the Dutch word for wandering. The great emigration of the Dutch from Cape Colony brought them to the foundation of the Transvaal Republic. The natives never lost a chance of avenging themselves upon the Dutch, and one party was cut off, and the second after several encounters with the native tribes, succeeded in establishing themselves in the Orange Free State. They drew up a form of Government containing nine articles, and the strong resentment they felt to the missionary element was shown in one of those articles of their constitution. The article provided that every member of the community, and all who should thereafter join, must take an oath to have no connection whatever with the London Missionary Society. Why? Because the missionaries had been concerned about the natives, standing between the poor oppressed and the oppressor—(hear, hear)—and because the missionary had befriended the native the Dutch resolved to have no dealings with them. After driving out the natives from their property, the Dutch proclaimed the land to be forfeited to the emigrants—a nice, easy way of getting property. The territory included the greater part of the land now comprising the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and nearly the whole of Southern Bechuanaland; but feeling their need of a seaboard, they turned their attention in the direction of Natal, and after some sanguinary conflicts with the Zulus they took possession of that territory and proclaimed it a Dutch Republic, under the title of the Republic of Natal. It was the weakest Government that had ever existed anywhere. It could not be carried on without a revenue, and the Dutch refused to pay any taxes, nine-tenths of the taxation being taken from the missing population. The public offices from the highest to the lowest were held by uneducated men, who could barely write an ordinary letter, and were ignorant of the ordinary routine of Government. They resolved not to allow natives beyond the borders to settle in Natal. An armed expedition was sent against the Basuto chief between Natal and Cape Colony, evidently with the view of adding Basutoland to their territory. In order to keep the peace of South Africa the English were compelled to send a body of English troops to defend the natives against their Dutch oppressors, which brought on a bad feeling between the Boer and the English in Natal. In the engagement the Boers were dispersed, and made another trek into the Transvaal, and Natal became British possession. In 1851 the British had trouble with the Basutos, and in consequence of some reverses sustained by under-estimating the strength of the enemy, the Transvaalers who had been driven out of Natal threatened to band the Basutos against the English, and in order to prevent an alliance the British entered into an agreement with the Transvaal authorities. It took place on the Sand River, and was known as the Sand River Convention. In 1852 the document was signed in which the English granted the Dutch the right to manage their own internal affairs without England's interference. So the South African Republic had a legal as well as an actual existence in the eyes of the English Government. It was on the strength of that convention that the Boers claimed to be independent of English protection, suzerainty, paramountcy. The English grew weary of what appeared to them to be a never-ending struggle with the Basutos, and decided to withdraw their claim to territorial possession to the limits of Cape Colony. The Transvaal Republic, which started on its own career with a population of 15,000, had no such thing as a bond of union. The system adopted resulted in so much disaster that the Boers divided into four separate republics, each one independent of the others. They could not agree amongst themselves, and the system made confusion worse confounded, and the Transvaal Boers may be said to have been without any government at all. They were only agreed upon the brutal treatment of the Kaffir tribes, and now that the Matabeles had been driven into Rhodesia the other Kaffir tribes came from the mountains of Drakenberg and the deserts to settle in their former territories. But those natives were so cruelly treated that the missionaries again rose and protested. Dr Livingstone—(applause)—one of the greatest of African missionaries and explorers, said he had seen houses and furniture destroyed by those Boers in one of their raids upon the native population, and he spoke most indignantly of the cruelties practised by the Boers upon the native races. Dr Robert Moffatt spoke in a similar strain; Dr Stewart, the moderator of the South African Synod of to-day, was writing letters in the daily newspapers to practically the same effect, showing that the Boers had not altered their conduct in relation to the natives up to the present time. In 1857 efforts were made to form a united republic in the Transvaal, and in 1860 that was accomplished. A faction fight ensued shortly after amongst themselves for freedom and power, and a civil war broke out. Peace was restored in 1864, when Mr Pretorius, from whose name came Pretoria, the seat of government of the Dutch Republic, was accepted by all parties as the legally elected president, and Mr Stephen John Paul Kruger was elected Commander-General. The next year he was engaged in supressing native rebellions, who were always trying to get back their homes and rights as men, and Kruger was at war with the natives. To meet the expenses heavy taxes were imposed, which many Boers refused to pay. The ordinary charges of government could not be met, and at last an additional war burden saw the whole of the administrative machinery of the Transvaal Republic break helplessly down. At that time the Transvaal exchequer had only something like 12s or 14s to fall back upon. One coin was a gold one and the rest silver, and Stephen John Paul Kruger appropriated the gold one to himself, and made an appendage of it to his watch chain, regarding it as his charm, his preservation from misfortune, but unfortunately he had lost his good luck, and so they hoped he would shortly be put in his proper place. (Applause.) The Dutch seemed unable to have a political election without fighting over the business, and that state of anarchy was a menace to the continuance of peace in South Africa; it was a standing danger to the English colony. They could not have a fire next door to their house without their house being in danger, and so they interfered as having the right to do so for the general good government of South Africa. It was feared that a general rising among those tribes against the whole white population would occur, and so they sent out Sir Theophilus Shepstone with large discretionary powers, and after many futile attempts to bring the Boers to reason, the British Commissioner restored peace in South Africa, and issued the proclamation that British supremacy over the Transvaal was formed, and as the Boers could not manage their own affairs he proclaimed the Transvaal British territory. Under the new government trade revived, order was restored, money flowed in, property of every kind increased in value, and life was secure. (Applause.) Whatever might be said against the annexation of the Transvaal by the British Government, it was a generally received political principle that a country was entitled to interfere when a neighbouring nation was a menace to the peace. He held good the taking over of the Transvaal, because as it was not a sovereign state, and if the Transvaal authorities could not manage their own affairs, they by their action imperilled the British possessions in South Africa, and endangered the peace of the whole country. Thus the British were clearly within their rights in taking over the country for the purpose of securing better government. The Boers being dissatisfied with their action, sent a deputation to England to get it reversed, but Mr Kruger failed in his expedition, and was told that under no circumstances would the British flag be withdrawn from the Transvaal. When Mr Gladstone got into power, after his first Midlothian speech, in which be denounced the annexation of the Transvaal as unjust, the Boers asked Mr Gladstone to make good his words and repeal and annul the annexation, and give them their independence; but Mr Gladstone was not thus minded. As soon as it was known that Mr Gladstone had no such intention to withdraw from the Transvaal, discontent set in, and the Boers decided to commence a war of independence. In 1880 the Dutch flag was hoisted in the Transvaal, and the war began. Disaster after disaster attended the British arms, through the miserable mistake of under-estimating the strength of the enemy, and the crowning disaster was the defeat of Sir George Colley on Majuba Hill. Before Sir Evelyn Wood could bring his force into action instructions were received from the British Government not to proceed further with the campaign. Terms of peace were arranged—that was one of the blunders of the great statesman whom they all loved. Four years after extensive gold fields were discovered in the Transvaal. Some said the present war a capitalist one, but that was not so, because they had trouble with the Boers before gold was discovered at Johannesburg, or before they knew of the mineral wealth of the republic. Some people talked as if the trouble had begun within the last 15 years. For the last 200 years he had been showing, that they had had trouble. He did not doubt there might be some little fraction of that element in the quarrel—(hear, hear)—as he did not deny there might be a little bit of the spirit of revenge in undertaking the war; but those were but the dust in the balance. The present quarrel with the Boers had little or nothing to do with capitalism, or the discovery of gold, and less with the spirit of revenge. It was only in 1885 that gold was discovered, and people poured into the Transvaal. Public works were undertaken, undreamed of before, and the Boers were enabled to buy guns and ammunition out of English taxation, with which to fight the English troops. They were again at war with the Boers, the ostensible reason being the redress of the mining population. If it were the only reason they would not be justified in going to war with the Republic, but that was not the reason at all. The real reason for the present war was not the question of the franchise, but the question of supremacy—a trial of strength, once and for all, as to which had to be the paramount power in South Africa, England or the Dutch; which race was to dominate the destinies of that great continent; which race, the race that favoured oppression, or the race which favoured equality and liberty to all? (Applause.) In conclusion it should be remembered that, though by the Sand River Convention internal independence was granted to the Transvaal Republic, there were conditions attached to that guarantee, conditions which the Boers had never kept from that day to this. The British Government had assumed a protectorate for all the English races, not only in Cape Colony, but in Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and the Kaffir races of South Africa. But what right had they to do any such thing—what right? The right of a strong man to defend a weak man—(applause)—against oppression; the right of a Christian power to defend the poor heathen against oppression and tyranny, slavery and murder. When the British entered into the Sand River Convention they stipulated that in the Republic here should be no slavery. Had they kept that condition? No. They stipulated that there should be no tyranny for the native race? Had they kept that condition? No. They stipulated that there should be liberty and some measure of equality for all European races in the Transvaal. Had they kept that condition? They knew they had not. The very conditions on which their independence was guaranteed to them had not been complied with. They stipulated that there should be no raiding of the natives. They had not kept it. That there should be no enslaving of the native population. That the rights of the natives should be respected. Those pledges and conditions had been violated over and over again. The Boer farmers hunted the natives as they did wild beasts, and called them their "black ivory." They appropriated their best land, drove them into the deserts, and carried off their children to work on their farms, and all that in the very teeth of the convention by which they obtained their internal independence. The treatment, inhuman and unjust, dealt out to the natives by the Boers so incensed and outraged them that a general rising of the natives under Cetewayo took place, and the Boers trembled at the prospect, and had it not been for the intervention of the British they would have been swept out of South Africa. The British went to war with the Zulus, and established security of life to the country, and when they had plucked the chestnuts out of the fire the Dutch actually turned round and said, "Now we are independent of you; you can go home." Surely there were justifiable grounds for England re-asserting her power of supremacy in the Transvaal. (Applause.) Since Mr Gladstone relinquished the Queen's authority in the Transvaal, had the Boers altered their conducted, improved their character, or been any more human in one jot or tittle? They had only to read of their treatment to the refugees before the war was declared; how they treated English ladies who had paid first and second-class fares, by putting them into cattle trucks with all sorts and conditions of men; how they insulted the passengers and fired their rifles over their heads. Little children were kept in cattle trucks for 38 to 48 hours without food. The political injustice to the English miners was part of the "impartial" administration by the Boers. They were a standing menace to the spread of civilisation, to the continuance of peace in South Africa, and was it a justifiable reason for the British to interfere with the bad government of the Boers and their inhuman conduct? (Applause.) The time had come when they must say whether the British power had to be supreme in South Africa. He was no disciple of "St. Jingo," but at the same time there was a danger of shirking from the doors of usefulness which providence had seemed to open out before them as a nation. By no such avoidance of plain duty had the present expansion of England been attained, or in Asia had the British position as the great premier colonising power of the world been realised. To belittle themselves before the providence of God was their danger, of becoming "little Englanders" before the eyes of the whole world. Let England be true to her divine mission as the great colonising power of the world; true to her duty to the poor, the oppressed, and the helpless; true to her spirit of equality and justice; true to her love of righteousness and of mercy; and then,

"If England to herself be true,
No other cause shall make her rue."

(Applause.)

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE BENEFITS OF THE WAR.

Ye'r talk about the losses and the miseries o' war,
Just as if there was no benefits worth fighting for at a';
Why if you only knew it their's a host of things that are
Worth anybody's fighting for in this ere blooming war.
To get the franchise for our fellows—isn't that something grand?
And to make each other equal, whatever be the land.
To make the Dutchmen understand who and what we are,
Isn't that itself worth fighting for in this ere blooming war?
It's not because we want to use 'em that we've took and gone to war;
It's just to have the votes on hand same as here at home we are.
When that is done the Dutchman will know who and what we are,
Isn't that itself worth fighting for in this ere blooming war?
Then we couldn't find employment for half the folks at home,
If we didn't make the Empire bigger than that of ancient Rome;
So we keep on civilising even at the cost of war,
Isn't that itself worth fighting for in this ere blooming war?
We want to build the railways, cut canals, and open mines,
And run the car of progress right out to earth's confines.
But, no! said Mr Dutchman, let things stay where they are,
So we see the benefits of this ere blooming war.
We'll get good work and plenty for white man and for black,
And keep the wolf of hunger from off the children's track;
The miseries of stagnation are exchanged for those that are
Worth anybody's fighting for in this ere blooming war.
Pray, friends, don't take in everything at one amazing gulp,
That has been said or will be said, its often merely pulp;
The jibber-jabber going about; the newspapers surely are
To blame for talking rot about the benefits of the war.
Hast ever thought what good would come from murdering one another?
Hast ever thought how war could bring humanity together?
Or how can progress true be made through death and desolation,
Or how indeed to fill the cup, the cup of consolation?
Hast ever thought this very war, in spite of its pretention,
Will set the wheels of progress round in quite the wrong direction?
Even though in truth it sharpens trade, that is a speculation;
Your wants and mine are fixed quite beyond such conjuration.
The righteous needs of human kind are only to be filled
By honest toil, by that alone—never by blood by blood being spilled;
Trade that's dishonest and a fraud, or a danger to mankind,
Works for pelf, for greed of gold, and not for human kind.
Since at its root this war's for trade, to give it scope and action,
It must be vile and harsh and wrong, as I have said, re-action;
And poor men led to think it great, and for their benefaction.
The benefits of war are nil, and this one's no exception.
When truly stated all it does is to afford protection
To rogues and knaves with wares to sell, to help them with their business.
Mankind it leaves to pay the debt, and suffer for its rashness.
If it's desired to spread goodwill with peace and plenty round,
Surely it must begin at home and grow to other ground;
Goodwill and peace and plenty cannot here be brought
Without we each endeavour its meaning to be taught.
When right goodwill exists at home, we'll haste to make it known,
Not by the sword, but by the heart, we'll place it on the throne.
The message bright, the gladsome light, we'll speed to every race,
And they in turn will welcome it with eagerest embrace.

THOMAS TROTTER.

Blackhill, December 1st, 1899.

ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, BENFIELDSIDE

An address was given in St. Cuthbert's Sunday School, on Tuesday evening, by the Rev. J. G. Pearson, rector of St. Peter's, Leguan, British Guiana, in South America, for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Mr. Jas. Annandale, J.P., was in the chair, being supported by the vicar, the Rev. Canon Ross-Lewin.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, briefly referred to the benefits and objects of the Society, and remarked that it was approaching its 198th or 200th year. Its first agents were only two, now they numbered many hundreds. The Society, however, had lately fallen on sad times, and was greatly in want of funds to carry on their work.

The Rev. J. G. Pearson said that British Guiana in South America was not a very large territory. They had a most varied population there. They had a stream of emigrants coming to them every year from India. This colony of British Guiana was originally a Dutch Colony. It was a particularly unhealthy place. The first settlers came from Holland. They settled on the islands, and drained them, then they went to the mainland, which was now divided into three colonies—British, Dutch, and French—side by side. In the beginning of the present century they took British Guiana away from the French. He had in his parish 5,000 people. These men and women worked on the sugar plantations side by side. At the close of the day's work they had little open-air services. Mr. Pearson said that in early days the Dutchmen could not find labour for their plantations, so they went into South Africa and district, into the slave market, along with the French and Spanish, but since the law of 1837 for the emancipation of slavery, he was pleased to say matters were now considerably bettered. (Applause.) In one of the church books out in that part there was a minute to the effect that "a pen should be erected in the western end of the nave of the church, where the slaves might come and listen to the service if they cared to." The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, had, for more than 197 years, laboured to extend to their fellow-creatures in foreign lands the blessings which they themselves enjoyed through the knowledge of the Gospel of their blessed Saviour. (Applause.) Great was the wonders which God had wrought in His marvellous doings. God had for the last 62 years brought in about ten millions. What would He do in the next 62 years which were to come? Their work amongst these people was like being among little children; they took such a considerable time to develop and grow in manhood. He asked the public to be as patient in sending help to these people as their Heavenly Father had been patient to them. The Society had upon its list 744 missionaries; of these 243 were labouring in Asia, 171 in Africa, 29 in Australia, and the Pacific, 209 in North America, 48 in the West Indies, and 38 in Europe. But what were these among two hundred millions of souls, inhabiting countries thirty times as large as England? In Canada here were five million souls, many of whom had gone out from Great Britain. There was, however, not more than one English clergyman for every four thousand five hundred souls, and these were often scattered over a space larger than an English county. But this was not all. Besides the nine millions of people of British descent who were now to be found in their colonies and dependencies, and who, by ties of nationality and kinship constituted one household of faith, there were the heathen, who, by the extension of their Empire in all parts of the world, had become their fellow subjects. It was manifestly their duty to raise these heathen into spiritual fellowship with themselves. (Applause.)

The Chairman again spoke at the close of Mr. Pearson's address, and asked all present to seriously consider all that had been told them that night.

After Canon Ross-Lewin had made a few remarks a collection was taken in aid of the Society, and the meeting ended.

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13, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,
DESIRE to return their very sincere thanks for the generous patronage bestowed upon them during the long period they have been in business, and trust by Excellence of Material and Workmanship, and Guaranteed Style and Fit, to continue to receive the confidence and support of the public of Consett and District.
SCOTCH, IRISH, AND
WEST OF ENGLAND TWEEDS,
LARGE ASSORTMENT TO CHOOSE FROM. 14g

34, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

F. TURNER.
HOUSE AND GENERAL FURNISHER, CONFECTIONER, &c., &c.
CHOICE CONFECTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS.
Please your children by buying your Toys, Dolls, &c., here.
Large Assortment of Goods suitable for Presents.
GAMES! GAMES! GAMES! All the newest.
Christmas and New Year's Cards.
Furnishing in all Departments.
The Cheap Shop for Hardware.
NOTE THE ADDRESS AS ABOVE. 23g

"GUARDIAN" STATIONERY STORES,
59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

PRIVATE CHRISTMAS CARDS.
1899-1900.
With your own Greeting, Name, and Address. Prices: From 1s for 12, and 9d per dozen after. Cheapest and Best Value in the District.
WE have now on view, a large assortment of entirely new fashionable and inexpensive designs in CHRISTMAS CARDS. Owing to the great demand which is made for select patterns as the season advances, it is very desirable to prevent disappointment, that orders should be placed with us as soon as possible.
We shall be pleased if you will kindly favour us by taking an early opportunity of calling and inspecting the selection.
Sample Books sent on application.
Our Representative will have pleasure in waiting upon you with complete samples on receipt of postcard.
Yours respectfully,

ROBERT JACKSON,
"GUARDIAN" OFFICE,
59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT. 15g

THE NOTED FLOUR, GROCERY, AND PROVISION STORES.

68 AND 69, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.

JAMES PALLISER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TEA MERCHANT, FAMILY GROCER, AND PROVISION DEALER.
FOR FINEST SELECTED FRUITS.
FOR NEW CURRANTS, NEW RAISINS, NEW SULTANAS, AND MUSCATELS.
FOR RICHEST CHEESE OF ALL KINDS.
FOR MILD CURED HAMS AND BACON.
FOR GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.
FOR BUTTER AND LARD.
FOR TEAS OF HIGHEST QUALITY AND BLEND COMBINED WITH CHEAPNESS. 24g

DAIRIES FOR 1900.
DIARIES For 1900 DIARIES
DIARIES With £100 DIARIES
DIARIES Insurance Coupon. DIARIES
DIARIES For 1900 DIARIES
DIARIES From 6d. Upwards DIARIES
DIARIES For the Pocket DIARIES
DIARIES For 1900 DIARIES
DIARIES For the Office DIARIES
DIARIES In all Bindings DIARIES
DIARIES For 1900 DIARIES
DIARIES Good and Useful DIARIES
DIARIES To Suit All DIARIES
DIARIES DIARIES DIARIES
AT THE
"GUARDIAN OFFICE,"
FRONT STREET,
CONSETT.

FOR
CURRANTS & RAISINS
FINEST
HAMS AND BACON
AT PRICES TO SUIT YOU
TRY

W. WHITFIELD,
LEADGATE.

Public Notices.

LANGLEY PARK and District Poultry, Pigeon, Rabbit, and Cage Bird Society will hold their Fourth ANNUAL SHOW on Dec. 9th, 1899, in the Assembly Hall, Langley Park. Doors open at 1 p.m. Admission 6d.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF DIPTON

SHOULD any ASHPITS or PRIVIES be Overlooked or not properly Cleaned, please notify the Contractor at once when they will be attended to. Signed,
573e G. NICHOLSON, Contractor.

BLACKHILL AND DISTRICT CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Society will be held in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 13th, 1899, at 8 o'clock. All are invited. The Committee will meet at 7 o'clock.
28g A. TROTTER, Hon. Sec.

DERWENT VALLEY PLOUGHING AND HEDGE-CUTTING ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the above Society will be held at Mr. Jewitt's, Miners' Arms, Medomsley, on Monday, Dec. 11th, at 6 p.m. to draw Ballot of Entries and make final arrangements. Last day of Entry, Monday, Dec. 11th.
31g G. BELL, Jun., Secretary.

CONSETT READING AND RECREATION ROOMS.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, and PERIODICALS for Half-Year ending June 30th, 1900, will be SOLD BY AUCTION, in the Reading Room, on Tuesday next, Dec. 12th, 1899, at 7.30 p.m.
37g Mr. T. D. DRYDEN, Auctioneer.

DERWENT VALLEY HABITATION OF THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

IN connection with the above Habitation, a MEETING will be held in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Friday evening Dec. 15th, 1899, at 7.30 p.m. A LIME-LIGHT LECTURE will be delivered by Mr. H. S. NEALE, of Berwick, on the subject of the War now raging in the Transvaal. The Lecture will be illustrated by the Newest Slides of S. Africa. There will also be a short Musical Programme. Admission, free.

REMEMBER THE

ANNUAL SOCIAL
OF THE
CONSETT IRON COY'S WORKMEN'S BAND,
WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY NIGHT FIRST.
Dancing from 7.30 p.m. until 1.30 a.m. First class Orchestra has been engaged, under the leadership of Mr. J. R. Wood. Admission: One Shilling each. 56g

DEAR GERTIE.—Meet me at the Band Social on Tuesday night first. Music always high-class at this event.—Yours, HARRY.

BURNHOPE, LANCHESTER, STANLEY, AND DISTRICT PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL COMPETITION will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 27th, 1899, or first favourable Wednesday following, on Mr. T. H. Smith's land at Tanfield. Prize List and Rules on Application. Entries to be made on or before Tuesday, Dec. 19th—Wednesday morning's post in time. Ballot drawn at 6.30 p.m., on Dec. 20th, at Mrs. Chaytor's Queen's Hotel, Stanley. Jos. INNES, Secretary, High Burnhopeside, Lanchester, to whom all communications should be sent.

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSETT.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	2263	14	6
W. M. Annandale, Esq., Lintzford	5	5	0
	£2268	19	6

SUBSCRIPTIONS may be paid to Mr. T. L. GLEDSTONE, Hon. Treasurer, N.E. Bank, Consett; or further information from the Hon. Secretaries—Mr. W. S. DAVIES, Bryngless, Consett; or Mr. G. T. HYDEN, Blackfyne House, Blackhill.

TEAM VALLEY AND DISTRICT PLOUGHING AND HEDGE-CUTTING ASSOCIATION.

THE SECOND ANNUAL COMPETITION will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 1899, (weather permitting), or first favourable Wednesday afterwards, on Land near Lamesley Station, kindly granted by Mr. Jos. Anderson, Lamesley South Farm.

£40 IN PRIZES.

Entries close on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 1899, to the Secretary—
MR. WM. JOHNSON,
960f Trench Hall, Gateshead.

HYDEN TESTIMONIAL.
MR. G. T. HYDEN, Head Master of the Consett Iron Co's British Schools, Consett, completes 21 years' service in that post at Christmas, and it has been decided to present a Testimonial to him to mark the event.
Will Old Scholars, Parents, and Friends, who desire to subscribe, kindly address their communications to
MR. S. RAYNER,
4, Barr House Avenue,
Consett.
All communications will be promptly acknowledged. 978f

ON STRIKE.
WE, the late AGENTS OF THE PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, of the Consett District, are
OUT ON STRIKE,
BECAUSE
The Company are seeking to enforce a REDUCTION of the Agents' TERMS of Employment.
On behalf of the Agents,
E. TELFORD, Consett,
48g Late Superintendent.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
CHIEF OFFICES: LONDON BRIDGE, CITY, E.C.

NOTICE TO POLICY-HOLDERS.

OUR REPRESENTATIVES in Consett district having resigned their positions with us, are now seeking to damage the reputation of the Company by alleging that we have attempted to reduce their wages. We have only to say that this statement is absolutely false.
By Order of the Board,
J. F. FOLEY,
1g Managing Director.

SALVATION ARMY, CONSETT.

A GRAND
BAZAAR
WILL BE HELD IN THE
WESLEYAN LECTURE HALL,
December 8th and 9th, 1899.

The Bazaar will be opened on the 8th, by MRS. PETHERICK, of Consett, and on the 9th by MR. J. R. WILLIAMS, of Benfieldside.

Parcels of Goods will be thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged by the Officers—Adj. and MRS LYONS, or any of the Members.

NEW THEATRE,
CONSETT.
Lessee and Manager .. Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON. (Also of the Royal Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, and Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne).
Resident Manager .. Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE.
Last Three Nights of
HUGH DEMPSEY'S
Talented
VARIETY COMPANY.
OTHELLO, the Strong Man, is astonishing full houses nightly.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1899,
HORACE BARRI'S Comic Operatic Up-to-date Pantomime Burlesque—
ROBINSON CRUSOE.
The Great ARTHUR LLOYD is coming.

Public Notices.

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...TO THE PUBLIC OF DIPTON

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G. NICHOLSON, Contractor.

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G. BELL, Jun., Secretary.

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...VALLEY AND DISTRICT PLOUGH... ...ING AND HEDGE-CUTTING ASSOCIATION.

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£40 IN PRIZES.

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Late Superintendent.

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...CHIEF OFFICES: LONDON BRIDGE, CITY, E.C.

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By Order of the Board,
J. F. FOLEY,
Managing Director.

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...THELLO, the Strong Man, is astonishing full houses nightly.

...MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1899,
...RACE BARRI'S Comic Operatic Up-to-date Pantomime Burlesque—
...ROBINSON CRUSOE.
Great ARTHUR LLOYD is coming.

Business Announcements.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

LEEDS, LONDON, YORK, SCARBOROUGH, DONCASTER, NEWARK, MIDDLESBROUGH, DARLINGTON, WEST HARTLEPOOL, BLYTH, BISHOP AUCKLAND, GATESHEAD, JARROW, KEIGHLEY, MORECAMBE, HULL.

THE LARGEST WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN THE KINGDOM.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE OF
ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S

FOUR SPECIALITY PIANOS.
FOUR SPECIALITY PIANOS.
FOUR SPECIALITY PIANOS.

£19 10 0 Cash. Hire and Purchase System, 12s 9d per month.
£23 0 0 Cash. Hire and Purchase System, 15s 1d per month.
£28 0 0 Cash. Hire and Purchase System, 18s 4d per month.
£33 0 0 Cash. Hire and Purchase System, 21s 0d per month.

These famous Specialities are renowned for excellence of workmanship, high quality of material used, and their rich musical tone. They are the BEST and CHEAPEST EASY-PRICE INSTRUMENTS in the market.
CALL AND INSPECT. CATALOGUE FREE.

AMERICAN ORGANS. AMERICAN ORGANS.

Beautiful new models just imported.
Cash Bargains, at £12, £14, and £15.
May be taken on Hire and Purchase System on easy terms.

SEND FOR CATALOUGUE.

SECOND-HAND. SECOND-HAND.
SECOND-HAND. SECOND-HAND.

A large selection of SECOND-HAND PIANOS, ORGANS, and HARMONIUMS at EVERY PRICE. GREAT BARGAINS are offered.
Particulars forwarded post-free.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S
LIFE AGREEMENT SCHEME
LIFE AGREEMENT SCHEME
has been of great benefit to many families.
OVER £800 HAVING BEEN PAID IN CLAIMS.
It is applied to Instruments taken on the Hire System, and is a Gift.
No additional charge whatever is made for the Instrument.
Send for details of this unique scheme.

THOSE WONDERFUL KNAUSS PIANOS
THOSE WONDERFUL KNAUSS PIANOS
THOSE WONDERFUL KNAUSS PIANOS

WONDERFUL TONE and TOUCH, WONDERFUL for DURABILITY, and WONDERFUL VALUE.
These KNAUSS PIANOS have been imported by Archibald Ramsden for over twenty years, they have achieved a most remarkable success, and high eulogiums have been bestowed upon them by musical experts.

Mr. HENRY BLOWER, Professor of the Royal Academy of Music, London, says:—
"The Knauss Pianoforte has a great charm for me, the tone being exceptionally pure, sympathetic, sustaining, and sufficient, and the touch easy and well regulated. I have used one—the same instrument—for the last thirteen years in accompanying my pupils, and this fact enables me to affirm that under the stress of continuous hard work its excellent qualities are of an enduring character."
At a medium price the,
KNAUSS is the PIANO OF THE TIMES, and is superior to many instruments sold at double its price.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S
ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S

THREE YEARS SYSTEM.
THREE YEARS SYSTEM.
THE FAIREST AND MOST EQUITABLE IN USE.
Every consideration being shown to customers

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S display of HORIZONTAL GRAND PIANOS by the world's makers is the most complete in the provinces.

CATALOGUES FREE.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN (LIMITED), FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
PARK ROW, LEEDS.
23, HUNSLET ROAD, LEEDS; 103, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON; and NUMEROUS BRANCHES.

Excursions

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.
EXCURSION TRAIN will be run as under: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th.
From CONSETT at 1.5 p.m. for GATESHEAD and NEWCASTLE.
For further particulars see bills.
York. GEORGE S. GIBB,
December, 1899. General Manager.

Church Notices.

STANLEY WESLEYAN CHURCH.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1899.
Morning, 10.30 } REV. E. J. BRAILSFORD,
Evening 6 } Sunderland,
Chairman of Newcastle-on-Tyne District.

CONSETT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1899.
Morning, 10.30 } REV. J. S. NIGHTINGALE
Evening, 6 }
ALL SEATS FREE.

CONSETT WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1899,
Morning 10.30 } Student from Headingley
Evening 6 } College.
ALL SEATS FREE.

GRAND
ORGAN RECITAL.
LOOK out for the Return Visit of DAVID CLEGG, Esq., (the Paderewski of the Organ), in the Wesleyan Church, Stanley, on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1899. Doors open at 6.30, Commence at 7 o'clock. Reserve Seat 2s.; 1s., and 6d. 66g

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.
SUNDAY FIRST, DECEMBER 10th.
Morning, 10.45 } REV. JAS. TAYLOR.
Evening, 6 }
Collections for Church Building Fund.
ALL SEATS FREE.

UNITED FREE CHURCH CHOIR FESTIVAL.
BLACKHILL CIRCUIT.
GRAND
CHOIR FESTIVAL
In the Consett Town Hall, on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 1899.
Chorus of over 220 Voices, accompanied by CONSETT AMATEUR ORCHESTRA, under the able leadership of Mr. Geo. A. Williams.
SOLOISTS.—Soprano, MISS ELLA WILLSON, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Tenor, MR. T. HOLLAND, Catchgate; Bass, MR. PEACOCK, Durham Cathedral.
Accompanist, MR. G. P. STEPHENSON, Blackhill; Conductor, MR. T. HOLLAND.
Tickets—Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d.; Second Seats, 1s. 6d.; Admission, 1s.; can be had of any of the Choristers. Plan of Hall at Ramsden's Music Saloon, Front Street, Consett.
Arrangements have been made with the N.E.R. for a Special Train to leave Consett about 10 o'clock, stopping at Leadgate, Annfield Plain, and Shield Row.
For further particulars apply, MR. W. J. BERRYMAN, Hon. Secretary, Allendale Cottages. 718f

Public Notices.

FOR EMIGRATION to SOUTH AFRICA and AMERICA, apply to A. PHILLIPSON Auctioneer, Dipton.—SPECIAL AGENT. 157v

SPINSTERS' SOCIAL AT LEADGATE.
THE SPINSTERS will hold a SOCIAL in the Co-operative Hall, on Monday Night first. Admission, 1s. Proceeds for the Leadgate Wednesday A.F.C. Come in crowds.

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.

WILLIAM ROBINSON, AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT NEW FINES, MEDOMSLEY. Sales conducted on the most reasonable terms.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr Joseph Vickers.

Christmas Show.
Tow Law Auction Mart.
THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PRIZE SHOW and SALE of FAT CATTLE and SHEEP, Monday, December 18th. Prizes value £45, Silver Cups, and other specials. Schedules ready.
989f J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

By Mr. J. Green.

BLACKHILL FARMERS' MART CO., LTD.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1899.
MR. JACKSON GREEN, AUCTIONEER.
20 Fat Cattle, 200 Fat Sheep and Lambs, Cows, Bay Mare, 14 h.h., Seven years old, quiet, and good worker; Brown Mare, aged, well know, from Geo. Makepeace; Spring Trap, 2 Sets Harness, Cords, Poultry, &c.
Sale at One o'clock; to commence with Cows.
The CHRISTMAS SHOW and SALE of FAT STOCK will be held on Monday, December 18th, 1899. Prize Schedules on Application.
The Special Sale of Geese, Turkeys, and other Poultry, will be held at the Mart on Thursday, December 21st, 1899
J. W. OSBORNE, Secretary,
65g 10a, Durham Road, Blackhil.

MR. JACKSON GREEN
AUCTIONEER, VALUER, & COMMISSION AGENT.
Agricultural and Probate Valuations carefully made.
All Classes of Sales conducted on Reasonable Terms.
SALE OFFICE—
SATLEY, TOW LAW, R.S.O. 807a

By Mr Jas. Turnbull

Sale of Business Premises at Craghead, near Chester-le-Street.

MR. JAMES TURNBULL, F.A.I., having received instructions, will SELL BY AUCTION, at the Lambton Arms Hotel, Chester-le-Street, on Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 1899, at 6.30 for 7 p.m., subject to the conditions of Sale of and approved by the Newcastle-on-Tyne Law Society, Leasehold SHOP, DWELLING-HOUSE, and Premises, situate at Craghead, on the North side of the highway. The property has a frontage of about 20 feet, and a depth of about 60 feet. The Shop measures 24 feet by 16 feet. The House has a large kitchen behind the Shop and 3 rooms upstairs. There is a large underground Cellar, Yard, and Conveniences, also a Stable and Store shed. The property is held on a 63 years lease, from June 14th, 1888, and is subject to an apportioned ground rent of £1 per annum.
This property is situated in one of the most flourishing centres of the Coal Industry which is growing daily in population and importance. A considerable number of new Dwelling-Houses will shortly be erected it is understood, and land for the purpose of erecting business premises can scarcely be obtained, this therefore stamps this property as a most desirable one. It was, until recently, in the occupation of Mr Robert Wheatley. Vacant possession can be given.
For further particulars apply to Messrs. J. G. BROWN AND SON, Solicitors, 103, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, or the Auctioneer, Chester-le Street. 17g

By Mr John T. Weston, Junr

Short Notice. Short Notice.
14, Victoria Terrace, Catchgate.
JOHN T. WESTON, Jun., instructed by Mr. W. Blackburn, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Monday first, December 11th, 1899, Valuable FURNITURE; also, Splendid English made PIANO, by "Brock," of London; an English ORGAN, by "Fletcher," of London.
Sale at 11 a.m. prompt
Early attendance required, as the lots are numerous.
Sale Office: Cornwall House, Annfield Plain, R.S.O. 72g

JOHN T. WESTON, JUN., AUCTIONEER & COMMISSION AGENT.
SALE OFFICE—
CORNWALL HOUSE, ANNFIELD PLACE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.
Sales conducted with care, efficiency, and on the most reasonable terms. Correspondence and inquiries invited. Prompt settlements.

By Mr John S. Murray.

Under Distress for Rent.
Mill Street, Shotley Bridge.
SALE BY AUCTION, Saturday Dec. 9th, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, 4 Iron Bedsteads, 1 Wood Bedstead, 4 Tables, 10 Chairs, Dressing Table, Couch, Clock, Timepiece, Press, Cupboard, Armchair, 5 Pictures, Wringer, Swing Glass, 3 Lamps, Oilcloth, Hearthrugs, 2 Brackets, Ornaments, 2 Fenders, Fire Irons, Pots, Pans, &c.
Sale at One o'clock prompt.
73g J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

JOHN SWINBURNE MURRAY,
THE
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT, BLACKHILL.
Being done with the Auction Mart, is at liberty to take Sales of every description on any day of the week.
Appointed by his Honour JUDGE MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.
All Sales conducted with Care, Economy, and Quick Settlements.
WHITEHALL LODGE, BLACKHILL.

By Mr John Crawford

John Crawford's Salerooms, Victoria Street, Consett.
MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Monday first, Dec. 11th, the Valuable FURNITURE belonging Mrs. Moore and others, removed from Burnhopeside Hall Farm, to above Rooms, for convenience of Sale, Piano, Harmonium, Press Drawers, Sitting-room Suites, Chairs, Tables, Bedsteads, Beds, &c., also the Scales and Weights belonging a Grocer, who is retiring from business.
Sale commences One o'clock prompt. 68g

HOUSE AND SHOP TO LET, suitable for Grocer, or any Business.—Apply, JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 69g

ABOUT Five Acres of SWEDE TURNIPS, to be eaten by Sheep.—Apply to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, Victoria Street, Consett. 70g

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.

NATHAN ELSDON.
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.
OFFICES AND SALE ROOMS, DELVES LANE, CONSETT.
N. ELSDON wishes his friends and customers to know that he has the LARGEST AND BEST SALE ROOMS in the district and that he is prepared to STORE FURNITURE and all classes of goods FREE OF CHARGE, and Sell on Commission according to arrangement.
All Classes of Furniture or Property purchased outright for Cash, or sold by Auction

T. D. DRYDEN,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
56, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

Business Announcement.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.
WILLIAM AYNSLEY, Esq., Chairman.
SUBSCRIPTION MEETINGS are held in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, between 7 and 8 o'clock every alternate Monday.—The Monday after the Consett Iron Co.'s pay Saturday. ☞ DEPOSITS received at four per cent. interest, repayable on giving one month's notice.

THE CONSETT GUARDIAN.

Friday, December 8th, 1899.

EDITORIAL CHAT.

THIS IS THE TIME of the year when those societies termed Yearly Funds balance up their accounts, divide their surplus cash amongst the members, and hold their annual dinners. These funds no doubt accomplish a deal of good work in an unostentatious manner. There are a number of men not connected with any Friendly Society whatsoever, and to these the Yearly Fund often comes as a boon and a blessing in case of sickness or accident. For this reason—if for no other—they are to be commended. Gatherings of the kind referred to above took place on Saturday night at Medomsley, Leadgate, and Broomhill. At the former place the members of the Royal Oak fund took advantage of the occasion to make presentations to Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly, who left the Royal Oak Hotel some two months since in order to take over the Queen Victoria Hotel at Leadgate. Mr. Kelly has acted as treasurer to the fund with much acceptance for some three years, and last summer organised a most enjoyable outing for the members—an account of which appeared in our columns at the time. The Royal Oak has always been noted for its excellent catering, and, under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Trainor, the hostelry bids fair to fully maintain its reputation in this direction.

IN HONOUR OF ST. ANDREW, the patron saint of Scotland, the members of the North-West Durham Caledonian Society—together with a few friends—assembled in goodly numbers at the Commercial Hotel at Consett last Thursday night, when a right jovial and pleasant evening was spent in toast and song. Under the able chairmanship of Mr. Robert Park—with that genial Scot, Dr. Morison in the vice-chair—everything passed off smoothly and pleasantly. The Caledonian Society has certainly made great strides in the district since its inception some two years since, and no one could wish to meet with a more jolly and intelligent class of men than the members. As Dr. Morison said, in responding to the toast of the evening, "they offered the right hand of fellowship to all Scotchmen." He further remarked that "the Scots were always social all over the world wherever they gathered," and, from what we know of Caledonia's sons in this part of the country, we fully believe it. Some people seem to entertain the idea that the Scots are necessarily a taciturn race, whose sole aim is to gather in the bawbees; but this is an entirely erroneous impression of as warm-hearted and generous a body of people as it is possible to find. It gives us much pleasure to wish continued success to the North-West Durham Caledonian Society, and, under its present able management, we think that there is but little to fear upon this head.

WE ARE REMINDED THAT the end of the year is fast approaching by the annual discussions which are taking place concerning the paupers' Christmas dinner at the meetings of the Boards of Guardians. The chief question, of course, that crops up is whether the inmates of our Workhouses are to be regaled with an allowance of beer. This good old hardy annual was trotted out at Lanchester last Thursday, and, as usual, it led up to a somewhat animated discussion. The teetotallers on the Board opposed the giving of beer to the paupers, and, no doubt, in doing this, they were only acting up to their honest convictions. It is argued that the latent thirst for intoxicants may be revived in those paupers who have unfortunately been drunkards. Whilst giving those who spoke against the inmates having beer every credit for acting consistently we are nevertheless pleased to see that the Guardians decided to follow their customary course, so that the Workhouse inmates will wash their roast beef and plum pudding down with ale. We think it would be a pity if, when other people are making merry, they should be deprived of this little indulgence, to which they will no doubt look forward. There are several people in the 'House through no fault of their own, and if, on one occasion in the year, they are given a reminder of the happier and more prosperous periods of their lives, it will form a welcome break in their monotonous existence. Had the ratepayers to provide the beer there might be something to be said against it, but, as it is, not a penny is charged on the rates for this purpose, generous donors supplying gratis all that is required.

MANY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATIONS have come and gone—existing sometimes considerably less than a year—but one likely, judging from present appearances, to survive for many years to come is the Whickham Ratepayers' Association, which held its first annual meeting on Saturday evening. The high rating of the parish was the spark that set alight the discontent which had been smouldering for some time, with the result that a large and influential body of the ratepayers were unanimous in the formation of an association to protect their interests. There was plenty of material for the newly-formed body to work upon, and they were not long in setting to work. The worthy president, Mr H. Richardson, appropriately pointed out to the members that it had been manifest for years that an association of ratepayers was needed, large enough and strong enough to be above party and personal interests—that would be prepared to put its foot down firmly upon all jerrymandering—whether promoted by friends or foes. At that time the affairs of the parish had got into a state more or less chaotic, which was attributed to the small amount of interest taken in the public work of the district by the ratepayers. Since the formation of the association a decided improvement in the administration of the affairs of the parish has taken place, and now that the new society has got out of its swaddling clothes, still further improvements may be expected. It can be safely said that the success which has attended the work of the association has fully justified its existence.

THE REV. DR. WENYON, the famous medical missionary who preached in the Annfield Plain New Wesleyan Church, on Wednesday afternoon, and delivered a lecture in the same place of worship in the evening, is a man who has had a remarkable career, both as a missionary and a traveller. Besides his experiences in China, he has travelled across Asiatic Russia, and has told his adventures in an entertaining book of travel. He was was imprisoned as a Nihilist, and narrowly escaped a compulsory visit to Siberia. In attempting to return to China through Thibet he was again seized and compelled to return to Europe. Dr. Wenyon is a gifted speaker, and his sermon and lecture at Annfield Plain were much enjoyed. The title of the latter was, "The great post road across Siberia." We may mention that Dr. Wenyon lectured in the Brunswick Chapel at Newcastle on Monday night. The Annfield Plain people will eagerly welcome another visit from this celebrated missionary.

JOTTINGS FROM THE CITY.

[By the "Impressionist."]



The above is a sketch, specially made for the "Guardian," of the prisoner, Francis Joseph Aloysius Smith, tried at the recent Assizes at Durham for the murder of Henry Ceeley at Gateshead, on July 21st, and found guilty, with, however, a recommendation to mercy. Very general satisfaction was evinced on Saturday when it became known that the Home Secretary had decided upon a commution of the death sentence for one of penal servitude for life. It will be remembered that in extenuation of the death penalty it was represented that Smith was paralysed, and subject to fits of epilepsy. When taken into court he had to be carried there on a stretcher, and he presented a really pathetic figure lying there, propped up by pillows, awaiting his sentence. The efforts of Mr. W. I. Ward, his solicitor, will now, it is stated, be directed to urging the prisoner's early release from gaol, and his transference to some home where he may receive proper medical attention. His condition, it is understood, is very serious. The petition for the commutation of the original sentence was very numerously signed, thousands having appended their signatures.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT NOTES.

BY "ROSICRUCIAN."

SOUTH MOOR FILTER BEDS.

On the 3rd of November I wrote in this column relative to the South Moor sewage disposal works—"the tests continue to give the utmost satisfaction, and I expect before long to hear of some favourable comments from Dr. Hill, the Medical Officer for the County." These comments have now been made, and Dr. Hill states in his quarterly report that he had made numerous analyses of the sewage and tank effluents, and he found all the final effluents clear, colourless, and free from smell, and that they underwent no change on standing, while the purification effected exceeded 90 per cent. in every case. After nine months' trial this is a very satisfactory report, and while it justifies the Council in the course they took it also reflects great credit upon Mr Routledge, their Surveyor, whose skill has been utilised to the advantage of more than the local public. Representatives of local Councils from all parts of the county have been attracted to South Moor, and there is every probability that the courteous explanations given by Mr Routledge will bear good fruit.

THE LIGHTING OF NO PLACE.

At the present time the Stanley Council have under consideration the desirability of lighting the district with electricity, but until the pros and cons have been gone into I am not going to express any opinion. There is, however, room for complaint on the part of those who have to journey in the dark between Cross Lanes and No Place. There is no light until No Place is reached, and then the illumination is only by means of oil. There may be difficulties in the way, but it seems to me the greatest difficulty is on the way, and that difficulty ought to be removed. If the gas mains were carried to the village the consumption there would quickly repay the outlay and the lighting of the highway would be a material advantage. Upon whom rests the responsibility?

SOUTH MOOR WESLEYANS.

At the anniversary meeting of the South Moor Wesleyans on Monday night a financial report was submitted which reflects the greatest credit on a Society by no means large, by no means wealthy, but by all means energetic, earnest, and determined. They are now within easy reach of clearing off the debt on their church and school, and when that task has been accomplished the members of the Society may be depended upon to devote themselves to the work of solving the question raised by the chairman as to why only about 10 per cent. of the population were church-goers. The idea of taking a church census is a useless proceeding. The difficulty must be met in a practical way, and instead of waiting for national conferences there ought to be local gatherings of the various denominations for the interchange of views based upon the needs and the character of the various districts. After opinions had been expressed fitting resolutions could be formulated and not merely passed, and left to fade on the minute book, but acted upon

THE REV. E. J. BRAILSFORD.

Those who know the chairman of the Newcastle Wesleyan district, best appreciate him most. As a platform speaker his eloquence is not unknown in Stanley, and now an opportunity is to be given of hearing him as pulpit orator. From another column it will be seen that he is to preach morning and evening in the New Wesleyan Church on Sunday next, and it goes without saying that his subjects will be dealt with in a masterly manner.

DERWENT VALLEY NOTES.

[BY "ROWLEY."]

EBCHESTER ROWING CLUB.

Saturday was a memorable day in the history of the Ebchester Amateur Rowing Club, for it marked the opening of a handsome and commodious new boat-house. The structure, which is about forty feet long by sixteen feet wide, is admirably adapted to meet the requirements of the club, and will fulfil a long-felt want. The opening ceremony was gracefully performed by Mr J. G. Brown, who gave us to understand that the club, which had been in existence for about twenty-four years, was almost self-supporting. Bearing this fact in mind, and also taking into consideration that the exchequer of the club is not overburdened with wealth, and that the members have had to put into operation the act of abnegation, it is indeed pleasing to find that they have been enabled to erect such a handsome building. The structure is built upon one of the prettiest spots of the Derwent and the stretch of water which it overlooks is admirably suited to meet the requirements of the club. I was exceedingly sorry to learn from the secretary, Mr Charlton, that the club had but few outside supporters. Surely there are gentlemen in and around Ebchester who might lend their financial aid to such manly sport, as by doing so they would certainly help to prevent youths of that place from drifting into more unsatisfactory pursuits. Perhaps when the opportunity arrives these gentlemen will show the members of the club that their efforts are appreciated by them, and that they have the welfare of the young men in the district at heart. May this be so. I might just here add that some admirable photos of the opening ceremony may be had from Mr Venice Dunn, of Medomsley Road, Consett, and which are certainly well worth the small sum asked for them.

THE WHICKHAM ENTERTAINMENT.

Coun. Edward Taylor, of Whickham, informs me that the amount realised at the entertainment held in the Whickham Parochial Schools on Saturday week, is £15 10s, which will be handed over to the dependents of the Reservists.

METHODISM AT BLAYDON.

Wednesday week was a "red-letter day" in the history of Free Methodism in Blaydon, the handsome new church, the foundation-stone of which was laid by Sir James Joicey, Bart., M.P., in December last, being opened for public worship. The structure is admirably adapted to meet the spiritual requirements of that rapidly increasing village. The old chapel, which is located in Tyne Street, was erected some forty years ago, but with the increased population of the village the necessity of having more commodious premises has long been apparent. The members have for some time past done good work, and by their zeal and labour they can now claim as handsome a structure as could be desired, and I trust that their labours may be blessed by the saving of many souls.

THE REV. J. W. OGDEN AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

The members of the Wesleyan denomination at Shotley Bridge have just been favoured with a visit from that eloquent preacher and noted lecturer, the Rev. J. W. Ogden, F.R.G.S., of Tynemouth. On Monday evening the rev. gentleman delivered his interesting lecture upon "The Geographical Development of the British Empire in the Victorian Era," in such a manner as to show that his powers as a lecturer were much above the average. The various views were thrown upon the screen by a powerful lantern, and those present must surely have been impressed by their grandeur.

HONOURING A WHICKHAM GENTLEMAN.

The inhabitants of Whickham parish have just conferred honour where honour was due. I refer to Mr Edward Liddell, of Whickham, who was on Saturday evening made the recipient of a handsome gold hunter watch and chain with seal attached, by the parishioners, as a mark of appreciation of services rendered to the parish. Knowing Mr Liddell as I do, I can bear testimony to the excellent work which he has done for the parish, and done it ungrudgingly. He now holds the position of secretary to various organisations, and his offices are no sinecure. Those felicitous speeches which were made at the presentation—reported in another column—did not one wit exaggerate the sterling abilities of Mr Liddell. That he may long be spared to lend his kindly services to the parish will be the earnest wish of all his acquaintances.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE

[BY "CASTLESIDEITE."]

HOME!

The Rev. J. and Mrs. Wall's have got home from the spending of their honeymoon, and have settled down to the care and charge of the parish again. I wish them long life and happiness.

THE DARK NIGHTS.

The winter months are with us again, and are as dark and dull as in years past, when our fathers trod those hills and valleys in the gloomy darkness of December, before County or Parish Councils were formed, or even thought of. Yet we are still in darkness, although powers have been granted us for lighting our ways. Still there is a gleam of hope that in days to come when men who hold office in the interests of the puglic good will learn, though the process may be slow, to appreciate the light, even though it be a borrowed light, when "Sol" hides his face, and the moon with "paler rays" journeys in some other sphere. We may here be allowed to congratulate and compliment County Councillor T. J. Muse for being the first to venture at his own cost a light for the gentiles path, by erecting over his doorway a powerful lamp, which catches the eye of the benighted wayfarer (like a beacon light to a storm-tossed mariner), as he leaves the haunts of civilisation behind him, on emerging from Consett, Blackhill, or mounts the hill, top from Tow Law or Stanhope. We may yet hope to see our ways lighted, when bigotry and prejudice gives place to the beneficial effects of a powerful lamp on a dark night.

A SAD EVENT.

Quite a gloom was cast over the village on Friday morning when the sorrowful news spread abroad of the sudden demise of Rhoda, fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs Geo. Kell. The news came as a shock to all, and especially to her own family. Rhoda was a fine modest girl of some thirteen summers, loved by many and respected by all. That she and her people were respected was evidenced by the many who attended her funeral, and many beautiful wreaths were laid on her coffin and grave. Only twelve months ago since this family was called to pass through an affliction. Much sympathy is being expressed with them in their hour of trouble, in which we join.

FRIARSIDE.

TROUBLESOME TENANTS.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Mr. Rewcastle applied, on behalf of the South Garesfield Colliery Company, for ejectment orders against Ralph Dixon, Thomas Hutchinson, Thomas Usher, and Thomas Suthern (miners) residing at Friarside.—Mr. Rewcastle, in reply to the Bench, said he did not think there would be much trouble in getting the tenants out.—The usual notices having been served, the ejectment orders were granted.

WHICKHAM.

SCHOOL BOARD PROSECUTIONS.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Mr. Wm. Bowrn, attendance officer to the Whickham School Board, proceeded against Edward Findlay, Wm. Gillespie, Wm. Newton, Wm. Dixon, Matthew Brown, Thomas Newton, Thomas Delaney (Swalwell), Robert Saville, and Thomas Best (Dunston), for not sending their children regularly to school. In most cases fines were imposed, whilst orders for regular attendance were made out.

Local and District News.

Consett.

CONSETT IRON COMPANY'S WORKMEN'S BAND.—The annual social (always an enjoyable affair) will be held on Tuesday night first. Dancing from 7.30 p.m., until 1.30 a.m.

READING AND RECREATION ROOMS.—The half-yearly sale of newspapers, etc., will take place at the Reading Room on Tuesday night first, at 7.30.

CONSERVATIVE MEETING.—On Monday night a public meeting, under the auspices of the Consett Conservative and Unionist Association, was held in the Masonic Hall, Consett. Mr. C. D. W. Balleny, of Deves House, presiding over a good audience. An address on "South Africa," illustrated by limelight views, was given by Mr. H. S. Neale, F.N.S., of Berwick-on-Tweed. Mr. W. H. Cruddas, Unionist agent, Consett, also gave an address.

BAPTIST BAND OF HOPE.—The first meeting for the winter session took place on Monday last, when an entertainment and fruit banquet was held. There was a large company present, Mr. Wm. Grainger (Consett) being in the chair. There was a choice variety of vocal and instrumental music, the following taking part in the programme:—Recitation (Miss E. Twitchett), solo (Master W. Minto), recitation (Miss F. Egglestone), solo (Miss L. Minto), solo (Mr. Pratt), solo (Miss Smurthwaite), reading (Miss Richardson), solo (Mr. Heslington), violin solo (Master S. Wilson), solo (Miss Heslop), solo (Miss Egglestone), recitation (Miss Nicholson). Rev. T. Durant conducted the opening and closing ceremonies, whilst Mr. James Cockburn presided efficiently at the organ. The Chairman gave a short address in the interval on temperance.

PARISH CHURCH.—A surpliced choir was introduced into Consett Parish Church for the first time on Advent Sunday.

FIRE AT A LODGING-HOUSE.—A fire broke out on Sunday morning in Duffy's lodging-house in Green Street, Consett, but P.C. Pringle, with the assistance of several of the lodgers, succeeded in extinguishing the flames before the arrival of the town's brigade. The damage is estimated at about £12.

CHOIR FESTIVAL.—In connection with the Blackhill Circuit of the United Free Church a grand choir festival will be held in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday night. There will be a chorus of over 220 voices, accompanied by the Consett Orchestra Band. Some noted soloists have been engaged, and there should be a large attendance. Mr. T. Holland will conduct, and Mr. G. P. Stephenson will act as accompanist.

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD PEARSON.—Consett and District has lost an old and respected resident by the death of Mr. Richard Pearson, which sad event took place on Tuesday week, at the residence of his son, 16, Green Street Consett at the advanced age of 74 years. The deceased has resided in the district practically all his life, during which time he made many acquaintances, who now mourn the loss of a dear friend. He was a faithful employee of the Consett Iron Company for the lengthened period of 50 years, and it was only a few months ago that old age compelled him to relinquish his employment. The deceased leaves a son and daughter to mourn his loss. On Friday afternoon the remains of the deceased were interred in Benfieldside cemetery, in the presence of a large number of sorrowing relatives and friends. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. A. Bailli. By request no flowers were sent.

Annfield Plain.

FREE CHURCH MISSION.—On Sunday, Miss Lucy Lyons, evangelist, of Gateshead, commenced a month's special services in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain. Large companies assembled at each of the meetings, and the mission already gives promise of being successful.

DR. WENYON'S VISIT.—On Wednesday afternoon, the Rev. Dr. Wenyon, the far-famed China missionary and world-wide traveller, preached in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, on behalf of the new Wesleyan Church, building fund. A public tea which followed was presided over by the young people of the society, while in the evening Dr. Wenyon delivered a lecture bristling with thrilling and amusing experience, recounting personal and descriptive incidents in his journey of 6,000 miles "Across Siberia along the great post road." Mr. R. C. Foster, of Consett, presided over a goodly company considering the adverse condition of the weather.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT CATHOLIC INSTITUTE.—On Saturday evening a Catholic Institute, promoted for the moral advancement of the Catholic body in the district, was opened at Catchgate by the Rev. A. Magill, of the Brooms. The building, which has been taken from the Annfield Plain Co-operative Society, consists of caretaker's apartments on the ground floor with a reading-room, store-room, and billiard-room above. The two former of these rooms have been open for a week, and the latter was formally opened as stated above. The Rev. A. Magill presided, and he and Mr John Storey, of Catchgate, who represented the Co-operative Society, played the opening game on the billiard-table, Father Magill winning by a few points. It is only fair to mention that Mr Storey gave a handsome donation towards the cost of the table. Fully sixty members assembled at the opening ceremony, and passed the evening in a harmonious manner. Owing to Father O'Kelly's illness, Father Magill was obliged to leave in the early part of the night, when the duties of chairman were ably discharged by Dr. B. Storey, of Catchgate. A most enjoyable evening was spent, songs and step dances being contributed by several of the members. The billiard-table, which is from the establishment of Burroughes and Watts, is 10 feet by 5, and is lighted with Burroughes and Watts' patent burners and cones.

BENEFIT CONCERT.—On Saturday evening, Mr Tom Holland's Concert Party gave a benefit concert in the Annfield Plain Co-operative Hall, in aid of Mr Thos. Stobbart, gateman, South Pontop, who has been unable to follow his employment for a considerable time, owing to an affection of the eyes. Mr J. Storey, of Catchgate, presided over a large gathering, while an excellent programme was ably rendered. A number of railway servants have already collected £4 18s 6d on behalf of Mr Stobbart, and it was expected that with the proceeds of the concert a substantial sum would be realised.

Blackhill.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society will take place in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill, on Wednesday night, at eight o'clock. All are invited.

"THE NARROW-MINDED BEGGAR."—We may mention that the above set of verses, by Dr Dugald Moore, of Blackhill, are a copyright production, vested in "The Edinburgh University Magazine," and were published by arrangement with that journal in the "Newcastle Daily Chronicle," to whom we acknowledge our indebtedness for the same.

DEATH OF MRS. MARY RICHARDS.—On Wednesday week a highly respected resident of Blackhill passed away in the person of Mrs Mary Richards, of Siemen Street, Blackhill, which sad event occurred after a short illness, at the age of 43 years. The deceased, who was the wife of Mr James R. Richards, a veteran cricketer, was of a most kindly disposition, and her death removes a most highly-respected resident. On Saturday afternoon, amid many manifestations of regret, the remains of the deceased were laid to rest in Benfieldside Cemetery, being borne to their last resting-place by six members of the Consett and District Cricket Club. Amongst the large number of floral tributes placed upon the grave was a permanent wreath from a few local cricketers.

WESLEYAN TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND.—On Thursday afternoon, in connection with the above fund, the Rev. Dr. Brooks, of Bristol preached in the U.M. Free Church, Blackhill. The sermon, which was both eloquent and inspiring, was highly appreciated by the large congregation. In the evening a largely-attended public meeting was held, presided over by Mr D. Mole, of Dipton. The speakers were the Revs Dr. Brook, A. Crago, A. Bromley, and Mr R. Bird, J.P., of Cardiff. The gathering proved a huge success, promises amounting to sixty guineas being received towards the fund. The usual votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

SAD BURNING FATALITY.—On Wednesday morning week, a sad burning fatality occurred at Blackhill, which resulted in the death of a child named Isaac Unsworth Kirkup, 3 years of age, the son of Isaac Kirkup, ironworker, residing at Oxley Street, Blackhill. It would appear that a box of matches had been left lying upon the table, which the child began to play with. The child, who was only clad in its night-shirt, carried the matches outside. Shortly afterwards the child's mother heard screams, and upon rushing out of the house was horrified to find the child enveloped in flames. She at once began to rid the little fellow of his burning garments, but whilst doing so, she sustained burns upon the hands. Dr. Burke was afterwards called in, but despite his efforts the child died on the following morning. On Friday, Mr Coroner John Graham held an inquest at the Railway Hotel, Blackhill, when evidence was tendered bearing out the foregoing particulars. A verdict of "Death from burns accidentally received" was returned.

Birtley

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday evening a large company assembled in the Station Hotel, Birtley (Mr G. Leverett), on the occasion of the presentation of a set of mining instruments to Mr J. Lonbridge, as a mark of esteem on his leaving an official position at Birtley New Pit to take over more responsible duties at Hazlerigg, Northumberland. Mr A. P. Stobbs occupied the chair. The chairman, in felicitous terms, handed over the case to Mr Longridge, and after congratulatory remarks by Mr F. Clark, and others Mr Longridge suitably replied, and the rest of the evening was given up to harmony. Songs were rendered by Messrs Walter Fairley, Hodgson, and others, and a recitation by Mr McGregor, of Birtley. Mr Surtees presided at the piano, and played several pieces in his well-known artistic style. During the evening a collection was made on behalf of the Licensed Victuallers Fund for the wives and families of the local reservists now serving in South Africa, and the sum of 13s 1½d was realised.

Burnopfield

RESERVISTS' FUND.—A well-attended meeting was held in the Constitutional Club, Burnopfield on Tuesday night, Mr W. Braidford, jun., presiding. After addresses by the Chairman, Mr H. W. Cruddas, and others, the sum of £1 10s 4d was collected in aid of the reservists' fund.

CRICKET CLUB BALL.—This was held in the Co-operative Hall, Burnopfield, on Friday evening, Nov. 24th. A good company assembled. Dancing commenced at 8.30 p.m., and was continued up to 4 a.m., to the pleasing music of Messrs Mulcahy, Foster, and Hindhaugh. Mr W. Reay ably performed the secretarial work.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—On Wednesday night, in connection with the Burnopfield Temperance Society, a lantern exhibition was given in the Free Church School-room by Mr Rattray, of the Newcastle Band of Hope Union. The subject taken was "Scenes from the Life of J. B. Gough." A good company was present, and greatly enjoyed the meeting.

Chester-le-Street

RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO CHESTER-LE-STREET should not fail to call at PETER HAY'S and inspect his enormous Stock of Drapery, Ready-mades, Millinery, Mantles, and Fancy Goods. His display is a great attraction and ought to be seen by all.

ILLNESS OF MR. PETER HAY.—We regret to say that Coun. Peter Hay, of Chester-le-Street, is lying seriously ill at his residence, Red Rose Terrace. His condition on Tuesday caused considerable anxiety, but, thanks to skilful medical attention, he rallied and was considerably better on Wednesday.

STEEL GREY CLUB.—On Monday night the members of the Steel Grey Club—an organisation for the promotion of summer excursions—held a smoking concert in the High Crown Hotel, and were hospitably entertained by the manager, Mr Ben Harrison. The company was a numerous one, and was presided over by Mr Paul Hay, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr W. Dawson. Light refreshments were served by Mrs Harrison, after which the evening was given up to harmony. The local volunteer force was well represented, and the programme was chiefly of a loyal and patriotic character. Songs were rendered by Messrs J. Fairley, W. Brown, B. Harrison, Sergt. Finlay, Corpl. Bonsall, W. Thompson, J. Atkinson, Hy. Nicholls, and McDonald (who arrived at a late hour and gave a few stirring songs). Mr T. Hird gave a violin solo, and Mr T. Stephenson ably presided at the piano. A pleasant evening was spent, and during the proceedings "The Absent-minded Beggar" was not forgotten.

Causey Row

LANTERN ENTERTAINMENT.—On Saturday night, in connection with the Primitive Methodist Society, a lantern exhibition was given in the Causey Board Schools by Mr A. Baird, Whitley. A good company was present, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

Dipton

SAD DEATH OF A CHILD.—On Tuesday morning, at 12.30 a.m., a little six-year-old girl named Mary Jane Harrison, the daughter of Mr Matthew Harrison, miner, of Dickinson's Wood Houses, near Dipton, met with her death in a sad way. It appears that the little girl got up out of bed on Monday morning before the older members of the family were astir, and lighted a candle, which set fire to her night-dress, with the result that her body was severely burnt in several parts. Her older sisters, girls about 15 and 13, on seeing what had happened did their best to extinguish the fire, with the assistance of a neighbour, and dressed the burns, but the child expired as stated above.

DEATH OF MISS S. J. WELLS.—On Tuesday morning, Miss Sarah Jane Wells, the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Wells, of Delight Cottages, Dipton, died suddenly after a few days illness. It seems that about a week ago the deceased contracted a cold, which developed into inflammation, pneumonia, and typhoid fever. Every attention was given by Drs. Benson and Fraser, but all to no avail. By her death the Dipton Wesleyan Society, and especially the Sunday School, have sustained a distinct loss, as "Sally," as she was familiarly called, was always ready for any good work. She took a deep interest in the Sunday School work, and it seemed to her to be a pleasure to help forward the best interests of the institution in her humble unostentatious way. She was in her 23rd year, and was the eldest of a large family, in which she was a great help. Her death was calm and peaceful, and she had no misgivings about the future. She was interred at Hare Law on Thursday afternoon.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On Saturday evening, this chapel was re-opened after painting and cleaning, with an entertainment and supper. The tables were presided over by Misses Lawson and Webb, and Mesdames Taylor and Hardy. A goodly company attended, and did full justice to an excellent repast. On Sunday, the re-opening sermons were preached, morning and evening, by Mr. S. Meddick, of Hobson Colliery, while in the afternoon the Annfield Plain Primitive Methodist Choir, under the leadership of Mr H. Herdman, rendered the sacred cantata, "Christ the King." Mr J. Robinson supplied the instrumental accompaniments, while Mr J. G. Taylor presided over a good company. The proceeds, which were highly satisfactory, were in aid of the cleaning and painting.

Dunston

NEW LECTURE HALL.—application was made to Gateshead Bench of Justices on Thursday, for a renewal of the music license for the new Lecture Hall, at Dunston.—The application was granted.

DRUNKENNESS.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Thomas Whitfield, miner, Whickham, was fined 1s and costs for being drunk and disorderly.—P.C. Carr prosecuted.

AN UNRULY WOULD-BE SPECTATOR.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, John Young was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Dunston.—P.C. Gill stated that on the 11th ult. he was on duty at the Elsington running grounds, Dunston, when the accused, who was drunk, came and tried to get into the grounds without paying his admission fee. Witness had to assist in the ejectment of the defendant, who picked up a stone and threw it at witness.—A fine of 1s and costs was imposed.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT THE COLLIERY.—At the Dunston Colliery on Friday a miner named Thos. Summers, 25, residing at 28, Russell Street, Teams, met with a violent death. He entered the top stage of the cage to ascend to bank, as did a number of other men, but a false alarm was raised of a number of tubs having broken away, and the door on the wrong side of the cage was opened in the panic to enable the men to get out. Five got out safely, but the deceased and a man named Trotter were hurled below to a depth of 20ft. The colliery was laid idle for the rest of the day, and an inquest was opened on Summers on Saturday morning, being adjourned after evidence of identification had been taken.

Leadgate.

SPINSTERS' SOCIAL.—The spinsters will hold a social on Monday night first, in the Co-operative Hall, Leadgate, on behalf of the funds of the Leadgate Wednesday A.F.C.

Langley Park

POULTRY SHOW.—The annual show of the Langley Park and District Poultry, Pigeon, Rabbit, and Cage Bird Society will be held in the Assembly Hall, Langley Park, on Saturday first.

Medomsley.

DERWENT VALLEY PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Mr. Jewitt's, Miner's Arms, Medomsley, on Monday night first, at 6, to draw ballot of entries and make final arrangements.

Swalwell.

DRUNKENNESS.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Thomas Marsh, miner, Swalwell, was fined 1s and costs for being drunk at Swalwell.—P.C. Kindred prosecuted.

NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—On Thursday evening, in aid of the building fund of the new Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Wm. Dryburgh, B.D., gave an excellent bioscope entertainment in the old Presbyterian Church, which was crowded.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.—On Saturday evening, under the auspices of the Swalwell Gospel Temperance Association, the Rev. Wm. Dryburgh, B.D., delivered an interesting lecture in the old Presbyterian Church, entitled "An evening with a famous orator," being a short account of the life of J. B. Gough. The lecture was much appreciated. Mr. Lumley presided.

ACCIDENT.—About nine o'clock on Thursday morning, whilst a mineral water cart was being driven along the highway between Dunston and Swalwell, and when near the "garden house" the vehicle, the property of Messrs Wilkinson and Sons, Gateshead, ran into a small gutter with the result that about half the contents of the cart were thrown upon the roadway, and partly destroyed.

BAND OF HOPE.—A well-drawn up programme was submitted to a large audience at the usual weekly entertainment held under the auspices of the Swalwell Band of Hope, in the Presbyterian Church, on Monday evening, Mr Speers presiding.—Mr. Thomas Bell, of Newcastle, delivered a highly instructive temperance address, which was listened to with rapt attention. Miss Bright and Mr. Alfred Bright, of Winlaton, delighted the audience with their vocal efforts, whilst the Misses Harrison—two very young girls—were equally effective in their recitation. Miss Daisy Dryburgh, a pupil of Miss Maggie Speers, gave some exceptionally fine selections on the piano, which showed her complete mastery over the instrument. Miss Maggie Speers and Miss Bright were the accompanists.

Shotley Bridge

VISIT OF THE REV. J. W. OGDEN.—The Wesleyan Methodists of Shotley Bridge have just been favoured with a visit from the Rev. J. W. Ogden, F.R.G.S., of Tynemouth, who preached to large congregations in the Shotley Bridge Wesleyan Church on Sunday morning and evening. Collection were taken at each service in aid of the Trust Funds. Mr. Ogden lectured on Monday night, an account of which will be found in another column.

Stanhope

SCHOOL BOARD.—Ald. Dr. Livingstone, J.P., presided at Friday's ordinary meeting at Stanhope.—The attendances were reported as under:—Lanehead, 81.7; Wearhead, 84.2; St. John's Chapel, 85; Westgate, 87.7; Rookhope, 89.5; Frosterley South, 83; Frosterley North, 79; Stanhope, 87; and Crawleyside, 97.—It was decided to ask Sergt. Carr, of Cowshill, his conditions for school drill in the upper part of the dale. Mr Carr is sergeant in the 1st V.B.N.F. at Cowshill. The late drill-instructor at Stanhope, Sergt. Fisher, was asked his conditions, which it was stated was £5 per school.

Stanley.

CONCERT AT THE P.M. CHURCH.—On Wednesday, a choir of a hundred voices from Gateshead, Annfield Plain, and West Stanley, gave a grand concert in the Primitive Methodist Church, West Stanley, the poceeds being in aid of the organ fund. A large audience was presided over by Mr. A. Pearson, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. G. E. Almond, of Gateshead. The concert consisted of the solos and choruses as given at the Olypia festival, and were well rendered under the conductorship of Mr R. Bowran, musical director of the Newcastle and District Psalmody Association, with Mr R. Hindmarsh, of Tanfield Lea, as organist. The principals were Miss Maggie Wilson, soprano, Newcastle; Miss Amy Stanners, contralto, Newcastle; Mr Coward, tenor, Newcastle Cathedral; and Mr S. Bowran, bass, Gateshead.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Patrons of the Victoria Theatre at West Stanley have been given an insight during the present week as to what can be accomplished in the shape of realism on a modern stage. In the course of John Douglass' four act drama, "No Man's Land," there is a big call upon the capabilities of stage management, inasmuch as a very large quantity of water is required to give due effect to an elaborate scene. An imitation typhoon with a real rain shower is also a striking incident. The play is excellently produced by Miss Ida Millis and Company under the direction of Mr Henry Herne. Next week, "The Silver Horse Shoe" will be performed.

ALLEGED BIGAMY.—At Stanley Police Station, on Thursday last, Mr Jonathan Green had before him a man named Thomas Dawson, who was charged with having committed bigamy. Sergt. Leadbitter asked for a remand for eight days in order that he might be enabled to make inquiries into the case. The remand was granted.

OCCASIONAL COURT.—On Monday last, James Gilroy was charged before Mr Jonathan Green, at Stanley Police Station, with having been drunk on the previous day. He was fined 1s and costs.—Patrick Burns, John Sawyers, John Thornton ("Clubby,") John Bell, Joseph Hillas, and Michael Robinson, were all charged with sleeping out at Stanley coke ovens on the previous night. Bell was sent to prison for seven days, Burns and Sawyers for 14 days. Hillas and Robinson, who made their first appearance, were discharged, and "Clubby," after making a strong appeal, was allowed by his worship to go on promising to leave the town. P.C. Millions and P.C. Thomas proved the cases.

WESLEYAN CHURCH.—The Rev. E. J. Brailsford, Sunderland, (chairman of the Newcastle District) will preach morning and evening on Sunday first.

Spen.

WESLEYANISM.—On Monday a successful tea and supper was held at Spen, in aid of the proposed new Wesleyan Church, the same being generously provided by Mrs Robertson.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On Saturday evening a highly successful pie supper was held in the P.M. Chapel, Spen, the proceeds being in aid of the organ fund. The following ladies presided:—Mesdames Charlton, Wilson, Webster, Smith, and Nicholson.

Weardale

DISTRICT COUNCIL.—Mr. J. W. Roddam presided over Friday's fortnightly meeting.—A letter was read from the local manager of the Rogerley quarries at Frosterley, stating that another boy would be engaged for warning purposes in regard to shot firing. He would be stationed upon the extreme east side.—A letter was received from the County Council authorities dealing with the question of locomotive restrictions upon the highway. The general opinion of the members of the District Council seemed to be in favour of no further restrictions, and accordingly no action was taken.—Dealing with the same phase of this question, a letter was read from the Yeovil District Council. They suggested that the Local Government Board should amend the regulations in regard to the speed of locomotives from 12 miles an hour to 10. They also suggested that when road locomotives were going round a curve where a view of the road was not clear a speed of six miles an hour should not be exceeded. Mr Strong compared the speed of motor cars, and in the discussion Mr Snowdon said they had been fighting for forty years to get such regulations removed. In his opinion they were of a petty character. The Council decided to take no action in the matter.

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—Mr. J.W. Roddam J.P., presided at the ordinary meeting on Friday.—A balance of £367 4s 4d was reported.—The Guardians decided to give the inmates of the Workhouse their usual Christmas dinner of roast beef and plum pudding.—Mr G Curry, of Bishop Oak, offered to give the inmates his usual cask of beer at Christmas. This year he will give a cask instead of a half-cask.—Messrs Sykes and Co., of Darlington, wrote stating that they were intending placing a larger boiler in the Workhouse for heating purposes.—It was decided that any persons receiving out-door relief from the Auckland Union should receive 1s extra both in the Christmas and New Year's weeks, and in the case of children 6d. This is in connection with the Auckland Union, and only affects those chargeable to that authority.

Whickham

DEATH OF A FORMER WHICKHAM RESIDENT.—Our Whickham readers will learn with sorrow of the death of Mr. Benjamin Grey, a gentleman who for a number of years was the worthy landlord of the Crown Hotel, Whickham. Some time ago the deceased removed from Whickham and of late has been the occupier of the Plough Inn, Kibblesworth. His age was 53 years. Mr. Grey by his kindly and generous disposition, encircled around himself a large number of friends, and during his residence at Whickham he was held in the highest esteem and respect by all who claimed the pleasure of his acquaintance. The remains of the deceased gentleman were interred in the Ryton Churchyard this (Thursday) afternoon, amid manifestations of regret.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A TEETOTALLER'S QUERIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Sir,—In your last issue "Young Radical" pointedly says "Liberals know what they are doing." Allow me to ask him through your columns, to answer the following questions. Some time ago the member for the Division told his constituents at Allendale Cottages that Local Option would have been got before them but for the weak-kneed teetotallers in the House of Commons, and the next week applied at Lanchester Brewster Sessions for a license for one of the biggest Tories in his division. Will he explain the member's motive for such a right about face in one week? Second—Only recently he opened a Workman's Club on the Saturday that had ran off 11 half-barrels on the Friday night previous to the formal opening, and is open seven days per week. Is this like the Liberals curtailing the traffic, and advancing Temperance Legislation? Third—Has not some of the Liberal organisations in North-West Durham recently said it was time they were looking for a candidate more in touch with the constituency? Fourth—Has the member been called to account by his supporters previously for his doings or not doings in St. Stephen's. Was his reply not that he was a working-man and had his living to work for? Fifth—If he is a working-man, why not vote for what the working classes are clamouring for, viz., all members being paid? Surely, if he has the interest of the mining population at heart, so as to vote against the Eight Hours' Bill he ought to vote for the same reason for the paid member as he did against the Eight Hours' Bill, viz., the wish of his constituents? With only five simple questions for the "Young Radical" to answer this time, may I venture to ask him to give us also the Temperance measure given by each party during the last 25 years, and whether he thinks that the Liberals can ever expect to go into power without the Temperance vote on their side, and how much longer he thinks that temperance votes will be given without some attention being given to such measures? Yours respectfully,

A TEETOTALLER OF OVER 26 YEARS.

THE PEARL ASSURANCE COMPANY AND THEIR WORKMEN.

Sir,—In your issue of last week I noticed an advertisement signed by Mr. Foley, the manager of the above company, informing the public that the agents, having resigned their positions are trying to damage the reputation of the company by alleging that the company have tried to reduce their wages, &c., and that such statement is false. I do not know what the agents are telling the people, although I reside much nearer them than Mr. Foley does, but I venture to assert that if such statement be made no matter who may make them, they will only be saying that which is absolutely true. But probably Mr. Foley may not be aware of what the company's emissary is doing when away from the chief office, or if he does then he must take the inhabitants of this part of the country to be below the average of intelligence. My purpose in writing is to contradict Mr. Foley, and to let the public know that the change proposed to the present staff of workmen is a reduction, just as much as any I have ever seen affect a body of men. And if the present staff were not men of grit they might have allowed an evil to be established which would do a stranger more harm than themselves, and the present stand the men have taken is to any mind a noble and an honourable one, and should be backed up by the public in the district to the utmost of their power. It is not often that workmen have an opportunity of assisting their fellow men in a struggle, and seeing we are the masters of the situation even more so than the Company, let us as one take up the agents' cause as if it was our own, and let the ten hundred a year men (or more) see that our neighbours who have to do the work and trudge the country shall have at least a decent living wage in spite of them, or we will say good-bye Pearl and Co. for ever. I am a policy-holder, and the Company have for a long time got from me £5 16s per year for Industrial Assurance and £5 9s a year for Ordinary. And let me tell Messrs Pearl and Co. that it is not the company with their prospectuses, &c., that have got the above business, but the men who they are trying to tyrannise over at the present time. Every branch of labour is at the present time enjoying a period of prosperity with better wages and better conditions, but the workmen in this district who are employed by the above company are to be forced to suffer a reduction, and the company say we are determined to enforce it. Yes, Mr. Pearl, you have a force to reckon with that you did not expect to meet. And I hope all who think with me and believe me to be an advocate for justice for every workman, will note my intentions, and follow my action in keeping our money under lock and key until the company meet their men's wishes, or some other company more worthy of our patronage comes within our reach, which I anticipate will not be long if it is wanted. Thanking you in anticipation of its being inserted in this week's issue. Yours truly,

ROBERT ECCLES.

Blackhill, December 5th, 1899.

Farmers' Ball at Stanley.

On Monday night the fourth annual ball promoted by the members of the Beamish, Pontop, and Consett Agricultural Society, was held in the Co-operative Hall, West Stanley. As on former occasions the hall was ornately decorated by Mr W. Bell, manager of the Co-operative Society's drapery department, and his assistants, and when the time arrived for the foregathering of the guests the interior presented an attractive and comfortable appearance in contrast to the inclement meteorological conditions outside. As usual the Secretaries, Messrs Atkinson and Hodgson, aided by an energetic and enthusiastic committee, had left nothing undone to assure the comfort and enjoyment of the large number of ladies and gentlemen expected. Complete cloak-room accommodation was provided, and the purveying of refreshments was handed over to the experienced charge of Mr George Murray, of Dipton, who on previous occasions had given so much satisfaction. The music was supplied by Mr W. Forster's String Band, and could not have been in more capable hands. Messrs W. Welsh, T. Robson, R. Forster, and A. H. Swinburn very ably discharged the duties of M.C.'s and arranged the following initial programme:—Circassian circle, lancers, waltz, lancers, schottische, quadrilles, waltz, lancers, p. mazurka, waltz, Washington post, lancers, and barn dance. Dancing commenced shortly after eight o'clock, and an early hour in the morning had been reached before a very successful ball was brought to a conclusion. The following is a list of those present:—

Miss Anderson, Beamish.
Miss E. Anderson, Beamish.
Mr and Miss Welsh, Stanley.
Mr Forster, Stanley.
Miss Dillon, Sunniside.
Miss Wilkinson, Marley Hill.
Miss E. Atkinson, Beckley.
Mr Wigham, Barcus Close.
Mr Atkinson, Newcastle.
Dr. Talputt, Stanley.
Mr and Mrs Smith, Tanfield Lea.
Mr Richards, Beamish.
Miss Bowman, Riding Barns.
Miss Easy, Pennifine.
Mr and Miss Atkinson, Causey.
Mr and Mrs Hodgson, Causey.
Mr W. Wilkinson, New Acres.
Miss May Welsh, Stanley.
Misses Mole, Sacriston.
Mr Howden, Beamish.
Mr J. Brown, Beamish.
Miss Kay, Oxhill.
Misses Cawthorne (2), Hobson.
Miss A. Atkinson, Beckley.
Mr S. Edcell, Beamish.
Mr Armstrong, Swalwell.
Mr Green, Swalwell.
Mr Cheesman, Gibside.
Miss Green, Swalwell.
Miss Robinson, Marley Hill.
Mr Robinson, Marley Hill.
Miss McDonald, Tantobie.
Mrs Robinson, Tanfield Lea Farm.
Miss Watson, Stanley.
Mr and Mrs Wilkinson, Stanley.
Mr White, West Pelton.
Miss Barker, West Pelton.
Mr and Mrs Green, Stanley.
Mr and Mrs Swinburn, Stanley.
Mr Jenkins, Blaydon.
Mr and Mrs Bullerwell, Winlaton.
Mrs Tweddle, Blaydon.
Mr C. Atkinson, Newcastle.
Mr C. Brown, Newcastle.
Miss Atkinson, Newcastle.
Miss Henderson, Newcastle.
Miss Coates, Newcastle.
Mr Welsh, South Moor.
Miss Mole, South Moor.
Mr and Mrs Simpson, Craghead.
Sergt.-Instructor Hills and Mrs Hills, Stanley.
Mr Kay and Miss Curry, Beamish.
Mr and Mrs Edcell, Beamish.
Mr F. Clark, Stanley.
Miss Remshaw, Stanley.
Mr Cook, West Pelton.
Mr G. Powell and Miss Richardson.
Mr Maddison, Stanley.
Mr and Mrs Linden, Stanley.
Mr J. Palmer, Stanley.
Mr and Mrs Robinson, Lieth House.
Mr and Mrs Arkless, Tantobie.
Mr Watson, Hobson.
Miss Robinson, Tanfield Leith.
Mr Dobson, Burnhope.
Mr Wears, Hot Hills.
Mr and Miss Wears, Hot Hills
Mr and Mrs McGregor, Beamish.
Mr, Mrs, and Miss Cuthbertson, Burnopfield.
Mr Allison, jun. Hamsterley Mill.
Miss Wake, Maiden Law.
Miss Simpson, Pelton.
Miss E. Wake, Maiden Law.
Mr Johnson, Annfield Plain.
Mr Storey, Catchgate.
Miss Storey, Catchgate.
Mr and Miss Wilson, Maiden Law.
Mr and Mrs Robinson, Rowland's Gill.
Mr T. Thompson, Flint Hill.
Mr and Mrs Lewins, Tyne Dock.
Mr Oxley, South Moor.
Miss Smith, South Moor.
Mr and Miss Telford, Catchgate.
Mr Harrison, Pelton.
Mr Hutchinson, Stanley.
Mr Campbell, Causey.
Miss Welch, Stanley.
Mr Sadler, Lanchester.
Miss Burdon, Lanchester.
Mr Wilkinson, Lanchester.
Miss Burdon, Lanchester.
Mr Davison, Marley Hill.
Mr Kinnan, Marley Hill.
Miss Davison, Marley Hill.
Mr Heads, Sunniside.
Mr and Misses Bates, Stanley Bank Top.
Miss Proudlock.
Mr Dale, West Pelton.
Mr Brown, West Pelton.
Miss Coates, West Pelton.
Mr Witty, West Pelton.
Miss Murray, West Pelton.
Miss Duffy, West Pelton.
Mr Hutchinson, Stanley.

Tanfield School Board.

An adjourned meeting of the members of the Tanfield School Board was held on Tuesday evening in the Board Schools, West Stanley,—Mr. W. Severs (vice-chairman) presiding.

TANFIELD LEA SCHOOLS.

The Clerk read a letter rom Mr. G. W. Kekewich stating that he was directed to forward the annexed copy of a report sent by Mr. Ward H.M. Inspector, to the Education Department, of the result of a visit, without notice, paid to Tanfield Lea Schools on the 22nd of November, by Mr. Dawson, sub-Inspector. The report was as follows:—"Mr. Dawson, Sub-Inspector, reports that he found the Infant School at Tanfield Lea insufficiently warmed and not properly cleaned. There were no fires either in the stove or in the fire place of the Babies room. This room was so cold that the class had to be removed from it. The furniture and apparatus were covered with dust. At a previous visit to the mixed school Mr. Dawson complained of the defective warming. On the 22nd it appeared that the fires in the heating apparatus had to be lighted by some boys after the assembling of the school. My Lords would be glad to know that the Board would at once attend to the proper cleaning and warming of the school."

The Chairman said it had been attended to.

Mr. Swallow said it was all right now.

Mr. Bulmer said the day after Mr. Dawson was there the stove was working all right. It only wanted proper attention. The school was very much cleaner and very much improved.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Department stating that the matters referred to had received proper attention.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

A monthly meeting of the Lanchester Board of Guardians was held on Thursday last in the Board Room at the Workhouse, —Mr. T. J. Muse (vice-chairman) presiding. There were also present Mrs. Piercey-Taylor-Smith, Miss Peile, the Rev. T. H. Archdall, the Rev. Father Fortin, Messrs W. Gray, G. D. Powell, W. Young, W. Severs, W. Bulmer, W. H. Telford, J. Davison, U. A. Ritson, jun., E. Sloane, G. J. Robinson, G. Forster, H. C. Wood, E. J. Wardle, G. Ritchie, J. Pumphrey V. Dunn, W. Johnson, P. Kirkup, R. Kay, the Clerk (Mr. W. H. Ritson), and the Workhouse Master (Mr. W. Brotherhood.)

PAUPER STATISTICS.

The Workhouse Master reported that there were 206 inmates in the 'House, as against 244 in the corresponding period of last year, being a decrease of 38. The out-relief cases were, for the Eastern district 343, as against 447, or a decrease of 104; and in the western district 417, as against 533, or a decrease of 116.

THE NEW LAUNDRY.

Tenders for the new laundry were received from Messrs Edward Rutter and Sons, Esh; Mr. G. T. Manners, Durham; Mr. T. Mordue, White-le-Head; Mr. Joseph Eltringham, Blackhill; and Mr. John Maddison, Consett.

On the motion of Mr Wood, seconded by Mr. Sloane, that of Mr. Eltringham for £807 was accepted, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER—THE BEER QUESTION.

Mr. Grey moved that the inmates of the Workhouse have their Christmas dinner as usual.

Mr. Sloane seconded the motion.

Mr. Powell said he believed in giving them a good dinner, but he did not believe in allowing beer to be given by brewers to advertise their business. There was no doubt they were very generous men, and gave it with a good heart, but, at the same time, there was a feeling that by doing so they were killing two birds with one stone, by getting a good advertisement for their business.

The Chairman said let them dismiss the question of beer or no beer, and leave the brewers alone.

Mr. Sloane said he did not think anyone sent beer as an advertisement.

Mr. Gray could not see any benefit the brewer would receive.

Mr. Powell said the Workhouse was a public institution, and other institutions were being bothered at the present time. A very large institution—the army—had been advised that they would be better without alcohol. Many institutions had used beer for a long time, but it had been found that they were a good deal better without it than with it. He believed the Lanchester institution would not have been so large but for the influence of beer. He protested against it being used, and he moved that the inmates have a good dinner without beer.

Mr. V. Dunn seconded the amendment. They were frequently told at that Board that they ought not to go beyond the doctor's orders. If ever they talked about whiskey there they were referred to the doctor's orders. The doctor had not ordered this beer.

The Chairman said it was not always a Christmas dinner.

Mr. Dunn said that was so, but they had no power to allow alcohol to be supplied without a doctor's certificate. He thought it was a shame there were so many people in their Workhouse who would not have been there at all if it had not been for drink. Their appetite for alcohol had enslaved them until they became dependent on parish allowance. Now, in giving them drink at Christmas they were doing them a positive injury, insamuch as they were creating an appetite that had lain dormant all the year round, and they had a desperate struggle to curtail the appetite.

Mr. Gray said he was sorry for them.

Mr. Dunn said he did not believe in interruptions.

The Chairman said he did not think it was so intended.

Mr. Dunn said they should certainly look the matter in the face and act legally for what was best for the patient. He did not think there was anyone had more sympathy for them than he had, yet he could not possibly vote for them having drink. He would undertake to pay a sum equal to the cost of making two barrels of beer providing no beer was allowed.

Mr. Wood: Do we buy this beer?

The Chairman: No.

Mr. Wood: Would we be allowed to do so?

The Clerk: Yes.

Mr. Wood said Mr. Powell made some statement of people giving beer for advertising purposes, and that statement was challenged. He thought that perhaps it had more in it than the Board was willing to allow. It had been stated on very high authority that there was a very large number of people who would be glad to give beer for that purpose. He did not think the Board should be quite so sceptical of Mr. Powell's statement. He had never been able to vote on the question as to whether there should be beer or not. He had confirmed feelings against it, and he had feelings on the other side, but he thought the Board ought to listen to those who had strong convictins on the question. They had a right to have their say on these matters with courtesy, when they were addressing the Board.

Mr. Wardle said with regard to advertising it was a very easy matter to get over the difficulty. Let the name be suppressed.

Mr. Wood said he would like to move that they buy it themselves.

Mr. Johnson asked how many could remember the names of those who had given beer during the last two or three years? He did not know who they were.

Mr. Sloane said he did not know.

A division was then taken, when there voted for the amendment:—Miss Peile, Messrs Dunn, Powell, Pumphrey, Ritchie, Robinson, and Davison,—7. Against,—Mrs. Piercey-Taylor-Smith, the Rev. T. H. Archdall, Father Fortin, Messrs Muse, Bulmer, Ritson, Forster, Severs, Gray, Johnson, Sloane, Telford, Wardle, and Young,—14. Mr. Wood did not vote. The amendment was therefore rejected, and the motion agreed to.

THE OUTSIDE POOR.

The Chairman said the country at the present time was all alive in sympathy with the reservists. He thought they ought also to think of their own poor, and he would advise them to give the adult out-door paupers one shilling extra, and the children sixpence extra. He moved accordingly.

Father Fortin seconded the motion, and said there was not the slightest doubt the subscriptions to the war funds would take away from other charities and their poor people would not get the same amount of charity as they would at other times. He had known the same thing to happen when there had been big subscriptions going on, and the result was their own poor—those at their own doors, stood a good chance of being forgotten.

MAINTENANCE OF RELATIONS.

The Clerk read a letter from the Tynemouth Guardians, in which it was pointed out that at present grandparents had to contribute to the maintenance of their grandchildren, but the grandchildren could not be called upon to contribute to their grandparents. The Tynemouth Guardians recommended that there should be legislation compelling the grandchildren to contribute when called upon.

The Chairman said they had a difficulty in getting the first lot of children to contribute.

Mr. Powell said there would be no difficulty if the beer was out of the road. (Laughter.)

It was agreed to allow the letter to lie on the table.

THE USE OF TOBACCO.

The Visiting Committee recommended that all men and women who were over 60 years of age should receive tobacco if they wished to smoke. Mary Collins stated that she received none.

The Master said that recommendation was made some time ago, and had been carried out to the letter. In the case of Mary Collins she had been refused because she was an able-bodied woman, and the order would not allow such a person to be supplied.

The report was adopted.

AN INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN.

A letter was received from Mr. Mark Lindon, of the Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, inviting the children and attendants to a performance of the pantomime of "Sindbad the Sailor," on the afternoon of December 30th. He would send brakes to convey them, and hoped the weather would be agreeable.

Father Fortin moved, and Mr. Johnson seconded, that the invitation be accepted.

The motion was agreed to, and the meeting terminated.

JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

A meeting of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board was held in the Board Room on Thursday last,—Mr. T. J. Muse presiding.

MEDICAL REPORTS.

Dr. Wilson reported that since his last report a girl convalescent from typhoid fever left the hospital at Langley Park, and eight cases of scarlet fever were admitted from Craghead, which left 11 cases from this disease at present in the hospital. They were all doing well.

Dr. Allen reported that there had been no admissions into Leadgate Infectious Hospital since their last meeting. Two patients had been discharged cured, and one patient was at present in residence, but would be discharged on the following Saturday.

The reports were adopted, and the meeting ended.

CHESTER-LE-STREET PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the members of this Council was held in the old Board-room at Chester-le-Street Workhouse on Thursday night, Mr. W. Norman was voted into the chair, and there were also present—Messrs R. Hamilton, J. Russell, F. Harle, J. Low, J. Moffitt, R. H. Lonsdale, Pearson Hall, and the Clerk (Mr. J. Crawford.)

THE LATE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman said that since the formation of that Council the chair had been filled by Mr. Henderson, who had been suddenly called away from their midst. As far as his memory carried him he did not remember Mr. Henderson being absent on more than three occasions, and during that time whatever Mr. Henderson did he seemed to do in the right way. They all felt his loss, and he was sure they would agree with him when he moved that a vote of condolence be sent to Mrs. Henderson and that it be also entered upon the minutes.

Mr. Russell seconded the motion, which was agreed to in silence.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Harle proposed, and Mr. Hamilton seconded, the election of Mr. Norman as chairman, in succession to Mr. Henderson, and the motion having been agreed to, Mr. Norman suitably returned thanks for the confidence they had placed in him.

NEW COUNCILLOR.

For the vacancy caused in the representation of Pelton Fell by the death of Mr. Henderson, Mr. John Bewick was unanimously elected, on the motion of Mr. Lonsdale, seconded by Mr. Moffitt. To fill the vacancies on the Chester-le-Street and Pelton Burial Boards, Messrs Lonsdale and Low were elected respectively.

FINANCES.

Sanction was given for the signing of precepts of £160 from the Chester-le-Street Burial Board, and £14 10s from the Pelton Board. Accounts amounting to £142 2s 9d were passed for payment, and it was agreed to pay the Collector £23 10s for collecting the Sanitary, Chester-le-Street Burial, Lighting, and Pelton rates. The sum of £40 was allowed the Clerk for petty expenses.

THE LIGHTING OF PELTON FELL.

Mr. Lonsdale drew attention to the inefficient lighting of certain parts of Pelton Fell, and suggested the placing of several new lamps.

Mr. Moffitt and Mr. Low supported the complaint, and thought there ought to be an inspection by the Lighting Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Pearson Hall, it was agreed that the matter be left to the Lighting Committee, with instructions to make an inspecion.

CHRISTMAS COALS.

Mr. Russell suggested that application be made for the usual gifts of Christmas coals. If they waited until their next meeting they would be a long way behind hand. He moved that the Clerk be instructed to write to the donors.

Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, which was agreed to, and the meeting ended.

SCENE IN A PUBLIC HOUSE AT AT BLAYDON

DRUNK OR MAD?

At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, before Mr. Redmayne (presiding), Margaret Hawdon, Archibald Hawdon, and Luke Hawdon were all charged with assaulting James Carr, on the 25th ult., at Blaydon. The defendants pleaded not guilty. Mr. Fred Harle appeared to prosecute.

Mr. Harle, in opening the case, said the defendant Archibald Hawdon came into the Pioneer Inn, Blaydon, about 10.30 p.m. on the 25th ult., and had to be ejected. About 11 o'clock, when Mr. Carr was in the act of closing the premises, Archibald Hawdon returned with his mother. Both of them got into the bar; they commenced to use very bad language to Mr. Carr. Carr had to forcibly eject Archibald, and when he was in the act of pushing the mother out, Archibald rushed back and struck him in the face, whilst the mother "clawed" him with her finger nails over the face. Whilst this was going on Luke Hawdon rushed into the house and also struck Carr. After considerable difficulty the three defendants were removed from the house.

Prosecutor said that Archibald Hawdon returned to the house about half-an-hour after he had been ejected. That defendant got into the bar and was followed by his mother. Prosecutor requested both of them to leave, but, as they declined to do so, he took hold of Archibald Hawdon and had to put him out. Prosecutor afterwards got hold of the accused Margaret Hawdon, in order to put her out, when she scratched him upon the face. Whilst he was in the act of ejecting her, Archibald Hawdon again rushed back, and "jawed" him. (Laughter.) The accused, Luke Hawdon, afterwards rushed into the house, and "rushed" prosecutor into a corner in the passage, where all the defendants assaulted him.

Prosecutor, in reply to the Bench, said that if the woman was not drunk she was mad. Luke was not drunk, but he came to his brother's assistance. Luke Hawdon struck him several times in the ribs, and he was "blooming" sore on the Sunday morning. (Laughter.)

Cross-examined by Luke Hawdon: He did not throw his apron off and "throttle him.

By Mr. Harle: He had previously requested Archibald Hawdon never to go to his house.

Wm. Carr, son of the prosecutor, and Alice Reay, servant, both corroborated. The latter aded that the defendant Margaret Hawdon struck her in the face, and called her bad names.

Archibald Carr, in defence, said he went into the bar at about five minutes to eleven o'clock on the day of the alleged assault. There was another person in his company. The prosecutor requested him to go out of the bar, and whilst he was going out his mother came in, and just by that time the prosecutor threw off his apron and knocked him into a corner in the passage. His brother Luke came in and tried to pull the prosecutor off defendant.

Luke Hawdon stated that he was standing outside the public-house when he heard a quarrel going on inside the passage. Hearing his brother's name mentioned he went in, and all he did was to separate the prosecutor from his brother, but he never struck any blows at all.

Cross-examined by Mr. Harle: His mother was only trying to get his brother away. His mother had just come from the "toon" and went straight home to get her "klaes" off. (Laughter.) His mother heard that his brother was drunk, and she went to get him away. He did not "punch" Carr in the face.

Mr. Hawdon said that someone told her her son was drunk, and she went to the public-house in order to get him home. The prosecutor said to her son, "Lad, if thou doesn't get out from here I'll kick thy —— out." Instead of putting the lad out Carr kicked defendant.

A witness named Mrs. Summerville, said she saw the prosecutor strike Mrs. Hawdon, and knock her over, and witness picked her up. Witness was seeking some supper beer, but she never got it yet. (Laughter.)

The Bench dismissed Luke Hawdon, but fined Margaret and Archibald Hawdon 5/- and costs each.

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NORTH-WEST DURHAM CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

ST. ANDREW'S DINNER.

On Thursday evening last in honour of St. Andrew's night, the members of the local Caledonian Society held a grand dinner at Miss Redshaw's Commercial Hotel, Consett. There was a large turn out of members and friends. Amongst those present were:—Mr W. Mackay (Catchgate), Mr R. Lumsden, Mr Andrew Millar, Mr J. McLaren, Dr. Reid, Dr. Morison, Mr Park, Mr A. Russell, Mr W. Henderson, Mr J. Mathieson, Mr A. Robertson, Mr A. Wallace, Mr G. Petrie, Mr J. P. Walton, Mr John Orr, Mr R. Hand, Mr Geddes, Mr F. McDonald, Mr J. McNair, Dr. Moore, Mr Saxty, Mr A. Kirkpatrick, Mr J. Kirkpatrick, Mr G. Patrick, Mr G. T. Wilson, Mr C. Stelling, Mr J. Davison, Mr Smith (Shotley Bridge), Mr Arch. Gibson, Mr H. McNair, Mr Hopper, Mr M. Hobday, Mr John Dixon, Mr T. D. Dryden, Mr Jack, Mr Wm. Ramsey, Mr T. Lumsden, Mr D. McKinnell (Medomsley), Mr James McKinnell (Allendale Cottages), Mr G. T. Hyden, Mr C. Lumley, Mr G. Christopher, Dr. Munro, Dr. Mason, Mr Pratt, Mr Telford, Mr Guthrie, Mr Dale, Mr Geo. Dryden, Mr Rutherford (Catchgate), Mr Gordon, Mr Arnott, and Mr W. McLaren.

Mr R. Park (Blackhill) was in the chair, with Dr. Morison (Catchgate) in the vice-chair. After a substantial dinner the proceedings opened with a duet on the violin and piano by Messrs J. P. Walton and J. Davison, and which received an encore. The Chairman then proposed the first toast "The Queen and Royal Family" and in the course of his remarks observed:—As was usual on these festive occasions the first toast and the toast that always deserved the first place on the toast list was that of the Queen. It was needless (he thought) for him to expatiate upon the qualities of their Queen, either with regard to her womanliness or with regard to her virtues as Queen—as a wife—or as a mother. She had reigned longer than any other monarch on the throne, and the country had increased in prosperity even beyond the dreams of many. With regard to the other members of the Royal Family first and foremost of course was the Prince of Wales. They hoped he would live long enough to succeed his mother, but he also hoped that that time would be a long way off—(hear, hear)—and that their Queen would still live many years to reign over them in the same manner in which she had done up till now. She had shewn herself to be a constitutional monarch on every occasion. (Applause.) The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Ross reading as follows:—"Wish North-West Durham Caledonian Society guid dinner, steaming haggis, and Scotch whiskey on this St. Andrew's night.—Ross."

Mr Geo. Christopher also apologised for the absence of Mr Eltringham who had asked him to do so. He was sure that when they knew the reason they would excuse Mr Eltringham, who had just returned home from burying his father-in-law, and was therefore in this instance unable to come.

Mr Geo. Dryden rendered "Queen of the earth" in admirable style, receiving loud applause for his contribution, after which Mr Wallace entertained the company with a soul-stirring recitation entitled "Our folks."

The next toast was the "Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces" this lot again falling to the duty of the Chairman (Mr R. Park) who said that this toast was one which he had proposed on several previous occasions. Why he should be down for this particular toast so often he did not know. Possibly other people may have discovered some considerable proportion of the martial fire in him that he was not conscious of possessing—(laughter)—or may be that if he was not a soldier he ought to have been one. (Hear, hear.) In connection with the other arm of the service—the Navy—he had twice been shipwrecked, so that possibly he was something of a sailor. As regarded the toast itself so far as that was concerned he did not think it required any explanation in introducing it because it was a toast that at the present time especially would commend itself to all of them, and would meet with a hearty reception without the slightest doubt. He did not think there were any amongst them who were "narrow-minded beggars"—(laughter)—those men with little spirit who were always criticising and carping about everything going wrong. He thought Dr. Moore had hit off that kind of individual very well indeed. (Hear, hear.) It only required a glance at the morning newspapers to see that our soldiers of the present day were quite equal to any soldiers of past periods. Burns in speaking of the Highland soldier said:—

"Put him down before the foe
His only thought is—
How to kill twa at a blow."

He thought the same spirit was being shown by our soldiers abroad at the present time. There was a great deal of criticism being made with regard to the Guards—that they were only "fancy" soldiers—only "carpet" soldiers—but the action at Belmont had proved them to be quite equal to the Guards who swept away the last piece of resistance at Waterloo when Wellington uttered those memorable words, "Up Guards and at them." (Applause.) They all had a high appreciation of the courage of our Guards during the whole of the battle at Belmont. With regard to the Navy, our sailors were evidently a composite piece of humanity, because they could fight quite as well on land as at sea, and on many occasions when it had been impossible to get soldiers there in time our sailors had acted as soldiers and sailors both. (Hear, hear.) Not only did they make sailors and soldiers—not only were they infantry and artillery men, but they were also engineers. Capt. Scott and his men of the "Terrible" practically saved Ladysmith from annihilation. In passing he thought that it would not be well to leave the main body of the army without specially making some reference to the Reservists. They all knew how nobly they had responded to the call of their country. They were deserving of their highest admiration, and he thought that this was being shewn on every possible occasion. There was yet another portion of the force which shewed the solidity of our Empire, and that was the Colonials. There were some of them present closely related to some of the Colonial soldiers who were now at the front, and who quite recently paid a visit to Consett, and the way in which they had volunteered for service shewed that they had the welfare of the whole country at heart as much as those in it, and the highest meed of praise could not be withheld from their Colonial brethren for the way in which they had come forward at the present time. (Applause.)

Mr J. Rutherford (Catchgate) responded remarking that he had responded to this toast before, and like Mr Park had failed to discover any martial element in himself. Mr. Park's reference to the Guards recalled to him the old Tyneside song which said that "Fower-and-twenty Ha'ak's men won Waterloo." Be that as it may; with regard to the toast he would bear in mind the Chairman's remarks and curtail his speech as much as possible; he was a very poor Britisher whose blood did not run a little faster when he read his morning paper now-a-days. He used the word "Britisher" advisedly because he could not lay claim to the distinction of being a Scotchman, although if he went four or five generations back he could come amongst the kilts. He had, however, a certain amount of national pride for the way in which our countrymen were doing in the Transvaal. They had rendered signal service—there was not the slightest doubt about that—and they also had a little bit of Durham pride when they reflected that it was really a Durham man that saved the show—Capt. Lambton. He was very sorry at the straits Ladysmith was in—poor body—but he thought they would see the end shortly. With regard to the Reservists he thought the lines Rudyard Kipling had written hit the thing off as well as anything. With regard to another branch of the Service, viz., "The Volunteers," although it was not in the toast he would just like to say a word, as perhaps it would not be out of place and that was this, a great deal had been said about the Boer marksmanship, but when you know that out of a million rounds of ammunition only three hundred people were hit, there were not many of our local volunteers but who could easily beat such a record. (Applause.)

Mr John Mathieson (Hon. Secretary) then sang the very appropriate song in the words of the now famous poem "The Absent-minded Beggar" recently set to music by Sir Arthur Sullivan. A hearty round of applause marked the company's sense of approval of the fitness of things—this being the first interpretation in the town of a song which will undoubtedly soon prove as popular as the initial poem.

Mr T. D. Dryden followed on with the "Admiral's Broom," to which he gave good voice and rollicking expression.

Mr G. T. Hyden proposed the next toast, "The North-West Durham Caledonian Society." He said that this toast was not the one down in his name, but quite a different one. Unfortunately, however, it had fallen to his lot, and he would, therefore, ask them at the outset to be a little considerate, and be "canny." He would ask them to overlook any errors in referring to one or two points. If he made any mistakes he would ask them to be blind to them. His duty was to propose the toast of the North-West Durham Caledonian Society. Its objects were manifold. The first object probably was that it afforded an opportunity of dilating upon and glorifying in matters national. (Hear, hear.) He thought he might safely say and ask the question without fear of the answer—

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said:
(The land to the north of the Cheviots)—
This is my own, my native land."

The Chairman had said all speakers must be brief; well "he" intended to be brief—very brief—very brief. Another object that the Association had in view was that of education. He need not say that Scotchmen and Scotch matters in education did stand undoubtedly A 1, taking them all round. In history they could come downward from Bruce to the Gordons, from Bannockburn to Delhi, and they might add Glencoe—(hear, hear)—which is even later than Delhi. In religion, too, Scotland had figured very prominently. It must have been grand to have heard the burning words of Knox. (He was not there.) He heard Dr. Cairns once deliver one of those short sermons (peculiar to Scotch Churches) of about two hours—(laughter)—and as an Englishman he must say that he was very sorry when he (the Doctor) stopped. They (the Scotch people) had certainly had some glorious men—men who had stood up valiantly for the faith in which they had been reared. They had also had some celebrated "women in petticoats" as well as men in petticoats (such as Jenny Geddes) who had stood up for the faith of their devotion. From Jenny Geddes down to Mr Bailey, who perhaps in a quieter manner was striving to uphold the purity of the faith in which he had been reared. In literature where should he begin and where should he end. If they wanted a good hard think get down Carlyle—"My Tartar Resartus"—go on to "Herr Worship" and then get into the "French Revolution." By that time it would be a case of "You don't know where you are." In poetry he must of course mention Burns, he must do that, and he must also mention Dr. Morison (even if he omitted all those in between) whose verse appeared in the "Consett Guardian." Get to-morrow's issue which they could get that night. (Laughter.) Then the North-West Durham Caledonian Society had had lectures and criticisms and altogether the Society had certainly justified its existence, and he asked them to stand up and drink with all the gusto of which they were capable, the long prosperity of the Society. As he was not saturated in Scotch in any way he was afraid he had got to the end of his tether. He coupled with it the name of Dr Morison. (Applause.)

Dr. Morison, in responding, said he had very much pleasure in rising to thank Mr Hyden for his kind remarks about Scotland and Scotchmen. He would not pretend to follow Mr Hyden into intricacies of Scottish history. It came natural he supposed to the right honourable gentleman—(laughter)—to teach and talk about history, etc. He had very much pleasure in responding on behalf of the Caledonian Society. They had only been a little time in existence, and the success of the Society had gone beyond the expectations and anticipations of even the most sanguine members at the first meeting. He hoped the success in the future would be as in the past. They offered the right hand of fellowship to all Scotchmen. Whenever Scot meets brother Scot there was always cordiality. The Scots were always social all over the world wherever they gathered (where don't they gather?) They were often painted as being a "sour" and "dour" class of people. So far as their local standing went they had at least been able to educate the English people a little in some things. They had let them see what a "Scotch haggis" was, and what "Halloween" meant. It was a kind of conundrum to some of them in this locality at first. In Scottish son, too, he thought that the concert last winter helped to do a great deal that way, in the way of education, and they were looking forward to the concert in January next. He was sure they had been able to open their eyes to the beauties and felicities of Scottish song. He hoped they would be as successful this winter. He wished them to understand that no insinuations against English music were made. He simply wanted to shew that Scottish music had not been appreciated to the same extent for the simple reason that people had never had the opportunity of listening to it in the past, and he hoped that in the future they would be able to give them an eye-opener in that respect. St. Andrew might be a myth, but St. George was a bigger myth he believed. (Loud laughter.) St Patrick was a real existence, but whether the other two were was doubtful, but St. Patrick was even a Scotchman, and probably St. George was born in Scotland. Count Moncke, the great German soldier, was of Scottish descent. (A voice: "Put Kruger in as well.") No; but he would put in General Joubert. He was of Scottish descent; his ancestors hailing from Inverness. (Oh, oh!) Yes; if they wanted any more facts he could give them. (A voice: "What about McNab who had a boat of his own at the flood?") (Laughter.) Dr. Morison concluded his speech amidst general merriment and laughter.

Mr C. Stelling then sang that humorous old Scotch song, "The barring o' the door O!" and proved his title to being "No Scotchman" by forgetting the words, which were quickly supplied by a host of voices. The song was immensely enjoyed, being the most popular one of the evening.

Messrs Walton and Davison gave another duet on the violin and piano, and then

Mr John Orr (Annfield Plain) came on with the "Trade of the District," and said he was advised by the Secretary that this great momentous question must be done as shortly as possible. He must not enter into it minutely, but must be as brief as possible. After listening to the various toasts, especially the toasts of "The Army and Navy," and the "Royal Family" he had got a very strong reason for being as brief as possible. He might say that our prosperity depended upon the good trade and commerce of our country. Well they would agree with him that at the present time we were very high up in national prosperity so far as trade was concerned, and he hoped they would long continue at such. He would like to say as a pretty old practitioner in trade matters there was one thing to be studiously avoided, and that was to make any effort to strain the relations between capital and labour at this time. We had not had anything like it for the last twenty-seven years. We should have to go back to 1872, and that was only equal in wages, and not in general and national prosperity. (Applause.)

Mr Thomas Dryden, in responding, said he was rather surprised with the way the toast list had been interfered with, as he had fully expected to follow Mr Hyden. With reference to Mr Orr's remarks respecting capital and labour, he was a capitalist in a small way, and so far as his employees were concerned sometimes he found it rather difficult to get on with them (Laughter.) That's a fact. (Laughter.) Trade in this locality at the present time was exceptionally good. Well, good trade for the workingman was also good for the tradesman, who had thus a share in that prosperity, and as Christmas was coming on he hoped to have a larger share shortly. (Laughter.) He trusted that trade would prosper generally. The present stemming of ships, etc., would no doubt mean trade in the near future, and as "we are" the steel-makers he trusted they would always have the "crown brand," and with such heads of departments as they had at Consett works they would always get a good share of the orders. He trusted that trade would flourish not only in this locality but in the whole of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. (Applause.)

Mr Gordon next favoured the company with a pretty song, after which Dr Moore gave a recitation in his characteristic elocutionary manner. The piece was entitled "A Retrospection, 1852 and 1892," and was another of the military poems, in the interpretation of which the doctor scores so strongly, not only as a reciter, but also as a poet himself of high water mark, to wit, "The Narrow-minded Beggar," which he recited also by special request.

Mr Mackay (Catchgate) gave the toast of "The Visitors," which was responded to by Mr W. Ramsay (Blackhill), whilst Mr Mathieson proposed the toast of "The press," the last-named speakers having necessarily to be brief on account of the time. Other songs by Mr Mathieson and Mr Stelling having perforce to be dispensed with. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the hostess (Miss Redshaw) for her excellent dinner, and the splendid way in which it had been served. This was suitably acknowledged on her behalf by Mr C. Lumley. Mr J. Orr proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was responded to by the whole company rising and singing "For he's a jolly good fellow," with cheers for himself and family. Mr Park acknowledged the compliment on behalf of himself and those at home, after which a most enjoyable and successful evening was brought to a conclusion by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

ST. ANDREW'S FLAG.

(Dedicated to the Members of the N.W. Durham Caledonian Society.)

"Hail! Caledonians leal and true,
Sons of a grand old mother,
The land that claims the "banner blue,"
To be her emblem ever.
Long may it float o'er land and sea,
Where'er a Scot may wander;
Be thou the star that makes him free,
At home or far beyond her.
It waved above the hosts of war,
The covenant of story;
Our fathers followed it—the star,
That led them forth to glory.
Thou art the bond that binds the race,
The cord that draws us nearer;
Watch us, that we may not disgrace
Our mother—sons revere her.
Long may she be the "symbol dear,"
To which we look for succour,
When danger threatens, be thou near,
To shield us lest we suffer."

W. M.

Catchgate, 1899.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

There is a change in the programme at the New Theatre, Consett, this week, as in place of the usual drama, tragedy, or comedy, we have Mr Hugh Dempsey's "Stars of the night" Variety Company. There was a crowded house on Monday night, and the audience appeared to be well pleased with the bill-of-fare. The "star" of the company is undoubtedly "Othello," who is described as "The greatest novelty teeth performer of the 19th century." He certainly performs some wonderful feats, lifting a local piano with his molars—a feat which was loudly applauded. He is assisted by his beautiful Egyptian, "Princess Desdanovis," a remarkably clever young lady. Mr Dan Leeson is a capital negro comedian, whilst Miss Walter Sanger was warmly received in her great serpentine dance. Mons Mellini's cinematograph created much enthusiasm, whilst Mr Dempsey was well received. There are several other "turns" of merit, and the theatre is likely to be well patronised during the present week.

Messrs J. R. Parkington and Co. state that the shipments of port for November amount to 4,966 pipes (Great Britain, 3,366), making 87,701 pipes for eleven months against 98,156 pipes in 1898. The sherry shipments were 5,362 butts, making 41,498 butts for eleven months as compared with 50,188 butts for the corresponding period of last year.

APIOL and STEEL PILLS for females a French remedy for all irregularities and obstructions, superseding bitter apple, pill cochiae pennyroyal, &c. Price 4/6 post free. Obtainable only from MARTIN, Foreign Chemist, SOUTHAMPTON.

A MAN OF MARKS

CHAT WITH MR. WALTER GIBBS.

Circumstances have combined to make Mr. Walter Gibbs a man of light and leading to his West-country neighbours. He resides at 9, Eastbourne-gate, Taunton, and is widely respected for his position and his shrewd, candid common-sense—conspicuous even among the hard-headed notables of that rather "canny" district.

Mr. Gibbs, say the "Somerset County Express," from which the following interview is clipped, has a wife and five bright, happy young children. "I am now thirty-two years of age," said he, "and when in my teens I worked for more than four years in a tanyard, and had to carry heavy, wet loads. Since then—for over ten years—I have been in my present situation, in which I have charge of the shirt-starching department of the Somerset Manufacturing Company—work which necessitates my hands and arms being frequently in water."

"The water certainly seems to agree with you,' was the comment of the press representative.

"Yes; but do you see, these marks on my face, chin, and hands? I was always well till about three or four years ago, when eczema appeared, and the marks you see are some of the evidences of what I suffered."

"Please tell me how you were afflicted."

"My legs, face, and most of my body were covered with running, itching sores. I could not rest by day, and at night I was in such incessant agony that I often felt inclined to throw myself out of the bedroom window. I was completely laid up at times. At the knee joints I had dreadful rheumatic pains, and my wife had to help me upstairs. I put cloths on my arms, they "wept" so much, and these cloths had to be changed every half-hour. I could not bear anyone to come near me, owing to the fear I had that they would accidentally touch me. All my friends told me to try different remedies, but no good came of them. I had only one wish in life, and that was to die and be released from agony."

"What efforts, then, did you make to obtain a cure?" asked the reporter.

"I went as an in-patient to the hospital, and after treatment there, I was discharged as cured, but two months afterwards I was as bad as ever. I then became an out-patient for four months, but this was no good. I was next under a doctor for seven months, but appeared to grow worse instead of better. He finally said my eczema was chronic, and that I should never be free from it."

"You look well and strong now;" interjected the newspaper man, "so tell me what effected your cure."

"I am glad to have the chance of telling you. A young girl who was working in my department of the mill, three or four years ago got so weak that she could not stand, and was only fit to lie down and faint away. She went off work for a fortnight's rest, but got no better. After a while, however, she returned to work quite strong and cheerful, and I was curious enough to ask how she had managed to overcome her complaint so thoroughly. She replied, "I have been cured by two boxes of Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people," and thinking to myself that if the pills had done her good they should do the same or me, I purchased a box, and after taking the contents, I noticed a slight improvement. I then purchased a second box, and before it was exhausted every sign of eczema had disappeared from the skin, and the itching sores and other painful symptoms had vanished. I took part of another box, and was as well as ever I was in my life. This was about a year ago, and I have had no return of the trouble. I am now as sound as a bell, and I hope all who are afflicted after the same manner will profit by my experience."

It is not necessarily in the form of a skin eruption that poverty or impurity of the blood is manifested. Our blood is the cleanser and food carrier of the body, and anything wrong with it may make itself manifest in a variety of ways—as by anæmia (where thin, watery blood causes pale lips, weakness, languor, headaches, and breathlessness): palpitations of the heart, indigestion (from inability of the blood to absorb nourishment from food taken): wasting away, a cough and eventually consumption: or nervousness, St. Vitus, dance, fits, rheumatism and unhealthy sensitiveness to cold, and even paralysis. Dr. Williams' pink pills act directly on the blood. Their effect is speedily seen: thin people put on flesh, rheumatism and coughs disappear: there is new life in all the body. But substitutes will not give new blood, nor do any other good: the genuine pills are those, and those only, which bear the full name, Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people. If substitutes are pushed it is best to send direct to Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Holborn viaduct, London, enclosing the price—two and ninepence for one box; thirteen and nine for six boxes.

Swalwell Cricket Club

Successful Social and Dance

On Wednesday evening week the members of the Swalwell Cricket Club held their annual social and dance in the Swalwell Board School, the gathering being attended by the customary success. Dancing commenced at seven o'clock and was kept up with much vigor till the early hours of the following morning. A capital programme of dance music was ably discoursed by Mr. Tucker, of Newcastle, and the dance was greatly enjoyed. The duties of M.C.'s were efficiently carried out by Mr T. Greensitt, and Mr. Drinkald. Amongst those present were:—

Mr A. A. Fletcher, Swalwell.
Mr E. Slater, Whickham.
Mr G. Lee, Swalwell.
Mr J. Robson, Swalwell.
Mrs Findlay, Swalwell.
Mr R. Brooks, Scotswood.
Mr and Mrs Brownless, Whickham.
Miss I. Massey, Swalwell.
Miss Dixon, Swalwell.
Miss I. Armstrong, Swalwell.
Mr J. Hewitson, Swalwell.
Miss L. Shield, Swalwell.
Mr H. Ryding, Blaydon.
Miss M. Ryding, Blaydon.
Miss Watson, Swalwell.
Miss Errington, Swalwell.
Miss Charlton, Swalwell.
Miss H. Brown, Swalwell.
Mr H. Smith, Blaydon.
Miss M. E. Turnbull, Swalwell.
Miss Ada Norvell, Swalwell.
Mr. H. Laidler, Blaydon.
Mr Kerr, Whickham.
Miss E. Burns, Whickham.
Miss M. Robson, Marley Hill.
Mr. T. Watson, Swalwell.
Miss L. Overton, Swalwell.
Miss I. Overton, Swalwell.
Miss E. Cliffe, Blaydon.
Mr T. M. Burn, Whickham.
Mr J. Watson, Swalwell.
Mr Rutherford, Swalwell.
Mr T. Myers, Swalwell.
Mr W. Hodgson, Blaydon.
Miss A. Phillipson, Swalwell.
Mr T. Shield, Swalwell.
Miss E. Craig, Winlaton.
Mr. E. Sloan, Winlaton.
Miss McGregor, Swalwell.
Miss Nattrass, Swalwell.
Miss B. Banham, Swalwell.
Miss T. Steel, Swalwell.
Mrs. Clasper, Swalwell.
Mr. Gillender, Swalwell.
Miss Gillender, Swalwell.
Mr. Noble, Swalwell.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Little, Swalwell.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Hepple, Swalwell.
Mr. G. Ledger, Swalwell.
Miss Jackson, Whickham.
Mrs. Wright, Swalwell.
Miss D. Forster, Swalwell.
Miss Forster, Swalwell.
Mrs. Thompson, Swalwell.
Mr. Cross, Swalwell.
Miss S. Finney, Swalwell.
Miss C. McGraugham, Swalwell.
Mr. S. Smith, Swalwell.
Miss Sharp, Swalwell.
Mr. T. Berry, Whickham.
Mrs. Drinkald, Swalwell.
Miss Emery, Swalwell.
Mr. J. Laybourn, Swalwell.
Miss Wilkinson, Swalwell.
Mr. T. Harwood, Swalwell.
Mr. F. Allan, Swalwell.
Miss Turner, Swalwell.
Miss Lee, Swalwell and others.

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 for our breakfast and supper a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—"Civil Service Gazette."—Made simply with boiling water or milk.—Sold only in packets and pound tins, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., LTD., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." 896l.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or falling off use the MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER, for it will positively restore in every case, grey or white hair to its original colour. It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth. Price 3s 6d. per bottle.

EBCHESTER ROWING CLUB

OPENING OF NEW BOAT-HOUSE.

On Saturday afternoon an interesting ceremony took place in connection with the Ebchester Amateur Rowing Club, when the commodious new boat-house recently erected by the members was opened by Mr J. G. Brown, of Ebchester, in the presence of a large gathering. The members of this old-established club have for some time past recognised the desirability of acquiring more spacious premises for the storage of their boats, and with this end in view the members, headed by their able Secretary (Mr John Charlton), have done everything in their power to raise the necessary stimulus, with the result that the club can now boast of a splendid boat-house, which would do credit to a club of a much more pretentious character. The structure, which has been erected by Mr R. Moffitt, of Medomsley, from plans prepared by Mr Wm. Lovat, is about forty feet long by sixteen feet wide, and estimated to cost about £40.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Mr John Charlton, who, in presenting Mr Brown with a silver key by which to open the building said they had assembled that afternoon to take part in the interesting function of opening out their new boat-house. (Applause.) The members had selected Mr Brown to discharge that duty, and, in his opinion, a more suitable person could not have been found, seeing that he was one of the best supporters the club possessed. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that Mr Brown would long continue to remain so, and to allow his name to be associated with the Ebchester Amateur Rowing Club for many years to come, and that he would take as great an interest in the club in the future as he had done in the past. (Applause.) Mr Brown had proved himself a kind supporter, and he was generous to a fault. Turning to the event of the day he thought they might designate it as a "red-letter day" in the history of the club, and they could not let the opportunity pass without presenting Mr Brown with a small memento of the occasion—(applause)—and that took the shape of a silver key, which he now had great pleasure in asking Mr Brown to accept. (Applause.)

Mr Brown, in declaring the building open, said he felt proud that they had conferred such a honour upon him in asking him to perform the most interesting ceremony of opening their new boat-house. He had always endeavoured to do his best to help forward the interests of the club, and what little financial support he had given he had had no cause to regret it; in fact, he intended to keep on doing so as long as he was spared amongst them. (Applause.) Before he opened the door he would like to say a few words bearing upon the history of the club. He understood that the club had been first ushered into existence about 25 years ago, and it had been carried on successfully during all that time without very little outside support, the club being almost self-supporting. The club had now acquired a splendid new boat-house, which was a decided improvement upon the old building. The members had always continued to struggle on; with the result that they had at last achieved the desired end. (Applause.) They now possessed a structure which was a credit to the village as well as to the club. In conclusion, he would just like to say a few words touching upon the benefits to be derived by young people in joining the club. They were by such manly sport enabled to develope their physical frame, and from a course of exercises upon the dumb-bells and Indian clubs possessed by the members they had all the accessories placed within their grasp which lent themselves to the development of their figure. (Applause.) Mr Brown now declared the building open amidst applause.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Brown for his kind services.

After the opening ceremony a largely-attended tea was held in the boat-house, the tables being presided over by Mrs Murray, Mrs Elsom, Mrs Watson, Miss Longstaff, and Miss Hall.

During the opening proceedings, Mr Venice Dunn, of Medomsley Road, Consett, photographed the company, and we might state that copies can now be had on application to that gentleman.

In the evening a successful dance was held. A capital programme of dance music was discoursed by Mr R. Dawson (piano) and Mr J. Vasey (violin), the dance being greatly enjoyed. The M.C.'s were Messrs A. Milburn and W. Waggott, and the dance was led off by Mr W. Lovat, Medomsley, and Mrs Brown, Ebchester. Amongst others present were:—

Mr A. Milburn, Ebchester, and Miss J. Harrison, Consett.
Mr Wm. Waggott, Ebchester, and Miss Little, Shotley Bridge.
Mr and Mrs R. Potts, Newlands.
Mr T. Murray and Miss P. Murray, Ebchester.
Mr J. Oxley and Miss B. Sparks, Westwood.
Mr and Mrs Fairlamb, Allendale.
Mr and Mrs J. Milburn, Ebchester.
Mr W. Hornsby, Shotley Bridge, and Miss J. Postle, Blackhill.
Mr J. T. Cawthorn, and Miss Hall, Allendale.
Mr J. Thompson, Waskerley, and Miss Trueman, Medomsley.
Mr and Mrs Cheesman, Ebchester.
Mr M. Maughan, Ebchester, and Miss Gibson, Medomsley.
Mr R. Wardle, Ebchester, and Miss S. Thompson, Newlands.
Mr S. Tibb, Westwood, and Miss Beck, Medomsley.
Mr T. Waggott and Miss S. A. Willey, Ebchester.
Mr W. Charlton, Ebchester, and Miss Gardiner, Hamsterley.
Mr J. Ward, Ebchester, and Miss Smith, Alnwick.
Mr W. Veitch, Medomsley, and Miss Martinson, Hedley.
Mr J. Charlton, Medomsley, and Miss Longstaff, Allendale.
Mr and Mrs Wm. Thompson, Ebchester.
Mr J. Hogarth, Whittonstall, and Miss Potts, Newlands.
Mr and Mrs Allen, Newlands.
Mr R. Tiffin, Ebchester, and Miss Hamilton, Newlands.
Mr J. W. Simpson and Miss Downs, Ebchester.
Mr J. Thompson, Newlands, and Miss Todd, Blackhall Mill.
Mr T. Thew, Whittonstall, and Miss M. Makepeace, Newlands.
Mr E. Dixon, Broad Oak, and Miss E. Makepeace, Newlands.
Mr and Mrs Hind, Newlands.
Mr J. B. Phillips, Hollings, and Miss A. Snowdon, Ebchester.
Mr G. Sanderson, Westwood, and Miss Chapman, Whittonstall.
Mr and Mrs Geo. Watson, Ebchester.
Mr Langlands and Miss P. Thompson, Newlands.
Mr J. Swinburn, Blackhill, and Miss E. Sparks, Westwood.
Mr Geo. Thew, Whittonstall, and Miss P. Temperley, Ebchester.
Mr A. Johnstone, Blackhall Mill, and Miss B. Allen, Westwood.
Mr J. Hetherington, Ebchester, and Miss Teasdale, Ebchester.
Mr S. Smails, Shotley Bridge, and Miss M. Postle, Blackhill.
Mr J. Wigham, Allendale, and Miss Cant, Medomsley.
Mr R. Hetherington, Allendale, and Miss Robson, Hamsterley.
Miss F. Makepeace, Newlands.
Mr Elsom, Ebchester.
Mrs Murray, Ebchester.
Mrs Henderson, Ebchester.
Mrs Peak, Westwood.
Mr M. Wilkinson, Blackhill.
Mr J. Garrott, Milkwell Burn.
Mr C. Ramsey, Milkwell Burn.
Mr T. Graham, Milkwell Burn.
Mr W. Marshall, Milkwell Burn.
Mr T. Glendenning, Ebchester.
Mr T. Coulson, Allendale.
Mr J. Lynn, Blackhill.
Mr J. Hall, Blackhill.
Mr T. Potts, Morrow Field.
Mr Coxon, Waskerley.
Mr J. G. Angus, Ebchester.
Mr T. Keenan, Westwood.
Mr Wm. Oley, Shotley Bridge.
Mr R. Maughan, Ebchester.

Messrs T. Keenan and Wm. Oley obliged the company with songs. A vote of thanks was given to Mr J. Charlton, secretary of the club, and to all those who had kindly given their services to help the club.

Scene at Blaydon Railway Station

At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Wm. Wilson was charged with a breach of the Railway Act, by having been drunk at Blaydon Railway Station on the 27th ult., and he was further charged with assaulting Thomas Exley and P. C. Rodgerson. John Henry Wilson was at the same time charged with having been drunk at the said station, and also with assaulting Thomas Exley. Supt. Darrell appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Railway Company.

P.C. Rodgerson said that at about 8.45 p.m., on the 27th ult., he was on duty at Blaydon railway station, when the two defendants came into the station. The accused tried to enter the 8.42 p.m. train whilst the same was in motion. The foreman-porter, Exley, stopped William Wilson from doing so, whilst witness prevented the other defendant. The defendants afterwards came back to the station and commenced to create a disturbance, and refused to leave the station when witness requested them to do so. Without any warning Wm. Wilson struck witness upon the head with a breakfast can. Witness closed, and defendant kicked him several times.

Thomas Exley, foreman-porter, said he went to the previous witness's assistance when he was struck at by the defendants.

William Wilson was fined 1/- and costs for being drunk, 20/- and costs for the assault upon Exley, and 5/- and costs for the assault upon Rodgerson. John Henry Wilson was fined 1/- and costs for drunkenness, and 10/- and costs for assaulting Exley.

HOW GOOD TEMPERED AND ROSY your baby is, Mrs Jones! Whatever do you give it? Oh, just one or two of PATTRICK'S COOLING & TEETHING POWDERS every week. They are the cheapest and best in the district—only 8d per dozen, from PATTRICK, CHEMIST, 5, Front Street, Consett. 369a.

ELSDON'S
MINERAL WATERS
Require no bush.
Hundreds of dozens always on hand; also SYPHONS.
ASK FOR
"TIDLEY" THE NEW DRINK.
It will Invigorate and Refresh You.
NATHAN ELSDON & SONS,
DELVES LANE (near the New Consett Station.)
ESTABLISHED 1869.

South Moor Wesleyans

Anniversary Services and Meeting

On Sunday last the anniversary services in connection with the South Moor Wesleyan Society were commenced, when sermons were preached to large congregations, morning and evening, by the Rev. G. E. Polkinghorne, of Consett. On Monday afternoon, the Rev. A. Barraclough, of Stanley, reached to a good company, after which a tea, provided by Mr and Mrs H. Hardy, of South Moor, was held in the school-room. There were several sittings, and the substantial fare provided was served out by Miss Noble, Miss Akers, Miss Knox, Miss Dixon, Miss Sellaway, and Miss Bowes. The bread-cutters were Mrs Noble, Mrs Redman, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Shields, and Mrs Bell. After the tea a public meeting was held in the Church, presided over by Mr J. Nixon, of Shotley Bridge, in the unavoidable absence of Mr D. M. Spence.

Mr R. Dixon, in presenting the financial statement, said a year ago the statement he submitted was considered a very satisfactory one, and that they had done immensely well. He thought when they heard the report read that night they would be satisfied that they had done better still, that in fact they had excelled themselves. He hought there was very great credit due to all parties who had given such a helping hand in accumulating the money to clear off the debt on the Church. They had raised £166 in addition to current expenses, and when he told them that it had been raised chiefly from the pockets of working-men they would agree with him that there had been not a little, but a considerable amount of sacrifice and of disinterested work. Nearly a year ago, Mr Dixon, their late minister wrote to the head connexion asking if they could get a little assistance. Mr Dixon ascertained that if they could raise £175 within a very limited time they would be able to get two grants, one from the chapel committee of £50, and the other from chapel extension fund of £35. They were also promised the loan of £100 free. As they thought over the matter they were very anxious that this money should not pass away from them but that they should secure it because it would be a substantial help in the reduction of the debt. The time named was only four months, and they were much afraid as to whether they would be able to get it done. Subsequently, however, they were given to understand that they might have a year. They then set to work with a will, and the report he had to submit was the result of their efforts. The last balance sheet showed that they had raised £371 7s 6d towards a debt of £1,600 on the chapel. Since then they had had subscriptions from Mr Henry Kellett, Mr Parmeson, and many others, together with £39 5s from the ladies work during the year, £11 tea and concert, £12 5s raised by the choir, £6 Sunday School collections, and £5 left in the hands of the ladies for the purchase of goods. The total amount raised during the year was £166 2s 6d, so that in order to secure the grants they had just about £10 to raise before the end of the year. They thought and hoped that they would use every effort to obtain the amount. (Applause.)

The Chairman congratulated them on the success they had achieved, and trusted their efforts would be still further crowned, and that ere long their church would be free from debt. He referred to the apathy and indifference existing in their midst respecting church attendance. He had been studying the question at Shotley Bridge, and he was convinced that not more than 10 per cent of the population went to church. That was a problem for the church to solve, and they at South Moor should ask themselves what they were doing towards solving it.

Mr C. B. Harris congratulated them on the wonderful work they had accomplished during the past eleven months. He was sure their work might be held up as a model to the whole circuit.

The Rev. A. Barraclough also addressed the meeting, after which the company returned to the school-room where supper was partaken of.

The Aged Poor of Chester-le-Street

On Wednesday night a public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Chester-le-Street, to consider the best means of providing some sort of public entertainment at the Christmas or New Year's holiday for all the aged poor outside the Workhouse in Chester-le-Street. Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart., presided, and there were also present Messrs Mitchell, W. Norman, Stephenson, J. Armstrong, W. Watson, J. G. B. Thompson, W. D. Reed, J. Turnbull, and the Rev. Father Holmes.

The Chairman said that the meeting had been called to see if they could not raise a subscription to give the aged poor some treat at Christmas or New Year. They thought it might be advisable to give to the poor who were not in such a good position as themselves. They were subscribing to the fund for the relief of the reservists' wives and families, and that, he thought, was what every man and woman should do, but they ought not to forget the aged poor who were living amongst them. To make the matter short he would move that a fund be raised to give the aged poor some treat at Christmas or New Year.

Father Holmes seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The following committee was then appointed. Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart., chairman, Messrs Mitchell, Jacques, Watson, J. Armstrong, Wright, Stephenson, Norman, Reed, Dr. Brown, Rev. Father Holmes, with Mr. J. G. B. Thompson as secretary and treasurer.

Father Holmes then moved that the whole of the poor be included, and not only the aged poor.

This motion was carried and it was also agreed that gifts be made in kind instead of an entertainment. The following subscriptions were given. Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart., £3 3s; Mr. J. Mitchell, £2; Dr. Brown, £1 1s; Mr. Turnbull, £1 1s; Rev. Father Holmes, 10/6; Mr. J. Armstrong, 10/6; Mr. W. Norman, 10/6; Mr. J. G. Thompson, 10/6; Mr. Watson, 10/6; Mr. Reed, 5/-; Mr. Jacques, 5/-; Mr. Cairns, 5/-; Mr. Stephenson, 5/-; Mr. Wright, 5/-, making a total of £11 2s 6d.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many wonderful developments of science no rival has yet been found to take the place of Holloway's Pills and Ointment as reliable and speedy cures for the various diseases with which we are all liable to be afflicted. The Ointment is universally acknowledged to be a certain remedy for sore throat, bronchitis, coughs, colds, glandular swellings, gout, rheumatism, and all skin diseases. The Pills have justly earned a world-wide reputation for all female complaints; for stomach. It would be difficult, indeed, to infantile disorders affecting the liver and name a complaint for which both the Pills and Ointment are not beneficial. Thousands of people in all parts of the world can testify to their merits. They are suitable for any climate or season of the year.

HOW'S YOUR LIVER? Why I never know I have one now, as I always keep a bottle of PATTRICK'S MEDICINE by me, and if I feel a little "off," I take a dose, and am soon myself again. Everyone who is ill goes to PATTRICK, CHEMIST, 5, Front Street, Consett, who can cure almost any complaint. 371a.

Alleged Game Trespass near Spen

At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Robert Leybourn, miner, Victoria Garesfield, was called upon to answer a summons charging him with being in pursuit of game on land in the occupation of Mr. John Spearman. Mr. Dixon appeared on behalf of the accused.

The prosecutor said he did not see the accused in pursuit of game, but he had a witness who did.

Thomas Davison, a farm servant at Hookergate Farm, near Low Spen, deposed that on the 18th ult. he was working in a turnip field near Low Spen. The day was a foggy one. Witness heard a shot fired in the same field in which he was employed, and thereupon he went in the direction from whence the sound proceeded. Upon proceeding to the place he saw one man standing upon the footpath, whilst the accused was amongst the turnips looking for something. The accused had a black retriever dog with him. The defendant told witness that he had been shooting at a stone which the other person threw up for him to shoot at.

Cross-examined by Mr. Dixon: He did not see any game. The gun was on the footpath and the dog was amongst the turnips. The accused told witness that he had been going to Low Spen to shoot pigeons, but as it was so dark he did not go.

Mr. Dixon admitted that the gun was fired off, but that was done for the purpose of emptying the gun. He would call the defendant, who was a miner, and had been employed at Victoria Garesfield Colliery for 15 years, and came to that Court with a clean sheet. On the day in question his client was on his road to Low Spen to a person's place who had some pigeons, and was going to have some practice. The defendant loaded his gun upon the road, and when he got a certain distance he emptied his gun by making a man named Latban throw up a stone, at which the accused shot. The accused dared not fire upon the highway, because an active and intelligent policeman would have caught him at once, and he was therefore "between the devil and the deep sea."

The Chairman (Mr. Redmayne): The devil will mean the policeman? (Laughter.)

Mr. Dixon: The deep sea perhaps. (Laughter.)

Mr. Dixon (continuing), said his client told his friend to throw up a stone, which he fired at. In order to ascertain the accuracy of the shot his client went into the field with a view to finding the stone.

The Bench dismissed the case.

Local Government Inquiry at Consett

On Friday morning, at the Board-room of the Consett District Council, Colonel Durnford, A.G., conducted an inquiry, on behalf of the Local Government Board, respecting an application from the parishes of Benfieldside and Consett to borrow the sums of £1,000 and £2,000 respectively for the purpose of making extensions to the Benfieldside Cemetery. There were also present—Coun. W. Aynsley, J.P. (chairman of the Consett District Council), Coun. J. Lowes and Coun. H. Carss (representing the Burial Board) Mr J. B. Lazenby and Mr. E. H. Heyward (clerk and deputy-clerk to the Benfieldside District Council), Mr. T. W. Welford and Mr. H. Foggon (clerk and deputy-clerk to the Consett District Council), Mr. J. M. Aynsley (solicitor to the Burial Board), Dr. Macintyre (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. W. S. Shell (Surveyor), Mr. T. Whinney (clerk to the Burial Board), Mr. John Moore (cemetery supt.), and Mr. G. T. Wilson (architect).

At the outset the Inspector asked for particulars concerning the respective townships.

Mr. Foggon explained that the population of Consett in 1891 was 8,460; their assessible value was £41,491 5s; and their area, 1,024 acres. A penny in the pound would produce £172 17s 7d.

Mr. Lazenby said that the population of Benfieldside in 1891 was 6,269; their rateable value was £19,099; and their area 1,527 acres. A penny rate would produce £30.

Coun. Aynsley said the population of Knitsley in 1891 was 657; the rateable value, £4,662; the area, 2,230 acres; and a penny rate in the pound produce £19 18s 6d.

Mr. J. M. Aynsley explained that at the present time the land was required for the extension of the existing cemetery at Blackhill, and the land proposed to be bought was adjoining the cemetery. The average number of burials for the last 10 years was 288 per annum.

Mr. Moore said the number in 1897 was 293; 1898, 362; and during the past 11 months, 279. There had been an increase in the number of burials.

Coun. Lowes pointed out that the population had increased.

Mr. Moore said the empty spaces on the Catholic ground were as follows:—Section B, 51; D, 52; F, 70; H, 127; G, 400, the last-named being in rotation; total, 700. On the Nonconformists' ground there were 490 spaces, 334 of these being on rotation ground. On the consecrated ground there were 739 spaces, 459 being in rotation. There were a good number of grave spaces selected and purchased.

Mr. J. M. Aynsley said they had agreed to purchase this land subject to permission being obtained. It contained 6 acres 235 sq. yards. The purchase money for the land was £1,610. The consent of the Urban districts of Consett, Benfieldside, and Knitsley had been obtained. The consent of the occupiers and owners of dwelling-houses within 100 yards had also been obtained, and likewise the consent of the Secretary of State. £1,610 was required for the land, and the balance of £1,400 for laying out the ground for burial purposes, drainage, walling, &c. The Knitsley township had raised their portion by a special rate, which had been collected. An application had been made to Benfieldside and Consett for their proportions, with the result of that inquiry.

The Inspector said as a matter of fact the two Councils were asking for the whole sum.

Mr. J. M. Aynsley said in round figures that was practically so.

The Inspector said the share of Knitsley was only about £100. The sum required was £3,010, so that they were really asking for a little more than they required.

Mr. Lazenby explained that they were allowing £100 roughly above what was the estimated cost of the land, &c.

The Supt., in reply to the Inspector, then answered some questions respecting the drainage of the cemetery.

There was no opposition to the application.

This concluded the inquiry, a vote of thanks being accorded to the Inspector, on the motion of Coun. Aynsley, seconded by Coun. Carss.

Colonel Durnford, with the architect and supt., then proceeded to Benfieldside Cemetery to inspect the ground, &c.

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MEN'S, YOUTHS', AND BOYS' CLOTHING
GO TO
J. W. WOOD'S
Noted Cheap Warehouse, Front Street, West Stanley.

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WATERS
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SYPHONS.

HE NEW DRINK.

Refresh You.

& SONS,

New Consett

1869.

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king a man named Latban throw up
e, at which the accused shot. The
d dared not fire upon the highway,
e an active and intelligent policeman
have caught him at once, and he was
fore "between the devil and the deep

Chairman (Mr. Redmayne): The devil
mean the policeman? (Laughter.)
Dixon: The deep sea perhaps. (Laugh-

Dixon (continuing), said his client told
riend to throw up a stone, which he
at. In order to ascertain the accuracy
e shot his client went into the field
a view to finding the stone.
e Bench dismissed the case.

ocal Government Inquiry at Consett

Friday morning, at the Board-room of
Consett District Council, Colonel Durn-
A.G., conducted an inquiry, on behalf
the Local Government Board, respecting
application from the parishes of Ben-
side and Consett to borrow the sums
£1,000 and £2,000 respectively for the
pose of making extensions to the Ben-
side Cemetery. There were also present
oun. W. Aynsley, J.P. (chairman of
Consett District Council), Coun. J.
and Coun. H. Cars (representing the
ial Board) Mr. J. B. Lazenby and Mr.
H. Heyward (clerk and deputy-clerk to
Benfieldside District Council), Mr. T.
Welford and Mr. H. Foggon (clerk and
uty-clerk to the Consett District Coun-
Mr. J. M. Aynsley (solicitor to the Bur-
Board), Dr. Macintyre (Medical Officer
Health), Mr. W. S. Shell (Surveyor), Mr.
Whinney (clerk to the Burial Board),
John Moore (cemetery supt.), and Mr.
T. Wilson (architect).
t the outset the Inspector asked for par-
lars concerning the respective town-
r. Foggan explained that the population
Consett in 1891 was 8,460; their assess-
value was £41,491 5s; and their area,
acres. A penny in the pound would
duce £172 17s 7d.
r. Lazenby said that the population
Benfieldside in 1891 was 6,269; their rate-
value was £19,099; and their area 1,527
s. A penny rate would produce £80.
oun. Aynsley said the population of Knit-
in 1891 was 657; the rateable value,
62; the area, 2,230 acres; and a penny
in the pound produce £19 18s 6d.
r. J. M. Aynsley explained that at the
ent time the land was required for the
nsion of the existing cemetery at Black-
and the land proposed to be bought was
oining the cemetery. The average num-
of burials for the last 10 years was 286
annum.
r. Moore said the number in 1897 was 293;
, 362; and during the past 11 months, 279.
re had been an increase in the number
burials.
oun. Lowes pointed out that the popu-
on had increased.
r. Moore said the empty spaces on the
holic ground were as follows:—Section
51; D, 52; F, 70; H, 127; G, 400, the
-named being in rotation; total, 700.
the Nonconformists' ground there were
spaces, 334 of these being on rotation
und. On the consecrated ground there
e 739 spaces, 459 being in rotation. There
a good number of grave spaces selected
purchased.
Mr. J. M. Aynsley said they had agreed to
rchase this land subject to permission be-
obtained. It contained 6 acres 235 sq.
rds. The purchase money for the land
£1,610. The consent of the Urban
tricts of Consett, Benfieldside, and Knit-
y had been obtained. The consent of the
cupiers and owners of dwelling-houses
thin 100 yards had also been obtained,
d likewise the consent of the Secretary of
ate. £1,610 was required for the land, and
e balance of £1,400 for laying out the
ound for burial purposes, drainage, walling.
The Knitsley township had raised their
rtion by a special rate, which had been col-
ted. An application had been made to
nfieldside and Consett for their propor-
ns, with the result of that inquiry.
The Inspector said as a matter of fact the
o Councils were asking for the whole sum.
Mr. J. M. Aynsley said in round figures
t was practically so.
The Inspector said the share of Knitsley
s only about £100. The sum required was
,010, so that they were really asking for
little more than they required.
Mr. Lazenby explained that they were al-
ing £100 roughly above what was the
imated cost of the land, &c.
The Supt., in reply to the Inspector, then
nswered some questions respecting the
ainage of the cemetery.
There was no opposition to the applica-
n.
This concluded the inquiry, a vote of
nks being accorded to the Inspector, on
e motion of Coun. Aynsley, seconded by
un. Cars.
Colonel Durnford, with the architect and
pt., then proceeded to Benfieldside Ceme-
ry to inspect the ground, &c.

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WHICKHAM RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

STRONG REMARKS ON THE METHODS OF THE COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD.

The first annual meeting of the members of the Whickham Ratepayers' Association was held on Friday evening, in the Whickham Parochial Schools, Mr. Hy. Richardson (chairman) presiding. The chairman, in opening, said the first thing to do would be to receive the secretary's report.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Edward Liddell presented his first annual report, which stated that a review of the work of the past year gave ample evidence that the time had been ripe for the formation of a Ratepayers' Association, and that the association had met a real need. Being based on no sectarian or party lines it had succeeded in unifying all the various interests of the parish that were favourable to a healthy administration of parish affairs. As the matters dealt with during the year could be more conveniently placed before them under special headings, the following was the chronological order of events:—The first work undertaken was that of inquiry. The very inadequate return for the high rating of the parish pointed to leakages, and unbusinesslike methods on the part of the Council; hence that body was courteously approached for information as to their accounts for team labour. They were likewise successively asked for an inspection of the plans of their proposed new drainage scheme, and for a copy of their half-yearly budget. These requests were each alike in turn refused, and it became evident that the Council would afford the Association no information, and that they were not compelled by law to do so. When the time for the annual public audit arrived, and the books of the Council were compulsorily open for inspection, the Association deputed some members to examine them as far as time allowed. This they did, and found such a loose system in use as would be a disgrace to any ordinary business establishment. The deputation pointed out various irregularities to the auditor, which he strongly condemned, and reported upon to the Council, while he had twice to postpone the completion of his audit owing to the utter mess in which the accounts had been kept. In June a vacancy occurred in the Council, owing to the death of their esteemed friend, Mr. Rotherford, of Lobley Hill. This vacancy gave rise to the most potent action of the Association during the year. It gave the opportunity of trying conclusions with the Council, which had consistently treated all the approaches by the Association with contempt—an opportunity of submitting to the arbitrament of the entire parish the respective policies of the two bodies. Accordingly a candidate was selected by the Association in the person of Mr. Edward Taylor, and a manifesto in his favour was printed, and sent to every ratepayer in the parish, stating most distinctly that the one issue was the District Council versus the Ratepayers' Association. The other side accepted the challenge, and Mr. Walls, their chief platform man, emphasised it at their public meeting at Dunston. The contest was carried on with great vigour on both sides, Mr. Taylor holding no less than seven outdoor meetings within ten days, each of which were addressed by that gentleman and other prominent members of the Association. The poll resulted in favour of Mr. Taylor by nearly two to one—(hear, hear)—thus shewing conclusively that the parish as a whole disapproved of the slipshod work of the Council, and welcomed the efforts of the Association to secure more businesslike administration. School Board.—The School Board public audit was held early in the year, and was attended by representatives of the Association, who found that a member of the Board had been supplying goods to the Board in contravention of Section 34 of the Education Act of 1870. Upon the auditor's attention having been drawn thereto he disallowed the items, thanking the members of the Association for their action, and expressing a wish that ratepayers would more often assist him in like manner. Some weeks later they received from the Local Government Board a letter enclosing an appeal from the defaulting member of the School Board for relief from the surcharge, and requesting their views thereon; to which they replied that as their action was taken on public grounds to secure a more reputable conduct of parish affairs, and without animosity to any individual, they gladly supported the appeal. The surcharge was evidently remitted by the Local Government Board. Further action in connection with the School Board on the occasion of the arrangement with Lamesley parish, when the Whickham Board agreed to accept 12/- per head for the Lamesley children attending schools under the Board, although the actual cost to the Whickham ratepayers was something like 36/- per child. On learning of this scandalous giving away of public money the committee of the association at once requested the Education Department to put their veto upon it, and the Association likewise summonsed a public meeting, at which a resolution was passed. The outcome of that action had been that the Department had made Lamesley a contributory district under the Act, thus making Lamesley liable for the full cost of their children's education, instead of only one-third, as the Whickham Board wanted to accept. In concluding the report the committee desired to put on record the great assistance they had received from Mr. Swinburn, as member of the School Board and Council, and also from Mr. Rutherford as a member of the Council. Both gentlemen had worked with heart and vigour, and the success that the Association had achieved would have been next to impossible but for the herculean support of these two gentlemen. As regarded the statistics the number of members on the books was 189. (Applause.) In regard to the financial part the income had been £8 6s, and the expenditure £8 4s 9d, leaving a balance of 1/3 in hand. There was, however, an outstanding account amounting to £2 15s 11d, after the payment of which there would be a debit balance of £2 14s 8d.

The Chairman remarked that the report was now open for adoption and discussion.

Mr. Charlton, Whickham Park, said he would like to make one or two remarks. He thought that the report and the balance-sheet were both very satisfactory documents, and they were no less satisfactory on account of their brevity, as compared with a long-winded report. They had got something substantial to show as a result of their efforts—a very satisfactory termination of the contest with the District Council. (Hear, hear.) So far as the financial part of the association was concerned they had a small debit balance against them, but he thought that before the members dispersed they might wipe that off, and he was willing to contribute a portion of the balance. (Applause.)

The Chairman pressed upon Coun. Swinburn for a few remarks.

Coun. Swinburn, in response, said he thought they ought to feel satisfied with such an excellent report. He thought that the Association up to the present time had done good work in the parish. The Association had created great interest in their local affairs, and public interest had been brought to bear upon matters which very materially effected their interests, and he thought that the very satisfactory result of the last election was due in a great extent to the action which the Association had taken in the parish. With regard to the Lamesley question, which he noticed the report touched upon, he thought now—seeing that the matter had been made public—that the opposition which he unfortunately had to contend with from his own colleagues would have ceased, because at the last meeting of the Board at which the elected representative from Lamesley was present—his colleagues had a few months ago agreed to accept something like 12/- per head, or something like one-third of the amount—they agreed with him and indeed supported a resolution moved "That we, if possible, get the Education department to order the actual cost to the Whickham ratepayers of the education of Lamesley children." (Laughter and applause.) He rather thought this was due to the fact that the public had got hold of the facts of the case by the Association. That remarkable change had come over the feelings of these gentlemen. (A voice: "Fair frightened them out of it"—laughter.) Mr. Swinburn (continuing) said he hoped that the parish would receive from Lamesley that sum which they were justly entitled to, and had been entitled to for at least five years or so. (Hear, hear.) The actual cost was something like 24/- per head in one school and 34/3 per head in the other. He thought it would be unreasonable for Lamesley to offer anything less than Whickham parish was justly entitled to. (Applause.)

The Chairman remarked that Mr. Harbottle was one of the prime movers in the formation of the association, and he thought that that gentleman might address a few words to the gathering.

Mr. Joseph Harbottle, in response, said that he thought so far as the Association had gone—speaking for himself—he was more than highly satisfied. He could never have thought that things would have taken such a turn as they had done, and that they would have been so successful. At the first meeting when the Association was formed he made some statements, which were said to be erroneous. One of those statements was about the schools at Marley Hill, which he contended, like Mr. Swinburn, were built without any necessity. The requirements could have been met by the addition of a wing erected upon the old schools. Although the Association had been more than successful they must not think that they were finished yet. They had one throw at the last election, and the other party had come off second best. The last election was fought upon the lines of the Council versus the Ratepayers' Association. They all knew the result of that election. They again had another election staring them in the face, namely, the School Board election, which would take place some time in March, and it was for the Association now that they had their war-paint on to keep it on if they were determined to have representation, and representation that would be respected, and not representation that had been insulted in the past. (Applause.) As they all knew Mr. Swinburn headed the poll at the last election, and they knew that he had been slighted, and even in his high position. It was for the Association to take a firm stand and be determined that they would put men upon the Board, who would act in the interest and welfare of the parish. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mr. Taylor, have you not a word to say?

Mr. Ed. Taylor said he would take that, the first opportunity he had had, of meeting his fellow-members of the Association to to thank them for the magnificent way in which they had stood by him in their magnificent contest they had some little time ago. The election was fought, as far as he was concerned, on fair lines, and he would not say anything to raise any animosity regarding the affair, but he would say that a magnificent fight had proved to the Councillors—and proved to everyone—that the Whickham Ratepayers' Association was a very great power in the district. He took that opportunity of personally thanking them for the way they had assisted him in carrying the contest to a successful issue. As soon as he had been elected upon the Council he went there with the anticipation that there would be some very strong remarks, and rather difficult men to meet through the commencement of the team labour question and several other things, but he found—he might be pardoned for using the expression—it looked as if the Council had been comparatively easy. However, the time was not far distant when several important matters would have to come up before the Council for discussion, and one of them was the team labour question; but a certain length of time had to run before that could be brought forward. It would have to be decided whether it was cheaper to have their own carts and horses, or to have hired labour as before. When the proper time arrived he would have to give an account of his stewardship, but he would continue to do his best without considering any party at all. (Applause.)

The Chairman asked if any other member had anything to say, and threw out a suggestion that Mr. Slater might touch upon the report.

Mr. Charles Slater said he thought they might congratulate themselves upon the work that the Association had accomplished in the year just ended. He might mention an incident which happened about the second or third week after the Association had been formed. He was talking to a certain member of the Council, who said, "Oh! yes; it's all very well you talking about the Ratepayers' Association, but they had a meeting at Swalwell, and one more meeting like that, and then they would have to bury the Ratepayers' Association." The speaker said to him, "Man, you never made a bigger mistake in your life; people who have gone into this Ratepayers' Association, you will find that when the opportunity occurs are very much alive." (Applause.) It had been proved that when the occasion did arrive that the Ratepayers' Association was very much alive. (Renewed applause.) He was rather inclined to think that a great many individuals wished that some of the members of the Association had been dead and buried. (Laughter.) Personally he was prepared when the time came again to go into battle and take his share in the war. (Applause.) He thought it was only right that the ratepayers should have the overseeing of their own affairs, and if they did not get it by fair means, then they would have to fight them fairly and squarely. He had seen a great many changes in the administration of the affairs of the parish since the Association was formed, whilst before that time the people seemed to be indifferent in Whickham. A few people "bossed the show," as they talked about, and what they said was law—at least, he found that out. The ratepayers now felt that they had something at stake, and it was their duty to look after their interests. In conclusion he expressed the hope that the Ratepayers' Association would continue to flourish. (Applause.)

The Chairman, in commenting upon the report, said he thought the same was a very satisfactory one. They had accomplished far more than they anticipated. When the Association was first formed it looked as if they would have an uphill fight for years and years to come, and when they suggested at the first meeting that a large membership might be procured they did not expect so much sympathy to have been shown on the part of the ratepayers. Of course, the large membership was not accomplished without work on the part of the officials of the Association, who had worked extremely hard; they put their shoulders to the wheel, being faced with great difficulty and opposition by the Council, but by vigorous efforts they had achieved success. He doubted whether any other Ratepayers' Association had accomplished such success. The Association during its first year had been able to put a man upon the Council when the clear issue was between the whole of the vested interests of the Council as it had been for generations past, and the new interest of business—like methods that the Association urged, and with such a splendid result it clearly proved that the Association had done its work in a thorough manner. The Chairman then touched upon the School Board and Council audit, adding that he thought these auditors would be vastly more careful in carrying out the policy which the Association last indicated, now that they had had things pointed out to them. He thought that the Association could now congratulate itself upon its triumph. (Applause.)

FINANCE.

The Chairman said he thought the annual subscription of 1/- per year might be increased, seeing that that sum was insufficient to meet the requirements of the Association. There would be a School Board election, and they would be compelled to expend more money.

Mr. Charlton opined that they ought to wipe the balance off, and he would therefore give 10/-. (Applause.)

Coun. Taylor said he would also give 10/-. (Applause.)

Several other gentlemen gave a sum of 2/6 each, and together with a collection the outstanding balance was wiped off, and a sum left in hand.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Chairman intimated that the next business was the election of officers, and stated that he had no intention of standing as president for the ensuing season, as he thought it would be better for the Association to have a change. He proposed that Mr. Charlton be president of the Association.

Mr. Charlton declined to stand, adding that he rather preferred to be one of the rank and file.

Mr. Charlton proposed, and Mr. Joseph Harbottle seconded, that Mr. Charles Slater be elected president of the Association, which was carried.

Mr. Taylor proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Richardson for his past services, which was seconded by Mr. Charlton, and carried with acclamation.

Mr. Richardson responded.

Mr. Richardson now vacated the chair, which was taken by the newly-elected president, Mr. Slater, who had a most hearty reception on rising to thank the Association for its kindness.

Mr. Slater said now that he had come into his official position he thanked them very much for their kindness in placing him in such an honoured position. He could assure them that he would do everything that lay in his power to carry out the office which Mr. Richardson had held. Although previously he had no official connection with the Association, he did what he hoped every member would do when the occasion arose, and he did not think that because he was not chairman or secretary or some official that he had nothing to do; but he went into the breach when the breach was open, and took his fair share of the work. He urged upon each member to do likewise, and hoped the Association would continue to carry out the improvement in the affairs of the parish which had recently been so marked. (Applause.) Mr. Edward Liddell was re-elected secretary, with Mr. Stanley Poad as treasurer. A strong committee was afterwards appointed for each village.

The meeting then ended.

Death of Mr. Robert Westthorp, of Leadgate.

It is with sincere regret that we have to announce the death of one of the oldest and most respected inhabitants of Leadgate, in the person of Mr. Robert Westthorp, the sad event taking place at his residence in Church Square, on Thursday week. Deceased, who had been in failing health during the past few months, was 65 years of age, and was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. The late Mr. Westthorp was born at Big Thornley, some few miles out of Durham, but when only about two years of age his parents removed to Consett. At the tender age of seven he started work as message boy at the waggon shops of the Consett Iron Company. Afterwards he was empoyed with the bricklayers in attending to the repair of the brick furnaces at the works, and served his time to this trade. Work becoming rather slack he started to work on the railway under Messrs Wm. Brown and Ed. Charlton, traffic managers, both of whom have gone to their last long rest. After a spell at this the deceased took up slating, and for the long period of 39 years the late Mr. Westthorp acted as slater under the Consett Iron Company. He was held in the highest esteem by his fellow-workmen, and was one of the oldest servants under the Company, having been in their employment for 56 years. Deceased was connected with the Primitive body as a local preacher for 24 years, but of late he had thrown in his lot with the Wesleyans. His demise has been regretted on all sides, and deceased leaves a widow and large family to mourn his loss. The interment took place at St. Ive's Churchyard on Sunday afternoon week, the funeral being a very large one, many being anxious to show their last tribute of respect to the memory of an old and highly respected friend. A short service outside the residence of the deceased was conducted by Mr. Thos. Lammonby, of Leadgate, after which the mournful procession proceeded by way of Front Street to St. Ive's, where the service in the church and at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. T. Varley (vicar) and the Rev. T. W. Hanson (curate). The relatives present included Messrs William, Robert, Luke, and Thos. Westthorp (sons), with their wives and families; Messrs Thos., Joseph, Edward, and James Westthorp (brothers), with their wives and families; Miss Westthorp (daughter); Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Veitch (daughter and son-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. Tennant (daughter and son-in-law); Miss Jewitt, Westwood (cousin); Mrs. Steel, Leadgate (cousin); Mr. I. Westthorp; Mrs. G. Reed, Consett (cousin); Mr. and Mrs. John Reed, Consett (cousins); Mr. J. Reed, jun., Consett; and others. Amongst others present we observed:—Mr. T. S. Longstaff, Leadgate; Mr. N. Parker, Leadgate; Mr. W. Ker, Leadgate; Mr. R. Richardson, sen., Leadgate; Mr. Jos. Milburn, Consett; Mr. J. Bird, Leadgate; Mr. W. Elliott, Leadgate; Mr. R. Potts, Crookhall; Mr. Jos. Walker, Leadgate; Mr. T. Turnbull, Leadgate; Mr. R. Laidler, Leadgate, Mr. L. Brown, Consett; Mr. J. Burkitt, Leadgate; Mr. T. Sinclair, Leadgate; Mr. W. Coulthard, Leadgate; Mr. J. Waugh, Leadgate; Mr. J. Reed, Crookhall; Mr. H. Kennedy, Leadgate; Mr. Jas. Wiseman, Leadgate; Mr. H. Whitfield, Leadgate; Mr. W. Browell, Crookhall; Mr. T. Browell, Leadgate; Mr. G. Armstrong, Leadgate; Mr. R. Birtley, Leadgate; Mr. J. Hepple, Leadgate; Mr. W. Skelton, Consett; Mr. John Winter, Leadgate; Mr. R. Pull, Leadgate; Mr. Emmerson, Crookhall; Mr. Jas. Boustead, Leadgate; Mr. Thos. Harrison, Leadgate; Mr. J. Batey, Leadgate; Mr. J. Smith, Leadgate; Mr. W. Temperley, Leadgate; Mr. T. Jackson, Leadgate; Mr. R. Kelly, Leadgate; Mr. R. Ramsey, Dipton; Mr. W. Stokoe, Leadgate; Mr. J. Bunney, Blackhill; Mr. F. Bidwell, Consett; Mr. Ed. Bell, Leadgate; Mr. Sisterson, Consett; Mr. L. Whitfield, Leadgate; Coun. W. F. Lane, Leadgate; Mr. H. Leathard, Bradley Cottages; Mr. H. Wanless, sen., Leadgate; Mr. W. Laidler, Leadgate; Mr. E. Charlton, Leadgate; Mr. G. Moyle, Consett; Mr. J. Jobling, Leadgate; Mr. A. Usher, Leadgate; Mr. T. Lammonby, Leadgate; Mr. Geo. Walton, Leadgate; Mr. C. S. Morgan, Leadgate; Mr. John Stewart, Leadgate; Mr. T. Stones, Leadgate; Mr. and Mrs. C. Surtees, Leadgate; Mr. E. Forster, Leadgate; Mr. J. Ross, Leadgate; Mr. James Veitch, Leadgate; and many others. Messrs E. Bell and W. Laidler acted as bidders, whilst Mr. J. Slater, Leadgate was the undertaker.

Presentation at Whickham

On Saturday evening, in the Parochial Schoolroom, Whickham, Mr Edward Liddell was presented with a gold watch and albert, the former bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr Edward Liddell by the inhabitants of Whickham, in appreciation of his services to the parish. Nov. 25th, 1899."

Mr Geo. Proud occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings said they had met to do honour to whom honour was due—to one who had laboured long and incessantly and had burnt a considerable amount of midnight oil for the benefit of the parish. (Applause.) They were met to show in as happy a manner as they could what they thought of Mr Liddell. Their friend was nothing unless he was thorough. He never did things by halves. (Hear, hear.) He was active, kind, courteous, fearless, and highly argumentative. (Laughter.) At times they did not see eye to eye with him, but they respected him for his opinions. (Applause.) Of enthusiasm he had a large store. They were indebted to him for his services in connection with the various functions with which he had been associated, and which he had so often carried to successful issues. In conclusion, the chairman read a letter from Mr Arthur D. Carr, who expressed regret at his inability to be present, adding that his heart and good wishes were with them all.

The Rector of Whickham (the Rev. Arthur Allwork), then made the presentation. He said although his acquaintance with Whickham was not very long, his acquaintance with Mr Liddell was as long as his acquaintance with anybody else in that place. He (the vicar) had just come into the village when the question of celebrating Her Majesty's Jubilee came before them; and he could say, without fear of contradiction, that the rejoicings would not have been the great success they were if it had not been for Mr Liddell. Mr Liddell had also done valuable work for the Choral Society of the village. Its success was in a great measure due to his active and energetic work. (Applause.) It was in municipal matters that Mr Liddell had made most enemies. (Laughter.) Mr Liddell was energetic, but that was not his strongest point. Many men were energetic, but failed in life. What was the cause of Mr Liddell's success? Why was it that everything he put his hand to turned out right? Why was it that they had confidence in him and always turned to him whenever they wanted anything arranged or done? It was because he was a good organiser. (Applause.) Recently he came to the front and volunteered his services on behalf of the Reservists' Fund, for which he is secretary. (Applause.) That fund would be as great a success at Whickham as anywhere else, if not greater, and that would, in a great measure, be due to Mr Liddell's organisation. (Applause.) The Rector, in conclusion, said he had great pleasure in presenting the testimonial to Mr Liddell. He hoped Mr Liddell would have long life to wear the watch and chain, and that his children and grandchildren might take a pride in them as having been presented to their father or grandfather by the people of Whickham. (Applause.)

Mr Liddell thanked the subscribers for their handsome gifts. He assured them that whatever he had done for the village had been to him a source of positive pleasure. He would continue to do everything which lay in his power for the benefit of the inhabitants of Whickham. (Applause.)

Mr R. Taylor, Mr A. Campbell, and Mr J. Harbottle afterwards spoke, testifying to the good work done by Mr Liddell for the benefit of the district.

Votes of thanks to the hon. secretary of the testimonial committee (Mr J. Nicholson), to the Rector, and to the Chairman having been accorded, the meeting terminated.

Subsequently a smoking concert took place. The toasts of "The Queen," "Army and Navy," "The Visitors," and "The Press," were honoured and a collection on behalf of the local Reservists' Fund realised £1.

Songs, etc., were rendered by Messrs Thirlaway, Vyner, Custance, Bertram, Thompson, Liddell, Swinburn, S. Nelson, C. Robson, and others.

A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing of "God save the Queen."

HALLO, OLD MAN, WALKING without your stick! I thought you were crippled with rheumatic pains! So I was, until I went to PATTRICK, CHEMIST, Front Street, Consett, who gave me some Liniment and Medicine, and soon sent me to work again. 370a.

Cricketers' Social at Dipton

On Friday evening, the members of the Dipton Cricket Club held their third annual social in the Dipton Board Schools. The floor was in excellent condition, and a goodly number assembled for an evening's enjoyment in response to the 200 invitations sent out. The music was supplied by Mr Geo. Riddle, while Messrs M. Errington, J. E. Davis, and G. Lambert discharged the duties of M.C.'s in an efficient manner. The secretarial duties were ably discharged by Mr J. Adams. The refreshments were supplied by Mr G. Murray, of Dipton, which were of excellent quality. Amongst those present were:—

Mr Thos. and Miss M. Clark, Dipton.
Mr and Mrs W. Young, Dipton.
Mr and Mrs Jno. Chipchase, Dipton.
Mr R. Gladders, Leadgate.
Miss M. Gladders, East Castle.
Miss P. Lax, East Castle.
Miss E. Allen, Dipton.
Mr and Mrs P. Robson, Tantobie.
Miss Fenwick, Durham.
Mr R. Rowan, Dipton.
Mr Jno. Crossley and Miss Simpson, Dipton.
Mr Jos. Allen, Dipton.
Miss H. Wears, Dipton.
Miss J. Wears, Dipton.
Miss M. Cranston, Dipton.
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Mr J. Spinks, Dipton.
Miss L. Riddle, Dipton.
Mr H. Teasdale and Miss L. Clark, Dipton.
Mr J. Curry, Dipton.
Miss M. Armstrong, Blackhall Mill.
Miss Oliver, Dipton.
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Mr and Mrs T. Robson, Dipton.
Mr and Miss Bottoms, Dipton.
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Miss Lambert, Dipton.
Mr Wm. Kell, Dipton.
Miss P. Kerr, Dipton.
Mr D. Eastwood, Tanfield Lea.
Miss McColvin, Winlaton.
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Mr M. Kelly, Kyo.
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Miss Rafferty, Consett.
Miss Lamb, Consett.
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Miss Killing, Dipton.
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Mr H. Cochrane, Dipton.
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Mr Geo. Murray, jun., Dipton.
Mr F. Embleton, Dipton.
Mr T. Simpson, Dipton.
Mr M. Kelly, Dipton.
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Mr J. Callaghan, Dipton.
Mr Geo. Dixon, Dipton.
Miss Dixon, Dipton.
Miss E. Dixon, Dipton.
Mr B. Thornton, Dipton.
Mr Kelly, Kyo.
Miss Kelly, Kyo.
Miss Gardner, Dipton.
Mr J. Beresford, Dipton.

Footballers' Social at Stanley

On Tuesday week the members of the Stanley Football Club held their annual social in the Co-operative Hall, and are to be congratulated on the unqualified success which attended the function. The hall was beautifully and tastefully decorated by Mr. W. Bell and assistants, a "trade mark" being given to the attractive adornments by the hanging from the rafters of a number of footballs. The platform was charmingly arranged, the windows and sides were curtained, and with other decorations, and choice costumes worn by the ladies, the scene was the most brilliant ever witnessed at a football social in Stanley. Excellent arrangements had been made by the following ladies and gentlemen, who formed the committee:—Mr. Brydon, Mr. and Mrs. Stacey, Mr. and Mrs. Crute, Mr. and Mrs. King, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Mr. T. Siddle, Mr. J. Rose, Mr. M. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. H. Fothergill, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dodds, and Mr. T. Forster, Messrs Fothergill and Crute ably discharging the secretarial duties. The responsible functions of M.C. could not have been in better hands than those of Messrs J. Coyle, W. Witty, Jonathan Waggott, and T. Foster. Music for the dancing was supplied by Mr. Siddle's band, the performers including Messrs J. Siddle (clarionet,) W. Watson (concertina,) T. Watson (piano,) and J. Connor (bass fiddle.) The programme was a heavy one, and the musicians were kept well employed, but gave the utmost satisfaction. Dancing commenced shortly after eight o'clock, and was kept up with spirit untill the early hours of the morning. During an interval a clever and amusing ventriloquial entertainment was given by Mr. Kipling, of South Moor. Among those who subscribed in cash and kind for the entertainment of the guests were—Messrs R. Walker, C. R. Green, Alf. Hutchinson, T. Ramshaw, H. Ridley, L. Watson, T. Forster, T. Siddle, J. Watson, B. Johnson, R. Chisholm, J. O. Green, H. Grundy, A. Cumberledge, J. Robinson, T. Parker, A. Swinburn, H. Nichlass, P. H. Kirkup, H. Fothergill, B. Johnson, T. W. W. Ritson, Geo. Sanderson, Geo. Stacey, R. Eltringham, Jos. Forster, J. Masterman, J. Thompson, J. King, W. Brydon, Mrs. Leckenby, Mrs. Chaytor, Mrs. Fothergill, Mrs. J. Curry, Mrs. W. Robson, Mrs. Cummings Mrs. Robson, Miss Ashburn, Mrs. J. Dodds, Miss L. Watson, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Ramshaw, and Mrs. Stacey, Messrs Telford and Co. (Mineral Water Company), Mr. Bates, and Mr. Stamper. The following ladies were in attendance in the refreshment department:—Mrs. Sutherland and the Misses Sutherland, South Moor; Mrs. Chisholm, Miss A. and Miss B. Barkas, Cross Lanes; Mrs. Leckenby, Mrs. Bell, Miss Clark, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Cummings, Miss Reay, Mrs. Ramshaw, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Robson, and Mrs. Turner, Stanley; Mrs. Stacey and Miss Davison, Evelyn Terrace. Mr. T. Brown, of Cross Lanes, officiated as carver; and Mrs. Hutchinson attended upon the ladies' cloak-room. Lemonade in abundance was supplied by the Mineral Water Manufacturing Company, Beamish Street, Stanley. Among the large company present from various parts of the district, were:—Mr. Henry Curry, Mr. J. Neill, Mr. S. Chisholm, Mr. W. Taylor, Mr. T. Stephenson, Mr. J. Robson, Mr. C. Blogg, Mrs. Humphrey, Mrs. Ostell, Mr. T. Stacey, Miss J. Simpson, Mr. T. Simpson, Miss M. Morgan, Mr and Mrs. R. Brown, Mr. R. Burrell, Miss Noble, Miss Lee, Misses Indian, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrison, Miss Gibson, Miss E. Wetherall, Miss M. Wetherall, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wailes, Miss M. Joyce, Mr. R. Boucher, Mr. G. Cain, Misses H. and E. Cain, Mrs. Rownsley, Mr. G. and Miss Ramshaw, Mrs. and Miss Rownsley, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Gibb, Mr. T. and Mrs. Knott, Mrs. Payne, Mr. J. Siddle, Mr. and Mrs. W. Brydon, Mr. T. Clark, Mrs. W. and Miss Robinson, Mrs. and Miss Stubbs, Mrs. Busker, Mr. M. Smith, Sergt.-Instructor and Mrs. Hill, Mr. W. Bell, Miss Maddison, Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. E. Heslop, Mr. and Mrs. J. Watson, Miss Kinghorn, Mr. G. Mann, Misses S. and H. B. Dixon, Mr. D. Blacklock, Miss S. 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Joyce, Mr. T. Bates, Mr. W. Tate, Miss J. Chaytor, Mr. F. Mahon, Mr. R. Watson, Mr. Gibson, Mr. T. Leighton, Mr. J. Jackson, Miss Wind, Miss K. Toole, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. J. Hewitt, Mr. J. A. and Miss Tyneman, Mr. A. Duffy, Mr. J. Clough, Mr. and Mrs. C. Armstrong, Mr. H. Theobald, Miss Swain, Mr. and Mrs. W. Smithson, Miss Burt, Miss H. Mains, Mr. R. Stamper, Miss E. Telford, Miss E. Mains, Miss W. Wailes, Mr. W. Cummings, Mr. M. Brown, Mrs. Coats, Mr. and Mrs. Callicott, Miss Waggott, Miss Coates, Mr. R. Brown, Mr. B. Maddison, Mr. T. Elliott, Mr. J. Hall, Mr. W. Graham, Mr. T. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. T. Parker, sen., Miss Ridley, Mr. T. Parker, Mrs. T. Bates, Miss L. Turner, Mr. M. and Mrs. Liddon, Mr. R. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lee, Mr. R. Chisholm, Mr. H. Jones, Mr. R. Hall, Mr. S. Robson, Mr. W. Douglass, Miss Dulan, Miss Coates, Mr. P. O'Connor, and Mr. James Masterman.

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LOCAL PATENT APPLICATIONS.

The following list is specially compiled by Mr. J. A. Harvey, chartered patent agent, 3, St. Nicholas' Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, from whom all information concerning patents, designs, and trade marks may be obtained:—

23,067.—Nov. 20th, 1899. A. Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Improvements in or relating to pneumatic tyres.

23,144.—Nov. 21st, 1899. T. Melross, Tynemouth. Steam whipping engine for discharging and loading fish or other light goods.

23,—Nov. 24th, 1899. W. Hardy and J. J. Hardy, Alnwick. Improvements in spinning baits.

23,568.—Nov. 25th, 1899. Sir W. G. Armstrong and Co., Ltd., and E. L. Orde, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Improvements in or relating to burners for liquid fuel.

23,569.—Nov. 25th, 1899. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., and E. L. Orde, Newcastle-on-Tyne. A new or improved appliance for supporting burners for liquid fuel.

23,570.—Nov. 28th, 1899. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., and T. Wyse, Newcastle-on-Tyne. An improvement in the manufacture or construction of attachable letters, figures, designs, and the like.

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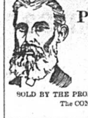
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CONSETT COUNTY COURT.

WEDNESDAY, December 6th, 1899.—Before His Honour, E. J. Meynell, judge.

UNSUCCESSFUL CLAIM FOR ARREARS.

The case adjourned from the last Court in which Francis Dover claimed from the Northumberland and Durham Miners Permanent Relief Fund certain arrears, amounting to £8, again came up for hearing. Mr. J. McCartan was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Percy Corder for the defendants.

The plaintiff, in answer to Mr. McCartan, said he was a member of the Northumberland and Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, and happened an accident on January 6th, 1895. Plaintiff received relief out of the fund to the amount of 5/- per week. The relief was stopped on August 12th, 1897. Plaintiff was now claiming certain arrears of relief—4/- per week from August 12th, 1897, to June, 1898. Plaintiff wanted ten months' relief from the defendant fund. At the time that the fund stopped the relief he was receiving 4/- per week, having reduced his allowance as he could do light work. The fund stopped plaintiff's relief on August 12th, 1898, without any warning. Plaintiff afterwards applied to the society to arbitrate upon the matter, and he received a letter from Mr. Steel asking for the necessary 10s, which fee was sent. Mr. Steel sent plaintiff a list of arbitrators to choose from, and Mr. Harkus (the Mayor of Newcastle) was selected as umpire. Subsequently, Mr. Steel and other two gentlemen called at his house, and they asked plaintiff if he had been a lamplighter, when he replied "yes." Plaintiff received 10/- per week for this work, but out of this he had to pay a lamplighter and a woman who cleaned the lamps. Plaintiff decided upon arbitration. Some time after that he was informed that Mr. Harkus could not act as umpire, whereupon plaintiff instructed his solicitor to choose any other person he thought fit. Mr. Welford was then elected. This occurred at the end of June. The other persons never fixed upon an umpire, and plaintiff heard nothing about the matter. Plaintiff next saw Mr. Steel about July 25th, having been asked by Mr. Welford to meet Mr. Steel. Plaintiff consequently went to Consett, and there met these two gentlemen, when Mr. Welford said to plaintiff, "Dover, here's Mr. Steel, who wishes to settle with you." Plaintiff understood the settlement to refer to arbitration, but Mr. Steel said it did not. Plaintiff then asked why arbitration had not come forward, when he was told that if he pressed for arbitration he would get six months' imprisonment for obtaining money by false pretences. (Laughter.) Plaintiff told them that if he did not get the arrears he would take the matter to Court. Plaintiff subsequently filled up a new application form for relief allowance to go on. Plaintiff (continuing) said he lighted the lamps for five months, from November 28th, 1897, to April 30th, 1898. Plaintiff had to pay Thomas Beattie 6d per night for the lighting of the lamps, and a woman 3/6 for cleaning the lamps. Plaintiff got 3/9 or 3/10 for himself. Plaintiff had no other means of support excepting the relief from the fund.

Cross-examined by Mr. Corder: Plaintiff declared in his declaration that he was totally unfit to follow his employment. Plaintiff was aware of sub-section A, section F of rule 49. He knew a man named Wm. Dawson, of Catchgate. Plaintiff was carrying on a cobbler's business at that time. If he told Dawson that he made 18/- per fortnight by cobbling, it was when he was working "full swing." The income he received from the cobbler's business was 1s per week after the expenses had been paid.

His Honour: No more?—Witness: That is all.

Thomas Beattie and Mrs. Reafber corroborated with respect to the amounts received by them for lighting and cleaning the lamps respectively.

Mr. Corder, in his defence, said that the defendant fund had no desire to keep from the plaintiff anything that he was justly entitled to. The rules provided that the plaintiff was only to follow light employment, and not to receive more than 5/- per week, with the consent of the committee. Despite this the plaintiff had been receiving money from two sources.

Wm. Steel, general secretary to the defendant fund, said he received information from East Pontop that the plaintiff was receiving income from two outside sources. The Central Council ordered that the relief payment should be stopped, when the plaintiff threatened to take the matter to the County Court.

Wm. Dawson, Catchgate, said he informed Mr. Steel that the plaintiff was receiving money from outside sources, after which Mr. Steel ordered the branch to discontinue the allowance.

His Honour held that the plaintiff had certainly broke the rules, and found for the defendants.

A THEATRICAL CASE FROM STANLEY.

Mark H. Lindon, lessee of the Victoria Theatre, Stanley, sued Horace Stanley for the sum of £19, for alleged breach of contract. Mr. Allan, barrister, Newcastle, was for the plaintiff, whilst Mr. J. B. Bowen, South Shields, represented the defendants.

Plaintiff said he was lessee of the Victoria Theatre, Stanley. Plaintiff communicated with Mr. Spencer, agent for the defendant, on the morning of July 26th, 1899. Plaintiff wired to Mr. Spencer: Is "Down Express" booked August 7th" when Mr. Spencer replied: "No. Can you receive show; wire, offer pending. Spencer." Plaintiff afterwards wired to Mr. Spencer: "Can offer 55 per cent.," when he received the reply: "Right; contracts 55, August 7th."

His Honour: What does 55 mean?—Fifty-five per cent. of the gross takings.

Several letters dealing upon the matter were handed to His Honour.

His Honour: Did you hire the theatre specially for that?—I hold a lease of the theatre.

How do you make the amount up?—I had to close it for the week.

What do you pay for the theatre?—£250 a year, and there is licenses, rates, and taxes, making about £314.

How long had this "Down Express" to remain with you?—Six nights.

Plaintiff (continuing) said at the time it was Bank Holiday week, and he put down his own loss of profit at about £6. The total loss he estimated at £19.

His Honour held that the telegrams were not the actual contract unless they were signed. The offer was subject to a contract, and no contract had been signed, and he did not see how the plaintiff could sue for a breach of contract. The present was only a negotiation. His Honour held that no contract had been entered into, and nonsuited the plaintiff.

CASE FROM SOUTH MOOR.

Anthony Gibson claimed possession of a tenement house known as Burns Vale House, and situated at South Moor, which was alleged to have been let by the plaintiff to the defendants, Robert Burton, and Annie Burton.—Mr. Allan, Newcastle, was for the plaintiff, whilst Mr. J. McCartan, Consett, represented the defendant.—His Honour having heard the evidence found for the defendants.

Is marriage a failure? Certainly not, if united with one of J. T. Castle's Wedding Rings.

A FATAL MISTAKE AT TANFIELD LEA.

CARBOLIC ACID INSTEAD OF PORT WINE.

On Monday night a painful mistake with fatal results occurred at Tanfield Lea. It appears that Mr. Joseph Milburn, deputy overman, and his wife, left home on Saturday to spend the week-end at Trimdon. They returned to Shield Row Station on Monday afternoon at five o'clock and proceeded home, where they partook of a meal. Mr. Milburn had been suffering from diarrhœa, and having some port wine in the house he remarked that he would take a drink of it. He proceeded to where he expected the bottle was standing, and picking it up he consumed a small quantity from the bottle. It unfortunately happened that Mr. Milburn was a man who had lost the sense of smell otherwise a terrible mistake might have been avoided. Immediately after he had taken the drink he remarked to one of his sons, "that has a nasty taste." The son looked at the bottle, and, alarmed at what he discovered, he said "Father you have taken the carbolic." Without delay he gave an alarm and two medical gentlemen were promptly in attendance. The stomach pump and emetics were used and everything that medical skill was capable of; but Mr. Milburn, after suffering great agony for nearly two-and-a-half hours, succumbed. Deceased, who resided at Allan Square, Tanfield Lea, was a life-long resident of the place, and was a man who was highly respected. He took great interest in horticultural matters and was also a bird fancier. He leaves a widow, and six sons—William, John, Jacob, Joseph, Thomas, and Abel—and two daughters—Mary Elisabeth, and Isabella—to mourn his loss.

THE INQUEST.

Mr Coroner Graham held an inquest at the Reading Room, Tanfield Lea, on Wednesday afternoon, on the body of Joseph Milburn, 10, Allan Square, Tanfield Lea, who died, as stated, from the effects of carbolic acid poisoning. The bottle containing the remainder of the acid was produced. It was a clear, three-gill bottle, and unlabelled. The first witness examined was

Dr. R. H. Clark, who stated that on Monday night a message was brought to the surgery at about 7.15 p.m. Dr. Benson and himself were both ill in bed, but Mr Cooper, who was acting for him, went at once and found the patient sitting on the couch in a semi-comatose condition, supported by two men. He administered an antidote, and the patient vomited between a quart and three pints of stomach contents, consisting of fluid and food, and having a strong odour of carbolic acid. Portions of the wall of the oesophagus and lining membrane of the stomach were also ejected with the vomit. After vomiting, the patient was given warm demulcent drinks, such as milk, and was put to bed in a comatose condition with stertorous breathing and showing signs of heart failure. Hot bottles were put to his feet, legs, chest wall, and hands. He (Dr. Clarke) got out of bed and was driven down to see the patient about 9.30 p.m., but found he had died at about 9.10 p.m. There was a very strong smell of carbolic acid in the house, and on examining him he found him dead. His lips were open and showed signs of having been in contact with some corrosive material. In his opinion the cause of death was paralysis of the heart and respiratory system brought about by extensive burning of the gullet and stomach. Had an antidote been given immediately after his swallowing the acid it would have been of no avail even then, as carbolic acid acted very rapidly on the tissues with which it came in contact.

The Coroner: About what quantity of acid do you suppose he drank?

Witness: About four ounces.

The Coroner: That is a large quantity of carbolic acid?

Witness: Yes.

Joseph Milburn, jun., said he lived with his father, and on the 4th, about a quarter to seven o'clock at night, he was in the parlour playing the piano. His father came into the room and was looking for a card about some roses that he thought had fallen on the floor between the bed and the clock. He found the bottle (produced) but not the card. He complained of having a pain in his inside, and thinking the contents of the bottle were port wine he took a good drink out of the bottle. As he was going out he stopped and asked witness what he had taken, as it was burning his inside. Witness did not know the bottle was there or that it contained carbolic acid until he smelt it. His father had unfortunately lost the sense of smell. Witness went for the doctor. The acid had been got when the house was cleaned, and was just put under the bed. The bottle had no label on, and witness did not know where it was got.

William Milburn said he was a son of the deceased, and resided at 1, Allen Square. His father was 57 years of age. On the night of the 4th of December, he happened to be in his father's kitchen at about a quarter to seven o'clock. His father came out of the parlour apparently ill, and complained of something burning in his stomach. Witness smelt carbolic acid. His brother Joseph came out of the parlour and witness asked him what his father had got. His brother replied that he had got the carbolic acid. His father said he expected he was drinking port wine. Witness got a pot of hot water which his father drank, but he did not vomit. Joseph went for assistance and for a doctor, but his father died the same night soon after nine o'clock. Witness added that he had a sister who died at Durham about five months ago, and was brought home. On that occasion the carbolic acid was obtained for disinfecting purposes, and during the cleaning of the house the bottle had been put under the bed. His father and mother were at Trimdon for the week end.

The Coroner said this was a most unfortunate case, and the only verdict they could return would be that of death by misadventure. There was no doubt whatever that this poor man mistook carbolic acid for port wine, and he had taken a very large quantity of the acid, which had killed him. There could be no doubt that it was a clear mistake. He had unfortunately on previous occasions found it necessary to remark that it was a pity people were so careless with carbolic and other disinfectants of a poisonous character, which might be kept in the house. Instead of having the acid in a proper place and in a proper bottle, they had there an instance of real carelessness. Exhibiting the bottle, the Coroner said the jury would see it was a clear glass, and that the colour of the contents was very like port wine. A man might very easily be led into such a mistake as this poor man had been. If it had been a proper bottle—and there were proper bottles—and had been labelled "poison," and put where it could not be possibly mistaken for anything else, then the risk would have been minimised. But when it was put into a bottle, as in that instance, where it might easily be mistaken for a harmless drink, the chances were that sooner or later an accident would happen, and had occurred. It was perfectly innocent in the first place to have it for disinfecting, but having answered its purpose it should then have been put properly away. It was very careless to put it under the bed. It was about as painful a way of going out of the world as any man could suffer from. Examples were thrown away, but he felt it was his duty to make these remarks, and he hoped they would not be lost upon those who heard or read them.

The Jury then found that the cause of death was as stated by Dr. Clarke, and added that it was brought about by misadventure.

THE RESERVISTS' FUND.

PONTOP COLLIERY.

The workmen of Pontop Colliery have decided to contribute 2d per man and 1d per boy per fortnight towards the Reservists' Fund.

PELTON.

On Monday night week, the members of the D Company 4th V.B.D.L.I., held a successful concert in the Co-operative Hall, Pelton Lane Ends (granted free by the committee), in aid of the wives and children of the soldiers ordered out to South Africa. The concert was under the patronage of Mr Slingsby D. Shafto, of Beamish Hall; Mr Ed. Stout, of Urpeth Lodge; Colonel Humble, West Pelton House; and Mr N. Clark, of Beamish Park. The following ladies and gentlemen kindly gave their services gratuitously:—Miss M. Partland, Miss Wheatley, Miss E. Craggs, Mr L. Gray, Mr B. Lowther, Mr T. Carr, Mr G. Greenwell, Mr Bradley and Son, the Bros. Flameson, and Mr Taylor. The Volunteers paraded in uniform and marched to the hall, headed by the West Pelton Prize Brass Band, who also opened the concert by a grand selection. The chair was occupied by Captain F. A. Humble, and the concert realised £22 5s, which will be handed over to Lady Londonderry's Fund.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT RESERVISTS' FUND.

Capt. Crossling, hon. treasurer, begs to acknowledge the receipt of 18s, a collection from the members and friends of the South Moor Cricket Club at their annual dinner, per Mr E. Smith, hon. secretary.

All classes of workmen at the following Collieries have arranged to contribute to the above fund 2d per man and 1d per boy per fortnight, viz:—South Tanfield, Louisa Old and New, Beamish Air, Tanfield Moor, Morrison, West Shield Row, Beamish Mary, Hedley, West Stanley, East Tanfield. A shilling per fortnight subscription has been opened in connection with the above fund, and the following ladies and gentlemen have up-to-date promised to contribute that amount, viz:—Mr Raw, Mrs Raw, Capt. Crossling, Mrs Crossling, Coun. Swinburn, Mr M. H. Lindon, Coun. G. Forster, Mrs Forster, Mr J. E. W. Fairley, Mr. Laws, Dr. Charles, Mrs Charles, Dr. Dewar, Mr John Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Miss E. J. Nicholson, Mr John W. Nicholson, Mrs John W. Nicholson, Coun. Severs, Mr W. A. Swallow, Mr Joseph Robinson, Mrs Joseph Robinson, Dr. Ingram Johnson, Mr John W. Wood, Mr T. C. Freter, Mrs T. C. Freter, Mr Rowe, Mr James Robinson, Mr T. Murray, Mr A. Cumberledge, Mr V. Dickinson, Mr H. Jones, Mr J. Chapman, Mr Thos. Henderson, Coun. M. G. Armstrong, Mr J. G. Cherrett, Mr C. Whley, Mr G. Workman, Mr R. W. Little, Mr W. Rowe, Mr J. A. Storey, Miss E. Gibson, Mr R. D. Grundy, Mr Joseph Wetson, Mr George Watson, Mr J. Peadon, Mr J. G. Ridley, Mr C. Hanson, Mr W. J. Lawson, Mr S. Collicut, Mr A. Rainbow, Mr T. Ramshaw, Mr T. Holmes, Mr J. Allison, Messrs J. W. Davison and Sons, Mr Thos. Parker, Mr J. Forster, Mr R. Eltringham, Mr J. Palmer, Coun. W. Welsh, Rev. H. King, Mr E. Herron, Mr J. T. Castle, Mr D. Dawson, Mr M. Gerthorne, Coun. Kuhlman, and Mr G. Cooper.

Funeral of Mr J. G. Joicey.

The funeral of the late Mr Jacob Gowland Joicey, of the firm of J. and G. Joicey and Co., engineers, Newcastle, took place on Tuesday, at noon, at Gateshead Cemetery, the remains being followed to the grave by a large number of business men and others anxious to show their respect for the memory of the deceased. The body was enclosed in three coffins, shell, lead, and an outer one of polished oak with heavy brass mountings. The plate bore the following engraved inscription:—"Jacob Gowland Joicey, born November 4th, 1843, died December 1st, 1899." The Rev. Algernon West, vicar of Christ Church, officiated at the Cemetery Chapel and graveside. The chief mourners were:—Mr J. George Joicey and Mr Edward J. Joicey, sons of the deceased; Sir James Joicey, Bart., M.P., brother; Mr Robert Dickinson; Major Wm. Jas. Joicey, Mr Edward Joicey (Blenkinsopp Hall), Mr J. W. Robinson, brother-in-law; Mr N. Johnson Robinson, brother-in-law; Mr James Joicey (Poulton Priory), Mr John George Joicey (Poulton Priory), Mr Arthur Joicey, nephew; Mr Hugh Joicey, nephew; Mr George May, Mr Walter Robinson, nephew; Mr Johnson Robinson, jun., nephew; Mr Walter Burnett, Mr Joicey Humble, Mr. John Humble, Mr. Michael Watson, manager; Mr T. W. Asquith, viewer; Mr. Walter Allan, and Mr. Robert Ellison, clerk.

Amongst others present were:—Mr M. R. Welton, Mr G. Gillies, Dr Mearns, Dr Newcombe, Dr. Kay, Mr. Jos. Thompson, Mr. W. Swinburne, Dr Cook, Mr J. Gibson, Mr M. Corbett, Mr W. Smith, Mr Joel, Mr G. Potts, Mr Chard, Mr T. Pearson, Mr W. Glover, the Rev W. M. D. Falla, Mr F J. Finn, Mr W. J. Costelloe, Mr J. J. Simson, Mr. Ray, Mr. R. Kay, Kyo; Mr. R. T. Swallow, Bushblades; Captain Young, Mr. T. M. Swinburne, Mr C. D. W. Bland, Mr Thomas Tucker, Mr Frederick Robson, Mr Robert Fredson, Mrs Brown, Mr T. Allison, Mr Jos. Thompson, jun., Mr A. H. Thew, Mr R. Walton, Dr Ridley, Mr J. G. Smith, Mr G. A. Coning, Mr T. W. Coning, Mr C. E. Swinburne, Mr A. Brewis, Mr J. A. Ramsay, Sherburn; Mr W. T. Martin, Philadelphia; Mr W. A. Swallow, Tanfield Lea; Mr W. Storey, Beamish; Mr T. Nicholson, Sunderland; Mr. E. T. Nesbitt, Mr J. F. D. Ball, Mr R. Lisle, Major French, Mr George Wray, of Simonside Hall; Mons Porritte, Mr Septimus Oliver, Mr. C. Wylie, Mr. R. Bruce, Mr. C. F. Jackson, representatives of the head officials of the firm; Mr. Arthur D. Carr and Mr. Thomas Douglas, representing the Winlaton Bolt Company, of which deceased was chairman; Mr. W. Nicholson, Hebburn; Mr. T. H. Holmes of Blaydon; Messrs Chas. Cook, G. Corbett, Robert Routledge, Edward Squire, R. Bruce, J. T. McBryde, C. J. Jackson, J. B. Huntley, David Marks, J. C. Potts, Jas. Percy, W. Richardson, J. W. Burnett, Robert Bresson, J. A. Stephenson, C. T. Nesbitt, D. E. Nicholson, J. H. French, David Lee, T. G. Winship, Robert Lisle, Nathaniel Clark, T. Allison, T. B. Fraser, W. T. Allan, W. Storey, W. Bird, J. W. Smith, J. R. Thompson, C. E. Swinburne, George Carr, C. Carr, of Whickham; T. Pickering, T. R. Orchid, Charles Bland, W. M. Pybus, Henry Robson, John Snowdon, and J. A. Ramsay.

Among those who sent wreaths were Mrs. Joicey, of Whinney House; Sir James Joicey, Major and Mrs. Joicey, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Joicey, Nancy, Lily, and Winifred, nieces; Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson, jun., the workmen of Forth Works, Mr. and Mrs. M. Watson, Mrs Caine, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Pybus, the Misses and Messrs Lamb; Mr. and Mrs. Corbett, Dr and Mrs. Cook, officials of Forth Bank Works, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Fraser and family, Mrs Allison and family, Mr. and Mrs. Monit, Mr and Mrs. Walter Coning, Mr. T. W. Wraith, Mr. J. Stephenson, Major French, Mr. and Mrs. H. Brewis, Mr. Joseph Thompson, Dr. and Mrs. Ridley, Mr. and Mrs. George May, Mr. R. Dickinson, Mr. G. A. Coning, Dr. W. Ridley, the North Durham Football Club, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Reay, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Robinson, Dr. and Mrs. Kay, Mrs. Tucker and family, and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Armstrong and family.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs T. and R. Lamb, under the personal supervision of Mr. James R. Lamb.

The Late Mr. T. Milner.

At a committee meeting of the Consett Reading and Recreation Rooms on Tuesday evening, a vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. Thos. Milner was passed, on the motion of the chairman (Mr. W. Avnsley, J.P.), seconded by the treasurer (Mr. T. L. Gledstone). The secretary stated that Mr. Milner had been a member of the institution since its inception in July, 1884, and had acted on the committee from January, 1887, up to the time of his lamented death. The secretary was instructed to forward the letter of condolence to the relatives at Thirsk.

BLAYDON.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Samuel Harrison and John Forster pleaded guilty to having committed a breach of the peace at Blaydon.—The defendants were both bound over to keep the peace, and ordered to pay the costs—5s each.

REFUSING TO QUIT.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Archibald Hawdon pleaded guilty to refusing to quit the licensed premises of Wm. J. Collings, Pioneer Inn, Blaydon, on the 25th ult.—A barman named Carr stated that at about 10.30 p.m., on the date named, the defendant came into the house whilst under the influence of drink. Witness refused to let him have any drink, and requested him to leave the premises, but he refused to do so, and had to be ejected.—The accused was fined 5s and costs, 19s in all.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

At a meeting held by the workmen of the Derwent Flour Mills, Shotley Bridge, it was resolved to contribute threepence per fortnight per man for the Reservists' Fund.

NEWS BY THE TAPE has often been utilised by a bold speculator for the speedy accumulation of a vast fortune. Knowledge is power in every avenue of life when properly wielded. The proprietor of Holloway's Pills and Ointment is fully alive to this fact, and knowing their value as a cure for all diseases, he has made their merits known in all parts of the world. Commercial men who, to keep pace with the times, have always to work at high pressure should never be without a supply of these valuable medicines. They purify the blood, strengthen the stomach, quicken the circulation and invigorate the system. For nervous or neuralgic headache, no remedy has been found to match them in excellence.

CHOPWELL SCHOOL BOARD

The monthly meeting of this Board was held on Tuesday evening in the Board Offices, Spen—Mr J. B. Gilchrist, J.P., presiding. The other members present were—Messrs R. Stokoe, J. Tucker, W. Richardson, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ord.)

HEAD MASTER'S REPORT: IRREGULAR TEACHERS.

The head master, Mr Coulson, reported that the average number present during the past month had been 259.2; percentage of children on books in average attendance, 83; admitted, 15; withdrawn, 14. The attendance of children had been moderate, and the progress of school work ordinary. The report stated that certain pupil teachers had not attended regularly at their lessons. Attention was drawn to the defective condition of certain pans in the conveniences, and a letter from the Inspector of Nuisances to the Blaydon Council was read upon the matter, asking that the defects be remedied.

Mr Richardson moved, and Mr Stokoe seconded, "That the defective pans be replaced."

This was agreed to.

The Chairman said that the attendance of the pupil teachers at their lessons was hardly satisfactory.

Mr Coulson was now called into the room, and the Chairman, addressing him, said that the Board had had his report before them, and were disappointed to find in connection with the pupil teachers that some of them had not attended regularly, and also that in some cases there had been no work prepared.

Mr Coulson said he did not know any reason for this except "sleeping in."

The Chairman: The whole of them slept in.

Mr Coulson: I suppose so.

The Chairman: It is not satisfactory.

Mr Tucker: I think they might come and explain this.

Mr Coulson explained that some of the teachers went to a dance on the Friday night and then to a concert on the Saturday evening in consequence of which they had no work prepared on the Monday morning.

Mr Tucker: I strongly object to this dancing unless I get an invitation. (Laughter.)

The Chairman asked if the matter related to the whole of the pupil teachers?

Mr Coulson: No. Miss Webster has done her work well.

The Chairman suggested that the Board should interview the teachers referred to at the next meeting, and that the Board take the matter strongly up with them. He thought that it had been very often overlooked, and the teachers seemed to take no notice of the reports they got from Mr Coulson. Such a state of affairs was not a credit to the school.

The Chairman's suggestion was agreed upon and the matter dropped.

The report was then adopted.

HEAD MISTRESS'S REPORT: THE ATTENDANCE.

The head mistress (Mrs Mulhuish) reported that the average number of children present during the past month was 155.3; percentage of children on books in average attendance, 73.8; admitted, 2; withdrawn, 4. The report went on to state that the attendance was still very poor, though somewhat better than it was the previous month. A few children were ill, but still much indifference prevailed. Progress on the whole was fairly satisfactory. Punctuality, attendance to duty, and progress of school work was satisfactory.

The Chairman, commenting upon the report said that the staff had not been absent once, which was satisfactory.

Mr Tucker thought they would do themselves justice if they went into the attendance question as regards each class, and to see how many were absent in each department. There was such a thing as they all knew as the influence of a teacher. He was in favour of paying those who had a percentage of ninety. This would pay the Board from a financial standpoint. Mr Tucker then went on to relate that some children who formerly resided at Spen, and were bad attenders, but who removed to another district, were got to go regularly to school, owing, he said to the influence of the master.

The Chairman remarked that by looking at Mr Coulson's register they could see who were good attenders and who were bad.

Mr Tucker: I think we will be doing ourselves honour, and these pupil teachers, as well as the ratepayers.

The Chairman: Why not at the next meeting let Mr Coulson produce his books and the attendance for each class, and you will see which class has attended the best? I have looked through the books many a time, and asked myself the question—why should this class be better than another class?

Mr Tucker: I would also ask the teacher to attend here and give an account. I would suggest that we ask the teacher to come.

The Chairman moved that Mr Coulson should be requested to attend at the next meeting with the registers for the purpose of going fully into the matter.

Mr Tucker seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mrs Mulhuish was now called before the Board, and the Chairman, addressing that lady, said the Board had been discussing the attendance question.

Mrs Mulhuish remarked that the younger children attended worst; the upper classes were really as good as could be expected.

The Chairman: If you exclude the babies from the average attendance it will be considerably better.

Mrs Mulhuish: Yes.

The Chairman: Could you tell us roughly, supposing the babies were entirely eliminated, what percentage you would have?

Mrs Mulhuish: Perhaps 84 or 85.

The Chairman: At the next meeting of the Board we are going more closely into the matter, and will ask you to hold yourself in readiness, and to put before us the attendance in each class.

Mr Mulhuish agreed to comply with the request, and the report was then adopted.

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Attendance Officer (Mr Wm. Hunter) reported that he had made sixteen visits to the schools, and made enquiries after 334 irregular attenders, viz., 249 at Spen; 74 at Hamsterley; and 11 at Victoria Garesfield. There was much sickness amongst the children at present, such as coughs, colds, influenza. Sore eyes were prevalent, whilst two cases of scarlatina fever had occurred at Chopwell. The children that were well attended both at Spen and Hamsterley very irregularly. The excuse put forth was the distance was great to these schools, and also the boisterous weather was urged as an excuse.

The report was adopted.

WESTWOOD R.C. SCHOOLS.

A communication was read from the Rev. Father Magill, pointing out that the attendance at the Low Westwood R.C. Schools was unsatisfactory, and asking that the Board should enquire into the matter.

It was stated that a copy of the letter had been sent to the Attendance Officer, who informed the Board that he had made due enquiries into the case of irregular attendance. Two of the families had removed from Chopwell, whilst the other persons had promised to send their children regularly to school.

The Chairman requested the Attendance Officer to look these cases up again, and it was decided to write Father Magill to that effect.

THE HOLIDAYS.

It was decided to hold the Christmas holidays as heretofore, the schools to close on the Tuesday.

THE PROPOSED NEW SCHOOLS AT CHOPWELL.

The following notice of motion stood in the name of Mr Turker:—"That the Board undertakes contracts for erection of new schools, and a suitable person be engaged to buy material, etc., and superintend the erection of the building."

Mr Tucker said if there was no need for his motion then he certainly would not move the same.

The Chairman: I don't think we can possibly carry the motion out.

Mr Tucker explained that he was quite content to waive the motion until they had examined the tenders.

After further discussion, it was decided that each member should be provided with a specification of the proposed new schools so that they would be in a better position to discuss the tenders at the next meeting.

Mr Tucker did not move his motion.

The meeting then terminated.

FUNERAL OF MRS. HYLTON TAYLOR, OF SUNDERLAND.

The funeral took place on Friday of Mrs. Hylton Taylor, the mother of Mrs. T. W. Welford. Her husband, the late Dr. Taylor, of John Street, was an intimate friend of Dr. Welford, sen., the late Dr. Frederick Johnson, and other well-known practitioners. The funeral ceremony was conducted by the Rev. C. G. Hopkinson, Vicar of Christ Church, and the interment took place at Bishopwearmouth Cemetery, the first part of the service being held in Christ Church. Amongst those present were Dr. Welford (medical attendant of deceased), Mrs Welford, Sister Alice (of the Sisterhood of the Holy Rood) Mrs. Rutter (daughters), Miss A. T. Collingwood (sister), Mr. S. D. Collingwood (nephew), Miss V. Welford, Mrs. V. W. Corbett Miss E. L. Dodgson, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs Perrington, Mrs. Charles Elliott, Dr. Watterson, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. James Longden, Miss Davie, Nurse Vasey, Mrs. Elliott (of Southwick), Miss B. Harper, Mr. T. Pimmer, and other friends. Wreaths and crosses were sent by Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Welford, Sister Alice and Miss A. T. Collingwood, Mr and Mrs Rutter, Mrs Collingwood and her sons, Mrs. Norman Wilson, Mrs. Taylor Whitehead, Miss Amy Taylor, Miss Muriel Taylor, the Misses Dodgson (of Guildford), Miss E. L. Dodgson, Mrs. A. Scott, Miss Harper, the Misses Davie, and Miss Connie Davie. Deceased, whose kindly and affectionate nature had won her many friends, and who for many years had been almost entirely confined to her room by ill-health, was in her 72nd year. She was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. J. W. Collingwood, of Fawcett Street; her brother was the late Rev. C. E. S. Collingwood, rector of Southwick. The funeral arrangements were admirably carried out by Mr. James Armitage, of Southwick.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL.

On Tuesday evening the monthly meeting of the Lanchester Parish Council was held in the Lanchester National Schools, under the presidency of Coun. J. R. Ritson. There were also present—Couns. G. W. Wilson, J. Chapman, W. Bowman, U. A. Ritson, J. Innes, R. Hartley, W. Johnson, G. Neasham; and Mr. H Knowles (Clerk.)

LANCHESTER FOOTPATH.

The Chairman reported that he had brought the matter of repairing the footpath between the two bridges at Lanchester before the District Council, and that that body had already repaired one-half of it, and promised to repair the remainder at a convenient season. (Hear, hear.)

DEFECTIVE BRIDGES.

Coun. Neasham drew attention to the bad state of the bridges. They might have a footpath formed on one side of the bridge.

The Chairman was afraid they were too narrow to admit of Coun. Neasham's suggestion being carried out; but he would bring the matter to the notice of the District Council. What was wanted was manholes for people to step into when carts were passing.

WATER-STAND WANTED.

Coun. Hartley drew attention to the need of a water-stand at "Stand-against-all."

The Chairman said it was not within the province of the Parish Council to do anything, but he would be happy to bring it before the next meeting of the District Council.

ADDITIONAL POSTAL FACILITIES NEEDED.

In pursuance with a notice of motion, Coun. Innes moved that the Postmaster of Durham be asked to place a pillar-box at Malton Colliery. There were 43 houses with a population of 300 people, and a colliery office, and the nearest post-office was 1½ miles distant. The people living in the village experienced considerable difficulty in sending replies to letters, which they received about nine o'clock in the morning. The men in the back-shift did not return home until five p.m., and if they wanted a reply sent away that day they had to go to Esh Quebec, or Lanchester, or send their children, which was not at all times the best or proper thing to do. The Council, he thought, should strive to secure for the people of Malton Colliery better postal facilities than they at present enjoyed. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman stated that there was one delivery a day.

Coun. Innes: There is one delivery, but no collection.

Coun. Neasham: It is time they had one.

Coun. Wilson seconded the motion.

Coun. Neasham in speaking to the motion quite approved of what Mr. Innes had said about the need existing for a post-office there. They might go further, and suggest that the people should have an evening delivery. If they had that it would facilitate matters. He did not know whether Mr Innes would be willing to add this suggestion to the motion.

Coun. Innes: I shall be glad to do so. The people have asked me to bring the matter forward.

The motion on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

BYE-LAWS FOR THE VILLAGE GREEN.

Coun. Wilson, in moving the motion on the agenda to which his name was attached said he thought the time had arrived when they should do something to form a small committee to make a few bye-laws for the village green. The winter was coming on, and he perceived in his walks during the day at Lanchester that part damage was being done to the old seats, and consequently he had not the slightest doubt there would be some damage done to the new seats, and unless the trees were protected they would be damaged. They were beginning to cut the bark off them now. People came to the village green and settled there without permission, and used the well, which consequently got into a disgraceful state. Several people were complaining, as they did not want that "fraternity" to go to the village green. They should have some bye-laws drawn up to protect it, and if they did not do so, they would be in a worse position later on than they were now.

The Chairman said it was the fault of the Lanchester Committee that the bye-laws had not been drawn up.

Coun. Neasham agreed that it was desirable to have some bye-laws for the protection of the village green, and if the committee were of the same opinion as himself they would prevent those large caravans from cutting up and destroying herbage as they had done in the past. He seconded the motion that they have a committee meeting to consider the desirability of drawing up some bye-laws, and what other improvements should be done to the village green, and report to the next meeting of the Council.

Coun. Chapman: Mr. Wilson stated that a runaway horse had broken the guard of one of the trees. He proposed that the owner of the horse be asked to make the repairs.

The Chairman said as it was some time since that accident happened, and as they did not know whose horse it was that broke the guard, the Council had better instruct the blacksmith to make the repairs at once.

The motion was carried.

FOOTPATH THROUGH THE CHURCHYARD.

The Chairman reported that he had seen the churchwardens respecting the ashphalting of the footpath through the church-yard, who were willing to pay for their portion of the footpath ashphalted by the Council. He moved that Mr. Cumming be instructed to get on with the work at once.

Coun. Innes seconded the motion, which was carried.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

LEADGATE LADIES' CYCLING CLUB.

PRESENTATIONS TO OFFICIALS.

In connection with the above club an interesting ceremony took place in the Co-operative Hall, Leadgate, on Tuesday evening, when presentations were made to various officials. The proceedings took the form of a social, to which complimentary invitations were issued by the club to a number of supporters and friends. Between 50 and 60 ladies and gentlemen were present, and a really enjoyable evening was spent. Music was ably supplied by Mr. R. Winter, of Leadgate, whilst Mrs. Grey and Mrs. Dixon satisfactorily performed the duties of M.C.'s. The refreshments, which were of excellent quality, were generously provided by the members of the club, and this department was admirably managed by Mrs Humphrey, Mrs. R. Gladders, and Mrs. Hall. During an interval, the presentations took place. Mrs. Grey presided, and in felicitous terms, handed over the presents, remarking upon the many services rendered to the club by those officers whom they were about to honour. (Applause.) Mrs. Gray then presented to Mrs. Dixon (captain) and Mrs. Gladders (vice-captain) a gold ring of curb chain, with a heart on top bearing the initials, "L.L.C.C." To Miss Annie Heslop (hon. sec.) Mrs. Grey handed a beautiful gold brooch, set with ruby and pearls. Mrs. Dixon, in response, thanked the members for their kindness, and trusted that they would have a successful season next year. (Applause.) Miss Heslop also replied, observing that what she had done for the club she had done willingly, and she would always be pleased to do her utmost for the club. (Applause.) Mrs. Gladders also returned thanks in suitable terms. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Grey for presiding and making the presentations, and a word of praise is also due to the same lady for carrying out the arrangements so ably. The enjoyable proceedings terminated soon after midnight, everyone expressing their delight at their evening's entertainment. We may mention that the following officials have just been elected for next season:—Captain, Mrs. Dixon; vice-captain, Miss Chrtie Best (Consett); treasurer, Miss Annie Nicholson; hon. secretary, Miss Annie Heslop. Out of the proceeds of the ball held a few weeks since, the club intend to contribute £2 towards the Reservists' Fund.

TOW LAW.

FLOWER SHOW.—The annual meeting was held on Thursday night. The election of officers took place, Mr. T. Hall being re-elected president, Mr. Wm. Atkinson treasurer, and Mr. Wm. Anderson secretary.—The committee reported a loss of £30 on the August show of this year. This they attributed to the fact that the show was held a month earlier than usual, which, considering the late character of the season, affected the quality and the quantity of the entry, whilst the fact that several local shows were held upon the same day affected the attendance. The following were appointed on the committee:—Messrs R. T. Atkinson, T. R. Atkinson, M. Adams, M. D. Ayton, J. H. Barlow, M. G. Barron, G. Briggs, J. Christison, T. Blenkiron, G. Dowson, G. Elliott, W. French, R. French, J. Graham, C. Hall, W. Hutchinson, W. Hunter, O. D. Kendall, W. Knaggs, J. G. Lawson, J. Lewis, R. Rawes, C. H. Roberts, C. Howe, A. Smith, R. Sproates, T. Sherwood, W. C. Smith, W. H. Telford, J. W. Temperley, and R. Wheatley. There were added this year Messrs Jos. Vickers, C.C., J. R. Robinson, J. H. Atkinson, W. Craggs, and Dr. Miller.

LOCAL WEDDINGS.

Mr. J. E. Davis and Miss Annie Coulthard.

On Wednesday afternoon a marriage in which a great amount of interest was evinced was celebrated at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Dipton. The contracting parties were Mr. James Edward Davis, the popular cashier of South Medomsley Colliery, and Miss Annie Lizzie Coulthard, the eldest daughter of one of the esteemed tradesmen, Mr. John Coulthard, of Front Street, Dipton. Shortly before the ceremony the bridegroom, attended by the best man, Mr. J. T. Robinson, and the groomsman, Mr. James Rutherford arrived at the church and took their seats near the chancel steps. Prompt to time the bride entered the church leaning on the arm of her father, who afterwards gave her away, and proceeded to the chancel steps accompanied by the bridesmaids, Miss Ethel Coulthard (sister) and Miss Polly Murray. During the service the choir sang "How welcome was the morn and sweet the festal day" and chanted the 28th Psalm. The vicar, the Rev. R. Tuson performed the ceremony, while the organist, Mr. W. T. Daglish presided at the organ, and played the wedding march as the bridal party left the church. As both parties were well known in the district a large number of people assembled in the church to witness the ceremony. Ever since Mr. Davis's coming to Dipton he has taken a deep and lively interest in the church and choir, to which he has given his services wilingly and cheerfully. The bride has also been a member of the choir since the establishment of the church in the village, and was highly esteemed by her fellow choristers, who manifested the sincerity of their respect in a practical form. On the conclusion of the marriage ceremony the vicar made a presentation to the newly married couple, and in doing so said presentations to newly married people were nearly as old as the world itself. The choristers of that church with the officers and Sunday School teachers generally amongst whom Mr. and Mrs. Davis had been accustomed to mix for so many years, giving their services, the talents that God had given them, back again to Him in the service of that Church. As a little token of esteem of the choristers in which they were held, he had great pleasure in handing them the silver tea kettle with stand and biscuit bowl, and in addition to all the good wishes and prayers showered upon them in God's service, he prayed that the tea kettle might supply them with the necessary hot water for all useful purposes, and that they might never be in the hot water themselves (Laughter.) The presents were both numerous and costly.

Mr. Joseph C. Bowen and Miss Sarah Williams.

A wedding that aroused much interest in Consett, notwithstanding the miserable state of the weather, was solemnised on Wednesday at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, the officiating minister being the Rev. J. S. Nightingale. The contracting parties were Mr. Joseph C. Bowen, of Consett, and Miss Sarah Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, of Buddle Street, Consett, who are well known and highly esteemed in the district. The bridesmaids were Miss M. Sanderson, of Sunderland (cousin of the bride), and Miss M. Elliott, Consett. Mr. W. Bowen (brother of the bridegroom) acted as "best man," and Mr. T. Williams (brother of the bride) as groomsman. The bride was also attended by Miss Mabel Williams (niece), and Master Robson, who were dressed in blue, trimmed with white, and carried baskets of white flowers and ferns. The bride was attired in a dress of lavender corded silk, trimmed with white silk, silk insertion, and chiffon. She wore a large Leghorne hat trimmed with tips, orange blossom, silk, and chiffon. Miss Sanderson wore a spotted muslin dress underdone with old gold and wore a Leghorn hat trimmed with feathers, whilst Miss Elliott was dressed in white, with hat to match. The bridesmaids wore handsome gold brooches, the gifts of the bridegroom. At the conclusion of the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, when the health of the newly-married couple was proposed by the Rev. J. S. Nightingale, and supported by Mr. John Hall of Gateshead. A large company was present. The presents were numerous and valuable, and included the following:—

Bride's father, cheque.
Bride's mother, silver tea and coffee service.
Mrs. Sanderson, Sunderland (aunt), chamber set.
Miss Sanderson, Sunderland, cushion.
Miss Elliott, Consett, cheese dish.
Mrs. Hall, Gateshead, fender and fire-irons.
Mr. Hall, Gateshead, family bible.
Mr. T. Williams, Consett (brother), basket chair.
A Friend, trinket set.
Mrs. Jeffreys, Sunderland, flower vases.
Miss Armstrong, Durham, tablecloth.
Mr. Sanderson, Sunderland, flower vases.
Mrs. Bullock, d'oyleys and silver jam stand and spoon.
Mr. W. Brand, sen., Consett, window curtains.
Mr. T. Griffiths, Consett, silver spoons.
Mr. and Mrs. Harris, silver spoons.
Miss Harris, toast rack.
Mrs. and Miss Dryden, plates, sugar basin and milk jug.
Mr. J. Pearson, silver butter-cooler.
Mrs. Hayward, ornaments.
Miss Thompson, half-dozen silver spoons.
Mrs. Overall, Consett, brackets.
Miss Hayward, brackets.
Mrs Bell, teapot and jelly stand.
Mr. G. Strong, plates and fruit dish.
Mrs. Bowen, silver preserve dish.
Mr. C. Winter, ornaments.
Mrs. and Miss Hall, comb box and brushes.
Mr. J. Hall and Miss Dormer, silver jam stand.
Mrs. Thompson, Willington, jelly dish and spoon.
Mrs. Armstrong, Durham, ornaments, silver basin and cream jug.
Mrs. Fry, Durham, picture stands.
Miss Smurthwaite, Brandon, picture stands
Miss Bell, breakfast cruet.
Mrs. Liddle, Consett, shoe brushes and tea towels.
Miss English, candlesticks.
Miss Coates, trays, brass comb-box and comb.
Mrs. Summerbell, needle-box.
Mr. Summerbell, brass pan.
Mr. T. Charlton, Consett, cheque.
A Friend, moustache cup and saucer.
And many others.

Ballad Concert at Medomsley

In connection with the "Sons of Temperance" Order at Medomsley, a grand ballad concert was given on Wednesday, November 29th, in the Temperance Hall, by Mr. F. Suddes and party. The following were the artistes:—Miss Wright, soprano, Blackhill; Miss Walton, contralto, Consett; Mr. E. B. Stead (solo tenor, St. Jude's Church), Newcastle; Mr H. Cordes (Principal bass, St. Michael's), Newcastle; Master S. Wilson, A.C.V., violinist, Blackhill; and Mr. J. Nixon, elocutionist, Shotley Bridge. Part 1 of the programme opened with Balfe's ever popular "Killarney" arranged for S.C.T.B., which was admirably rendered by the quartette. Master Wilson followed with a violin solo, founded upon Ascher's world-renowned song, "Alice, where art thou?" in the performance of which he proved himself to be an artist of no mean order. The next item was "La Bouqueterie," an intricate, but very pleasing composition, which was done full justice to by our local favourite, Miss Wright. A descriptive piece, entitled "Will o' th' Wisp," was now given by Mr. Cordes. This gentleman, though a stranger in the district, seemed quite at home in the presenting of this tasteful song. At this juncture Mr. Nixon created an agreeable change by contributing an interesting and touching reading entitled "Editha's Burglar." Mr. Nixon, it is needless to say, acquitted himself with distinction. Miss Walton, the well-known contralto, then favoured the audience with Cowen's gem, "The Children's Home." Miss Walton was heard to advantage in this old yet ever new song. Messrs Stead and Cordes brought the first part of the programme to a close by an excellent rendition in duet form of Balfe's setting of Longfellow's "Excelsior." Miss Wright opened Part 2 of the proceedings with that pretty song, "The Miller and the Maid," which she rendered in an exceptionally attractive manner, followed by Master Wilson's violin solo, "Killarney." Mr. Stead, who has already established a reputation in this neighbourhood as a tenor vocalist, presented as his solo, Stephen Adams' ballad, "The Maid of Malabar," after which, the company was treated to a humorous interpretation of "Just like the men!" by Miss Walton. A recitation—a parodied version of "The Charge of the Light Brigade"—was next given in inimitable style by Mr. Nixon, and was keenly relished. Messrs Stead and Cordes were happy in their selection of "The Battle Eve," given in a duet. The four principals then appeared to give as the closing item a humourous quartette, "Good Evening." Mr. W. R. Cooke, the esteemed manager of Westwood Colliery, occupied the chair, and Mr. F. Suddes (late organist of Shotley Bridge Wesleyan Church) officiated as accompanist throughout the evening in his usual efficient manner.

FOOTBALL.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ALLIANCE.

A meeting of this body was held at the house of Mr J. Kelly, Queen Victoria Hotel, Leadgate, on Tuesday night. Mr. J. Ross (chairman) presided, and representatives were present from Birtley, Allendale Cottages, Consett Swifts, Annfield Plain, and Leadgate Park.

STANLEY'S ARREARS.

Mr Batey (secretary) reported that Mr Allison (treasurer to the league) had informed him that Stanley had paid their arrears.—The meeting thought it would have been more courteous for Stanley to have communicated officially with Mr Batey, seeing that Mr Allison was a member of the Stanley club.

REVISION OF RULES.

Mr Batey stated that he had attended a meeting of the Durham Association last Friday night, when the rules of the alliance were dealt with. A few trifling alterations were made, which he explained to the meeting.—Several of the representatives present thought that the association were badly off for something to do.

A NEW BYE-LAW.

On the motion of Mr W. G. Thompson, a new bye-law was adopted, providing that the captains of clubs shall exchange teams on the field, and that the secretary of the winning club shall forward the result, and the names of the two teams, to the secretary of the league.

REFEREES.

The following referees were appointed:—

December 9th.
Leadgate Park v. Bearpark, J. Mitchinson.
Birtley v. Annfield Plain, W. Halliday.
December 16th.
Leadgate Park v. Annfield Plain, W. Halliday.
December 25th.
Birtley v. Consett Swifts, M. Howe.
December 30th.
Allendale v. Leadgate Park, H. Smith.
January 1st.
Consett Swifts v. Birtley, J. Minns.
January 6th.
Birtley v. Bearpark, J. A. Endean.

This concluded the business.

Fixtures for Saturday.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ALLIANCE.

LEADGATE PARK v. BEARPARK.

This game comes off at Leadgate on Saturday. A portion of the gate will be given to the English Associations "war fund."

LEADGATE PARK—Goal, M. Hedley; backs, G. Temple and J. Wilson; half-backs, P. Daly, R. Wilson, and J. Bowes; forwards, J. Jacques, J. Grant, W. Crowther, G. Forster, and J. Birtley. Linesman, J. Crowther.

Kick-off at 2-30.

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

CONSETT SWIFTS v. ALLENDALE PARK.

This game will be played at Consett. Teams—CONSETT—Goal, W. Graham; backs, J. Laidler and Jos. Finnigan; half-backs, P. McNally, B. McKie, and J. Dempsey; forwards, J. Turley, B. Rafferty, Jas. Finnigan, J. Little, and J. Morgan. Linesman, R. Wake.

ALLENDALE PARK—Goal, J. Scott; backs, M. and T. Walton; half-backs, Hobday, Taylor, and Robinson; forwards, Hedworth, Brown, Truman, Yeates, and Lynop.

Referee, Mr J. Endean, Newcastle. Kick-off at 2-30.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE

STANLEY v. GATESHEAD N.E.R.

For this alliance match at Gateshead on Saturday, the Stanley committee have made drastic changes in the composition of their team. The players selected are as follows:—

STANLEY—Goal, Laycock; backs, Saunders and W. Liddle; half-backs, Coates, Ellis, and Allison; forwards, McGarry, Robson, O'Connor, M. Gibson, and J. Masterman.

The team leaves by the 11-30 train from Shield Row.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

TANTOBIE CO-OPERATORS v. LINTZ ROVERS.

To be played at Tantobie.

LINTZ ROVERS—Goal, J. Lishman; backs, I. Adamson and J. Gladders; half-backs, F. Bell, T. Hanover, and W. Thompson; forwards, R. Weightman, W. Adamson, J. Jardine, T. Seath, and R. Atkinson.

Referee, Mr H. Cruddas. Kick-off at 2-30.

CONSETT SWIFTS RESERVE v. TANFIELD LEA.

These teams meet at Tanfield Lea.

CONSETT—Goal, T. Coleman; backs, J. Wilson and S. Ellwood; half-backs, R. Bradley, J. McKie, and T. Dempsey; forwards, W. Walton, R McAleer, W. Atkinson, E. Pratt, and T. Boyle.

Referee, Mr J. B. Robson, Swalwell. Kick-off at 2-30.

Brake leaves headquarters at 1-15.

BYER MOOR v. HAMSTERLEY.

At Byer Moor.

BYER MOOR—Goal, R. Hodgson; backs, G. Bennett and T. Spoor; half-backs, M. Bell, T. Young, and J. Reed; forwards, G. E. Weedy, P. Keefe, G. Nicholls, R. Leighton, and H. Lowe.

Referee, Mr Fletcher. Kick-off at 2-30.

BLACKHILL ST. CUTHBERT'S v. ANNFIELD PLAIN.

At Annfield Plain.

BLACKHILL—Goal, Johnson; backs, J. G. Robinson and R. Patterson; half-backs, M. Robinson, H. Watson, and R. Cain; forwards, Smith, Robson, Lumley, Atkinson, and Higgins.

Brake leaves Derwent Hotel at 1 prompt.

CONSETT JUNIOR LEAGUE.

LEADGATE ATHLETIC v. LEADGATE EXILES.

This match is to be played on the St. Ives ground.

LEADGATE ATHLETIC—Goal, J. Brown; backs, J. Reed and E. Henderson; half-backs, J. Walker, J. Bell, and N. Emmerson; forwards, J. G. Collinson, W. Russell, Graham, Wilson, and Robson.

Kick-off at 2-30.

BLACKHILL ST. CUTHBERT'S RESERVE v. CONSETT SHAMROCKS.

At Shotley Spa.

BLACKHILL—Goal, Smith; backs, Mathieson and Darwood; half-backs, Brodie, Millhouse, and Wilkinson; forwards, Greener, Kelsey, Redshaw, Lynn, and Robb.

ALLENDALE PUTTERS v. ROWLAND'S GILL UNITED.

At Allendale.

PUTTERS—Goal, W. Taylor; backs, J. G. Stobbs and J. Lee; half-backs, J. Nicholson, B. Lee, and J. Proud; forwards, A. Hetherington, J. Gordon, J. J. Gordon, M. Mason, and G. Waggott.

SOUTH MEDOMSLEY COLLIERY MECHANICS v. DRIFT HUTTON MEN.

On the Dipton United ground on Saturday.

MECHANICS—Goal, F. Armstrong; backs, A. G. Gill and T. Willie; half-backs, R. Chipchase, R. Panting, and W. Gill; forwards, A. Graham, J. Hardy, G. Thornton, C. Smith, and J. Adams. Linesman, C. Smith, sen.

DRIFT HUTTON MEN—Goal, C. Hansom; backs, J. Curtiss and S. Hilton; half-backs, T. Storey, G. Storey, and T. Westgarth; forwards, J. Bird, C. Birtley, J. Smith, T. Simpson, and J. T. Robinson. Linesman, A. Mason.

Referee, Mr D. Gregory. Kick-off at 2.

MEDOMSLEY AND DISTRICT CYCLING CLUB v. BENFIELDSIDE GREEN CAPS.

At Medomsley on Saturday. Teams:—

MEDOMSLEY—Goal, W. Lovat; backs, R. Cant and G. Wallace; half-backs, W. Allen, J. Allen, and W. Cousins; forwards, W. Hornsby, T. Cant, Jos. Walton, W. Veitch, and W. Hunter. Linesman, J. Kirtley.

BENFIELDSIDE (chosen from)—M. Williams, J. Greener, J. Ayton, W. Leybourne, T. Leath, J. Leath, H. Lishman, S. Judge, T. Lynn, N. Richley, W. Fitzer, H. Bates, G. Hamilton, and J. Davis. Linesman, J. W. Young.

All teams having dates with Cement Rangers are requested to note change of secretary—Jas. Smith, 25, Durham Road, Annfield Plain.

South Pontop Albions are in want of matches; ages, 14 to 17. Apply, A. Walters, South Pontop Colliery, Annfield Plain.

HOCKEY.

DERWENT VALLEY v. COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

The following will represent Derwent Valley at Shotley Bridge on Saturday:—T. D. Dales (Capt); J. E. Thorpe and J. Hamilton, backs; A. C. Blunt, J. M. Nicholson and E. Roe, halves; H. H. Wattsford, W. S. Douglas, J. O. Todd, T. W. Hanson and R. S. Renton, forwards. Bully-off at 2.15.

MEDOMSLEY.

The men employed at the Derwent and Hunter Collieries of the Consett Iron Company at Medomsley, have decided to have a voluntary collection every fortnight until the end of the war.

EBCHESTER.

RAVEN INN YEARLY CLUB.—On Saturday evening the members of the Raven Inn Yearly Club held their annual dinner at the Raven Inn, Broomhill, Ebchester, when a large number of members sat down to an excellent spread ably purveyed by the host and hostess, Mr and Mrs Temperley, and to which ample justice was done. The company were ably looked after by Miss Robson, Miss Morrell, Mrs. Forster, Miss Walton, and others. After the removal of the cloths, Mr Thomas Lynn took the chair. The secretary (Mr Andrew Jamieson) submitted his annual report, which showed that after the liabilities had been met there would be a balance of 4s 2d per member left. The old officers were re-elected "en bloc," after which the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony. Mr Thomas Morrell proposed "Success to the club," which was enthusiastically drank. A capital programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by Mr Turner, Mr Morrell (Sunderland), Mr. R. Lamb, Mr. J. Bainbridge, and others. Mr Turner proved an able accompanist.

BLACKHILL.

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INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS.

NORTH DURHAM DISTRICT LODGE.

The quarterly meeting of the above was held on Wednesday week, at South Shields, when there were present a good number of representatives from various parts of the county of Durham. Bro. Frank Knox, District Chief Templar, presided. The various reports were given, which showed the district to be in a sound financial and numerical condition, the membership (including adults and juveniles) being 3,467. The lodge showing the largest percentage increase was Heworth Rehoabeth, it being the winner of the Block and Gavel, which they will retain for three months, and should they prove to be successful for three successive quarters in having the largest increase (percentage), will become the owners of it. The following represented North-West Durham:—Bro. J. Carr, Bro. J. Charlton, Sister Willey, Stanley; Bros. J. Lee, Chapman, and Sister Chapman, Aunfield Plain; and Bro. Hall, Blackhill. The nominations for next year's place of meeting fell between Stanley and Trimdon Colliery, and, after three ballots, Trimdon Colliery won on the casting vote.

CHOPWELL.

DRUNKENNESS.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, John Wm. Graham, Charles Clasper, and James Melmas were charged by P.C. Forster with being drunk and disorderly at Chopwell.—Graham was fined 1/- and costs, Clasper 2s 6d and costs, whilst a warrant was issued for the arrest of Melmas, who failed to appear.

SATLEY.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place on January 17th, between Francis Templeman Mew, of Polars, Newport, Isle of Wight, and Olive Katherine, daughter of the late Rev. J. P. de Pledge, vicar of Satley, and of Mrs. de Pledge, 8, Victoria Square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Births.

MILNER.—Castleside, on the 4th inst.; the wife of T. Milner, of a daughter (still-born.)

Marriages.

BELL—FIRTH.—London, St. George's Chapel, Albemarle Street, on the 30th ult., by the Rev Edward Ker Grey, incumbent, Walter Loraine, only son of Charles Loraine Bell, of Woolsington, Northumberland, to Winifred Margaret, widow of the late John Lonley Firth, of Hope, Derbyshire, and daughter of the late Henry William Watson, of Burnopfield, county Durham.

EMERSON—INDIAN.—At Stanhope Primitive Methodist Chapel, on the 6th inst., Henry Emerson, Haswell, to Miss Indian, daughter of Thos. Indian, Stanhope.

SKIDMORE — WHITE.— Primitive Methodist Chapel, Blaydon, on the 5th inst., by the Rev T. Sellors (special license), Joseph H. Skidmore to Isabella, daughter of Edwin and Betsy White, of South Benwell.

WEARMOUTH—RUTHERFORD.—At Stanhope Wesleyan Chapel, on the 2nd inst., J. J. Wearmouth, of Bishop Auckland, to Hannah Rutherford, daughter of Mr. T. Rutherford, East Lane, Stanhope.

Deaths.

ARKLEY.—Stocksfield, on the 4th inst., Jane Arkley.

BOWMAN.—Ebchester, at Blackhall Farm, late of Rookhope, on the 2nd inst., aged 56, William Bowman.

BINNEY.—Chester-le-Street, Front Street, on the 28th ult., aged 71, Bridget Binney.

CURRY.—South Moor, Chester-le-Street, on the 1st inst., Rosa Clara Curry, wife of W. F. Curry, of Morreth.

CAIRNS.—Eight Houses, Prudhoe, on the 1st inst., aged 39, Elisabeth Cairns.

DAVISON.—Pelton Fell, John Street, on the 28th ult., aged 58, Jane Davison.

FARNSWORTH.—Consett, 28, Victoria Street, on the 6th inst., aged 62 years, Ezekiel, the beloved husband of Margaret Farnsworth. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Sunday, December 10th, at 2.15. Friends please accept this, the only intimation. No cards.

GREY.—Kibblesworth, Plough Inn, on the 3rd inst., aged 53, Benjamin Grey.

HOOD.—At the residence of his brother, 78, Collingdon Road, High Spen, on the 29th ult., aged 53, Matthew Hood.

KELL.—Castleside, on the 1st inst., aged 13 years and 9 months, Rhoda, fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs Geo. Kell.

LAWSON.—Burnopfield, on the 5th inst., aged 15 months, Thomas William Lawson.

MILBURN.—Tanfield Lea, Allens Square, on the 4th inst., aged 57, Joseph Milburn.

PARKER.—Blackhill, 25, Thomas Street, on the 4th inst., aged 60, Margaret Nixon, widow of the late George Parker, Edmondbyers.

PRINGLE.—Birtley, on the 29th ult., aged 32, Catherine Alma Pringle.

SMITH.—Winlaton, 15, Rectory Lane, Jane Smith.

WRIGHTSON.—Blackhill, 120, Durham Road, on the 5th inst., in her 85th year, Ann Wrightson.

WELLS.—At Delight Rows, Dipton, Sarah Jane Wells.

YIELDER.—Wylam, Wormald House, at the residence of her son-in-law, T. Leathard, on the 1st inst., aged 83, Margaret Yielder.

In loving memory of Ethel, dearly-beloved daughter of Jonathan and Mary Ann Bryant, of Consett Junction, who died Dec. 7th, 1898. "Safe in the arms of Jesus."

In loving memory of Willie, dearly-beloved son of James and Caroline Wharton, who died Dec. 11th, 1897, aged 8 years and 8 months. Gone, but not forgotten.

In loving remembrance of William Todd, who died Dec. 10th, 1897, at Dipton; also of Jane, the beloved daughter of the late William and Elisabeth Todd, who died January 17th, 1897.

With care we watched your dying bed,
With many a dropping tear;
But angels beckoned me away,
And took me from your care.
Ever remembered by his wife and family.

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