NORTH-WEST DURHAM EMIGRATION AGENCY.

PERSONS wishing to EMIGRATE can be Booked by the Best Lines to America, Australia, and all Parts of the World, at the Lowest Rates, on application to ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, the only Authorised Agent for the Queensland Government in the District; or to Mr. JOHN CHATTOR, Grocer, West Stanley.

TO PARTIES REMOVING OR LEAVING THE COUNTRY AND OTHERS.

ADAM BRODIE, assisted by his Son, ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, undertakes the SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION of Household Furniture, Farming Stock, House Property, and other Effects in the most approved manner, and on reasonable terms. Instructions by Post punctually attended to.

Note the Address:—Town Hall, Consett.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

No. 1,332. | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, February 12th, 1886. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

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

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

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

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

Contracts.

SANITARY PIPES.—TENDERS given for SANITARY PIPES, BRICKS, and FIRE CLAY GOODS of all kinds.—Apply to R. CURRY & Co., Delves Lane, Consett.

Lost.

LOST, on Saturday Morning last, between the Wesleyan Chapel and 35, Sherburn Terrace, Consett, a Valuable STONE SEAL, Mounted in Gold.—Finder will be rewarded on returning it to the above address.

Wanted.

WANTED, a steady, respectable Girl for a Farm House; must be a good milker.—Apply at the Office of this Paper.

WANTED, a respectable young girl as GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply, Durham Road, Blackfine.

AGENTS WANTED to push first-class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission.—Box 51, Post Office, Liverpool.

WANTED, at once, an experienced GENERAL SERVANT; must be able to milk. Also HOUSEMAID.—Apply by letter to Box ..., *Guardian* Office.

WANTED, LADIES and YOUNG MEN to take pleasant WORK at their Own Homes; 2s. to 5s. a-day easily made. Work sent by Parcel Post. No canvassing.—The Albertype Co., ... Edgware Road, London, W.

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

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.

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

To Let.

TO LET, a HOUSE of Two Rooms, in Delves Lane.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett.

TO LET, a BUTCHER'S SHOP, at Kyo.—Apply to William Wilkinson, Ironmonger, Catchgate.

TO LET, Three Two-roomed COTTAGES in ... Street, Consett.—Apply, Adam Brodie, Town Hall, Consett.

TO LET, at May Term, TWO SHOPS at present occupied by Mr. R. Willey, and situate in the New Town Hall, Consett.—Apply to T. W. Welford, Jun., Solicitor, Consett.

TO LET, and entered immediately, good HOUSE of Five Rooms, suitable for two families, situate No. 3, Rose Mount, Consett.—Apply, Adam Brodie, Town Hall, Consett.

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP, No. 16, Front Street, Shotley Bridge.—For rent and particulars apply to Hodgkin, Barnett, & Co., Bank, Shotley Bridge.

TO LET, a TWO-ROOMED HOUSE, situate in Watling Street, Leadgate. Rent, 2s. 9d. per week, including everything.—Apply, M. Robson, Builder, Leadgate.

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP, situate in Church Street, Consett, now occupied by Mr. ... Almond, Greengrocer, and may be entered immediately.—Apply to Mr. J. Routledge, Joiner, Gibson Street, Consett.

TO LET, or FOR SALE by Private Contract, a Five-roomed HOUSE, with Washhouse and other Offices in Large Yard; also, a large GARDEN with good Greenhouse, situated in Ledger Terrace, Blackhill.—Apply to Joseph Eltringham, Railway Terrace, Blackhill. 668

TO LET, at Shotley Bridge, ONE-HALF OF A SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE RESIDENCE, containing Six Rooms and Kitchen, good Pantry, W.C., and necessary Conveniences, also a small Garden or Lawn on the South Side, with access from the Terrace.—Apply, T. B. Sawbridge, Guildhall Chambers, Newcastle. 54v

TO LET, at Catchgate, a HOUSE and SHOP, lately in the occupation of Mr. J. W. Davison, Furniture Broker. These Premises were originally built for a first-class Butcher's Shop, having an excellent Slaughter House, fine dry Cellar (cemented, well-aired, and adapted to keep meat in warm weather. There is also a good Two-Stalled STABLE and all necessary Conveniences. The Shop is well situated, and suitable for any business. A Capital opening for a Pawnbroker or Auction Mart.—Apply to George Hobson, Harperley Mills, Lintz Green.

For Sale.

WASTE PAPER FOR SALE, at 1d. per lb.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett.

INCALVING HEIFERS FOR SALE.—Apply to Mr. Bulman, Woodlands, Consett. 404v

TURNIPS FOR SALE.—Apply to Mr. Bulman, Woodlands, Consett.

BULL CALVES, by Pedigree Bull, FOR SALE.—Apply to Mr. Bulman, Woodlands, Consett.

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

FOR SALE, a large SLATE SLAB.—For reference, apply to *Guardian* Office. 681v

FOR SALE, a STACK OF WELL-WON OLD LAND HAY.—Apply to J. Green, Lanchester. 695v

FOR SALE, a STACK OF OLD LAND HAY, about 5 Tons.—For Price, apply at Railway Station, Lanchester. 690v

HOUSE FOR SALE or TO LET, with immediate possession, situate at Iveston Bank.—For particulars apply to John J. Hetherington, 26, Market Place, Durham. 346v

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

TO BE SOLD, by Private Contract, the ADELPHA FARM, containing nearly 150 Acres, well watered and sheltered with plantations all around the boundaries, mid-way between Satley and Tow Law.—Offers will be received by Mr. Thomas Pallister, Lanchester, Durham. 684v

FOR SALE, by Private Contract, a Small FREEHOLD COTTAGE of One Room and Pantry, adjoining Mrs. Wilkinson's Houses, near Mr. E. Wilkinson's, Butcher, Dipton.—Mrs. Mary Ann Wilkinson will show the Cottage, and all particulars of the Sale of the said Cottage can be had by applying to Mr. A. Phillipson, Auctioneer, Dipton. 654v

AN IMPORTANT FACT.

£10 AND UPWARDS CAREFULLY INVESTED in Options on Stocks and Shares is the safest and most popular way of rapidly making money on the Stock Exchange, by the non-liability system. Explanatory Book (fifth edition), giving full details, *Gratis and Post Free.*—Address, George Evans & Co., Stockbrokers, Gresham House, London, E.C. 308v

FOR SALE, One WAGGONETTE, for single or double harness; One WHITECHAPEL DOG CART; One SPRING CART, suitable for Grocer or Wine Merchant. The above are all built by Messrs. Angus & Co., Newcastle, and are all in good condition. Also, DOUBLE and SINGLE SETS of HARNESS.—Apply to William Turner, Whitehall Lodge, Blackhill. 590v

YE QUEEN MARY

BOOK OF HOUSEHOLD RECEIPES, Containing Fifty Ancient and Valuable Receipes of our Ancestors (over Three Hundred Years old). Every Housekeeper in the United Kingdom should have a copy who believes in the good old Remedies of our ancestors. Post Free One Shilling, direct from the Publisher and Proprietor, J. Maguire, St. John's Cottage Partridge Green, Sussex. 560v

Business Announcements.

ESTABLISHED 40 YEARS.

MESSRS. G. T. TINN & SONS,
SURGEON DENTISTS,
2, NEW BRIDGE STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
MINERAL TEETH FROM 5s. PER TOOTH.
UPPER OR LOWER SETS FROM £2 10s.

PIANOS. ORGANS. HARMONIUMS.
MESSRS. DAWSON & CO.,
42, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
(Late Saville Row).
Pianos from 16 Guineas. Violins, Guitars, Banjos, Strings, &c.
Pianos Tuned and Repaired in all parts of Northumberland and Durham. 665v

MISS E. A. SLOANE
(Organist of St. Mary's, Blackhill),
HAVING recently finished Musical Studies under W. Rea, Esq., R.A.M., Newcastle-on-Tyne, is now prepared to give LESSONS IN HARMONY, also on the PIANO, HARMONIUM, and ORGAN.
ADDRESS:—
POST OFFICE, BLACKHILL. 485v

MAGIC ARIZONIC SOAP.
NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
OWING to the great increase of Business, the Proprietor has been compelled to REMOVE from Raglan Street, to Larger and more Commodious Premises at
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
Sole Agent for the Magic Washing Fluid.

MRS. CLEMINSON'S SCHOOL,
WEAR TERRACE, BISHOP AUCKLAND.
MANY PUPILS from this School have passed in Honours the Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham Local Examinations, Trinity College of Music, &c. Masters for Arithmetic, Drawing, and Painting; a French Governess Diplomee; Music—by a Pupil of the late Sir Sterndale Bennett. 4v

JOHN FREEK,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
23, VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.
HOT DINNERS, TEAS, and other REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice and most Reasonable Terms.
N.B.—As J. F. has a REGISTRY OFFICE in connection with his Business, Ladies wanting Servants would do well to give him a call. 384o

OLD ESTABLISHED CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT.
J. COCKBURN,
Newsagent, Printer, Bookbinder, Fancy Stationer, & Confectioner,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
...ek and Pocket Diaries, 1886. Account Books, Birthday Cards. Fancy and General Stationery in great variety.
...few Xmas *Graphics* and *Illustrated London News* to be sold cheap.
... London and other Papers delivered to order. Books not in Stock, to be had on a short notice.

WILLIAM RAW.
AUCTIONEER,
VALUER, AND COMMISSION AGENT,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL,
CO. DURHAM.
VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.
...gent for the SALE of BUILDING SITES at the ...owing places:—Benfieldside Estate, Broomhill ...ate, Ebchester, Low Finings Estate, Langley ...k, Consett, Leadgate, and Blackhill.
All business properly and carefully attended to.

YOU ARE INVITED
TO
...Y YOUR BOOTS AND SHOES
AT
...OHN GIBSON'S NEW SHOP
CORNER OF
...UNDRY ROW AND BESSEMER STREET,
BLACKHILL (near the Railway Station),
...they are unsurpassed for Fitting and Durability.
A Well-selected Stock always on hand.
...ll Goods marked in plain figures, at Lowest ...dy-money Prices.
...oots made to measure, and repairs of all kinds done as usual. 539u

HUGHES & CO.'S
PHARMACY,
...PPOSITE THE NEW TOWN HALL,
CUR...'S Invaluable STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.
CURRY'S TOOTHACHE DROPS.
HUGHES' Cough, Rheumatic, and Neuralgic Pills. The IXL Blood Purifying Mixture and Rheumatic and Gout Mixture, Hop, Dandelion, and Mandrake Bitters. Concentrated Sweet Essence of S... Compound Decoction of the finest Red Jama... Sarsaparilla. Tonga, the new Specific for Neur... Raspberry Beer Powder.
TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.
... SCOTT'S ELECTRIC APPLIANCES.
AGEN... THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.
SP...CTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.
OILS, PA...NTS, COLOURS, AND VARNISHES.
HOR... AND CATTLE MEDICINES.
A...RATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES
SHEEP D...S—COOPER'S, BELL & RIDDLE'S McDOUGALL'S, AND OTHER KINDS.
HUGHES & CO.,
54, FRONT STREET CONSETT

Business Announcements.

ORDER
NESTLE'S
SWISS MILK
TRADE MARK
AND YOU WILL BE PLEASED WITH IT. 558v

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE
AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWARD AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA (the Finest Tea in the World). Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.
WILLIAM STEWART & SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 33, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

W. T. SMITH,
SURGEON DENTIST,
OF 22, NEW BRIDGE STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
WILL VISIT CONSETT EVERY MONDAY from 11 a.m. to 5·30 p.m., at No. 3, MOUNT PLEASANT, where he will be happy to see his old and new patients.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted from 3s. 6d. per Tooth, with all the Latest and Best English and American Improvements.
No Charge until a perfect fit is made, and entire satisfaction given.
Mr. Smith will, with pleasure, call at the Residence of Patients to suit their convenience.
REMEMBER THE HOUSE:—
No. 3, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 390v

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(Over 60 Set-up to Select from),
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.
DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET.

BRICKS! SANITARY PIPES!
FIRE BRICKS, 2½in. and 3in., QUARLS, various sizes, GROUND FIRE CLAY, COMMON RED BRICKS, RIDGE TILES, FIRE BACKS for Glendinning Ovens, FLUE BRICKS, CHIMNEY TOPS, KITCHEN SINKS, GULLIES, JUNCTIONS, BENDS, ELBOWS, TAPERS, GARDEN EDGING, CEMENT, PLASTER, LATHS, HAIR, LIME, TACKS, SAND, COALS COKE, &c., &c., can be Supplied in Large or Small Quantities by applying to
R. CURRY AND CO.,
DELVES LANE, CONSETT.
STOCK OF BRICKS, PIPES, &c., AT DELVES LANE DEPOT.
824t CEMENT, PLASTER, &c., AT WAREHOUSE, GIBSON STREET.

THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS!
9, 9a, AND 22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
For the CHEAPEST DRESSES, go to THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS.
For the CHEAPEST MILLINERY go to THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS.
For the CHEAPEST DRAPERY go to THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS.
For the CHEAPEST FURNISHING GOODS go to THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS
For the CHEAPEST SUITS for Men, Youths, or Boys, go to THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS.
For the LARGEST AND BEST VARIETY OF MERCERY go to THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS.
HATS and CAPS, and MEN'S MERCERY go to THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS.
THOMAS H. BATCHELOR

PERSONS WISHING TO MAKE UP THEIR
HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW,
SHOULD USE THE
"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.
IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.
PREPARED ONLY BY
JOHN HUME AND SONS,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
BRANCH—MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 583r

HALL'S for OIL CAKE and COTTON CAKE.
HALL'S for HORSE FEED.
HALL'S for CATTLE SPICE.
HALL'S for FINEST HUNGARIAN FLOUR.
HALL'S for FINEST CALIFORNIAN FLOUR.
HALL'S for FINEST NEW PROCESS FLOUR.
HALL'S for the CHEAPEST SUGARS.
HALL'S for the BEST SUGARS.
HALL'S for the CHEAPEST TEAS.
HALL'S for FINEST NEW SEASON TEA.
HALL'S for BEST ASSAM TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST DARJEELING TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST BUTTER.
HALL'S for BEST LARD.
HALL'S for MANNA CAKE.
HALL'S is the RIGHT SHOP for all who want a good Article combined with Cheapness.
STARCHES, BLUES, PATENT MEDICINES, and all PACKETED GOODS 10 to 50 per cent Cheaper than the usual Price.
JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER.
ANNFIELD PLAIN 280t

Business Announcements.

THE 2 W.'S HAT SHOP.
THE 2 W.'S FOR HATS.
THE 2 W.'S FOR CAPS.
THE 2 W.'S FOR WOOL SHIRTS.
THE 2 W.'S FOR PANTS AND VESTS.
THE 2 W.'S FOR SCARFS, AND LINEN GOODS.
VERY SPECIAL.
6 DOZENS OF ALL-WOOL SHIRTS (Large Size) TO BE CLEARED at 3s. 6d.
AT
THE 2 W.'S—WAIGHTS & WARNEFORD,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, AND NEWCASTLE. 643v

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN.
GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.
INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.
OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.
THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED,
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.
HOBSON'S IMPROVED CONDIMENT FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, STACKING, &c., Cheapest and Best in the Market.
HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD, REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for Milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save Calves from that Inflammatory Fever commonly called Quarter-ill or Black Leg.
G. H.'S MIXTURE OF
PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years.
PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 427r

SOUTH BIRTLEY STEAM BRICK & TILE WORKS, CO. DURHAM.
ESTABLISHED 1852.
J. F. SWINBURN, PROPRIETOR.
AGRICULTURAL DRAIN PIPES of all sizes, one of the very best quality, delivered to any Railway Station at very low rates. Also, BRICKS, FLOWER POTS, and everything in the Trade.
SPECIAL QUOTATIONS FOR LARGE QUANTITIES.
Price Lists on Application. 517v

THOUSANDS OF SUFFERERS
Have been effectually
CURED
BY LAMONT'S SELF-CURATIVE
MAGNETIC BELTS
For Lumbago, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Liver Complaints, &c.
INVIGORATORS for all Bronchial and Lung Complaints.
CHEST PROTECTORS for Colds, Coughs, Sore Throat, &c.
KNEE CAPS for Sore and Weak Knees.
SOLES for Cold Feet.
SPINE BANDS, WRISTLETS, ANKLETS, GLOVES, &c.

THESE UNRIVALLED MAGNETIC APPLIANCES are still receiving the marks of continued and increasing favour. They need no attention, give no shocks, are as comfortable to wear as an ordinary garment, and, as they last for several years, and are RE-MAGNETISED FREE EVERY YEAR, they are without exception the most economical, effective, and pleasant remedy extant.

COLDS.—ALL PERSONS who are subject to COLDS BRONCHIAL, and LUNG COMPLAINTS should wear one of
LAMONT'S MAGNETIC LUNG INVIGORATORS.
They are now worn by thousands of persons in all parts of the country, and the testimony on all hands is that they are "WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD AS A PROTECTION FROM COLD and Bronchial Attacks during the winter season."

MR. LAMONT has much pleasure in publishing the following Testimonials, recently received. Further particulars will be found in Descriptive Pamphlet, Post Free.

CURE OF BRONCHITIS.
31, Weardale Street, Mount Pleasant,
Spennymoor, November 7th, 1885.
Dear Sir,—It is now five months since I sent for one of your Magnetic Invigorators for my little girl. She was very ill with bronchitis, and we applied the Invigorator as soon as it came. I am glad to inform you the effect was marvellous. We had lost all hopes of her recovery, but thanks to your Magnetic Appliances, she is now as fine and as healthy a child as you could wish to see.
You will remember that I got one for our son, and he also is now quite strong. You can refer any one to me who disputes anything I have said. You can make what use you like of this, for we bless the day that we got the Magnetic Appliances for our children.—Yours truly,
Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN JEFFERSON.

CURE OF BRONCHITIS.
Board School, Arthurs Hill,
Newcastle-on-Tyne, July 2nd, 1885.
Dear Sir,—I can heartily recommend your Magnetic Lung Invigorators, my daughter having used one for the last six months. She has been subject to severe attacks of Bronchitis for the last 10 years, and I tried all sorts of remedies to relieve her before she began to use your Invigorator. It has removed all pain and suffering, and she has not had a cold since she began to wear it. I am in every way satisfied with it.—Yours truly,
Mr D. Lamont. GEORGE PRINGLE.

"IT HAS COMPLETELY CURED ME."
65, Eleanor Street, Cullercoats,
March 9th, 1885.
Dear Sir,—It is with the greatest pleasure I write to inform you of the effect the Magnetic Invigorator I purchased from you has had upon me. Prior to purchasing it I was troubled with a weakness in my chest, also with indigestion, the accompanying evils of which I need not mention.
Now, I am not one to fly to any new remedy that may present itself to me, as some do, and aggravate the complaint. With my own conception of the value of magnetism as a curative, I resolved to try a Magnetic Appliance, which I have worn for twelve months, and the best proof I can give of its efficacy is by saying that it has *completely cured me*, and more than that, it has had a most wonderful effect upon the whole of my system. I. is comfortable to wear and effectual in its operations. It causes no unpleasant sensation and can be "cast" with safety.—I am, yours &c.,
Mr D. Lamont. C. W. MASON.

THE SPECIAL MAGNETIC BELT at 21s., and SPECIAL LUNG INVIGORATOR at 21s., continue to give unbounded satisfaction. Sent Post Free on receipt of 21s.
CALL OR WRITE FOR PAMPHLET.
Gratis and Post Free.
D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT,
(Permanent and only address),
44a BLACKETT STREET NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Agent for Consett:—Mr. Thomas Milner, Chemist.

EDUCATIONAL.
JON. C. WYLIE, PRIVATE TEACHER IN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS.
Pupils attended at their own Homes.

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY.
First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.
Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.
Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad.
The Shortest and Best Route to the West.
Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO., 17 and 19, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; W. Anderson & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law. 85u

GREAT BARGAINS!
AT
C. F. COOKE'S,
NOTED CHEAP SHOP,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.
ARRIVAL OF SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF NEW GOODS FOR THE SEASON.
NEW DESIGNS IN MEN'S SUITS,
FROM 14s. 6d., 30s., and 39s. 6d.
BLACK WORSTED SUITS, FROM 24s. 6d.
BOYS' SUITS, FROM 2s. 6d.
GRAND LOT OF MEN'S FELT HATS and CAPS IN ALL THE LEADING SHAPES, ALL AT LOW PRICES.
C. F. COOKE, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.
THE
"CONSETT GUARDIAN"
AFTER ATTAINING
A LARGE AND INCREASING CIRCULATION
HAS BEEN
CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED
AND MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AS
THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.
Full and Impartial Reports of all Meetings in the District (by its own Reporters). The General News is carefully condensed, and special attention is given to Local News, by Agents of known ability and character.

TO ADVERTISERS.
THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*
Has now been established upwards of twenty-six years, and has gained a most extensive circulation in Consett, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Lanchester, Annfield Plain, Medomsley, Ebchester, Castleside, Tow Law, Burnopfield, Lintz Green, Rowland's Gill, Iveston, Dipton, Burnhope, South Moor, Stanley, Tanfield, Tanfield Lea, Tantobie, White-le-Head, Hobson, Clough Dene, Swalwell, and the adjacent locality.
The large and increasing circulation of the *Consett Guardian* renders it invaluable as an advertising medium, and current Advertisements are inserted in its columns at moderate charges. Advertisements for lengthened periods are subject to considerable reduction.
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
AT
59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
Where Advertisements are received up to Nine o'clock on that morning.

Parliamentary Summary.

SATURDAY.

The House of Commons met at three o'clock this afternoon, when new writs were moved for Newcastle-on-Tyne, South Leeds, Grimsby, Berwick, Luton Division of Bedford, North-West Staffordshire, Clackmannan, Banff, and Mid-Northampton. The House adjourned until February 18th.

MONDAY.

The House of Lords met at four o'clock, when the ceremony of swearing in the new Lord Chancellor was performed. Lord Herchell entered by the door to the left of the Throne, leading from the Peers' ante-room, and took his seat on the Woolsack, attired in his black robes and the ordinary Chancellor's wig. Earl Granville announced that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to create Sir Farrar Herschell, Knight, a Peer of the Realm by the title of "Baron Herschell of the City of Durham," and to appoint him Lord Chancellor. Lord Herschell retired below the bar, taking with him the seals of office, and returned in his full robes of scarlet and ermine. After advancing to the Throne, on the upper step of which he knelt while laying his writ of summons on the Royal chair, Lord Herschell retired with that document to the Clerks' table, when the patent of office and the writ was read by Sir R. Bethel. Having next taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the Peers' roll, the Lord Chancellor was conducted in due form with the writ to the Barons' bench. Here he took his seat between Lord Monson and Lord Sudeley. The Lord Chancellor walked up the floor of the House, taking his seat for a moment on the bench immediately to the left of the woolsack, and then advanced to the woolsack where, on taking his place as Speaker of the House, he was at once congratulated by Lords Granville and Barrington, as representing the two sides of the House, and subsequently by the other Peers present. The Lord Chancellor, having previously retired to rid himself of his State robes, returned in the ordinary Chancellor's attire, and the House adjourned to the 18th inst.

Trade Notes.

West Wylam Colliery.—Seventy men at this colliery have received their notice to cease work.

Crook Colliery Flooded.—The Thistle Flat Colliery, Crook, has been flooded out by water, laying idle some 100 hands. It is expected that the colliery will be laid in.

The Collieries around Annfield Plain.—The trade in this district has somewhat improved. The owners of Pontop Colliery have recently lit up some more coke ovens, and Messrs Dickinson and Co. have lighted twelve more coke ovens in their yard. The collieries in the district are working pretty regular at present. Altogether, labour has an upward tendency, and it is expected workmen will shortly be fully employed.

THE LOCAL DISTRESS.

CONSETT: OPENING OF A SOUP KITCHEN.

A preliminary meeting of townspeople was held in the Local Board Buildings, Consett, on Monday forenoon, for the purpose of arranging for the opening of a soup kitchen. The Rev F. Steggall (Vicar) was called to the chair. It was announced that the Directors of the Consett Iron Company (Limited) had promised to subscribe £10 per week for ten weeks towards helping the matter forward, in addition to providing proper premises in which to conduct the operations, and also offering to find a sixty-gallon patent cooker, coals, and other necessary materials. A strong committee was formed—a meeting of which was called for last (Thursday) evening, when arrangements were so far completed that the kitchen, it is confidently hoped, will be opened on Monday next. As the distress in the locality is exceptionally severe, it is hoped that liberal contributions will be received towards carrying on this worthy movement.

CROOK: EXTRAORDINARY SCENE.

A strange scene took place on Sunday afternoon, at Crook, on a pond in Mr Mossom's field, behind the British Schools. The last-named gentleman had notified the manager of the soup kitchen that the latter charitable institution could have the use of the pond in aid of the funds after church hours on Sunday morning. This becoming known, hundreds of people bent their way thither, gladly paying the nominal charge. Between three and four o'clock the Rector of Crook (the Rev J. King), accompanied by his churchwarden, appeared by the pond, and calling loudly to Mr Stoker, informed him that not a farthing of the money would he allow to be put to the use of the soup kitchen. Every one heard this declaration, and immediately a tumult commenced. Loud groans and howls were hurled at the clergyman, who speedily beat a retreat from the field, followed by the yelling of the crowd. The greatest indignation was expressed throughout the town at the conduct of the Rector. Mr Stoker offered the public their money back, but this was indignantly refused. — The dreadful cloud of distress which for so long has overhung the district is weekly becoming blacker, and is completely beyond the arduous efforts of the Relief Committee. The laying idle of 100 more hands at the Thristle Flat Colliery has made the distress more intense. It is estimated that at present only half of the workmen in the district are in employment.

BLAYDON.

On Wednesday night, the committee appointed by the members of the Literary and Mutual Improvement Society, Blaydon-on-Tyne, for the purpose of raising funds to relieve persons in distress in the village, met to receive the secretary's report. The secretary said that along with subscriptions previously acknowledged he had to add subscriptions received from Mr James Joicey, M.P., and Mr J. B. Bowes, sen. He also stated that the total amount received by subscriptions and by concerts amounted to £24 14s. Out of this 26 families had been relieved with sums of money amounting to a total of £11 9s 6d; 24 families had been given parcels of flour and provisions amounting to a total of £11 19s 6d; expenses for bills and ticket printing, &c., £1 5s; total £24 14s. The committee also desire to express their sincere thanks to the Educational Committee of the Co-operative Society for generously granting them the use of the Lecture Hall free, also to Mr John Brown for posting bills.

WEST WYLAM AND PRUDHOE.

Owing to the distress which prevails in the West Wylam and Prudhoe district, a committee has been formed to call upon all the wealthier people in the neighbourhood for the purpose of collecting subscriptions to get up a soup kitchen. The collieries in the district have worked short time for more than a year.

BLACKHILL RELIEF FUND.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me through your paper, on behalf of the committee and the poor, to thank most kindly all who have contributed towards the above fund, and to give them a little account of what has already been done, and likewise to intimate, with great sorrow, that should no further contributions be forthcoming the committee will not be able to give relief (soup and bread) any longer than next week, which is deeply to be regretted, as the distress is still very great in Blackhill. The suffering poor who are getting relief (and they are of all nationalities, "need" being the only qualification) are greatly alarmed at the prospect of closing the soup kitchen, and for the sake of the wives and children of the unemployed of Blackhill, let this appeal reach the hearts of those who have not yet contributed, as well as to those who are waiting for another call. The committee have a right to publicly express their special gratitude to Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., for the interest he has taken in the movement, he having contributed £25, granted the use of a sixty-gallon cooking apparatus, and supplied all the coals free; and thanks are also due to Revs F. Power, A. Baillie, and E. W. Jenkins for the interest they have taken in the movement; to Mr Gawin Reed for the free use of the premises, and to the ladies who have, in some cases at great sacrifice, baked four to five stones of flour into bread each day. The daily supply of soup is upwards of sixty gallons, and about 140 penny cakes, at a total cost of 25s per day. Let me in conclusion earnestly appeal for about £30 more to the £85 already subscribed, so as to enable the committee to continue the relief for three or four weeks longer until the severe weather is past.—I am, &c., J. Palliser, Treasurer.

Blackhill, Feb. 11th, 1886.

THE DIFFICULTY AT SOUTH MEDOMSLEY.

ARRIVAL OF NON-UNIONISTS FROM YORKSHIRE.

On Monday afternoon, about twenty-seven "blacklegs," with their wives and families, arrived at Consett Station by the three o'clock train (via Tow Law) from the Yorkshire district, to start work at South Medomsley Colliery. The men were conveyed in two brakes, escorted by police, to their destination, their furniture, consisting almost exclusively of bedding, following them. There was a lively demonstration on the part of the populace on their arrival at South Medomsley, men, women, and children shouting and yelling; but the men and their furniture were safely "housed." A large force of police, under Supt. Oliver, was in attendance. During the day about half-a-dozen "blacklegs" came from Usworth Colliery.

Respecting the appeal in the case of John Kelly, the Unionist who was committed for one month's imprisonment by the Lanchester Magistrates for intimidating one of the workmen, the sureties were forthcoming on Monday, when Kelly was released from Durham gaol. He reached Consett by the 6·15 train the same evening, being accorded a most hearty and enthusiastic reception. The Dipton brass band and a body of Unionists met Kelly at the station, the crowd cheering and hurrahing. Kelly was marched to Consett, where he was *feted* at several public-houses. The procession left for Dipton about seven o'clock, the band performing lively tunes *en route*.

Another slight skirmish between the Unionists and "blacklegs" took place on Tuesday evening, but happily the strong *posse* of police present averted what might have developed into a regular affray. It appears the Delight Pit at Dipton and several collieries in the district were laid off on that day, and accordingly hundreds of people flocked to South Medomsley to watch the "blacklegs" leave work at about five p.m. The police, who were guarding the workmen, were pelted with stones and snowballs. Sergt. Murphy was struck on the helmet by two stones, and other constables were hit with the missiles. The crowd yelled and shouted, and rushed at the police; but the latter refrained from charging the mob, although at times the aspect of affairs appeared to be decidedly threatening and somewhat disorderly. A general disturbance, however, was narrowly prevented.

At the Consett Police Office, on Wednesday—before Wm. Jenkins, Esq., J.P.—*Martha Fowler*, the wife of a "blackleg" employed at South Medomsley, was brought up by Sergeant Norman, charged with being drunk and disorderly at Redwell Hills, about eight o'clock the previous (Tuesday) night.—The woman said she had been to Leadgate to do some "shopping," and she confessed that she had imbibed a "glass too much." She alleged that on returning home, she was attacked by a number of Unionists, who pelted her with snowballs, knocked her down, and ill-treated her. The men also kicked her parcels of groceries to pieces, and battered in a tin can she was carrying. Some of the parcels were lost on the road.—The Magistrate, after commenting in strong terms upon the conduct of the strike men, fined the woman 5s and costs; but allowed her seven days to pay the penalty.

At the same time, *Mary Fittes*, better known as *Mary Ellensworth*, of Stoney Heap, was charged by P.C. Martin with having been found helplessly drunk in Leadgate, on Tuesday night, and was committed to gaol for seven days in default of paying a fine of 5s.

On Wednesday night, everything passed off quietly, the colliery now being almost in full operation, and additional "blacklegs" are daily arriving. Up to yesterday (Thursday) afternoon the same tranquil state of things prevailed, thanks to the special exertions of the local police force.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I ask for a small space, as a constant reader, to touch upon the facts of the dispute, chronicled in your paper, between Mr Wm. Tyzack, the present colliery manager on behalf of the owners, and the workmen lately employed by the firm, but who are at present, and have been for some weeks past, locked-out. The cause is, as has been stated it your columns, a wages dispute between the manager and the workmen employed under him. The workmen have, as far as practicable, done their utmost to avoid the present unhappy state of affairs at this place and to prevent a stoppage of work under this firm. It has been clearly proved that, on the part of the men themselves, they were working 6¼ per cent. below the county average. The men would doubtless have continued working on at the present in the hope that the state of trade would in the coming spring get much better; but the manager says "No" to the offer of the men, and further tells the workmen, in language unmistakably clear on his part, that the colliery is not paying the owners at the present rate of wages given to the men, and unless he can get a further 10 per cent. reduction on the present rate of wages the colliery must be stopped. Accordingly, the men employed received the usual fourteen days' notice to terminate their engagement, but if the workmen would work for the terms stipulated by Mr Tyzack—that is, 6¼ per cent. below the average wage, which the men have a just right to—but the manager wants an additional further 10 per cent. off also, which makes a total of 16¼ per cent. below their just demands. The manager desires to make South Medomsley an eleven hours per day colliery, and if the men will accept his terms, he will grant them eleven days full work per fortnight. Mr Editor, this seems a strange piece of philosophy but it is nevertheless the statement of Mr Tyzack to the locked-out workmen. This statement cannot possibly be founded on facts, or we say the manager is unmistakably a very clever man. He presumes to command trade for all coals and coke produced at his colliery. I am much surprised at Mr Tyzack's farsightedness. He would have us believe that he can see all the way on to the continent of Europe and to other parts of the world, wherever coals and coke are used; and, strange to say, this most wonderful manager is in difficulties at home with his men. This is the first picture of the celebrated South Medomsley Colliery manager.

Mr Editor, we further state, on behalf of the workmen, that Messrs P. Carling, J. Ferrell, and W. H. Patterson, from the Durham Miners' Association, interviewed Mr Tyzack, and from his colliery bills, and the workmen's own average book, clearly shows that the men's demands are just and reasonable, and they are most anxious that this unhappy and unjust, and certainly uncalled for, dispute should be speedily settled. We are willing that the whole facts be submitted to arbitration as the best means for adjusting such disputes. The manager, however, says "No" to all offers and entreaties made by the locked-out workmen. Let it be clearly understood that for a number of years now—and, we say, heaven be thanked by all concerned—that the great majority of the colliery owners in Durham, and the thousands of miners employed to work at such collieries, have agreed and established a Federation Board between the owners and the workmen, to which such disputes can be referred to, to be heard and settled at such Board, when managers and men fail to arrange locally their disputes. The South Medomsley men have, to the letter of the law, been guided by such agreement, and why should the present dispute not be settled by such Board. Up to the present, Mr Tyzack says "No," and persists in having his own way. To say the least of him he is all one-sided, unfair, and unjust in his demands upon the men, and sings the old song, that is, "The colliery does not pay." Mr Editor, we have long thought, when a young man is sent to serve his apprenticeship to be a colliery manager, that when he is out of his time and gets his parchment as being duly qualified as a manager the words must be written in large letters that, unless they can make themselves conspicious in their first situation as colliery manager, and say in unmistakably clear language that before they have been long in their first situation that "unless I can get a substantial reduction the colliery will not pay, and cannot, therefore be worked." This is as clear as two and two make four when put together. We would ask the question, "Is the colliery paying?" We assert the percentage will be low at present—we should think not a cent at all for the owners. However, as ratepayers in the Collierley township, we intend to look after and see that we bear no part of the expense incurred by the South Medomsley owners or their manager, seeing that it is uncalled for on the part of the Collierley township, as the rates are already heavy enough to bear. As the workmen have an unmistakably clear case in hand in this dispute, we wish them in all fairness success in their struggle for "Right against might." Pardon me, Mr Editor, if we need crave such at your hand, for the following assertions, when we say to these men locked out, sooner than yield to Mr Tyzack in his unjust demands in this dispute, they must struggle with him, and trusting the county of Durham miners and all interested will continue to support the South Medomsley miners, cokemen, and enginemen in battling for the right. We kindly ask for a place in your next issue on behalf of the South Medomsley men.—I am, &c., A Pit Lad.

February, 1886.

"BLACKLEG CHRISTIANS."

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I am not much of a theologian, but I sometimes try to reckon things up a bit. These last few weeks while reading your paper, I have seen something that utterly confounds me. It is the heading of some letters, thus:—"Blackleg Christians." I have been trying to harmonise it; I have looked at it as it stands, "Blackleg Christians," then I have put it the other way, "Christian Blacklegs," and either way, Mr Editor, to me it reads paradoxical. I have tried to get at it another way. I have substituted for the word "Blackleg," the word "Drunken;" but it reads no better, does it?—"Christian Drunkard," "Drunken Christian." I have tried the word "Thief," and then read "Christian Thief," or "Thievish Christian," but I still get no light. Then the thing to me must remain paradoxical as it is, "Christian Blackleg"—"Blackleg Christian." Well, I suppose somebody deserves this title in connection with the South Medomsley dispute. I dare say that they sometimes hold forth a bit (preach, I mean). If so, they will sometimes have for their text that beautiful scriptural quotation: "Love one another." Well, by the way, sometime ago, not a 100 miles from Lanchester, a preacher, after he had concluded the service, had good reason to think that the good people had forgotten this *new* commandment, for they let him go away without asking him to tea; but it turned out that it was an *un*-intentional overlook. But it strikes me, Mr Editor, that it might not be *un*-intentional another time, but *in*-tentional, and that at more places than one. My advice to those who come under this strange title is "Take your bread in your pocket, for how can you eat the bread of charity when you have helped to stop your fellowman, and even Christian companion, from eating the bread of industry."—Yours, &c., Veritas.

East Castle, Feb. 9th, 1886.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—There are so many things said about Dipton just now, that I don't know whether it is necessary for any one not connected with the dispute to say anything at all. However, someone must say something to somebody on behalf of the workmen connected with the dispute at South Medomsley. I may say that I never did like strikes; I like them worse now. The lies told, the shameful language used, and the arbitrary power put in operation is something indescribable; and if all strikes are conducted on the same principle as the one at our place, my prayer is that this may be the last one in England. Who is to blame? Some say the manager, others say the workmen, and the most of the people are wicked enough to say that the policeman are the cause of the small fights that have occurred, and the many lies that have been told about them. I myself have read the terrifying accounts of the riotous proceedings published in the papers with fear and trembling, and I have gone to the scene of battle expecting to pick up pieces of burnt furniture, bruised helmets, remnants of broken carts, and flesh and hair belonging to P.C.'s and "blacklegs," and other important individuals; and lo! and behold, when I have told my expectations to the surviving inhabitants, a mocking weird-laugh has rent the quiet air, and I have been told that I must have dreamt of the strange proceedings, for in reality they have never taken place. Is fiction, then, stronger than facts; or are facts still stronger than fiction? What would people think, I wonder, if I made the startling announcement that nothing out of the ordinary had taken place, except the strike? Everything that has taken place has been quite ordinary, and many times in my experience of Dipton life, things have been much worse, and a policeman could not be found to subdue the rebels. What, then, is the condition of South Medomsley at the present time? In the morning, and indeed until five o'clock at night, nothing is seen to attract attention, everything is as quiet as the surroundings of a magistrate's villa. About five o'clock, from 100 to 500 people flock to see the farce; presently the tall figures of about a dozen policemen are seen marching in majestic order, and if the spectators look carefully they will see some eight or ten hungry-looking specimens of humanity by their side with downcast countenances and ungainly gait; these they call "blacklegs." One sudden "boo" is raised by the multitude of spectators, the policemen step firmly upon the ice, the "blacklegs" crouch by their side, another and another "boo" is raised until the rows are reached, the "blacklegs" pass to their homes, and the policemen look the mocking multitude in the face as so many sheep startled by some passing dog. This is something like the condition of things when there are no obstacles in the way. But, sir, you should see them when they are about to meet a conveyance, the snow has been lying very thick, and there has been about the width of a cart way cut in the snow, consequently not much room for people to walk. When a cart or rolley was to be passed, the scene was one of wild confusion, policemen and "blacklegs" in the greatest concern about each other's welfare, dodging, rushing, slipping, and tumbling, while the laughing multitude set up ring after ring of derisive laughter, until suddenly, some pleasant looking policeman, with a countenance resembling a thunder cloud, cries out "This is terrible, this is terrible," and if he was speaking of the condition of himself and of his grimy companions. Truly he spoke the truth. But what is the real truth of the startling reports that have been seen in the various newspapers? First, it has been said that a butcher's cart was upset; that is a statement without a foundation, for no such thing ever occurred. Secondly, it is said that a cart load of furniture belonging to a "blackleg" was set on fire; the person who made this statement has genius enough to write a novel. I would suggest that when he does write, he may style his novel "A Strike." If there had been the smell of fire upon the furniture, the policeman would have made "a case," for it is said that he entered a private individual's house without any legal authority. Thirdly, it has been said that the Barrack's windows were riddled with stones; I can say nothing but shame to the barefaced, lying wretch, who made such a base assertion. One hole there is in one pane in one window, and that hole is about two inches diameter, and proof is to be brought forward to show whether it was a policeman or one of the strike hands that did it. Fourthly, it has been said that Mr John Kelly was "ringleader in every hostile demonstration" that has taken place. I wonder what constitutes a hostile demonstration? The valiant men with the number on the side of their neck never had a "hostile demonstration" that they dared go to court with, until the memorable Tuesday night when they lay in three six feet lengths stretched upon the cold snow, sad spectacles of military training (?) I must refrain from giving a description of the small man who brought these two or three huge men down with such force so as to make them believe that they had been hit with stones and snowballs. Mr John Kelly, the accused, was sitting at Leadgate in his brother's house when this, the only "hostile demonstration" worthy of the name of such, took place.

Has Mr John Kelly ever had any provocation from the policemen? Is it true that one of them put his coat off to fight this "ringleader" a short while ago? Is it true that this policeman stood the drops the next morning, and while he did so, apologised to Mr Kelly, thanking him for not flogging him the night before? Is it true that another of these policemen called the wife of Mr Kelly a d—— w——, and when accused of doing so said it was not she whom he meant, but the young girls of the rows? If it was the young girls of the rows, was this saintly friend of the peace speaking from experience—personal, I mean? Is it true that as one of these policemen was rising from his cold, snowy bed on the Tuesday night, on the 2nd inst., that he called the men cowardly b——s for not defending their men? As the most of the people of Dipton believe these statements to be correct, I think it is fair for those whom they may concern to have the privilege of contradicting them if they can; if not—that is if they are true and undeniable, we, as ratepayers, must do our best to lay all the facts of the case before the Authorities of the Quarter Sessions, so as to have our friend a fair, impartial, and judicial hearing. In conclusion, sir, I hope that the manager and men may come to some mutual agreement before long, and that the colliery may become prosperous to all parties.—Yours truly, Dissenter.

Dipton, Feb. 9th, 1886.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—In connection with the above strike I think it most disgraceful on the part of our men, seeing the manner in which they have conducted themselves—viz., forming processions with a cross and corpse—is an insult to the Catholic community at large. Yet some of our enlightened Irishmen headed the march. Hoping they will see to their folly, seeing that the men of South Medomsley are receiving support from their fellow-workmen. It is to be hoped they will conduct themselves in a more respectful manner. What would our forefathers think of such proceedings in the nineteenth century. Hoping you will publish this in your next issue?—Yours, &c., A Workman.

Allendale Cottages.

ALLEGED MISREPRESENTATIONS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Kindly allow me space in your valuable local journal to offer a few remarks upon the present unhappy state of affairs here. I have no desire to interfere with the original cause of the dispute, as that has been already plainly laid before your readers; but when it comes to wholesale misrepresentation of the men, I think it is time both sides of the case were laid before the public.

For some time the public mind has been greatly exercised to know from what source the many exaggerated reports have sprung, but the recent revelations at Lanchester Petty Sessions have set at rest all doubts on that score. As John Kelly is to be tried again at the Quarter Sessions, it would be as well not to say anything about the merits of his case, but we may well be pardoned for asking what Sergt. Tate knew of the affair at all, seeing Bessford swore to the offence having been committed in the morning and Sergt. Tate refers to the evening in question, whilst as a matter of fact the evening had up till then not been mentioned. Sergt. Tate further states he knew Kelly as a "ringleader" in every riotous demonstration, whilst on the Tuesday night—the only occasion on which the police have proven that any disturbance took place—Kelly was in Consett, and not near South Medomsley. I may say that I have known Kelly more years than Sergt. Tate has known him weeks, and I can honestly state I never knew him guilty of an unmanly act, or one that would render him amenable to the laws of his country—not even when challenged to fight by a police-sergeant. And, however "gulliable" Sergt. Tate may have found the magistrates at Lanchester, not one man in Dipton will believe a word he says.

Next we have the astounding evidence of P.C. Neesam, whose ears must be as extensive as his imagination. This officer proceeds to tell us what happened when he reached the new church, whilst it is well-known that he never had his prisoner there, as the affray took place at least fifty yards to the west of the Police Barracks, and the church is at least eighty yards to the east of the Barracks. What would your readers think if the same officer told them he had taken a prisoner at Consett and went by Shotley Bridge in order to lock him up at Blackhill? And yet the one is as preposterous as the other!

Next we have the evidence of P.C. Bain, who following suit to his predecessors, swears to volleys of snowballs and stones being thrown. It would be interesting to know where the stones were obtained, seeing the ground was covered with a foot of frozen snow. Neesam says they were got from the church; but be it known the police were between the church and the crowd, so that theory won't do. Bain further states the mob attacked the front door of the Barracks, and riddled the windows with missiles; whilst all the damage done is one broken pane. The whole affair has only served to bring the force into ill repute, as it says little for those more directly concerned, while it speaks volumes for the lack of sagacity of our local officers that a youth that has grown up under their very nose should unchallenged have passed off as George Lambert, when he had no more right to the name than the Man in the Moon!

There are other little matters in connection with the affair I must leave over for the present. Apologising for the length of this, and thanking you in anticipation.—I am, yours, &c., Justicia.

Dipton, Feb. 9th, 1886.

[We have omitted certain libellous statements in the foregoing letter.—*Ed. C.G.*]

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I ask your kind permission for a small space in your invaluable columns to express myself in relation to the three or four professedly Christian men, who are working at the above colliery, whose conclusions are decisive and rather plausible to a biased mind, but whose principle of action in the dispute at issue appertains to anything rather than moral heroism. To me it appears as a beautiful picture, or example of *moral cowardice*, and I may safely say that those men in question, in spheres of activity, apart from the present one, regard this course of conduct as heineous to an intense degree, and yet they can delude themselves into the belief that they have done their very best to prevent the present state of things. Yet they have at the same time shrunk from doing the only thing that would have been right, and have drifted themselves into doing the very thing in which the greatest wrong lay, in playing into the hands of an illiberal, unjust, despotic, and tyrannical demand, for such I must call it. As it must be conceded to, irrespective of the reasonable, the just, and conciliatory terms of the workmen, or otherwise the pit must be abandoned by them. Now in the face of this state of affairs can there be any wonder that the workmen manifest such detestable howls and yells at the very sight of them (may I say traitors)? If I am not allow to say so, I may say at the sight of the men who have underminded them. Men who just two or three months ago were in the front as the "Leaders of Reform." Men who stood in the front at every effort for the amelioration of the masses within their influence. Men who were receiving the confidence of their fellows on the right and on the left. Men whose voices were heard in strong protest to the conduct of the unjust, unequal, and illiberal measures of the Conservative Administration. What those mens' ideas of Reform can be now will perhaps be known to themselves, at least. But the old scripture truth stands good in this case, viz.—"By their fruits ye shall know them." "Can those men be the salt of the earth?" If so, I think they have "lost the Saviour, and are henceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." To think of the representatives of the light of the world skulking away some bye-road under the bushes to get home out of the sight of their beholders. Oh! How despicable—how contemptible such conduct. Conduct attributable only to moral cowards. Truth and justice, high moral principle, to those men are secondary considerations, and they must become subordinate to gain, interest, position, and an easy job. Oh! What cowardice is this? For men to scheme to be subservient to the unreasonable and unjust demands of such tyranny as manifested in the question at issue. Where can be the comparative moral worth of those men in taking the bread out of the needful childrens' mouths? Those men must have lost their individuality in this case, and there they stand, the butts and whittlings of all the righteous indignation, and contemptous throws and darts. Look at the poor, pitiful spectacles, depreciating themselves, denying themselves the right to stand out like men and assert their absolute and inherent worth for what they are in themselves alone, independent of their mere relative value as fractional parts of that large concourse of people who are suffering from such ignorable treatment. Are not there men to be pitied at this crisis for blindfolding themselves, by apologising, by referring, by qualifying their conduct, as if truth, justice, uprightness and dignity, something unnatural and unlawful. Why is there such a dwarfed and worthless manifestation of the true Christian principle from those who ought to be guides or examples of a high and noble development of moral manhood? It is because they are willing to be led by the nose by a man whose business is self-interest and worldly fame. If those men would follow their exampler and pattern in seeking the true development of the moral principles of the Gospel, as they ought to do, there would be no fear of loosing position or office, however important, would deter them from expressing and maintaining their present course of conduct. For bartering with their moral character, for place, for ease, and money, they may seem to be recompensed; but sooner or later, the recompense will be a just retribution. In conclusion, I say if this world had been wholly peopled with such half vitalised, mental negatives, there would never have been such a creed like Christendom to-day.—Yours, &c., A Diptonian.

Dipton, Feb. 10th, 1886.

Don't Die in the House.—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed-bugs, flies, ants, moles chipmunks, gophers. 7½d. and 1s. boxes at Chemists.

Towle's Pennyroyal and Steel Pills for Females quickly correct all irregularities, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 Stamps by the Maker, E. T. Towle Chemist Nottingham.

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

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

One Box of Clarke's B41 Pills is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional, Gravel, and Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s. 6d. each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address for sixty stamps by the Makers, The Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln. Wholesale Agents, Barclay and Sons, London, and all the Wholesale Houses.

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

THE RECENT SNOWSTORM.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT.

During the past week a rapid thaw set in, and the weather has been exceedingly mild—indeed, the sun has shone brightly every day since Monday. The consequence is that a vast mass of snow has disappeared under the warm atmosphere. The men are still busy carting away the heaps accumulated in the public streets.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

The snow in the district of Annfield Plain is disappearing fast, and the weather is mild at present.

WEARDALE.

There has been no further fall of snow in Weardale up to the end of last week, but the weather is still very severe. The whole of the main roads in the upper part of the dale are not yet open, though a number of men are busily engaged in snow cutting. The communication with Allendale and Alston is still suspended. The grouse are suffering severely, and numbers have been compelled by hunger to desert the moors, and may be seen flying about the outlying farm houses.

BLAYDON LOCAL BOARD.

The ordinary meeting was held in the Board Room, Tyne Street, Blaydon, on Thursday week, Mr Wm. Douglas in the chair.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATES.

The minutes of an informal meeting of the Board were read by the clerk (Mr Dalton), at which the subject for consideration had been that of obtaining resident county magistrates. It had been the custom to have two resident magistrates in the district, but the death of Mr Rd. Laycock left the district without any. The Earl of Durham, Lord-Lieutenant of the county, had been applied to in the matter, and a letter was read from him acknowledging the petition of the Board that he should nominate Col. J. A. Cowen to the Lord Chancellor for the Commission of the Peace. His Lordship stated that he had written to Col. Cowen asking him if he would consent to be nominated, and also that he would be pleased to nominate Col. Cowen and another gentleman, if another suitable person could be suggested. The members of the Board had decided to nominate Mr John F. Simpson, of Hedgefield House, Blaydon.

THE RECENT EPIDEMIC AND THE WATER SUPPLY.

The annual report of the Medical Officer (Dr Brown) dealt exhaustively with the recent alarming epidemic of typhoid fever at Blaydon. The health report for July was a most satisfactory one, but in the first week in August the epidemic broke out in the eastern portion of Blaydon, and in ten days there were 78 persons attacked out of a population of 1,700 persons, while in the other portions of the town only 15 persons out of a population of 900 were attacked. In all, 163 persons were seized with the malady, and 15 deaths came under his notice. As to the cause of the outbreak, to his mind the only solution was found in the water supply to the eastern portion of the district. There were two sources of water supply—one on the hillside to the south and the other on the rising ground to the west of the village—the one being 120 feet and the other 90 feet above the level of the streets. The west reservoir contained water of undoubted purity. The south reservoir was chiefly supplied by water issuing from the old workings of some abandoned coal mines, supplemented by a superficial catch drain. Several of the Winlaton privies were built over shafts communicating with excavated coal measures, and there had always been, in his opinion, a dread of the accumulations in these privies being washed away and mixing more or less with a portion of the water flowing into the reservoir, and, as the contents of some old drains were also known to find their way into the abandoned workings, the same result was still more likely to occur during heavy rains. The catch drain was in an open field near to some houses known as "March's Buildings," of which the ashpits were close to the drain. In March last, there was typhoid fever at these houses, and it was likely that in the first instance heavy rain carrying off the soakage of these ashpits had poisoned the water. The immediate wide diffusion of the disease could only be caused by the water, and the water from Blaydon Burn sluice was solely to blame, only that portion of the village suffering from the disease in the first instance having been supplied with it. He then detailed the measures taken with regard to the water supply and in other ways to check the disease, and prevent, as far as possible, its recurrence, and suggested certain improvements, and expressed the conviction that they would not again have such an alarming outbreak. The general sanitary work during that period had been very considerable, and had been vigorously carried out. Chief prominence must be given to the completion of their water scheme, and the connection of Winlaton with the Blaydon and Ryton joint source at Chopwell. This was a boon, the value of which no words of his could express; and he would be surprised if at any future time he witnessed one-tenth of the mischief and misery he had seen in the past. But much yet remained to be done, for the registrar's returns were not flattering, and he would not be satisfied until the death-rate was 15 or 16 per 1,000 as a maximum. The deaths during the past year had numbered 261, equal to a rate of 21·4 per 1,000. The births had been 490, or a trifle over 40 per 1,000.

The report was adopted.

A NUISANCE AT BLAYDON.

It was agreed, on the motion of Mr Paton, seconded by Mr J. Jenkins, to take proceedings against Mr J. P. Mulcaster, on account of a nuisance existing on his premises (a cow byre) in Garden Street.

WINLATON SEWERAGE.

A large number of tenders for the Winlaton Main Sewerage Extension were received, and it was agreed to hold an adjourned meeting next Thursday to consider them, and make a selection.

The Board adjourned shortly afterwards.

CHESTER-LE-STREET BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

A meeting of this Board was held at the Union Workhouse, on Thursday in last week—Mr T. Robson presiding. There was a full attendance of Guardians.

PROPOSED INFIRMARY NURSE.

Mr Knollys, the Local Government Board Inspector, attended and made certain recommendations to the Guardians respecting the necessity for a nurse being engaged for the Infirmary, and also regarding the supervision of the various wards of the House, which Mr Knollys considered was hardly efficient. He further recommended that the Workhouse Committee should make a more frequent inspection of the House than they do at present.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, assured Mr Knollys that his recommendations should be attentively considered.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE HOUSE.

The Medical Officer's report drew the attention of the Board to the unsanitary condition of the children's day-room of the House, and recommended that more space should be provided.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The meeting then proceeded to the business of the Rural Sanitary Authority.

DR PAGE'S INSPECTION.

Dr Page, Medical Officer, on behalf of the Local Government Board, was present, and read a report of his recent inspection of the Chester-le-Street sanitary district. The object of the inquiry, he explained, had been to ascertain the sanitary condition of the district in reference to the possibility of cholera coming to this country. He recommended that the Board should carry out as speedily as possible the projected water scheme, and hoped that Witton Gilbert would be included in that scheme. At Usworth Colliery he found that the standpipes were not sufficiently numerous to afford a satisfactorily accessible supply of water to the village. Birtley was very defective in the matter of sewerage, and in his opinion there existed a great necessity for an improved system being put in operation there. He found that the proper ventilation of sewers had been overlooked in some parts of the district. He recommended also that the Authority should frame bye-laws in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, in order that the Authority might efficiently undertake the scavenging of those villages where the work was not undertaken by colliery owners. Some dwelling-houses in the district were deficient in spouting, and as a matter of public health it was necessary that the proper spouting of houses should be included in the sanitary requirements of the district.

Dr Page thought it would be well if the Authority obtained the power that was open to them of having plans of proposed buildings submitted to them, by which they would be able to reject any plan that failed to comply with sanitary requirements. There were no permanent means of isolation for infectious diseases in the district of the Authority, and he pointed out the necessity for providing a small cottage hospital as a permanent institution for the district. Such a building might be erected at a small cost, and Dr Page placed plans of suitable constructions at the members' disposal for their consideration.

CONSETT WATER FOR PLAWSWORTH.

A letter was read, and a deputation received, from the village of Plawsworth. The inhabitants wished to be supplied with water, and begged the Authority to include their village in the water scheme which was about to be carried out.

It was decided to write to the Consett Water Company and ask them if they would incorporate Plawsworth with the present scheme at the same cost.

THE SMALLPOX EPEDEMIC AT BIRTLEY.

The following letter was read from Messrs James Joicey and Co:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to call your attention to what we call a gross case of neglect of duty on the part of your medical and sanitary officers. We refer to a case of smallpox at Birtley, where a patient named Armstrong died, and the attendants were authorised by a certificate to leave the premises for their respective homes five days after the burial of the deceased. Two days after, two of them took smallpox in our colliery villages, and we cannot but have a prospect of a smallpox epidemic, as largely contributed to by the action of which we complain. Considering that these officers are appointed for the care of the public health, this case shows them as careless about it, and warrants the administration of your most severe censure.

It was explained that both the Medical Officer and Inspector for the Authority told the people referred to in Messrs Joicey's letter to stay were they were, but they obtained a certificate from Dr Wilson, and on the strength of that they left the alleged infected house and returned to their homes.

The Board decided that the explanation should be sent to Messrs Joicey, and that there was no blame attached to their Medical Officer, Dr Duncan.

It was reported that smallpox still continued at Birtley. The reading-room there had been turned into a hospital, in which at present there were five persons under treatment. The work necessary to the hospital building had been carried out by the Birtley Iron Company. Nine beds had been provided and requisite nurses engaged. Altogether at Birtley there had been 16 cases of the disease, but their were hopes of a speedy eradication, as no fresh case had appeared since Jan. 29th.

The amount expended on behalf of the Birtley Hospital, £25 2s 8d, was passed and ordered to be paid.

This concluded the business.

CONSETT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.

The first annual general meeting of the members of the Consett and District Permanent Benefit Building Society took place in the New Town Hall Buildings, on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of Mr R. W. Shaw, of Villa Real, Leadgate Chairman of the Board of Directors). There was a fair attendance.

The Secretary (Mr Adam Brodie, F.S.A.) read the report and balance-sheet. The report for the year ending December 21st, 1885, submitted by the Directors, was as follows:—

"The year which has just passed has realised the anticipations of your Directors, inasmuch as every fresh enterprise or undertaking must have a commencement, and the first year is almost necessarily placed at a disadvantage respecting the realisation of profits, and in very many similar cases altogether precludes such realisation. During the 12 lunar months in which the society has been in operation, there have been 602 shares taken up, of which number 82 are advanced shares; which, considering the extreme depression which has prevailed, not only in our immediate district, but throughout the county, is considered highly satisfactory. The total income from the investing members reached £644 15s 0d, and there has been £820 advanced on mortgage, the securities held for which are ample and most excellent. The preliminary or formation expenses of the society amounted to £49 3s 4d, including enrolment fees, special advertising, books and stationery, &c., which amount your Directors recommend should be distributed over a period of seven years. Your profit and loss account, after debiting £7 0s 6d (proportion of formation expenses), general expenses—including salaries—£11 16s 3d, and interest on repayment of advances, £0 15s 10d; and crediting interest on advanced shares, £20 15s 9d; rules and pass books, £1 15s 0d; and the balance of bank interest and charges, £0 4s 6d, showing a balance of profit, £3 3s 8d, which it is proposed to carry forward to another year. The smallness of the balance of profit (£3 3s 8d) is accounted for by the funds of the society not being placed during the first half of the year, but your Directors are happy to say that there is now a good demand for money, on the best of securities, and all that is required to make the ensuing year a prosperous one for the society is, that the members should make its prospects—which are undeniably bright—known to their friends. Your Directors, in conclusion, beg to say that all that can be done in the interests of the shareholders, by means of prudent and careful, yet thoroughly liberal management, will be done. "(Signed for the Directors),

"Robert Walton Shaw, Chairman."

The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, stated that in all societies of this description, it was not to be expected that any great profits could be available for division amongst the shareholders in the first year; but they had now got the undertaking fairly floated, and without doubt there was a prosperous career before the society. The investments were of excellent character, and showed a considerable margin in favour of the society, so that the security of the shareholders is ample, and there was every prospect of receiving a handsome return for their money during the ensuing year. (Applause.)

The report and statement of accounts were unanimously adopted.

Messrs J. T. Curry and Septimus Brodie were re-elected auditors, after which the shareholders present tendered their heartiest thanks to the secretary (Mr A. Brodie) for the able and painstaking manner in which he had fulfilled the duties attached to his office since the inauguration of the society.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

"Rough on Corns."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions, 6½d. and 1s. bottles.

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, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemist for "The Mexican Hair Renewer," sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere at 3s. 6d. per Bottle. Wholesale depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road London.

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

Local Police Courts.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, February 21st.—Before MATTHEW KEARNEY, Esq. (chairman), A. H. TREMADGE, Esq., Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE, GEO. G. TAYLOR SMITH, Esq., GEO. HEDLEY, Esq., and Lieut.-Col. A. B. WILBRAHAM.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Morton and *Francis McGregor* were charged by P.C. Minto with being drunk and disorderly by wanting to fight at Annfield Plain, at 6·30 on the 23rd January.—Morton, who had absconded, was fined 10s and costs; McGregor pleaded guilty, and was mulcted in 5s and expenses.

Kezia Moorson, a married woman, hailing from Annfield Plain, having been found by P.C. Thompson in a helpless state of intoxication at Lanchester, at 10·30 on the night of the 19th ult., was taken into custody, and now admitted her guilt.—The Chairman said it was bad enough for a man to get drunk; but it was utterly disgraceful for to see a respectable-looking woman inebriated.—Defendant was fined 5s and 8s 10d Court costs.

A GOOD BEGINNING.

Joseph Patrick McGlade, a man of respectable appearance, was brought up by Sergt. Murphy and charged with being drunk and incapable in Church Street, Consett, at a late hour on the preceding (Wednesday) night. The man had several watches in his possession at the time.—Prisoner pleaded guilty to the offence, and hoped the Bench would treat him with lenience. He explained that it was his intention to commence business in Consett as a watchmaker.—The Chairman, after cautioning the man, let him off on payment of a fine of 5s and the usual costs.

ASSAULTS ON THE POLICE.

Thomas Alderson, miner, was charged with assaulting P.C. Thompson in the exercise of his duty, on January 23rd.—On the Saturday night, the constable was in the act of locking a drunkard up in the village of Lanchester, when defendant rushed at him, caught him by the neck, and knocked the constable down. Whilst they were struggling on the ground, Alderson struck at the officer.—Defendant repudiated the charge, and declared that the officer was telling nothing but lies.—Mr Joseph Towns, the landlord of the Queen's Head Inn, was called, and stated that the defendant was behaving in a disorderly manner outside his house. He saw Alderson clutch the policeman by the neck, and throw him down. Witness did not observe any blows struck; but it was quite possible that bats might be given during the scuffle, as a woman shouted out that "somebody had broken her leg."—Defendant, who expressed a hope that the Magistrates would look over his misconduct, was fined 20s, including costs.

Daniel Floyd, a youth, was accused of assaulting P.C. Eason, at Craghead, on the 17th ult.—On the night in question the officer was proceeding to church, accompanied by his family, when he came upon some young men sliding. After passing them, without saying a word, a snowball struck him on the back of the head with great violence; and he suffered from pain for three or four days after, and he believed there was a stone concealed in the ball.—Defendant admitted that he hit the constable in mistake; and the Bench accepted this view of the case, and discharged him with a caution.

A BATCH OF POACHERS.

William Smith, *Thomas Coates*, and *Clayton* and *John Lumley* (brothers) were charged with poaching on land in the occupation of Lord Durham, on the 13th ult.—P.C. Hadwin discovered the defendants, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, ferriting rabbits in a plantation between Langley Moor Farm and South Moor. The ferrit was in a string. He recognised the men, and pursued them, but they ran away. They were a quarter-of-a-mile from the nearest footpath which skirted the wood.—The gamekeeper attested that there was a large quantity of rabbits, hares, and other game in the neighbourhood.—Mr W. H. Oliver (Durham), who defended, submitted it was a case of mistaken identity. He confessed, however, that the defendants were in that locality at the time mentioned.—Defendants were fined 20s each and 8s costs.

ASSAULTS.

Patrick Carroll, a stalwart Irishman, was summoned for assaulting Mary Crane, at West Stanley.—It was alleged that defendant hit her a violent blow on the face, cutting the flesh and giving her a terrible-looking black eye.—The circumstances arose out of a charge investigated at the last Court, and it appears that a general affray had taken place.—The testimony on both sides was of a conflicting nature, and the Bench dismissed the summons, calling upon the complainant to pay the costs.

Mary Lindon, a married woman, whose left eye was discoloured, appeared to answer a charge of assaulting James Charlton, an old man, at West Stanley, on the 23rd January.—The assault appears to have occurred whilst the parties were in the Commercial Hotel, on the night in question, when the woman spat in complainant's face twice, and picked up a gill glass and threatened to pitch it at his "b—— old head."—The defence was that complainant first threatened to "Clag Mrs Lindon's head up."—Witness were called on both sides.—The Bench dismissed the case—each party to defray their own costs.—Complainant became greatly agitated, and exclaimed, "It's a shame, gentlemen, that I should have to pay."

THE EXCISE ACT.

George Heslop was summoned by P.C. Kettlewell for keeping a dog without a license at Cornsay Colliery, on the 30th December.—It was shown that the dog, which was a stray animal, entered the defendant's pig-cree and gave birth to pups, and consequently could not be driven away.—The officer alleged that when he called at the house on the date named, the dog was lying by the fire in the kitchen.—The Magistrates dismissed the summons.

YOUNG RASCALS.

John Thomas Ullathorne, a lad, was brought up by Sergeant Tranmer charged with vagrancy at West Stanley, by sleeping in cokeovens, on the 28th December.—He was sent to the County Industrial School.

Thomas Rooney, another boy, charged by P.C. Stoker with the same offence, at Consett Iron Works, on January 28th, was remanded to the Workhouse.

A FILTHY BEAST.

Robert Stewart was summoned for refusing to quit the house of Mr John Errington, Ox Inn, Oxhill, on the 23rd ult.—The landlord was obliged to put the defendant out because of his disgusting conduct. He offered to show the landlord what he styled a "clivvor trick"—loose down his trousers and indecently expose himself.—Defendant declared that he was intoxicated at the time, and was not conscious of what he was doing.—He was fined 5s and costs.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Feb. 8th. — Before JOS. PRIESTMAN, Esq. (chairman), JAMES ANNANDALE, Esq., Lieut.-Col. A. B. WILBRAHAM, and J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq.

THE DRUNKEN LIST.

A highly respectable-looking man, named *John Ritson*, was summoned by P.C. Newton for being drunk at Consett on the 20th ult.—About ten o'clock at night, the officer found the defendant going down Delves Lane. Besides being intoxicated, he was shouting and swearing, and also "squared" himself to fight.—Newton, on beight questioned by the defendant, denied that he ever said he would "box" him, or threatened to lock him up.—Defendant admitted the offence, and was fined 5s and costs.

William Jenkins was charged by P.C. Martin with being drunk and disorderly in Front Street, Consett, on the 30th ult. The officer was called into a butcher's shop to eject the defendant because he would not go out.—Defendant, who explained that he was going quietly home, was fined 5s and costs.

An old man, named *Andrew McGlade*, pleaded guilty to a charge, preferred against him by P.C. Martin, of having been found helplessly intoxicated upon the flags in Church Street, Consett, on January 30th, and was similarly fined.

Felix Quinn, a young fellow, was found guilty of drunkenness in Middle Street, Consett, last Saturday evening, and was also mulcted in 5s fine with costs.

Charles Mullen was accused by P.C. Martin of being very drunk and incapable in Church Street, Consett, about one o'clock on the preceding (Sunday) morning.—He was fined 10s 10d, including costs.

Michael McClusky (for whom his wife appeared) was charged, at the instance of P.C. Neesam, with being drunk and disorderly at Consett at midnight on the previous Saturday, and was fined in the sum of 5s and expenses.

Robert Doran failed to surrender to his bail to answer a charge of being inebriated in Front Street, Consett, at 11·30 p.m. on January 25th.—The facts were adduced by P.C. Newton, and defendant was ordered to pay a penalty of 5s, with 10s 10d costs; in default, to be imprisoned for 14 days.

QUARRELSOME NEIGHBOURS AT CONSETT.

Jane Liddell, married, was charged with assaulting another married woman named Jane Bell, in Buddle Street, Delves Lane, Consett, on the 20th of last month.—The parties are neighbours, who have frequently quarrelled. It appeared, from the complainant's statement, that on the date named, she was approaching the defendant's house, when Mrs Liddell rushed out and tossed some tea or coffee grounds in her face. Complainant had not insulted her, or even spoken a word. Defendant then used some filthy language, and said something about Mrs Bell having put her mother out of the house. Mrs Liddell also called her foul names, declaring that she did not know who was the father of her children. Complainant asserted that she was not half so bad as the defendant, as she was living with a man who had another wife. Mrs Bell tossed a door mat at her; and finally drenched her to the skin by some pailsful of water, at the same time calling her "greasy legs," &c. Complainant denied that she had ever turned her old mother out of the house.—Defendant: Was I the first to assault you?—Complainant: Yes.—Defendant (with emphasis): That is a lie. I will bring proof. Mrs Sisterson——The Chairman (interrupting): No, no. We cannot allow you to make a statement now. You can only ask questions.—Complainant: She will swear my life away.—Defendant: Did I toss tea in your face?—Complainant: Yes.—Defendant (excitedly): 'Tis false! 'Tis false! I did not toss it in your face.—Mrs Maxwell was called to substantiate the complainant's statement, and defendant averred that she was not on good terms with this woman, who would swear anything.—Mrs Gowland spoke to seeing Mrs Bell drenched to the skin.—Defendant, in laying her case before the Court, urged that the complainant was the agressive party, as she first insulted her, and this was not the only offence Mrs Bell had committed against her. She had promised one of her little boys some "candy." (Laughter.) Hearing a noise whilst she was getting her breakfast, she went to the door with the teacup in her hand, when the complainant stared her straight in the face, and called her a b—— for harbouring her mother. She also threathened what she would do for defendant, and the latter merely told her to do it. Mrs Liddell then ran into the pantry where the water was standing, and emptying several utensils into the pail, she threw the contents over the complainant. Mrs. Bell also declared that she would get both her (defendant) and her husband turned out of the b—— house. Mrs Liddell came to Consett and stated her case to Sergt. Murphy, who advised her to see Mr Moon, the relieving officer.—Mrs Sisterson stated that a group of women were standing discussing the South Medomsley dispute at the time of the occurrence. Mrs Bell came up and began to indulge in abusive language towards the defendant, accusing the latter of ticing her mother away from her. One of the women told the complainant that if she did not lead a better tongue, they would send her back to South Medomsley with Fredick and the "candymen." (Laughter.) Complainant still insulted the defendant, and the latter threw some water upon her.—Other witnesses having given corroborative evidence, the Bench considered the case proved, and inflicted a fine of 15s, including costs, but refused to make an order regarding the witness's expenses.—There were several lively passages of arms in Court between the contending parties. After hearing the decision, defendant exclaimed, "It's a scandalous shame," and excitedly demanded summonses for assault against complainant and Mrs Maxwell.

VIOLENT ASSAULT AT BLACKHILL.

Anothony Stephenson, master cartman, was summoned for committing an assault upon James Urwin, a labourer in his employment, at Blackhill, on the 30th January.—Dr Carr appeared for the defendant, who admitted his guilt, but pleaded that the offence was committed under great provocation.—Between one and two o'clock on the day referred to, defendant charged the complainant with having stolen about a truss of hay out of his loft. Urwin indignantly disclaimed any knowledge of the theft, and was accompanying the defendant to prove his innocence, when on approaching the back door of the Rose and Crown Inn, in Derwent Street, Stephenson seized hold of him roughly by the jacket collar, thrust his knockles into his throat and nearly dashed his head against the wall, eventually throwing him down. Complainant managed to get up, almost exhausted, when defendant again threw him upon the ground, and jumped upon the "small" of his back, hurting him very much. Stephenson also shouted, "Speak out you b——; or I'll murder you if you don't confess." Later on the same afternoon, defendant caught hold of him by the coat, and tore it in pieces. He attacked complainant three times in one day. Subsequently, Urwin showed Sergt. Cruickshank the marks upon his body.—By Dr Carr: He cleaned out his pig-cree, but he stoutly denied that his injuries were caused by sleeping with the pigs, as he never slept with them. A servant girl at the Rose and Crown had said he had stolen the hay, but she afterwards denied saying any such thing.—Mr J. Young, landlord of the Rose and Crown, saw defendant take Urwin by the neck and fling him down upon the ground. Complainant had been seen coming out of the stable that morning with some hay under his arm, but he proved that it belonged to himself, having obtained it from the Consett Works. Subsequently, witness had to separate the two parties in his bar, otherwise mischief would have arisen between them. Stephenson admitted striking at Urwin.—Sergeant Cruickshank, on visiting the complainant the same afternoon, found him partially doubled up, and suffering great pain. He complained that Stephenson had committed a serious assault upon him. Witness asked the man if he had seen a doctor, and he rejoined "No." He examined Urwin, but did not find any black marks upon his body. There appeared on one of the buttocks, however, an abrasion of the skin, which might have been inflicted by a boot toe. In witness's opinion Urwin was suffering from bodily weakness from want of food as well as from the injuries he had received. He knew the parties well. Defendant was a most respectable man; whilst the other was addicted to drinking.—Dr Carr addressed their Worships in mitigation of the offence.—The Magistrates held that Stephenson had no right to take the law into his own hands, but considering that the costs were exceedingly heavy, amounting to £1 2s, they would merely impose a fine of 2s 6d with the expenses.

WOLSINGHAM COUNTY COURT.

SATURDAY, Feb. 6th.—Before His Honour E. J. MEYNELL (Judge).

A WEARDALE QUARRYMAN'S DEBTS.

Re WILLIAM SCOTT.—William Scott, of Crawleyside, and at present employed at Parson Byers, was ordered to pay 5s per month until 6s in the pound was paid in respect to debts amounting to £46. Defendant owed £40 to Mr Hornsby, his grocer. Scott, who has two children, complained that he had suffered through an accident.

A STANHOPE INSOLVENCY CASE.

COHEN *v.* DODD.—Morris Cohen, of Leeds, brought up Jonathan Dodd, of Stanhope, both jewellers, on a judgment summons.—Defendant declared he was living on the bounty of his son, and was unable to pay.—Plaintiff's agent said he had proof that defendant gave a bill of sale to his son for £40 immediately after judgment had been given against him.—His Honour said he was not satisfied that defendant could pay more than 2s 6d per month, and an order accordingly was made, plaintiff's expenses being disallowed, the Judge telling the latter he might have put in an execution, and then, if an interpleader action were brought by the holder of the bill of sale, the Court could have investigated the title to possession of the holdor of such bill.

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PETTY SESSIONS.—On Wednesday, at Chester-le-Street, *Andrew Leech* (17), a youth of very bad habits, was sent to gaol for a month for stealing a parcel of draperies, &c., value 9s, from the shop of Mr Dixon, confectioner, Chester-le-Street, on the 5th inst.—Three women, named *Ann Dodds*, *Margaret Linksley*, and *Sabina Reicall* were sent to gaol for one month for absconding from the Chester-le-Street Workhouse with clothing the property of the Union. The women said they were tired of being fastened up in a workhouse.

BURNOPFIELD SCIENCE AND ART CLASSES.

A meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall Burnopfield, on Tuesday se'nnight, to distribute the prizes to the successful students of last session. The Chairman of the Committee (Mr J. F. Robinson) presided, and was supported on the platform by Mr Jas. Gilchrist, Marley Hill; Mr Saunders, Leazes House; and the Secretary (Mr George Watson).

The CHAIRMAN gave an address on "The Pleasures and Profits of Science." He said: We are met here this evening to present some of our young friends with the prizes which were promised, on behalf of the Blaydon District Co-operative Society, to those of them who so distinguished themselves in the Government Examinations as to obtain places in the first and second division of merit. This is a work in which Co-operative Societies undoubtedly have many opportunities of furthering; while without doubt Co-operation has done very much towards the increasing of the creature comforts, and improving of the circumstances of its members, there is no reason why it may not—but rather every reason why it should—do something for their mental improvement also. I am not aware, although I have little reason to doubt, but that it is done, that any of the societies in the district are doing so much in this way as the Blaydon Store. And while I am not sure if it may not be feasible to have elementary schools established on a Co-operative system, yet there is no reason to doubt but that much may be done in the way of higher education, and more particularly in the domain of science and art. I think it would be a happy addition to the benefits accruing from Co-operation, as far as regards buying of goods at a cheap rate, if food for the mind could also be produced as cheaply. Perhaps there could not be the tangible dividends paid over every quarter in mental advantages, but there would be a dividend which would be laid up in the minds of its recipients, which would have this advantage over the more material dividends paid by the provision and other departments: that it would be a dividend which, no matter how adverse other circumstances might become, it could never be taken away from those who once had become possessed of it. It is for those and similar reasons that the efforts should be encouraged which are being put forth by some of the members of the Store Committee to bring within the reach of the young men of the district the advantages offered by the Science and Art Department at South Kensington. In addition to the room and gas provided by the society, we have here a number of prizes gained by the young men during last winter's session. I hope that those young men who have so distinguished themselves as to obtain the prizes will feel proud of them. Many of them—in fact all of them—have to labour at their daily work in their various avocations, and no small amount of credit is due to them for the perseverance and determination which impelled them to come night after night (and some from long distances) to study over the (at times) very abstruse problems presented to them by their worthy teachers, Mr Tate and Mr Wood. I do not believe there is a young man here to-night who will receive a prize but will look back in after years with pleasure on the efforts made to obtain it. Virgil, in his Æneid, makes one of the Trogans say, when they were in the midst of some of their difficulties and hardship, "It will be pleasant in future to remember these things." So also will it be with those who have striven for the prizes, and striven so that they have obtained them; they will look back with pleasure on they efforts they have made to succeed. But there are other pleasures besides these of retrospection. Among them is the pleasant sensation that after a session's study they feel themselves to have made progress in knowledge. Every difficulty overcome, every problem solved, every theory satisfactorily established, is a new stepping stone for further advancement. We feel that some new ideas have been developed, some new facts learned, some new sources of pleasure discovered. And this is especially the case in regard to studies in science. To those who are entirely indifferent to science, the world and all things therein is a sealed book. Some of you may have heard of Wordsworth's "Peter Bell," of whom Wordsworth says:—

> "A primrose by the cottage door,
> A yellow primrose was to him,
> And it was nothing more."

But let the student of nature's book find a yellow primrose, and he will probably find sufficient to interest him for a whole summer's day. We are placed in a world which is a world of mysteries; it is the province of science to unravel these mysteries. Take, for example, the chemical mystery of anything you may choose—a stove. The chemist will tell you that this stove is composed of so much oxygen, so much carbon, possibly nitrogen or hydrogen. To the unscientific it is simply a stove. Or take a piece of chalk. Ask an unscientific man what this is? Why, he will say, it is a piece of chalk—anybody can tell you that. Go to the student of geology and ask him. He will tell you it is a deposit formed at the bottom of the sea in a comparatively late geological period, and taking a piece of it and scraping it with a knife into a powder, then washing it, will place it under a microscope, and ask you to look. What do you see? I see things like shells. Whence came they? He will then tell you they are the minute shells of countless billions of what are called diatoms. They flourished in the sea once and died when their shells, which were composed of lime and silica, fell to the bottom, and resting there, built up those stupendous cliffs which form the land on the south coast of England.

> "Were man to live coeval with the sun,
> The patriarch pupil would be learning still,
> And dying, live his lesson still unlearnt."

I might go on to speak of the pleasures which could be derived from a scientific knowledge of astronomy. The knowledge of the laws which govern the stars. Why we are hungry? Why we are sleepy? Why a leaf falls? How a plant grows? Why rubbing a piece of wood tipped with phosphorous on a piece of sand-paper makes a light? Why birds go to a warmer climate and sometimes to a colder on? What is electricity and its laws? Why fresh air is needful to health? What causes wind? &c., and I dare venture to say that no one who learns ever so little about any one of these subjects but will feel himself the better for it. These are some of the pleasures of science. But perhaps some may say we are more concerned here to-night with the profits of science. It is one of the beauties of science that the profits and pleasures of it are very frequently found combined. If any of the students have been enabled to do their work in a more scientific manner, they have made to a certain extent a profit; or if he has learnt to work from a plan, or sketch instead of by "rule of thumb," such a one is more likely to obtain employment than the entirely unscientific one. Not that by any means science without practical efficiency is sufficient of itself. No doubt but that there are hundreds of workmen, and very superior ones, who knows nothing whatever of science. A great deal has been said of late about the falling off in our trade, arising from the fact that many foreign nations are able to make for themselves the things that were formerly made for them here. Some attribute this to the fact that the foreign workman has become more scientific and obtained more technical knowledge than the English workman. If such be the case, the only thing the English workman can do, or at any rate the least he can do, is to try and surpass the foreigner. If the English workman thinks he has a monoply of technical skill he only need to have been at the Paris Exhibition of 1878 and he would have seen the contrary. There is no doubt whatever, but that it is owing to the fact of there having been one of these exhibitions that we are here to-night. The late Prince Consort (to whom Britain owes much in the way of the advancement in science and art), after finding that there was a handsome surplus remaining from the Exhibition of 1851, was one of the principal agents in getting the surplus applied to the purposes of advancement among the people of the knowledge of science and art. The Commissioners purchased an estate at Kensington, and with the assistance of the Government established the South Kensington Museum, and founded the schools of science and art. And there is no doubt but that very much good has been done by it. That many a young man has been enabled by it to vastly improve both his mental and his social position. All will not, nay, cannot become certified managers of collieries, or engineers, or chemists, but at any rate those who attend science and art classes, and so persevere as to obtain the Government certificate of having passed, have their chances of improvement, at any rate, made no worse. I do not think it necessary to pursue the subject further, but let us hope that the stimulus given to the study of science and art by the encouragement afforded to it by the Blaydon District Co-operative Store, may be the means of improving the intellectual and social position of the students who are perseveringly taking advantage of the same. And to those young men who have received prizes of books, I would wish health to enjoy them and much intellectual advantage from the perusal of them. (Applause.)

Mr GILCHRIST, chairman of the Whickham School Board, then presented the prizes, and made a few appropriate remarks on the advantages of a scientific education. The following is a list of those who obtained prizes:—G. Barkus, M. Brabban, W. Charlton, J. Errington, N. Gray, H. Gatiss, P. Guy, W. Johnson, J. Jewitt, M. Lawson, R. H. Nicholson, T. Peacock, J. Pickering, Wm. Starforth, F. Stoker, E. Wilkinson, and W. C. Wood.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman, Mr Gilchrist, Mr Saunders, Mr Watson, and the Blaydon Educational Committee, brought the meeting to a close.

Football.

FIXTURES.

Feb. 13.—Beamish v. Hebburn, at Hebburn Quay.
,, 13.—Tantobie v. North-Eastern, at Newcastle.
,, 13.—Tantobie 2nd v. North-Eastern 2nd, at Newcastle.
,, 13.—South Moor v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, at South Moor.
,, 13.—Crowgate Rovers v. South Moor Rovers, at South Moor.
,, 13.—Consett v. Bishop Auckland, at Bishop Auckland.
,, 13.—Tantobie 2nd v. Hobson Wanderers, at the Hobson.
,, 20.—Medomsley v. Jarrow Swifts, at Jarrow.
,, 20.—South Moor v. Cornsay, at Cornsay.
,, 20.—Dipton Rovers v. Shotley Bridge, at Dipton.
,, 27.—Consett v. Henderson's Wanderers, at Blackhill.
,, 27.—Tantobie v. West End, at West End.
,, 27.—Medomsley v. Middlesbrough Swifts, at Middlesbrough.
,, 27.—South Moor v. Edmondsley, at Edmondsley.
,, 27.—Beamish v. Gateshead Association, at West Pelton.
,, 27.—Crookgate Rovers v. Catchgate Red Stars, at Catchgate.

ESH STAGS v. BELMONT CHURCH.—Played at Esh, when the Stags won by eight goals to nil. Belmont is a new club, and played well. J. Powell was umpire.

CHESTER-LE-STREET EXCELSIOR v. CHESTER MOOR (A.).—Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a victory for the visitors by four goals to nil.

CROOKGATE 2nd v MEDOMSLEY 2nd.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the home team by 4 goals to 1. The goals for the home team were kicked by Jas. Harrison (2), Bell (1), Pace (1).

NORTH-EASTERN JUNIORS v. PRUDHOE ROVERS JUNIORS.—These teams, having previously played a draw in the second round of the Junior Cup competition, met again on the ground of the former to decide which should meet Cheviot in the third round, when the Rovers were declared the victors by one goal to nil.

CHESTER-LE-STREET v. DURHAM TRAINING COLLEGE (A.).—The return match between these clubs was played on Wednesday on the ground of the former. The game resulted in a victory for the home team by three goals to two. In the first half the play was very fast, and the College showed some good play, their passing being much admired.

EDMONDSLEY WHITE STARS v SOUTH MOOR BAD PAYERS.—These teams played on the ground of the former on Saturday. The match resulted, after a quiet and pleasant game, in a win for the visitors by 1 goal to nil. Afterwards the footballers spent a very jolly night.—Teams: Edmondsley White Stars—Goal, J. Farnsworth; full backs, W. and J. Carr; half backs, W. Loates, T. Wake, J. Barras; forwards, T. Hewitt, M. Thornton, W. Mordue, J. Heaton, W. Curry. South Moor Bad Payers—Goal, J. Herron; full backs, A. Graham, T. Neesam; half backs, W. Simpson, W. Mitchell, R. T. Simpson; forwards, A. Johnson, J. Shaw, W. Garthwaite, J. Smith, W. Johnson.

CATCHGATE RED STARS v. MEDOMSLEY.—Played on the Catchgate ground on Saturday. The ground was in a fair condition considerong the late stormy weather. The Medomsley forwards played together splendidly, their passing being magnificent. At half-time Medomsley had scored three goals to their opponents, none. During the second half Medomsley continued to press hard, but nothing more was added to their score. About the finish of the game Catchgate secured a free kick close to goal, from which they scored. The game ended in a victory for Medomsley by 3 goals to 1. The goals for Medomsley were obtained by Dales (2) and Middleton (1), and for Catchgate by Dixon. Medomsley—Goal, J. Hunter; backs, G. W. Beadling, W. Walton; half backs, W. E. Charlton W. Taylor, R. Campbell; forwards, T. D. Dales, G. E. Milburn, —Middleton, A. Little, G. Walton, (captain). The Catchgate names were not obtained.

Sporting Items.

HAMSTERLEY CRICKET CLUB.—The members of theabove club held their annual meeting on Monday night, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Captain, Robert Chaytor; treasurer, Thomas Storey; secretary, John Brown, 57 Hamsterley Colliery, who is open to arrange matches.

POSTPONEMENT OF HEDLEY HILL COURSING MEETING.—This meeting, fixed to be held on Wednesday, and which has already, through the unfortunate capricious weather, been adjourned three times, has again had to suffer a further postponement. The leading promoters of the gathering, having inspected the ground on Saturday afternoon, were decidedly of opinion that it could not be held on the date fixed during the present week; and the secretary, Mr N. Brownless, Hedley Hill, was instructed to intimate to the nominators, the judge, &c., that the meeting would be further adjourned to a date which the promoters would fix when they saw the prospect of the weather becoming more favourable and settled.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT QUEBEC.—The pigeon shooting handicap promoted by Mr John Maddison, of Quebec, who added £3 to a 5s sweep, was commenced on Saturday, and was resumed and brought to a successful conclusion on Monday, in a field near the Hamsteels Colliery Inn at Quebec. There was again a large company—both of competitors and spectators—present. An excellent supply of first-class birds was on hand. Speculation ruled brisk during the afternoon—odds being laid on the gun, backers of the bird, however, leaving off with the best of matters. G. Bell was handicapper, Jones and Rutter trappers, and L. Grey and G. Bell scorekeepers. The stake was divided between Bird of Freedom, E. White, Tillie-fal-lal, Calabar, and Jip, who shot eight birds a-piece.

The Child's Pictorial for February cannot fail to be interesting to children. The stories are written for children and are illustrated throughout. It is pre-eminently a child's book.

The annual general meeting of the Chester-le-Street and District Farmers Club was held at the Lambton Arms Hotel, Chester-le-Street, on Thursday week. Mr G. Burnett, Washington, occupied the chair, and there was a capital attendance of members.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Few persons are so favoured by circumstances, or so fortified by nature, as to enable them to pass unscathed the sore trials of an inclement season. With catarrhs, coughs, and influenzas everywhere abounding, it should be universally known that Holloway's Ointment, diligently rubbed upon the chest, checks the worst assaults of these maladies, and securely wards off more grave and dangerous diseases of the throat and lungs. The truth of this assertion must remain unquestioned in the face of thousands of unimpeachable living witnesses, who have personally derived the utmost possible benefits from this treatment when their present sufferings were appalling, and their future prospects most disheartening. Both remedies act admirably together.

LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Leadgate Local Board was held on Wednesday afternoon, in the Reading-room, and was presided over by Mr R. W. Shaw. Members present: Messrs G. Nicholson, W. Brown, H. Kinleside, J. H. Hudson, L. Nicholson, T. Lammonby, the clerk (Mr M. Coupland), and the surveyor (Mr T. Longstaff).

THE RECREATION GROUND.

The Clerk read correspondence which had passed between the Board and the Consett Iron Company relative to the straightening of the zig-zag fence on the west side of the proposed recreation ground at Leadgate, Mr T. Foreman, the owner of the adjacent property, having expressed his willingness that such a plan should be carried out. The Company's engineer (Mr C. P. Douglas) had inspected the fence, and will report on the contemplated improvements.

THE NEW BOARD-ROOM.

It was reported that the new Board-room and premises were all but ready for occupation; but as there were several items of furnishing, &c., still to be attended to, the members adjourned to the Board-room to take these details into consideration.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr G. NICHOLSON, to vacate that place on the term day (Feb. 14th), and to migrate to the new premises.

THE NEW RAILWAY TO ANNFIELD PLAIN.

The Clerk announced that he had written, as instructed at the last meeting, to Mr Tennant, the general manager of the North-Eastern Railway Company, intimating that as the new line between Consett and Annfield Plain had been partially opened out, the Board would hail with pleasure a notification from him that it is expected to be used for passenger traffic.

The CHAIRMAN (humorously): After that we shall surely get a train.

Mr HUDSON: Yes, an express. (Laughter.)

The Clerk: Well, if not a train, we have drawn a reply from Mr Tennant.—The letter was read as follows:—

Annfield Plain Railway.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your letter of the 15th inst., making an enquiry as to when the Annfield Plain Railway may be expected to be open for passenger traffic.

In reply, I may state that the way leave arrangements under which the railway is held do not provide for the running of passenger trains. Applications have been made to the way leave owners, but some of them seem indisposed to grant the requisite powers without new conditions and additional payments, which would not be justifiable on the part of the Company, and especially as the revenue derivable from passenger trains would, under any circumstances, be very small. Until, therefore, the dissentient way leave owners give their consent to the running of passenger trains, no progress can be made in the consideration of the general question.—I am, yours truly,
H. TENNANT.

M. Coupland, Clerk to Leadgate Local Board.

Mr HUDSON: We are blocked up now.

The CHAIRMAN explained that on two occasions, he accompanied a deputation from that Board to meet the Directors at York to urge upon them the necessity for erecting a goods and passenger station at Leadgate in connection with the new railway. This particular difficulty was never mooted by the Directors, although they must have known then that there were obstacles in the way of making the new line into a passenger one. He (the Chairman) distinctly remembered Mr Tennant saying that the new railway was for the purpose of affording the residents in Annfield Plain and Stanley districts, who at present had no outlet, means of travelling to Newcastle, &c., and not for the benefit of the people of Consett and Leadgate. The Directors might as well have informed them at once that the line could not be used for passenger traffic.

Mr L. NICHOLSON pointed out that they might perhaps make the contemplated new railway from Annfield Plain to Newcastle open for passengers.

Mr HUDSON regarded it as a serious matter. He considered that the people ought to rise in a body and petition Sir George Elliot and the Messrs Hedley Brothers to extend their railway service to this neighbourhood, and adapt them as passenger lines.

Mr ROBSON: An independent railway is much needed.

Mr L. NICHOLSON: Now that Mr Chamberlain is President of the Board of Trade, if the Radicals in the country will only cry out for what they want, they will get it all right. (Laughter.)

Mr HUDSON: But Mr Chamberlain has no control over the North-Eastern Railway Company.

The feeling of the Board was that it would be of no avail to take further action in the matter.

THE PONT BURN SEWERAGE.

A communication from Messrs J. Dodds and Co., solicitors, Stockton, was read, dated 19th January, stating that their letter of the 15th October last, relative to the complaint of sewage running into Pont Burn, had been overlooked, although Mr Coupland had promised to lay the subject before the next meeting of this Board. As they had received no further communication, Messrs Dodds assumed that the complaint had never been brought before the Board, in which case they would advise their clients to stop the nuisance of which they justly complained.

The Clerk explained that he wrote, in reply to that communication, an abstract from the minute passed by the Board relative to this question at the October meeting, and also enclosed a copy of the letter prepared by the Chairman and himself, in accordance with instructions from the Board, the purport being that in consequence of the heavy thunderstorm, the Surveyor reported that the rush of water carried away one end of the settling ponds. The ponds, however, had been put into good working order, and large quantities of sewage and solid matter taken therefrom periodically.

Since he last wrote, the Clerk said he had not received any further word from Messrs Dodds, so that his previous letter had apparently been overlooked.

The CHAIRMAN said if every other party emptying their sewage into the Pont Burn took as much pains as the Board did to purify the same, there would be no trouble, as the settling ponds were working pretty well.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—Accounts will come before you for the following work completed; also for snow cutting and snow-ploughing, there having been a great quantity of snow on the various roads. I had to get the plough out on Sunday, January 24th, to open the road from Iveston to High Woodside, as there was a funeral on that day from Iveston, and the roads were almost impassable, owing to the heavy fall of snow.

Durham Main Road.—A little raking-in and levelling down in the beginning of the month, and then in the latter part of the month snow cutting and ploughing.

Other Roads.—I have had two heaps of slag broken by your day-men from Pont Burnhouse Lanes; on Brooms footpath to the Brooms Schools. I have had ten waggons of ashes carted and laid on. Pontop Pike Lane: 20 yards of slag broken and carted, and part of it laid on, and guttering done. Annfield Lane and Redwell Hills Road: I have had some raking and levelling done in the fore part of the month and all your roads have had the large snow-plough taken over them; also the small snow-plough has travelled over part of the footpaths. The total cost of ploughing and cutting for January was £8 11s 3d.

The Consett Water Company's main water-pipe burst near East Castle Quarry, and has done part damage to the Pontop Pike Road. I expect the Company will repair it, but they had better be written to.

Annexed are the monthly pay-bills:—

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Durham Main Road:						
Manual labour......	2	11	4			
Team do.	1	11	6			
				4	2	10
Other Roads:						
Manual labour......	10	18	8			
Team do.	3	14	3			
				14	12	11
Total..................				18	15	9

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
THOS. LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, February 10th, 1886.

Mr G. NICHOLSON moved, and Mr ROBSON seconded, that the Clerk write to the Consett Water Company calling their attention to the damaged portion of the road by the pipes bursting on Pontop Pike Lane, near East Castle, and urging them to repair the defect forthwith, otherwise they will be responsible for all accidents.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr T. Longstaff) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—Since your last monthly meeting, your district has been covered with snow, and your ashpits and other manure has been exceedingly difficult to cart out; but I expect the refuse will soon be cleared away, as I see part carts are busy running this week.

Gas burnt in January, 259 hours.

The new Board-room is now about completed, and the oilcloth and carpeting is laid down. The new furniture has arrived, and I only await your orders to remove the old furniture and documents from the present Board-room. I think it would be as well if we had the old chest and chairs varnished as they are very bare, and will look exceedingly shabby beside the new articles if left as they are.—I remain, your obedient servant,
T. LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, February 10th, 1886.

The reports were both adopted.

FINANCIAL.

The accounts for the month presented for payment shewed a total of £72 14s 1d, this sum including £52 13s 10d due to the Shotley Bridge Gas Company. The balance in the bank amounted to £181 10s 4d.

It was agreed, on the proposal of Mr BROWN, seconded by Mr HUDSON, to sign cheques in payment of these accounts.

A SUBJECT FOR INVESTIGATION.

Mr HUDSON enquired if the Board levied general district rates on behalf of the following:—Bishop's rents, tithe rents, fee farm rents, royalty rents, and telegraph poles?

The Clerk said that rents were chargeable to the rates. The Bishop's rents were not charged; and he was not cognisant of any fee farm rents in their district. They received rates from the owners of the colliery, but the royalty dues were not included. The Government claimed exemption by special account for the telegraph poles in their district.

Mr HUDSON said the Ecclesiastical Commissioners derived a large revenue by payment of the royalty rents, &c., and he thought the subject ought to be fully enquired into.

The CHAIRMAN observed that their rateable value was decreasing, and if Mr Hudson could devise any means for increasing the taxation of outsiders, so as to relieve the burdens of the people resident in the district, they would be exceedingly happy. He suggested that the Clerk should forward these queries to the *Justice of the Peace*.

The other members of the Board acquiesced.

THE BOARD V. STONER: HOW DID IT LEAK OUT?

Mr ROBSON took exception to a statement in the last report of the Leadgate Board meeting published in the *Guardian* having reference to the recent litigation proceedings between that Board and Mr Henry Stoner. He said it would be inferred from the wording of the paragraph that the Board were not satisfied with the verdict of the magistrates who heard the case, and several members censured the justices for their conduct. Now, this assertion was devoid of truth. Not a single member, as far as he knew, uttered a word of blame regarding the magistrates — in fact the opposite was the case. The discussion arose regarding the engagement of Mr Daglish, solicitor, from Newcastle, to conduct the prosecution; this course being deemed unnecessary. He wished to have the error rectified.

The CHAIRMAN: Then you say the report in the newspaper was incorrect.

Mr ROBSON: I do. There was no reporter present at the meeting; but one came in just as we had risen from our seats and were about to separate. The discussion was finished then, and the reporter could not have heard a single word that passed? I would like to know how such a statement came to appear in the press?

Mr LAMMONBY thought it was ridiculous for that Board to employ a solicitor. When the magistrates had the evidence of their Clerk and Inspector, as well as the statement of the Medical Officer, he considered it a waste of public money to get a solicitor. He could not manufacture the evidence, and he thought the Bench would be satisfied with the testimony of their officers that the meat was unsound.

Mr HUDSON said he found fault with the way the case was defended before the magistrates.

Mr ROBSON said they ought to fathom the mystery as to how the statement came to appear in the *Guardian*. He was astonished when he read the paper.

The CHAIRMAN could not tell.

Neither the Clerk no the Surveyor could throw any light on the subject, the former expressing his surprise at seeing the statement in print. He pointed out that the report was incorrect in one respect—it stated that Stoner was proceeded against for exposing unsound meat, whereas he was only charged with having it on his premises.

Mr HUDSON said he believed he finished the discussion, and he was rather severe upon the magistrates. Perhaps the reporter heard his remarks.

Mr ROBSON averred that this could not be so, as they were in the act of dispersing when the reporter appeared.

Mr HUDSON said that he for one did not think the report was far wrong. He considered it a one-sided case altogether, and his opinion was supported by nearly all outsiders.

Mr G. NICHOLSON: The report will come to be correct just now. (Laughter.)

Mr HUDSON (proceeding) said the decision of the magistrates was against the facts. If Mr Stoner wished to prove that the Board was at fault, he ought to have obtained the services of another doctor, and got him to certify that the meat was fit for human food. He did not do so; hence the singular decision of the magistrates. According to the Act, nobody was supposed to know whether meat was sound or not, except the Medical Officer. Their doctor certified that the meat was unsound. He could not understand it at all.

The Board thereafter adjourned.

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

A SNOW BATTLE.

Rosy cheeks, and sparkling eyes,
Shouts of laughter and surprise;
Now the foe the castle storm,
Round about the rampart swarm.
What doth matter frost and snow
When the blood is in a glow?
Who doth not delight to see
Boys and girls thus merry be?
The besieged, in snowy strife,
Fiercer battle, for dear life;
Fast and thick the snow-shot fly,
Now! the time to "do or die."
See! the castle's toppling o'er,
Laughter louder than before;
Clear young voices, flying curls,
Troops of romping boys and girls.
Prostrate when the castle lies,
The two armies fraternise;
Friends and foes alike are one,
All was but a bit of fun.

MINUTE WRITING

It was thought a wonderful achievement, when Paris was besieged by the Germans, to protograph one side of a newspaper on tissue paper small enough to be enclosed in a tiny quill. A carrier pigeon conveyed the quill out of the beleaguered city to those who read its contents through a magnifying glass.

But neither photography nor the microscope was known in the days of Circero, yet he mentions that the whole of Homer's Iliad had been written on a piece of parchment so small as to be enclosed in a nutshell.

A Frenchman, after years of practising, wrote the four canonical prayers of the Roman Church on one of his finger-nails. He was proud of his exploit, but a poet is mentioned by Pliny who excelled him in the art of minute penmanship. He wrote a couplet in letters of gold, but so minute was the writing that the bit of paper on which it was inscribed was enclosed in the husk of a grain of wheat.

Truly one is tempted to quote the words of Solomon and say "There is nothing new under the sun."

Business Announcements.

FOURTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

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

ESTABLISHED 1830.

FRATER'S MAHOGANY VARNISH.

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

GEORGE FRATER,
PILGRIM STREET, NEWCASTLE.

J. W. DAVISON,

FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

HAS ON SALE, CHEAP,

SEVERAL

THREE AND FOUR-LEAF SCREENS.

THOMAS HODGSON'S

GREAT

CLEARANCE SALE IS NOW GOING ON PREVIOUS TO STOCK-TAKING.

ALL CLASSES OF GOODS WILL BE SOLD AT GREAT REDUCTION.

☞ We ask no more than the kind Inspection of Buyers to see how Desperately Cheap we can Sell in all Departments.

THOMAS HODGSON,
DRAPER AND STOCKING MANUFACTURER,
DERWENT STREET AND DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL. 650v

RE-DONALD BAIN'S STOCK,

AMOUNTING TO £436 19s. 8d.,

PURCHASED FOR CASH, BY

T. A. POTTS,

THE

NEWCASTLE CASH DRAPER.

☞ ON FRIDAY FIRST, THE ABOVE STOCK,

ALONG WITH

SEVERAL TONS OF GOODS FROM OUR CLAYTON STREET SHOPS, WILL BE OFFERED FOR ABSOLUTE AND DETERMINED SALE.

☞ This will be a great chance for the thrifty Housewives of Consett, Blackhill, and District, for the GOODS will all be SOLD at the PRICES MARKED, and no one will be stinted as to quantity as long as they last. 694v

INDIA RUBBER STAMPS,

FOR Endorsing Envelopes, Cheques, and Postal Cards, Heading Notepaper, Marking Linen and Pigeons, Stamping Monograms, Crests, and facsimiles of Signature.

POCKET AND DATING STAMPS,
Price and Pattern Sheets Free on application.
WILLIAM COLDICOTT,
BRIDGEMAN STREET, WALSALL. 783s

ROBERT JACKSON'S

CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY

ESTABLISHMENTS,

59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET

STREET, CONSETT.

☞ AGENT FOR DIPTON:—MR. THOMAS CLARK

SOUTH MEDOMSLEY COTTAGES.

SHEEP DIPS. SHEEP DIPS

THOMAS MILNER,

DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,

☞ THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT

Respectfully draws the attention of Farmers to the TAR ELIXIR PRIZE MEDAL SHEEP DIP

Prepared by Messrs Ness & Co., Darlington, for which he is sole Agent.

PRICE 7s. 6d. PER 100 SHEEP.

Also, the THYMO CRESOL UNIVERSAL PURIFIER, most excellent as a Disinfectant and Wash for Cattle.

Price 6d. and 1s. per Bottle, or 2s. 6d. per Quart.

☞ T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S, MCDOUGALL'S, LITTLE, & CO.'S, JEYE'S, COOPER'S, and WILSON and KITCHEN'S Sheep Dips.

ALTERATIVE CONDITION POWDERS AND PURGING BALLS FOR HORSES.

FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.

☞ HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Milner's Dandelion and Podophyllyn Pills, excellent for the Stomach, and all diseases of the Liver.

Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture.

HOP BARK AND TONIC BITTERS IN 6d. PACKETS.

FINEST COD LIVER OIL. TASTELESS ITALIAN CASTOR OIL.

ORANGE QUININE WINE. QUININE AND IRON TONIC, &c.

CHOLERA AND DIARRHŒA MIXTURE, 1s. per Bottle.

MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON WINE MIXTURE, 1s. PER BOTTLE.

BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.

HAIR RESTORERS' PERFUMES, POMADES,

TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.

SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

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

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, AND CLEANING REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

MILNER, CHEMIST,
OPPOSITE THE POST-OFFICE CONSETT, 964u

VIOLIN.

WANTED PUPILS (Young Ladies preferred). Terms moderate.—Apply, Miss NIXON, Old Police Station, Consett, late of Newcastle. 632v

JAMES NIXON, CARRIAGE PAINTER.

WANTED, CONVEYANCES TO PAINT. Best work guaranteed. Terms moderate.—Address, Old Police Station, Consett. 633v

GREAT CLEARANCE SALE PRIOR TO STOCKTAKING, OF LAMPS, CHANDELIERS, GAS-FITTINGS, AND GENERAL HARDWARE, AT

SANDS AND DOYLE'S
(Late with J. C. HALLIDAY),
3, NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE.
PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS. 581v

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

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

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

H. GUTTERIDGE,

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

REPAIRS DONE ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

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

SPECIAL NOTICE.

EVERY kind of SEWING MACHINE REPAIRED, or taken in PART EXCHANGE for our own. Post Card from any part of the district will receive prompt attention by

THE SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.
NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
CONSETT, AND
JAMES STREET, WEST STANLEY, R.S.O.

Head Office in the District:—16, GRAINGER ST. WEST, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The only Manufacturers of Singers' Celebrated Sewing Machines. 622v

QUEENSLAND.

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

☞ BY STEAMER FOR £7.

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

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

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

For further particulars regarding Passages, Land Laws, and Resources of the Colony, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL, & Co., 109, Leadenhall Street, London, and 12, Renfield Street, Glasgow; or to WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, Queensland Emigration Office, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; or to the Local Agent,

ADAM BRODIE,
529v Town Hall, Consett.

Public Notices.

THE LEADGATE LEEK CLUB will hold their Annual Show at the house of Mr. JOSEPH NOBLE, Commercial Inn, Leadgate, on October 9th, 1886. FIRST MEETING to be held on Saturday, 13th inst., when all Members are requested to attend. [illegible] 706v

Public Notices.

ON hand, at Mrs. A. SHIPLEY'S, 5, Front Street, Consett, a good Stock of Stamped Goods; Fur; Crewelling Patterns; Silks and Wools in great variety; with a New Stock of Macrame Twine, Print Patches, Aprons, Pinafores, Collars, Silk and Wool Squares. Also, a Splendid Choice of Frillings. 645v

RICHARD GIBSON, DECEASED,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that all Debts against the Estate of the late RICHARD GIBSON, of Burnopfield, and all Accounts due to the above Estate, must be sent in on or before the 20th February, to RICHARD GIBSON, Joiner, Hobson Colliery, Burnopfield. 655v

COUNTY PALATINE OF DURHAM.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ANIMALS ACT,

THE TEMPORARY SWINE FEVER DISTRICTS ORDER OF FEBRUARY, 1886 (No. 3369).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that no Public or Private Sale of Swine, Fat or Store, can be lawfully held in the District of the Local Authority of this County after the 31st January inst., except as expressly authorised by the above-named Order.

Licenses for holding Public Sales of Fat Swine may be obtained on application at the Offices of the undersigned, at the Exchequer Buildings, Durham.

Public or Private Sales of Fat or Store Swine may be held without License in places free from disease, if the Swine be themselves also free from disease, and if each Animal has been for 28 days on the Farm or Premises where it is offered for Sale.

Dated this 28th January, 1886.

RALPH SIMEY,
651v Clerk of the Peace.

DURHAM BISHOPRIC ESTATES.

ALL those from whom small Freehold and Copyhold Rents, and Rents for the Allotments upon the Division of Commons, are due to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, are hereby informed that the COMMISSIONERS' AUDITS will be held at our Offices, 81, BONDGATE, Darlington, on MONDAY, the 1st of February; at the VANE ARMS HOTEL, Stockton-on-Tees, on WEDNESDAY, the 3rd; at the TALBOT HOTEL, Bishop Auckland, on THURSDAY, the 4th at MEW'S, in Stanhope, on FRIDAY, the 5th; at the KING'S ARMS INN, St. John's Chapel, on SATURDAY, the 6th; at the BLACK BULL INN, Wolsingham, on TUESDAY, the 9th; at GREENWELL'S, Hamsterley, on WEDNESDAY, the 10th; at MAUGHAN'S, in Evenwood, and LEE'S, in WEST AUCKLAND, on FRIDAY, the 12th; at the BLACK HORSE INN, West Boldon, on MONDAY, the 15th; at the QUEEN'S HEAD INN, Lanchester, on TUESDAY, the 16th; BURN'S LAMBTON ARMS, in Chester-le-Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 17th; at the CROSS INN, in Ryton, on THURSDAY, the 18th; and at the EXCHEQUER OFFICE, in Durham, on SATURDAY, the 20th of February, 1886, for the purpose of receiving the same: and it is particularly requested that all such Rents be paid on the day named for the respective districts.

SMITH & GORE,
Receivers to the said Commissioners,
16, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.,
656v And 81, Bondgate, Darlington.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

PERSONS desiring to join this Association may do so on application to the Secretary of any of the Polling Districts as follows:—

Benfieldside—Mr. JOSEPH ELTRINGHAM, Blackhill.
Burnopfield—Mr. B. MASON, The Hobson.
Castleside—Mr. THOMAS DUCKWORTH, Castleside.
Catchgate—Mr. R. TINDALE, South Pontop.
Consett—Mr. C. ROUTLEDGE, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.
Cornsay—Mr. EDWARD HANDY, Cornsay Colliery, or Mr. J. W. COOK, East Hedleyhope.
Dipton—Mr. J. W. TAYLOR, Wesley Terrace, Dipton.
Edmondbyers—Mr. HENRY BELL, Edmondbyers, or Mr. WM. PEARS, Jeffrie's Rake.
Stanley and Holmside—Mr. WM. INDIAN, West Stanley.
Lanchester—Mr. HENRY DIXON, Lanchester.
Langley Park—Mr. JOHN CLARK, Esh Road, Langley Park.
Leadgate—Mr. THOMAS HALL, East Castle Colliery, or Mr. THOMAS BARRON, Leadgate.
Medomsley—Mr. WILSON CLAYTON, Allendale Cottages.
Ushaw and Quebec—Mr. ERNEST FOSTER, Esh Winning.
Satley—Mr. ROBERT HEDLEY, Satley Villa.
Tanfield.—Mr. WILLIAM BULMER, Tanfield Lea.
West Kyo—Mr. J. W. MACKAY, Catchgate.
White-le-Head—Mr. WILLIAM HARDY, White-le-Head, or to

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Town Hall, Consett, Secretary and Registration Agent. 676v

20,000 MAGNIFICENT PRESENTS TO BE GIVEN AWAY.
NO CHARGE WHATEVER.
MOST IMPORTANT TO THE READERS OF THIS PAPER.

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

FRENCH POCKET TIMEPIECE INDICATOR (PATENTED).

This admirable little article is the size and shape of an ordinary watch; has strong metal cases (gold colour), steel works, balanced action, enamelled dial, crystal glass dome, patent adjusting swivel ring for attaching to watchguards; each denotes solar correct time, and in fact no one, either male or female, should want for a watch when such an opportunity as this offers—a chance will never occur again. The time indicator is warranted for five years. To secure one of these little articles the sum of 1s. 6d. must be forwarded either by Postal Order or 19 Stamps, or two will be sent for 2s. 8d., with the full name and address filled in the form below, and enclosed to the ANGLO-FRENCH JEWELLERY COMPANY, Matlock House, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

Read our grand offer, to every purchaser, for this week only:—To every gentleman purchaser we will Present a handsome Cyprus Gold Fetter-Link Albert Chain. One hundred different patterns. These are very massive and heavy, and in wear, appearance, and pattern are equal to 18c gold chain costing £20. To every lady we will present a superb suite of rich Cyprus Gold Brooch and Earrings of the newest design. These being intended as a free gift to our customers, we were determined to present something new that will delight all.

NONE SOLD WITHOUT THIS COUPON.

CONSETT GUARDIAN.

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

Name ....
Address.......................................
Town...

Please note our only Address—ANGLO-FRENCH JEWELLERY COMPANY, Matlock House, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

The demand for our Timepieces from all parts of the Kingdom being very great, customers will oblige by sending in their orders at once. Orders received after these are sold out will be returned. 686v

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Mr. JOHN JAMES THOMPSON, the REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS for the Sub-District of Lanchester, within the Superintendent Registrar's District of Lanchester, will attend at the following TIMES and PLACES for the REGISTRATION of BIRTHS and DEATHS within such Sub-District, with the approbation of the Registrar-General:

HILL TOP, Public House, Alternate Mondays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
QUEBEC, Public House, Alternate Mondays, from 12 Noon to 1 p.m.
CORNSAY, Public House, Alternate Mondays, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
BLACKHILL, Public House, Alternate Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
LEADGATE, Private House, Alternate Tuesdays, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
MEDOMSLEY, Public House, Alternate Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
WESTWOOD COLLIERY, Private House, Alternate Mondays, from 12 Noon to 2 p.m.
EBCHESTER HILL, Public House, Alternate Mondays, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
CASTLESIDE, Public House, Alternate Tuesdays, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
SATLEY, Public House, Alternate Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
CORNSAY, Public House, Alternate Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 12 Noon.
COWSLEY COTTAGES, Public House, Alternate Thursdays, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
EAST HEDLEYHOPE, Public House, Alternate Thursdays, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
ANNFIELD PLAIN, Private House, Alternate Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
CRAGHEAD, Public House, Alternate Wednesdays, from 12 Noon to 1 p.m.
CONSETT, Public Building, Tuesdays, from 12·30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Also, on Fridays, from 12·30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, Wednesdays, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dated this Eleventh day of February, 1886.

GEORGE ALDER,
Superintendent Registrar.

Public Notices.

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

"MESSIAH!"

SHROVE TUESDAY. 699v

DERWENT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Members of the above Association will be held in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Saturday, the 20th inst., at 7 o'clock in the Evening prompt.

688v W. PALLISAER, Hon. Sec.

NOTICE.

RE JOHN JENKINS, Late of Trafalgar Street, Consett, in the County of Durham, Deceased.

ALL Persons standing indebted to the estate of the above-named deceased are requested to pay the same to me, the undersigned, at my Office, Town Hall, Consett, without delay, as I am the only person authorised to receive the same on behalf of the Assignees of his Book Debts.

703v ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

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

M. RICHLEY, Secretary,
Gas Office, Shotley Bridge. 148v

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Proprietors of this Company will be held at the Company's Offices, Green Street, Shotley Bridge, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of March, 1886, at Twelve o'clock at Noon, to receive the Directors' Report and the Accounts for the past Half-year, to declare a Dividend, and to elect Three Directors and One Auditor, in place of those retiring by rotation.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from 16th day of February, to 2nd day of March.

By order of the Directors,

GEO. PEILE, Chairman.
M. RICHLEY, Secretary.
Gas Office, Shotley Bridge, Feb. 10th, 1886. 687v

BANQUET TO COLONEL WILBRAHAM.

A PUBLIC BANQUET will be given, and an ADDRESS PRESENTED to COLONEL WILBRAHAM, on Wednesday, the 24th February next, in the New Town Hall, Consett.

Dinner will be served punctually at 6 o'clock p.m. Tickets. 3s. each.

Ladies will be admitted after 6·30 p.m., and Refreshments will be supplied to them.

All Dinner Tickets to be applied for on or before Tuesday, the 16th inst.

Ladies Tickets to be had of the Dinner Stewards, viz:—

Mr. R. MURRAY, Benfieldside.
,, G. J. CHRISTOPHER, Consett.
,, J. J. THOMPSON, Lanchester,
,, JOHN HARKNESS, Consett.
,, E. A. RICHARDSON, Blackhill.
,, GEO. FREEK, do.
,, J. S. MURRAY, do.
,, W. SHELL, Jun., do.
,, J. SLOANE, do.
,, M. RICHLEY, do.
,, WM. RAW, do.
,, WILLIAM SHELL, Consett.
,, JOHN W. DAVISON, do.
,, M. WINTER, Leadgate.
,, W. DICKINSON, Shotley Bridge.

GEORGE J. CHRISTOPHER, Consett,
J. J. THOMPSON, Lanchester,
704v Honorary Secretaries.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Short Notice.—Monday, February 15th, 1886.—Medomsley Road, Consett.—Sale of Superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture and Miscellaneous Effects.

ADAM BRODIE is instructed by Mr. ALBERT CARWITHEN, Sewing Machine Agent, who is leaving the District, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on the premises in Medomsley Road, Consett, on Monday, February 15th, 1886, the Superior Mahogany and other Household FURNITURE, as follows:—Beautiful Mahogany Desk Bedstead, nearly new; Handsome Inlaid Centre Table, in Walnut; Kitchen Press; 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating; 6 Kitchen Chairs; Easy Chair; Longsettle; Washstand and Dressing Table; Kitchen Table; Tea Table; Half-Tester Iron Bedstead; Wringing Machine; What-not; Eight-days' Timepiece; Small Timepiece; Shop Desk; Small Desk and Table; Child's Cot; Mattresses; Good Feather Bed; Poss-tub and Staff; Shower Bath; Towel Rail; Swing Glass; Good Floor Oilcloth; Fender, Fireirons, and Tidy, together with the whole Kitchen Utensils, Pots, Pans, and Earthenware, and Miscellaneous effects.

Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt.

☞ As the Owner is leaving the District, there is absolutely no reserve. 701v

Middle Street, Consett.—Re D. Bain & Co., in Bankruptcy.

MR. ADAM BRODIE is instructed by J. M. WINTER, Esq., Trustee of this Estate, to SELL BY AUCTION, in the beginning of March, the whole of the New and Useful FIXTURES and FITTINGS, on the above Premises. Particulars and in Posters and future Advertisements. 702v

ADAM BRODIE & ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, Auctioneers, Valuers, and Estate Agents, Consett, undertake the Sale by Public Auction or otherwise, of Houses and Land, Farming Stocks, Household Furniture, Merchandise, or other Effects, on reasonable terms. Valuations for Probate Dissolution of Partnership, and Settlement of Claims under Fire Insurances, or in disputes. Fire, Life, and Accident Assurances arranged without delay. Shares of every description Bought and Sold on Commission. The Victoria Sale-Rooms are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale.

Postal address—ADAM BRODIE & ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Wood Houses, Dipton.—Saturday, February 13th, 1886.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr. PARKER, who is Emigrating to Australia, will SELL BY AUCTION, as above, all his Valuable Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS. See Bills.

Sale to begin at Half-past One o'clock. 653v

Sharp Notice.—Post Office, Dipton.—Monday, February 15th, 1886.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr. E. MADDISON, will offer for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, as above, the whole of his SALVAGE STOCK OF DRAPERIES, of great variety, BOOTS and SHOES, and a host of other articles, the large Stock damaged to a greater or lesser degree by the recent fire, will be Sold without reserve.

Sale to begin at 12:30.

As the lots are numerous, an early attendance is requested. 705v

CHEAP EMIGRATION.

GREAT REDUCTION IN FARES TO AMERICA, QUEENSLAND, &c.

Liverpool to America, £3 15s. and £4, by the best Lines.

To Australian Colonies at the Lowest Rates.

For reliable information, apply to

269u A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer Dipton.

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

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

PEOPLE that are leaving the District can have their FURNITURE TURNED into CASH, at once, by applying to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 891u

GEORGE R. HOBSON,
AUCTIONEER & VALUER.
OFFICES:—
CATCHGATE, VIA LINTZ GREEN. 220v

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

WEEKLY SALE, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 1886. Entries forward—

27 Dairy Cows and Heifers.
12 Geld Cows.
18 Fat Cattle.
130 Fat Sheep and Hoggs.
Store Cattle, Calves, &c.
Draught Mare, stinted to "Sir William," good worker.
Pulley Blocks.
Myers' Cattle Spice.

Entries to day of Sale.

Sale at 12·30.

Trucks at Station.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Grove Villa, Tow Law. 692v

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 1886.

21 Fat Cattle, including 3 extra Prime West Highland Bullocks, fed by the Earl of Durham.
135 Fat Sheep, 15 of these also from Lord Durham's Pastures.
10 Cows and Heifers.
4 Two-years-old S.H. Bullocks, nearly fat.
2 Young Geld Cows.
2 One-and-half-years old S.H. Heifers.
Calves, Poultry, &c.
7 Strong Store Pigs, 6 months old.
2 Tons of Well-won Old-land Hay.
5 Tons of Swede Turnips.
Butcher's Cart.
Harness, Horse Clothing, Hams, &c.

AT the conclusion of the above Sale, WILL BE SOLD, a Flour Bin and Scoop; Large Oil Tin, with Tap; Gas Pipes and Burners; and a quantity of Staffordshire Ware and Clothes Baskets.

Sale at One o'clock.

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DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES. 374v

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 1886.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

The *Prudhoe Nonconformist* is now five months old, and it continues to wax strong in wisdom and usefulness. The number for the current month contains a complete story, illustrated, "The great bell of Moscow," also illustrated, a biographical sketch of a living celebrity, with portrait. "Rays from the sun of truth," "Lights from other lands," "Our children's portion," besides a deal of interesting literature, that cannot fail to instruct and amuse. It is altogether a wonderful pennyworth, and the young people are sure to take well to it, nor will their more fastidious seniors regret spending an hour in its entertaining pages. The periodical is edited by the Rev Foster Raine, formerly of Shotley Bridge, and I am sure that neither energy nor ability will be wanted to make the publication what it is sure eventually to become—a welcome visitor in many a family circle between the Derwent and the Tyne.

The mild weather in the middle of the present week is a blissful change from the sharp frosty winds of the previous few weeks, which seemed to penetrate both soul and body. I saw the midges dancing in the shady nooks on Wednesday, and my sparrows have gone hence, to feed on the bounties dispensed by a greater hand. One or two of the tribe still linger and do their best to charm me outside of a morning, by the mystic power of song. It is not a very melodious lay, it is true; but all that the songsters expect in return is only a crust of bread, and what could anybody expect for that? One could hardly be expected to sing very sweetly for such a breakfast. But I am easily pleased, and the sparrows seem to know it, besides, I am confident they do their best, and that is about as far as they can be expected to go—

"'Cheer-up! cheer-up!' is all their strain,
But dare ye think 'tis chirp'd in vain,
The bard with gifted pen,
Can do no more, with all his power,
Than sing of hope in sorrow's haur,
To struggling souls of men."

Children are usually very observant, and it is remarkable how they busy themselves with what forms the topic of conversation among their more sedate elders. "Three acres and a cow" is a theme which, for several evenings, had been engrossing my attention; and whilst musing in the fire-light the other evening in the darkening, a little fellow, who was playing with the cat, looked up to me enquiringly and put the question: "Will we get three acres and a cow?" I laughed, for thoughts of so great riches had never entered my unaspiring mind. "Because," continued the juvenile speaker, "I would rather have a cuddy than a cow." He looked as if there was something which he did not care to tell; but after a little coaxing he said: "I dreamt last night there was a cow horning me." "Did she hurt you?" I enquired in a soothing way. "I think she did!" said the wee man, applying his knuckles to his eyes, and holding down, "but I did——(imitating a groan) "to make her think I was dead, so that she would go away and not hurt me any more!" "That was cleverly done," I observed, as I patted him on the head, "You are a brave wee chap; and the first time I go to Tynemouth you'll get half-an-hour's ride on your favourite pegasus—a cuddy."

All genuine lovers of poetry will be pleased to learn that Mr. John Rowell-Waller, of Wallsend, has another volume of poems in the press. This is the fourth volume published by the poet; and the new comer will certainly be by far the best in the budget. The book will be entitled "Rambles and Musings;" and it is expected to be out of the hands of the printers by the end of April. It is only two or three weeks since the volume was announced; and there are only two counties in England from which orders have not already come in, while from the Isle of Wight, and down through the Scottish shires, admirers of song have forwarded their favours. The success of the work is now sure, although "the more the merrier" is a phrase specially applicable in book-making. Mr Waller is a gifted child of song; and his pegasus gallops with much grace over the wide domain of nature, literature and art. The new volume will be illustrated with chaste views of historical beauty spots in the North; and as the poet's fame is already established, it is sure to command a popular circulation, and find a place in the library of many a tasteful reader.

Things are, I am afraid, very dull in the Consett district just now. I met a gentleman this week at a spot about twenty miles from the office of this paper; and knowing that I knew this locality pretty well, he quizzed me about how the iron works were doing, I told him what was quite true, that Consett Iron Works usually worked more regular than any other place in the North or West, but that latterly they had, I understood, been rather slack. The enquirer was one of the unemployed, but he had been promised a fortnight's work at Consett, conditionally that the district trade was in a position to warrant holding a sale in that town. An agent was sent from the city to heave the lead and make soundings; and he returned with a rueful tale of famine in the land. The gentleman referred to lost his post, and the incident illustrates the fact that dull times exert an influence for evil far beyond its original starting point.

There seems to be very little prospect of an early settlement of the dispute in the shipbuilding trade. An important meeting will be held to-day (Thursday), but I am not very hopeful that any satisfactory results will accrue from it. It is a regrettable fact, that neither masters nor men are in a temperament in which men are calculated to "reason together," as it is aptly termed in Holy Writ. I shall be glad indeed if Friday's papers prove my fears to have been groundless; but they have been based on the best of all sources—personal observation. A few days ago I was confident that all would be well instanter, judging from the agreement at Barrow, the men being members of the same Union as the Tyne and Wear Lodges; but these happy anticipations were evidently too sweet to last. The strike hands have received an instalment or two in hard cash; but this applies only to the men who were working when the dispute arose, and not to the members of the society out of employment previous to the strike. It will thus be seen that even should the Union be in a position to dole out strike allowance to its members, it will go but a small way to mitigate the current distress. Few have any conception of the fearful ordeal which many deserving people are passing through, and with neither work nor money it is difficult to realise the truth of the axiom; "Sweet are the uses of adversity."

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

[By "Rambler."]

The Committee of the Consett Relief Fund have, through the kind support promised them by the Consett Iron Company, Limited, and with the assistance of Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., been enabled to arrange for the opening of the soup kitchen on Monday first. The premises are situate in Nelson Street, and subscriptions to the fund will, I have no doubt, be thankfully received by any of the committee, or by the secretary, Mr Adam Brodie, Town Hall. A meeting of the committee was held at the Local Board Offices yesterday (Thursday) evening, at which the preliminaries were completed for launching into this noble undertaking in real earnest.

* *

The Rev Dr Hoopell, Rector of Byers Green, in his lecture describing the "Buried City in the County of Durham—Binchester," expresses his belief that about A.D. 120, the Roman ramparts first rose about Binchester. They made a great road through Catterick, Piercebridge, and then on to Binchester, which was the "buried city" he was speaking of. They went on to Lanchester, where they had a garrison town, and then to Ebchester, where they had another city. At Lanchester the Roman walls are still standing to the height of eight feet, being about the same thickness, and enclosing an area of about six acres.

* *

Active preparations are in progress for the opening of the new Lodge of Freemasons at Consett, and the interesting ceremony will, I understand, be performed at the latter part of March.

* *

The public will see that the Consett and District Choral Society are going to favour us on Shrove Tuesday with the grand old oratoria the "Messiah." This is something fresh, and even "big," for the society, but I suppose they have the work well in hand now. They are bringing popular vocal professionals, as well as instrumentalists, so that everything may be faultlessly performed. Another feature I ought to mention, too, is that the prices are lower than before. This is well, seeing that trade is still dull; but I hope the society will have a brilliant success, as it well deserves to be patronised by citizens of all classes.

* *

It is to be fervently hoped that no more blundering will arise in making the arrangements for the Shotley Bridge Flower Show this year. I see, from the last issue of the *Auckland Chronicle*, that the committee of the Shildon Show has arranged for their annual exhibition to take place on Saturday, August 21st. The Shotley Bridge Committee must fix the date for their show accordingly. It seems a great pity that these two exhibitions, the largest of the kind held in the county of Durham, should "clash" so as to come off on the same date, as they have done two years in succession. This error can at least be rectified for the present season.

* *

Apropos to the Shotley Bridge Floral Exhibition, I notice that the enterprising secretary (Mr Ramsay)—who is the moving spirit of the Society—is extremely anxious that the industrial element should be introduced into this show at their forthcoming occasion. For my part, I fail to see the slightest objection to such an experiment. If the idea fails—I am, of course, not hinting at the Rose Show—it can easily be abandoned, once and for all, but I am confident the addition of such a useful and interesting department will prove an overwhelming success; as a similar exhibition at the Shildon Show is extensively patronised, and has assumed immense dimensions. Peg away, Mr Ramsay, and you will assuredly win the day!

* *

The special police force stationed at South Medomsley, in consequence of the pending dispute, has come in for a large share of abuse from the populace in the locality of Dipton. The police have a most disagreeable duty to perform, and I consider the arrangements of Supt. Oliver in his efforts to maintain something like order have been most admirably planned and faithfully carried out by his surbordinates. Of course, the members of the "force" cannot be expected to act like heaven-born saints under the present peculiar and trying difficulties, and on the other hand they are not the desperadoes that some people would lead us to believe.

* *

The edict has gone forth from the Railway Authorities that the new line between Consett and Annfield Plain is not to be adapted to passenger traffic, by reason of obstacles raised by certain of the way leave owners, through whose grounds the new railway traverses. Well, I suppose we shall have to endure the disappointment as best as we can. It is to be trusted, however, that the North-Eastern Company will in course of time see the numerous advantages that would accrue to the denizens of Annfield Plain if the railway is extended to passenger traffic, and that some day they will be enabled to grant such a concession.

* *

The Consett Local Boord or the Lanchester Guardians will have to look after themselves, else the Leadgate Local Board will soon take the "shine"—to use a vulgar expression—out of them. The members of this body, who have hitherto been accustomed to hold their monthly deliberations in a dingy, dirty looking, and incommodious building, which answers the purpose of a reading-room and a museum of ancient relics, are about to remove to fresh quarters. They have secured a handsome block of premises above the shop lately occupied by Mr R. W. Shaw, centrally situated in Front Street. The rooms have been elaborately furnished and most enthusiastically decorated, and are in addition well lighted, heated, and ventilated, and pre-eminently suited for meeting in once a month. Another advantage is that an office has been obtained for the Clerk and Surveyor—a boon which was much needed.

The Sewerage at Station.—On Tuesday, at the monthly meeting of Hexham Rural Sanitary Authority, Mr S. Pattison presiding, Mr Ralph Thompson, inspector of nuisances, submitted a plan and estimate of the cost of diverting the line of sewer at Prudhoe Station, and a committee was appointed to consult with the ratepayers on the subject.

Mechanics' Institute.—The Mechanics' Institute and Library at Stanhope have instituted a course of lectures, the first of which was held at the Bank Room, on Friday evening, when Dr Hoopell, rector of Byers Green, delivered a lecture on "A Buried City in the County of Durham," namely, the Roman Station at Binchester. Rev Bishop Ryan, rector of Stanhope, presided. The lecturer was of opinion that the Romans had a station at Stanhope, and urged those interested in the subject to make a search in the neighbourhood, and should anything be found he would attend and render all assistance. The lecture was most interesting and instructive. Dr Arnison proposed, and Mr J. G. Bainbridge seconded, a vote of thanks to Dr Hoopell for his services.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

The communication read from the Local Government Board at the last meeting of the Consett Local Board had reference to the re-appointment of Mr W. Rippon as Inspector of Nuisances, and not to Dr Renton, Medical Officer, as stated in our report.

Wesleyan Methodism.—Mr Thos. Harker, of Bishop Auckland, delivered a lecture on "Bunyan's Pilgrim," in the Wesleyan Chapel, Consett, on Monday evening. Mr C. Weaver occupied the chair. Sermons were also preached on Sunday, morning and evening, by Mr Harker, to large congregations.

New Town Hall Company.—The Directors of the Consett New Town Hall Company, Limited, on Tuesday agreed to declare a dividend of 4 per cent. for the past year. The report of the Directors to be submitted to the annual general meeting of shareholders states that in regard to the operations for the past year, the Directors ventured to think—looking at the present very depressed condition of trade in the district—it will be found satisfactory. The shops have all been tenanted during the year; and the large and small halls frequently in use. The net profits for the year are £169 13s 11d, which, together with £25 7s 11d brought forward from last year's account, makes a total of £195 1s 10d to be disposed of. Out of this amount the payment of the dividend of 4 per cent. will absorb £144; and the Directors recommend that a sum of £45 5s be written off the capital account as depreciation of property, and the balance of £5 16s 10d to be carried forward. The retiring directors are Messrs G. Ainsworth, Wm. Aynsley, and J. W. Davison, who are eligible for re-election, as also Mr A. Brodie, the auditor.

BLACKHILL.

Mr. Anderson, evangelist, is at present conducting well attended evangelistic services in the United Free Methodist Chapel, Blackhill.

St. Aidan's Church Choir held their annual tea and social gathering in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside, on Thursday se'nnight.

The *London Gazette* of last Friday night announces that an ecclesiastical grant of £100 has been made to the Incumbent of St. Aidan's, Blackhill; and a capital sum of £1,500 towards the cost of a parsonage.

On Wednesday night, the members of St. Mary's (R.C.) Amateur Dramatic Society, with a number of friends, held a social gathering in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside. After a capital repast had been heartily partaken of, the company enjoyed themselves by indulging in dancing and other pastimes.

Benfieldside Stock Auction Mart.—Messrs Nicholson and Murray sold on Monday 32 fat cattle from £8 7s 6d to £17 10s; 120 fat sheep, 31s to 52s; 2 veal calves, 40s 6d to 47s 6d; 9 cows and heifers, £7 17s 6d to £13 7s 6d; 9 S.H. stirks, £3 11s to £5 5s; 4 geld tows, £5 to £10 15s. Spring cart, £6 5s; pony trap, £5 12s 6d. Sausage machine, 40s. Bran, £4 5s per ton. Hay 80s per ton. Hams, 5d per lb. A large quantity of horse sheets, 4s to 4s 6d each. A fair good trade for fat cattle and sheep, although mutton may be quoted a shade lower than last week. Cows and store cattle a dull trade, and prices low, which may be accounted for by the severe storm, and the probability of fodder being scarce. A large company were present.

Evangelistic Services.—On Sunday last, the Rev W. Spurgeon, of Stourbridge, closed a fortnight's mission at Blacchill, held under the auspices of the Primitive Methodist Society. On the morning and evening of that day, the rev. gentleman preached two eloquent and impressive discourses in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside; while Mr John Ryan, of Shotley Bridge, preached in the afternoon. The spacious building was filled on each occasion. After the congregations attending the several places of worship in the neighbourhood had separated, an experience meeting was conducted by the Rev W. Spurgeon in the Mission Room at Blackhill, when there was a numerous attendance. The labours of the rev. pastor in this locality have been tolerably successful.—On Monday night, Mr Spurgeon delivered a lecture in the Agricultural Hall on the subject of "John Ploughman's Pictures."

LANCHESTER.

Joint Hospital Board.—A special meeting of this body took place at Lanchester yesterday (Thursday) morning. Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, was in the chair, the other members present being Messrs W. H. Hedley, W. Logan, G. Hobson, J. Collinson, Canon Kearney, and the clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).—After some consideration, the Board resolved to recommend to the Rural Sanitary Authority that a married couple, without encumberance, and not exceeding 45 years of age, be engaged as caretakers of the Hospital. The man to be under the control of the Rural Sanitary Authority, who should be asked to pay him 20s per week. He must keep the ashpits, privies, and settling ponds within the Hospital grounds clean and in order.—He must also devote not less than from seven to five o'clock for five days in the week, and from seven to two o'clock on Saturdays, to the work of the Rural Sanitary Authority. When the wife is engaged in nursing, the Hospital Board to find them rations, and she must nurse such a number of patients without additional assistance as the Medical Officer may deem proper. Should the Hospital Board, during an epidemic or for any other cause, require the services of the man entirely within the Hospital and grounds, he must be at their service, and his weekly wage of 20s be paid by them. The engagement to be determined by either party giving to the other one calendar month's notice.—The foregoing report was laid before the Rural Sanitary Authority at their monthly meeting the same afternoon.—Mr Hedley explained, for the benefit of the uninitiated, that it was intended the man should assist Mr Rounthwaite in the performance of his duties, such as attending to the sewers, distributing disinfectants where necessary, and looking after the general sanitary requirements of the whole district, the Inspector's time being much occupied in supervising the Authority's contracts.—After a good deal of discussion, the recommendations were received and adopted.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—Special services were held on Wednesday in the Annfield Plain Primitive Methodist Chapel, as follows:—In the afternoon, a sermon was preached by the Rev Danzy Sheen, of Sunderland, who took for his subject "The happy condition of the righteous," Psalms xcii, 12—"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." The subject was practical and soul-stirring. In the evening, the Rev Danzy Sheen delivered one of his highly-interesting and popular lectures, subject, "Ladies and gentlemen," to a large and appreciative audience. The Rev John Waite occupied the chair. On the motion of Mr P. Reay, seconded by Mr J. Sasbury, the society tendered their best thanks to the Rev D. Sheen for coming amongst them that day to preach and lecture. The speakers looked upon it as a great treat to listen to such men as Mr Sheen, men zealous for the success of the Master's cause.—On being put to the meeting the resolution was carried in great spirit.—The Chairman, in putting it, said he hoped it would not be long before Mr Sheen came back—a remark which was applauded. Mr Sheen, in responding to the vote, said it had been a pleasure to him to meet with Mr Waite in this northern part, and to find him as earnest as in years past. He should be glad to come again when opportunity afforded.—The proceeds were in aid of the trust funds.

DURHAM.

Prize Fight near Durham.—At the Durham Police Court, on Wednesday, *Benjamin Trueman*, charged with being engaged in a prize fight at Morley Wood, near Willington, on Sunday, was bound over for three months, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of Sutton, his opponent.

Death of Mr John Gregson.—Great regret was felt in Durham, yesterday (Thursday), when it became known that Mr John Gregson, an old and much respected inhabitant of the city, had passed away. For the long period of 23 years, Mr Gregson faithfully discharged the duties of relieving officer, registrar of births, &c., to the Durham Board of Guardians. Ill-health compelled him to retire from his posts last year, and the Guardians decided to grant him a pension, but, through some informality, this pension was never paid to him. He has been ailing for a long time past, and died early yesterday (Thursday) morning at his residence in Gilesgate, in his 73rd year.

TOW LAW.

Under the auspices of the Wesleyan Home Mission Society, the Rev. H. F. Smart, of Manchester, delivered an eloquent address on home mission work, in the Wesleyan Chapel, Tow Law, on Thursday se'night. Rev E. Blair Allen read the report and gave a short address. Mr. Vickers, Grove Villa, presided. The audience, by their applause and attention, showed their appreciation of the addresses.

Temperance Address.—Mr George Tomlinson, the well-known secretary of the North of England Temperance League, addressed a large number of juveniles in the Primitive Methodist vestry, Tow Law, on Friday night. He delivered a most interesting and telling address, and received a hearty vote of thanks. Mr T. Robinson presided.

Auction Mart.—The ordinary weekly sale was held at Tow Law, on Monday. There were forward and sold: 24 cows, £10 to £17; heifers, £9 10s to £12 7s 6d; 12 fat cattle, £8 to £16; 80 fat sheep H.B., 35s 6s to 55s; B.F., 38s to 40s 6d; 6 store cattle, £6 to £8; calves, cattle spice, backbands, shoulder chains, halters, harness, cow bands, gripes, shovels, blocks, chaff-cutter, &c. There was a very large company present, trade ruled firm for fat stock, cows at about last week's prices.

Good Templary.—The Tow Law Good Templars—"Beacon of the Hope" Lodge—held their annual party in connection with their reading and amusement rooms in the two large halls of the Mechanics' Institute on Monday night. Music, games, and a distribution of fruit enabled those present to enjoy a pleasant and agreeable evening. Two sketch pieces were performed in a remarkably good style, particularly the piece given by the "Anti-John Barleycorn Christy Minstrels," consisting of thirteen performers. Over 160 members and friends were present.

WEARDALE.

A little girl named Bostock, who lived with her grandmother at Westgate, Weardale, has died from burns.

Mr Ellisworth, of York, is conducting mission services this week at the Wesleyan Chapel, Frosterley.

We are informed on good authority that the lords of the manor (the Ecclesiastical Commissioners) intend to permanently reduce the rents of their tenantry in Weardale at the rentaudit.

Dreadful Accident to a Farmer.—A dreadful accident occurred to Mr John Lee, farmer, Huntshield Ford, Weardale, on Saturday night. Mr Lee was ascending the hay-loft to fodder his stock, when he accidentally slipped and fell through the trapdoor, being caught by the thigh on a stout iron hook fixed in the wall. The limb was fearfully torn, and even the bone was injured. The cries of the wounded man brought needful assistance to remove him from the position in which he was suspended. Dr Bourne, on being summoned, dressed the mangled leg. The injured man is in a very precarious state. Mr Lee is a master washer as well as a farmer. Recently he escaped a dreadful death by being dragged into the crushing mill at Daddry, when he was rescued by being pulled out by sheer force, but with a frightfully crushed hand, which had afterwards to be amputated.

Indignation Meeting of Liberals.—A publicly convened meeting of the Weardale branch of the Barnard Castle District Liberal Association was held on Saturday—Mr J. Featherstone, Wearhead, in the chair, who explained the object of the meeting was to consider the recent slandering of a member in a local Tory organ which had given much pain to Mr J. Thompson, the party accused. Two letters were handed in by the last-named gentleman from Sir J. W. Pease and Mr D. Dale, president of the association, condemning in strong expressions the libel complained of; and expressing sympathy with the aggrieved elector, believing there was not the slightest truth in the vile accusation. (Hear, hear.)—Mr H. F. Carr made a lucid, straightforward statement, setting forth the innocence of participation in the said libel of his relative, Mr J. T. Carr, Tory agent, who had been accused of the joint authorship, a statement which was cordially accepted by all.—A unanimous resolution was passed exonerating Mr J. Thompson, and asserting that there was not the slightest truth in the imputation cast upon him.—Mr Thompson still reserves to himself the right of criminal proceedings or otherwise.—The formation of a permanent Literary Liberal Society was warmly espoused: and the Secretary (Mr J. Coulthard) was instructed to commence a correspondence with several proninent Liberals as to its feasibility and usefulness.

CATCHGATE.

Interesting Presentation.—On Saturday night, a large gathering of members and friends of the society worshipping at the Free Church, Catchgate, held a tea party, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves over a social "cup that cheers but does not inebriate," on the occasion of one of their members, Mr James Cassell, soon intending to emigrate to Australlia. Mr Cassell has been a member in connection with this church for some considerable time. He has been a very quiet, steady, and useful member in his sphere, ever willing and always ready to do his part on all occasions to help forward Christianity. Being a musician, he played the euphonium as an instrument in the choir very frequently. This being a capital choir, there will thus be an opening for some one else to fill up to make this choir complete again. After the tables were cleared away, the company formed themselves into a conversational gathering, and Mr Wm. Rutherford was kindly asked to preside. Having stated the object for which they were met, to do honour to one who had spent a good part of a useful life in the church amongst them as brethren, he said they would feel the loss of such a brother when he was gone. Although he had moved amongst them in an unassuring way, yet he had done some amount of good work in the Christian church as a member, and he thought that the members would not be doing their duty if they allowed Mr Cassell to go away without in some way or other acknowledging his services as an instrumentlist in the chapel choir.—The Chairman at once called upon Mr J. Hoskin to make the presentation. In coming forward to honour one of his members, who had met in his class for so long a time, Mr Hoskin spoke of Brother Cassell in the most feeling terms. He felt deeply to part with one whom he had known as a Christian brother so long, but hoped that his future would be blessed as the past had been, and when this natural life ended, as true worshippers of the living God, they would meet in a happier clime after all the warfare of this life was past, and where they would spend a long eternal day and never say good bye to each other again. At this point, Mr Hoskin, on behalf of his many well-wishers who had subscribed on behalf of the testimonial, was called to present to Mr Cassell of two well-bound volumes of the "Life of Christ," and expressed a hope that they would be a blessing to him when far away on the other side of the globe.—Mr Cassell, in accepting the valuable volumes, tendered his thanks very feelingly, and did not look for his departure being marked with such kindness; but in reading the volumes when far from them, as he was leaving many kind friends behind, he hoped to remember them all, and if he should never see them in the bodily appearance, he hoped that on a happier shore they would meet to part no more.—After several more of the brethren had made a few kind remarks bearing upon the occasion which had called them together, the meeting separated, much good feeling expressed with each other. Mr James Cassell, with his wife and family, will sail on Wednesday next for Australiia.

DIPTON.

The Dispute at South Medomsley.—Latest accounts received to-day (Friday) stated that 100 men and boys are now employed the colliery, and that 20 more coke ovens are in full operation. The workmen will, in all probability, be augmented by fresh arrivals next week.

Collierley School Board.—The monthly meeting was held at the Dipton Board Schools, on Wednesday afternoon. Mr J. A. Curry (chairman) presided, and there were in attendance Messrs W. Robson, M. Martin, H. Holmes, and the clerk (Mr W. W. Thompson).—The business transacted was merely of a routine character.—The heating apparatus, it was stated, was now working satisfactorily.—The attendance of the scholars was reported to be only moderate, owing to the severity of the weather.—The monthly accounts having been passed, the Board adjourned.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

The Primitive Methodists of Close House held a public meeting on Wednesday night in behalf of their home, colonial, and foreign missions.

STANHOPE.

F. W. Vasey, Pearl House, Stanhope, has passed the examination recently held by the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr Jos. Waller, Ferryfield, Stanhope, has been appointed inspector at Messrs Pease's quarries, in the room of the late Mr Geo. Robinson.

Accidents.—Tom Walton, fireman at Newlandside Quarry, was severely jammed between the engine and the waggon. He was removed home and medical attendance was secured. He lies in a critical condition.—John Bainbridge had his foot crushed by a fall of stone, no bones being broken; he his progressing favourably.

WEST STANLEY.

Primitive Methodist Band of Hope.—This society held their third highly-successful entertainment in the School-room, West Stanley, on Saturday evening, and was well patronised by the public, despite the continued unpropitious weather. This is the second occasion on which this little band has cheerfully come forward and averted an otherwise inevitable disappointment. The following programme was gone through with great credit to the performers:—Solo, "Bell Mahone's reply," Mr J. Shield; recitation, "The blind mother," Miss Ann Reay; dialogue, "Mr G—— and Jervis," Masters Harvey and Wood; recitation, "What doest thou here?" Miss Mary Beathem. Mr Geo. Wood, of Boldon, late of Stanley, a young man whose practical sympathy has, for a number of years, been cheerfully given for the furtherance of the temperance cause sang two sacred solos with great zest, and was well received. Recitation, "A little hand," Mr William Johnson; dialogue (temperance), "To be, or not to be," Messrs Baity, Brown, Allison, Kendrick, Wilson, Dixon, and Johnson. This created a great amount of merriment. Solo, "Mill May," Mr John Dixon; recitation, "The man that drinks liquor shall never wed me," Miss E. J. Pace; recitation, "Why Tom Tighton became a teetotaler," Mr T. Wilson; dialogue (temperance), "Father, come home," Messrs Baity, Shield, Dixon, and Dixon, Misses Pace, Coxon, and Watkin. This was again a source of great amusement and thorough enjoyment. Recitation, "Father is coming," Miss J. A. Stephenson. A piece of music, "Father, dear father, come home," was rendered in good style by Misses Watkin and Bailey. Recitation, "The drunken husband," Miss Frances Ridley, was given in a humorous and efficient manner. Mr James Richardson occupied the chair, and made a few very pithy remarks anent the cause of temperance. Mr J. Baity presided at the harmonium in his usual able manner. Special praise is due to the lady portion of the society, on account of the indefatigable zeal and earnestness which characterises their efforts on behalf of the success of this foundling society, the Band of Hope—in fact, there seems to be no lack of earnestness on the part of any to make the society a thorough success.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

St. Cuthbert's Parish Magazine.—The February number of this magazine contains interesting records of the period from 1617 and 1624, a summary of proceedings at St. Cuthbert's during January, gardening in February, simple hints for the preservation of health, supplemented by interesting and instructive articles on various subjects.

The Drink.—At the Shotley Bridge Occasional Court, on Tuesday morning—before Jas. Annandale, Esq., J.P.—*John Dobson*, shoemaker, was brought up by P.C. Neesam for being drunk and incapable at Consett, at midnight on Monday. He was fined 5s and costs; or seven days' in default.—At the same Court, *James Clements*, drawer, was charged by P.C. Martin with drunkenness at Consett on the same occasion, and was similarly dealt with.

Floral and Horticultural Society.—The 36th annual general meeting of the Shotley Bridge Floral and Horticultural Society was held in the Temperance Hall, on Saturday night—Mr Chas. Mosley presiding. The annual report of the secretary (Mr Wm. Ramsay) showed the society to be in a very flourishing condition. It also indicated that their last show had proved a great success, and the secretary suggested the addition of an industrial exhibition, which will be considered at a meeting for the revision of the schedule. The treasurer's report, which was unanimously adopted, showed a balance of £142 16s 7d, and stated that never since the formation of the society had they taken so much money at the gate (£200 19s 6d) as at their last exhibition. The office-bearers for the ensuing year are:—President, Mr John Booth; treasurer, Mr Joshua Lax; secretary, Mr William Ramsay; auditors, Messrs Wm. Wilson and J. Collinson (all being re-elected), with the re-election of the retiring members of the committee. The rules of the society were next considered, the chief alteration to these taking place in Rule III., which on the motion of Mr R. Charlton, seconded by Mr J. G. Cooke, is as follows:—"That no exhibitor shall be considered an amateur who shall grow and dispose of the produce of his garden by sale, as then he makes himself a professional, and shall only be entitled to exhibit in the open class. An amateur may dispose of his surplus stock by sale without disqualification. Anyone carrying on a trade or business on his own account will not be allowed to compete in the cottager's class. Amateurs and cottagers may exhibit in the open class free of extra charge."—The usual vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.—In addition to the above the best thanks of the meeting were also given to Mr A. Houliston for his services in connection with the recent show; and also that the services of the secretary should be recognised by some suitable testimonial, which was referred to the general committee.

Mr Priestman, J.P., and the New Irish Secretary.—Mr Jonathan Priestman, J.P., Shotley Bridge, presiding at a meeting in support of the candidature of Mr John Morley, the new Irish Chief-Secretary, said he was very sorry that his first announcement was to be a disagreeable one. If there were any who had not read it, he must tell them that although this meeting was on behalf of the Right Hon. John Morley, and might be called Mr Morley's meeting, Mr Morley himself was not with them. He had been required, one hardly knew why, though it seemed very strange, to go off to Dublin to perform a mysterious ceremony which was called "being sworn in," poor man. (Laughter.) He had started at four o'clock that afternoon, and would not be able to return till Thursday, but it was certain, unless any accident happened, that he would be in Newcastle for a meeting on Thursday night. He was both sorry and glad to attend a meeting like that—sorry because it was painful to think of Mr Morley having so soon again to experience the trouble and the anxiety of a contested election, but glad because of the proof Mr Morley had given of zeal and courage in consenting, at the request of Mr Gladstone, to undertake the duty which he had undertaken. Ireland appeared to him to be the only question to-day, and for his own part, he was quite willing, and indeed anxious, that other questions should wait, if, by their waiting, it gave them a better chance of securing a true solution for what he might call the great difficulty that had long been a disgrace to our country. (Cheers.) He was himself in Ireland in 1849—in the West of Ireland after the potato famine—and what he saw then had been quite enough to impress him for the rest of his life. If he had believed that the misery which he then saw was the effect of the laws of God, it would have made him unhappy, but he should have had to accept the inevitable. What he had then learned, however, and had read since, had convinced him that the main part of the misery was caused by the laws of man. He rejoiced to see men like Mr Morley willing to risk their comfort, their fame, even their personal safety in what he could not but feel was a heroic enterprise. For many years it had appeared to him that some considerable step of Home Rule was inevitable, and he never could understand the horror that some people seemed to feel about Home Rule. There was no medium course between something like martial law and a very considerable measure of Home Rule, and he hoped the people of Newcastle would give an unequivocal proof of their convictions on the matter by giving Mr Morley an overwhelming majority. (Cheers.)

MARLEY HILL.

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.—The Band of Hope in connection with the above place of worship gave a grand entertainment in the Marley Hill chapel, on Saturday night. The programme consisted of solos, recitations, dialogues, &c., which were rendered in a splendid manner. Mr Richard Shorten, of Sunniside, presided over the meeting. The was a splendid attendance. The following young people took part:—Misses Davison, Lamb, Elliot, Lucock, and Adamson; Masters W. Douglass and J. Bateman; Mr John Wilkinson, Mr John Douglass, Mrs H. Bone, Mr John Bell, Miss Robson, and Miss Douglass also contributed to the evening's enjoyment. Mr J. Smith presided at the harmonium.

TANFIELD LEA.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—The anniversary services in connection with this place of worship at Tanfield Lea, were celebrated as follows:—On Saturday evening, January 30th, a grand service of song, entitled "The river singers," was given by the Lipton Primitive Methodist choir, under the leadership of Mr E. Herdman, to whom great credit is due for the able manner in which the choir acquitted themselves. The readings were very effective, and were given in a nice manner by Mr J. W. Taylor. Miss Hardy presided at the harmonium. After the service of song, a ham and coffee supper was provided, when a goodly number sat down, and did justice to the replenished tables.—On Sunday, January 31st, sermons were preached in the afternoon and evening by Miss Young, of York, a lady evangelist, who has been labouring very successfully for some months past in the Stanley and White-le-Head circuits.—On Sunday last, Mr H. C. Wood, of Burnopfield, preached two impressive and instructive sermons in the afternoon and night, the congregations being good. The proceeds will be given towards liquidating the chapel debt. This society is making a strenuous effort to reduce their liabilities.

WITTON GILBERT.

Singular Accident.—A somewhat singular accident occurred on Tuesday at the farm of Mr Ralph Stoddart, Carr House, near Durham, to a young man named Andrew Oliver, who resides at Half-way House, Witton Gilbert. Oliver, who is not of very strong intellect, but an able and capable fellow physically, was engaged cutting a hedge with a "slasher," when his foot slipped, and the slasher caught him on the back of the head, inflicting a rough gash, almost entirely round the base of his skull, from ear to ear. He was removed to Dr Clark's surgery, at Durham, where his injury was dressed, and he was afterwards conveyed to his home.

BLAYDON.

Col. Rowland has accepted the presidency of the Derwent Rifle Club in the place of Major-general W. P. Collingwood, C. M. G., who is leaving the district.

Literary and Mutual Improvement Socifty.—The usual weekly meeting was held at Blaydon on Thursday week, the president, Mr G. J. Ogilvie, presiding. A very interesting and instructive essay on "Sound" was read by Mr D. Jefferson. A discussion followed, the following members taking part, viz.:—Messrs Vallans, Graham, Dobson, Ridley, Watson, and Wilson, after which the essayist replied.

MEDOMSLEY.

On Monday morning, a hewer named Kerwick, living at Allendale Cottages, had his leg most seriously injured and crushed by a fall of coal in Derwent Colliery at Medomsley.

Opening of a New Orange Lodge.—On Saturday evening, a new Orange lodge was opened at the Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley, in connection with the above district. Bro. A. Young, W.D.M., Bro. J. Hinds, D.S., and Bro. R. Seaton, D.T., attended, and there was a large muster of the brethren about to join the new lodge. It has been felt for some time that the establishment of a lodge at Medomsley was a necessity, as there was a large number of Orangemen in the district. This desire was granted, and the lodge, which is named the Medomsley Purple Star Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 622, was opened. Bro. W. Livingston, P.G.M. of the Northern Province, occupied the chair, and Bro. A. Young, D.M. (Consett), the vice-chair. After business of a routine nature had been disposed of, the officers of the new lodge were installed in their respective offices by the P.G.M. Bro. W. J. Ferguson was installed as the W.M. The greatest enthusiasm was manifested in the proceedings, and in a short time it is expected that this will be one of the largest lodges in the province. The state of Ireland has hastened on the establishment of the lodge.—The Provincial G.M., in a lengthened address on the religious and political questions of the day, gave the brethren every encouragement in the good work. The following motions were carried unanimously:—A resolution, declaring unalterable allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, her heirs and successors (being Protestant), and protesting against any measure termed Home Rule being granted to Ireland, believing that any such measure would be disastrous alike to England and Ireland, was agreed to.—A further resolution tendered sympathy and support to the Irish brethren in their present struggle for the maintenance of the law, and in their opposition to the demands of Mr Parnell and his party. The resolution concluded as follows:—"We look with confidence to the small but determined band of loyalist members from Ulster, led by Bro. Major Saunderson and Bro. W. Johnson in the House of Commons in defending our co-religionists in Ireland, and the integrity of the Empire." The resolutions were carried, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

SWALWELL.

Band of Hope.—A concert was held in connection with the Swalwell Band of Hope on Monday evening, in the school, which was crowded. Songs were sung by Messrs Muller, Pogue, Monrose, and Waugh, of Newcastle, and an address was given by Mr Haley, Newcastle. Prof. C. Waugh, the ventriloquist, gave an entertainment with his models. Mr W. Simpson, Newcastle, occupied the chair, and Mr W. R. Lumley presided at the piano.

BURNOPFIELD.

Capture of Two Thieves.—Early this (Friday) morning, P.C. Rogerson apprehended two men named John Lee (25) and William Harrison (34), miners, Lintz Colliery, on a charge of stealing a quantity of beef from the premises of the Burnopfield Co-operative Stores. Prisoners were lodged in custody at Consett.

C.E.T.S.—The monthly entertainment in connection with the Burnopfield Branch was held on Monday, Feb. 1st. The room was thoroughly crowded when the chairman—Rev P. Hughes (curate)—opened the meeting with a hymn and prayer. Miss M. A. Hinckley commenced the programme by singing "Happy be thy dreams," which she rendered in a creditable style, and received a well-earned applause. Master W. Hindhaugh then recited "Why rob a poor man of his beer?" after which the choir sang "The drunkard's wife." Miss Hinckley reappeared in the song, "The gipsy's warning," which was well appreciated by the audience. Mr T. Smailes then occupied the platform and recited the piece, "Tom Jones and the publican," with great tact and energy. Miss Polly Hindhaugh next sang "Nobody cares for me," in a style which speaks well for the singing powers of this young performer. The novelty of the evening then commenced in the shape of a nigger sketch, entitled "Lodgings to let," and the way "Mosey" (represented by Mr Jolly) made off with the pie and milk only goes further to prove the truth of the saying, "Stolen pleasures are sweet." Great credit is due to Mr Jolly, who is the conductor of this nigger troupe, for the pains he has taken to promote the welfare of this black band, who rendered their sketch to the enjoyment and edification of all present. After the Chairman's remarks, the meeting closed with a hymn and prayer, after which three pledges were taken. Mr G. Hindhaugh presided at the harmonium with his usual ability.

RYTON.

Literary Debating Society.—On Thursday week, Mr R. Moody, Addison Colliery, delivered a very interesting lecture, entitled "The Progress of the Miners of Durham and Northumberland for the last 50 years," exhibiting much reading, close observation, with careful preparation. In the course of the delivery of the lecture Mr Moody was frequently applauded.—A discussion ensued.

CORBRIDGE.

Water Supply.—Mr Isaac Baty, clerk to the Hexham Rural Sanitary Authority, reported to that body on Tuesday, with respect to the Corbridge water supply, that on the 23rd ult. he wrote to the Local Government Board, informing them that Cuthbert's trustees had made fresh demands which the Authority could not see their way at present to accede to, and therefore he was not now in a position to continue to ask their sanction to the Shaw Well scheme being proceeded with.—Dr Maclagan stated that at a meeting of ratepayers at Corbridge on the 1st inst., a report of his with regard to the death-rate of Corbridge was quoted, and it was stated that, with the exception of Shotley Bridge, Corbridge had the lowest death rate in the union—viz., 9 per 1,000. It was a great fallacy, however, to judge of the health of a township upon the death-rate of a single year. The death-rate of places the size of Corbridge could not be depended upon unless you had a series of 20 or 30 years to judge by.

CROOK.

Mechanics' Institute.—On Monday evening, the annual meeting of the members was held at Crook. Satisfactory reports were submitted. Mr W. Turner was re-elected president of the Institute, and the following officers were also elected:—Vice-presidents, Serjeant Smith, Mr R. Robinson, and Mr W. Powell. Mr Edwd. Milburn was re-elected secretary; Messrs J. Joel and Myles Taylor, auditors; Mr A. N. Talbot, treasurer. The members of the committee are as follows:—Messrs Scales, Coates, Jackson, Wilson, T. Buston, Lowther, Armstrong, Burmiss, and W. Buston.

School Board.—The monthly meeting of the Crook School Board was held on Monday evening—Mr T. Douglas presiding. The schoolwarden reported the number on the books in the several schools in the district as 2,743, and the average attendance 1,957, showing a percentage of 71·34. A reduction was made in the staff of Crook Infant School. The death of the Rev Thomas Dod having caused a vacancy on the Board, a vote was taken between Mr Jos. Lax and Mr E. Milburn, with a view of filling up such vacancy. The voting was equal, and the Chairman, decling to give a casting vote, it was decided that the present members constitute the whole Board.

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

A Poet of the Pipe.—It is a pity, I think, that the poet prattles so much of wine and so little of tobacco. As a rule he reserves his seriousness for wine and love and politics and mountain scenery, and vain delights of that sort, and only sings of tobacco, the "Universal Camerado," with a half smile. So I make apology for exhuming a lyric in which the subject is handled with decent gravity:

RONDEAU.

"Pipe of my Soul, our perfumed reverie,
 A mild-eyed and mysterious ecstacy
 In purple whorls and delicate spires ascending,
 Like hope materialised, inquiringly
 Towards the unknown Infinite is wending.
The master-secret of mortality,
 The viewless line this visible life subtending,
 Whilom so dim, grows almost plain to me,
 Pipe of my Soul!

And as the angels come the demons flee,
 Thy artist-influence beautifully blending
 The light that is, the dark that may not be,
 The great Perhaps above all things impending,
 Melts large and luminous into thine and thee,
 Pipe of my Soul!"

Evidently this rhapsody was written by a good and grateful smoker.—*The Magazine of Art.*

The Climate of Palestine.—From its peculiar formation, the country possesses much variety of climate; that of the hill country has been compared with the climate of Italy, while that of the Jordan valley is decidedly tropical. The rainy season usually commences towards the end of October, and last till March, after which the air clears, and for months the bright blue sky is unbroken by a single cloud. The rainy season is still divided into the early and the latter rains, but they are rather a succession of heavy showers than a continuous rain, and the annual rainfall is small, the average of seven years, during which observations have been taken, being only nineteen and a half inches. There are occasional falls of snow at Jerusalem and on the higher hills, but it seldom lies on the ground more than one or two days. Palestine is still visited by those sudden storms which are so frequently alluded to in the Bible, as on the occasion of the battle of Beth-horon, and that of Barak's victory over Jabin, King of Hazor, in the plain of Esdraelon; the storm which caught the disciples on the Lake of Galilee, and that which followed the discomfiture of the priests of Baal beneath Mount Carmel, when Elijah "girded up his loins and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel." The writer was once caught in one of these storms in the plains of Galilee, and a short description of it may interest the reader. Leaving camp one bright cloudless morning with a party of Arabs, his attention was called by his companions to a small cloud in the west, no larger than a man's hand, which, rising rapidly, soon overspread the heavens and burst upon the party. The storm commenced with a furious gale, against which it was barely possible to stand, and this was followed by an almost instantaneous fall in the temperature from 75 degrees to below freezing point, numbing the fingers, and producing all the unpleasant sensations of frost bite; then came a torrent of hail, or rather sharp-broken pieces of ice, which no one could face, and all had to seek such shelter as they could, rolled up in their cloaks on the open plain. We had on this occasion full experience of the Psalmist's words, "He casteth forth his ice like morsels, and who can stand against his cold?" and could realise the effect of those storms which came so opportunely to the assistance of the Israelites on the occasion of the two memorable battles mentioned above. With their backs to the gale the warriors of Joshua and Barak would be in comparative comfort, whilst their opponents would be perfectly paralysed, for no soldier could have notched an arrow or drawn a bow in the face of such a storm as that which has been noticed above.—*The Bible Educator.*

Army Service in the Line.—The recruiting sergeant, so long a familiar figure in fact and fiction, has lost much of his importance in these latter days. The system of recruiting for the Line is now largely carried on at the new brigade depôts, and by the aid of advertisements. Every recruit has to answer certain questions, the most important being, whether he is married, or belongs to any regiment, or is an apprentice, and whether he has ever served in the army or navy. He has also to pass a doctor's examination, that it may be ascertained whether he is what the insurances call, "a good life." Should the recruit select an infantry regiment he enlists for seven years with "the colours" (regular forces), and for five years with the "Army Reserve." If for the Royal Engineers he enlists for eight years and four years respectively; and if for the cavalry he engages to serve eight years in the regular forces, and then to pass for four years into the army of reserve, but he can, if he pleases, enlist for twelve years' army service. At the commencement of his twelfth year of service with the "colours" he can, if well conducted, and a non-commissioned officer, and his commanding officer considers his further services are desirable, re-engage for an additional nine years with the "colours," so as to make a total of twenty-one years' service, when he becomes entitled to a pension for life from eighteenpence to four shillings and sixpence a day, and ceases to be a soldier. Should he happen to be serving abroad when any of his periods of engagement expire, he is sent free of expense to the United Kingdom. If at the expiration of twenty-one years' service he wishes to continue in the army, he may be permitted to do so, but he can at any time after obtain his discharge by giving three months' notice to his commanding officer. A few years ago the soldier often commenced his career somewhat heavily in debt to the Government for part of his outfit; but now he receives, free of charge, a kit containing flannel shirt, gloves, stockings, a comb, hairbrush, knife, fork, shaving brush, pair of boots, &c. He also receives his uniform. These articles are kept up at his own cost, but every year he receives two suits of clothing and two pairs of boots. If in the infantry he receives only one suit. Thus he enters military life. When a soldier receives his first outfit he is given a number, which he retains throughout his service, and which is always before his eyes, for is it not indelibly imprinted upon every article of his kit?—not even his shaving brush and razor escaping. However, the "number invention," a very old one, is a good idea, for although any number of John Joneses may enter a regiment or corps, there can only be one John Jones No. 1250.—*Leisure Hour.*

Jones, getting up from his dinner, in a quiet way remarked to his landlady that he had found everything on the table cold except the ice cream.

"Had drank" is not good English grammar, says a high authority. It certainly is not. "Was drunk" is better grammar and more in accordance with the facts nine times out of ten.

LADIES' COLUMN.

Grand ceremonials, like the opening of Parliament by the Queen in person, occur at such rare intervals that no apology is necessary to readers for taking them back to the subject. The gravity of the political situation has been so great, the national interests at stake so enormous, that contemporary chroniclers have given but little attention to many details interesting especially to ladies. The Queen's dress has been stated by some to have been velvet, by others satin. The Court newsman, who writes under authority, gave it in favour of the latter material. For the first time the new State coach was used, and it is of a plain and sober type, square roofed, and not showy in decoration. The bevelled glass panelling gives a good view of those seated inside, and as it is to be hoped that next year, when the Queen's jubilee is celebrated, she may be induced more frequently to shew herself in public, the new coach will not be too gaudy for use.

In spite of the cushions which raised the Queen considerably, she gave the impression to those who saw her on her way to the Houses of Parliament that she is below the ordinary height of an Englishwoman. The regularity and graciousness of the Queen's bows to each side of the road alternately gave great pleasure to the crowd. Many were heard to compassionate the fatigue which such prolonged swaying of the body must have caused. This exertion is much lessened by the construction of the carriage cushions, which have springs specially made for royal progresses. An amusing illustration of this provision occurred soon after the marriage of the Princess Frederica of Hanover. It will be remembered that there were family dissensions as to the alliance with the Baron who had been the late King's secretary. The Queen, who had countenanced her cousin's choice of being happy after her own fashion, wished the Princess during the first London season after her marriage to appear in society. To facilitate this economically a royal carriage was placed at the disposal of the Princess on great occasions. One day, as a number of guests were leaving the residence of a foreign ambassador in Portland-place, a crowd collected round the door to see the dresses. The royal equipage was soon recognised, and expectation was on tip-toe to see the occupants come down stairs. The Princess, who is one of the most retiring of women, had no wish to cause a sensation, but she was seated on spring cushions and found herself involuntarily bowing first to right, then to left, then to right again, followed by a crowd of enthusiastic people who made the wildest conjectures who the great lady could be.

To return, however, to the Queen's progress. All that her faithful subjects could see as she passed by was a little lady, bowing to both sides, and a shimmer of the jewels in the crown half buried in the mass of white lace lappets flowing over her shoulders, down upon the miniver cloak. It should be placed upon record, the faithfulness of the Queen to the lace made by her own subjects. The rich lace veil worn at the opening of Parliament, fastened on with a diamond crescent, was Devonshire Honiton, the same of which her own wedding dress was made, and those of her daughters and daughters - in - law. It was remarked that the crown was worn very far back on the head. This arrangement would probably make the weight less felt than if the crown were placed near the temples. Experience teaches us all that the centre of the head is better suited to sustain a weight than farther down towards the forehead. Though this crown was made specially for great occasions to spare the Queen fatigue, the art of the jeweller can only go a certain way in lightening the burthen which must be borne.

Rarely have we a declaration of the coming colours in dress so early in the year. The first Drawing Room of the year is generally held about the middle, or towards the end, of February. Sometimes circumstances have postponed it till March. But here we have this year the first display of court dresses. It was, too, on a day most inclement, when the cold wind was by no means tempered to the poor shorn lambs of fashion, who had to come out at noonday in evening bodices, shoulders and arms uncovered. Court trains were not worn on all the dresses. The very narrow space which it was understood could be accorded to each lady as a seat within the House of Lords made a four yards train lavishly trimmed a dreadful charge. Impedimenta these trains might indeed well be called, and they were not *de rigueur*. How grateful the neighbours of the far-seeing ladies felt for the curtailment it is quite unnecessary to add. An eye-witness assures me that pale colours will be the favourites this year, judging by what she saw on the 21st. Strong shades, chiefly varieties of reds, and very brilliant golds, have been the reigning fashions now for two years past. Possibly the change to faint blush pink, watery blue, and the softest primrose is reaction. Above all we have an old light lilac, which is clearly a revival of a bygone shade. With all due deference to several masculine pens, who insist that the ladies wore dresses of mauve, I must correct their error. Mauve was an aniline dye, introduced when science was felicitating herself upon having done something more than nature and put the old vegetable dyes out of countenance. Some of us are old enough to remember how delighted we were with magenta when it first came in, and how it was worn in textiles, ribbons, needlework; even artificial flowers were of the favourite shade. We have lived to see artists shudder when the word magenta was uttered in their hearing, and speak of a woman who wore mauve as of one guilty of an unpardonable crime. No, the fashionable colour is not an aniline dye; it is a vegetable, and to it is given the name petunia. It has one merit, the converse of the feature prominent in magenta—this pleasant colour does not hurt other shades if in their proximity. Blush pink and sky blue are possible in the same room with petunia, and even carpets and furniture are passive; do not appear to fade or become discordant. The dress worn by the Crown Princess of Germany, recently, at the Emperor's Jubilee, was made of petunia plush, though it is a question whether the shade suits ladies who have reached middle life as well as it does young matrons. Some recent brides have had the trained skirts of their dresses made separately, falling from the waist, like a court train. This allows of the dress being worn without the train afterwards, a convenient arrangement. These bridal trains, all draped over with costly lace, are for occasions of ceremony. No one would venture £200 or £300 worth of lace in a ball-room, especially in these days of *valse à trois temps*, when to gyrate with a long court train caught up would be impossible. For ordinary trained skirts several very cunning modes of raising them have been invented. The Paris loops, made of strings of large beads, have been used to put the train through. Others put a hook and eye, concealed by a bunch of flowers; but in every instance the drawing-up must be done at home, it cannot be suddenly improvised in a cloak-room.

Several ball dresses have been made in Paris, empire fashion, short waist, puffed sleeve, plain skirt heavily trimmed round the bottom; but the new feature is the introduction of black crape as it was worn about the years 1790 to 1800. Crape was not then a material used to denote mourning. It was a light textile, like what was afterwards called areophane. It was used to veil satin, especially pink satin, on which it was draped, but very sparingly.

Mourning, as readers will have gathered from the perusal of old novels, consisted of black bombasine, a kind of alpaca, and for better occasions black lutestring. White gauze ribbon was also used, especially a kind afterwards called "love ribbon" on bride's bonnets. The crimped crape of the present day, worn on deep mourning dresses, has only come into established use during the last 30 or 40 years. Already we see the wearing of it in decline. Not only is it sparingly laid on dresses, but the time for which it is worn society has agreed may be shortened. Three months of crape is looked upon as quite sufficient observance for the death of a near relative. For distant relations, outside the immediate family circle, black dresses, black jet, and black tulle are thought to be quite enough. At the end of six months even children change their mourning for their parents into ordinary black dresses, which soon disappear altogether. Probably we shall live to see crape altogether out of use.

The new black crape for ball dresses is really areophane. It is made in an over-skirt for the back, gathered and sewed at the waistband, then gathered again at the bottom and turned in, tacked out of sight on the wrong side. Coloured tulles are also used in the same way, but black over pink is the most novel design.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

HE KNEW HE HAD SUCCEEDED.

Not merely to gratify our sense of the beautiful in form and colour, much less to pander to our baser thoughts and fancies has the rich gift of art been bestowed; its highest work is to inspire within men's minds grand conceptions of all that is noble and good and truly fair. But to do this the artist must be himself inspired.

Dannecker, the German sculptor, occupied eight years upon a marble statue of Christ. He had previously exercised his genius upon subjects taken from the Greek and Roman mythology, and had won a great reputation. The celebrated statue of Ariadne, in the garden of Herr Bethman, at Frankfort, is his work. Critics of art have given him rank with Michael Angelo and Canova.

When he had laboured two years upon his statue of Christ the work was apparently finished. He called into his studio a little girl, and directing her attention to the statue, asked her, "Who is that?" She replied, "A great man." The artist turned away disheartened. His artistic eye had been deceived. He had failed, and his two years of labour were thrown away. But he began anew; and after another year or two had passed he again invited the child into his studio, and repeated the inquiry, "Who is that?" This time he was not disappointed. After looking in silence for awhile, her curiosity deepened into awe and thankfulness, and bursting into tears she said in low and gentle tones, "Suffer little children to come unto Me." It was enough. The untutored instinct of the child had divined his meaning, and he knew that his work was a success.

He believed then, and ever afterward, that he was inspired of God to do that thing. He thought that he had seen a vision of Christ in his solitary vigils and that he had but transferred to the marble the image which the Lord had shewn to him. His rising fame attracted the attention of Napoleon, and he was requested to make a statue of Venus, similar to the Ariadne, for the gallery of the Louvre. He refused, saying, "A man who has seen Christ would commit a sacrilege if he should employ his art in the carving of a Pagan goddess. My art is henceforth a consecrated thing."

JOKING REPLIES TO SILLY QUERIES.

It's all very well to be proud of our own country, but that is no reason why we should imagine, like the foolish questioners referred to below, that the inhabitants of other lands are uncivilised and eccentric. If we do, we shall deserve like them to be chaffed for our ignorance.

A well known American gentleman, Mr. Richard Grant White, while dining at an English country house, was asked by the brother of the hostess, with great earnestness, "Is it true that in America the women sit on juries?"

"Yes," answered Mr. White, in the most matter-of-course way. "All of them who are not on duty as sergeants of dragoons."

For a moment the inquirer was bewildered; then, appreciating the reply, he broke into a hearty laugh.

A Yankee lady while visiting England was complimented by a British officer upon the way in which she spoke the English language, and asked if she was not peculiar in this respect among her country women.

"Oh yes," she answered, with nonchalance; "but then, I have had unusual advantages. There was an English missionary stationed near my tribe."

KING OF CANDY LAND.

I had such a lovely dream last night!
It was truly so fine and grand!
I thought I was king all alone by myself,
Of a land called Candy Land!

I dwelt in the great lemon-coacoanut walls
Of a palace just to my taste;
With its furniture made out of all things nice,
From taffy to jujube paste!

With rarest of candies at every turn,
Obedient slaves would wait,
And my throne was studded with peppermint drops,
And carved out of chocolate!

And Oh! 'twas such fun as I wandered through
Those beautiful rooms alone,
To bite off a morsel of sofa or chair,
Or nibble a bit of throne!

ENTERTAINING THE EGYPTIANS.

Mr. James, in his "Wild Tribes of the Soudan," gives the following description of a magic-lantern entertainment given by him to a crowd of the natives, which must have been quite as amusing to the exhibitor as to the audience:—

On one occasion we exhibited the magic-lantern to the intense delight of a large crowd who came after dinner on purpose to see it, and had never seen anything so wonderful before. We worked the lantern from the inside of a tent, with a sheet hung in front of the door. We always commenced the show by a display of portraits of the Queen and Prince of Wales; these were both very popular, and invariably redemanded.

We had been careful, before leaving England, to choose subjects for the slides that we thought would interest the people; and their exhibition was always successful. The most popular consisted of a series of animals found in Africa, such as the lion, hippopotamus, elephant, &c.; and when we displayed a representation of a man escaping up a tree from a crocodile, with the beast opening and shutting its mouth, and trying to seize him, they fairly shrieked with laughter.

Some of the slides represented the Suez Canal, English scenes, caravans in the desert, African villages, &c.; and all these were explained to them in Arabic, to their intense delight, while the Arabic was translated into their own tongue for the benefit of those that did not understand that language.

As a termination to the entertainment, we sent up one or two rockets, and lighted a Bengal light or two; by which time our reputation as wonderful magicians was fairly established among them. As a hint that the show was over, and that it was time for the crowd to retire, we hit upon the expedient of conducting the sheik, by the light of a Bengal light, to his horse, which was waiting for him outside our zareba. The result was a most happy one; a veritable stampede took place, and the camp was cleared in less than five minutes.

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—My whole is to feel pain; beheaded, I am a market; change my head and I am a conveyance; again, and I am an arrow; behead me, and I am part of the verb to be.

2.—Whole, I am hard; beheaded, I am either harsh or sweet; again, and I am alone.

3.—Ten letters. My 1, 6, 4 a limb; my 7, 9, 4 a piece of wood; my 3, 2, 10 an adverb of time; my 5, 8, 2, 10 a verb of motion; and my whole a poet.

4.—Buried Rivers.—When I left her, I worked energetically (two). Miss C. held tight to the post. He at once rose in extreme confusion. Do you see that bridge? We are going as far as that (two). I'm quite as well as ever now.

5.—My whole a game of cards will name;
Behead, to hearken I lay claim;
Behead again, and then transpose,
An easy posture will disclose.

6.—Curtail caution and leave a vehicle; perplexity, and leave a fragment; a measure, and leave pointed instrument; price, and leave an animal; chief, and leave precise; an allowance in weight, and leave a sailor; a restraint, and leave an animal; a slight colouring, and leave a metal.

7.—Charade.

I heard a minstrel maiden sing,
All on a winter's day,
Singing of a first to give,
A first to give away.
Woe is me, woe's the day
I listened to her charming lay,
For first and second fled from me
Upon that fateful day.
My whole a flower would bring to view
Should I this puzzle solve for you.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1. Cardiff, Stone, Oxford, Oldham, Sunderland. 2. Beaver, brave, rave, beer. 3. Summer-house. 4. Clink, link, ink. 5. Chair, hair, air. 6. Diamond.

7.	8.	9.
MIRA	OVAL	CITE
IRON	VILE	IRON
ROME	ALES	TOLD
ANEW	LESS	ENDS

A young lad, whose teacher is rather free with the rod, remarked the other day that, "they had too many hollerdays at their school."

"My son," said Willie's parent, didactically, "if you try to do more than one thing at a time you can't do anything well." "Oh, yes, I can," answered the young gnostic, with the triumphant assurance arising from practical proof: "I've tried. I did three things, and did 'em all well! I swung on the gate, and whistled, and threw a brick at Jimmie Dinsmore; and I hit him, too."

AN "OLD MAID'S" TROUBLE.

"It's somebody's birthday to-day, Aunt Mary."

Clear and shrill, above the ordinary turmoil of the noisy breakfast table, rose up George Grey's voice. Aunt Mary went on buttering interminable slices of bread for the rosy-faced twins, Lucy and Louise, but Lily, who was just old enough to begin to observe things, noticed the deep tinge of colour spreading over her down-bent brow.

"Somebody's birthday!" Willie took up the refrain. "And somebody is forty years old to-day! Oh, my! ain't Aunt Mary getting to be an old maid?"

"Willie, hush!" said Mary. "How dare you be so impertinent?"

But all the time in her fourteen-year-old mind rose up the thought, "Forty years old! Is Aunt Mary really such an antediluvian as *that!* Goodness me! she'll have to take to cap and spectacles soon!"

At last Aunt Mary went to her room. Lily was busy practising her music lesson; the boys were safely off to school, and little Lucy and Louie, in there crimson frocks and hoods, were "rolling hoop" on the sunny pavement in front of the house. There was a moment's time for peace and rest. Aunt Mary could put into water the flowers which Mr. Grey liked to see about the house, and which he regularly sent in every day. She could rearrange the dark gold hair which George had pulled down in his last bearlike kiss; she could finish the reading of the psalm which Louie's piteous calls to bandage a cut finger had interrupted before breakfast; in short, to use a convenient expression, she could "take a long breath."

And the first thing she did was to walk up to the muslin-draped dressing table and take a good long look into the glass.

Forty years old! Yes, it was quite true. Yet it seemed only yesterday that she had passed the rubicon of thirty! And those last ten years had glided away like a dream in the care of her cousin's children,—those ten years in which the one or two silver threads had stolen into her golden braids, and the almost invisible crows of time had printed the network of their tiny feet around her soft hazel-brown eyes. She had only intended to remain a few weeks when she came to attend the deathbed of Nellie Grey,—she was here still. And, after all, what had she to show for all those years?

"The children love me," she thought; "and George says that I make the home an ideal one for him. Surely I should be satisfied with *that*, even if, as Willie said to-day, I *am* getting to be—an old maid!"

Mary tried to smile as she uttered the words to herself—but, in spite of herself, there was a certain bitterness in the smile. No woman likes to realize that Father Time is swinging his scythe above the fair roses and lilies of her youth. Why should she care, however, as long as George was happy and all the children loved her?

Even while she stood at the mirror a cloud had stolen over the sweetness of the morning sunshine,—a sad October wind bearing fallen leaves and dust on its pinions moaned through the street. With maternal care, Mary ran down to call the children in. Old Mrs. Sharptongue met her on the door-step.

"It's *you*, is it?" said she. "Thought I'd just step in, as I went by, and tell you what bargains there was in winter dress goods at Gowner's. I'm going to buy a dress for myself and shawls for my sisters up in the country. Better go and look at 'em."

"Thank you," said Mary; "but Mr. Grey does not like me to look after bargains. He says there is almost always something objectional about them. He believes in giving a fair price for a good article."

Mrs. Sharptongue snuffed up her Roman nose.

"Men know nothing about such things," said she—"by the way, Mary, Mrs. Milton wants an agreeable middle-aged companion to make herself generally useful about the house."

"Does she?"—Mary lifted her eyebrows.

"I thought perhaps the place might suit *you*," apologetically remarked the old lady.

"I hope I am agreeable," said Mary, laughing; "but, as for being middle-aged——"

She stopped abruptly. After all, what else was she? The tell-tale blood suffused her face in an instant, and she finished her sentence rather abruptly—

"And I do not see how Mrs. Milton's wants can possibly concern *me*."

"Since Mr. Grey intends to marry again," nodded Mrs. Sharptongue, "I thought——"

"What!" Mary was as pale now as she had been crimson before. "Mr. Grey marry again! It isn't true!"

And then she was vexed with herself at the degree of emotion that she had evinced, especially as Mrs. Sharptongue's owlish gray eyes were fixed curiously upon her face.

"It *is* true though," said the old woman. "Mrs. Fox told me. And he told *her*."

"Oh, then it is all right," said Mary, struggling after her lost composure. "I dare say he will tell me in good time. Will you excuse me if I call the children now? The wind is blowing up cold, and Lucy is inclined to be croupy."

"And perhaps if I wait any longer the bargains at Gowner's will be gone," said the old lady, alertly. "Good-bye, Mary. You'd better think twice about that situation at Mrs. Milton's before you make up your mind. Genteel places as good as hers ain't to be had every day."

Poor Mary! She called in the little girls and set them writing copies in the warm, cheerful school-room, gave the cook her orders, and stopped to chide the waitress for careless handling of the silver before she locked herself into her room to weep her heart out.

Alas, how closely do the trails and the trivialities of life go hand in hand!

In all her anticipations of evil she had never thought of *this*. A step-mother over impulsive Willie and tender-hearted Lily, and the dear, troublesome, loving little twins whom she was quite sure that nobody but herself could understand and manage. How could George be so heartless? Had she failed in her duty? Had she neglected to surround Mr. Grey's path with the sweet home happiness which he appreciated so fully? Was she, at forty years old, to be set aside, her place filled with some giggling, pink-cheeked school-girl, who would first teach the children to forget "Aunt Grey" and then make them miserable?

If these young Greys had been Mary's own children she could not more bitterly have resented this thing in their behalf. It was of them that she most thought, —for them that her tears fell with the bitterest profusion. But through it all there was the keen pang of unacknowledged jealousy for herself. She had given up her youth and prime to George and his children,—and now he had forgotten it all.

She was rather pale and silent when Mr. Grey came home to dinner,—and she thought that he also was inclined to be a little *distrait*. But when the little folks were in bed, and Lily and her brother had gone to a children's party next door, George came to the table, where Mary was darning stockings for the twins, who galloped through two or three pairs a month on an average.

"Mary," said he, "I promised Mr. Moss to give you this letter. He wanted me to promise that I would advocate his cause with you, also, but I couldn't do that. I said I would leave the matter to your own consideration. And I do so."

Mary read the letter slowly. It was an offer of marriage from the elderly curate of the church which they attended,—a sensible, straight-forward statement that he loved and respected her above all other women, and would gladly make her his wife. As she perused the lines, Mr. Grey's eyes studied her face intently.

"Well?" he said, as she laid down the paper, with slightly heightened colour; "is it to be yes or no?"

"It is to be no, most decidedly!"

"Without prejudice or bias?"

"Without prejudice or bias."

"You cannot teach yourself to love Mr. Moss?"

"No, certainly not," she declared.

Grey's face lighted up with sudden brilliance.

"Then Mary," he said, taking both her hands in his, "can't you teach yourself to love *me*? For I never knew, Mary darling, how necessary you were to my happiness, until Moss's words aroused me to the possibility of losing you. You are my home-angel, a more than mother to my children, and the precious companion of my solitary home. I scarcely dared to hope, until I confided my trouble to kind Mrs. Fox,—and Mrs. Fox advised me to try for the treasure at least. You had better say 'Yes,' Mary, for I shall shut my ears against any 'No.'"

And under these circumstances, Mary wisely said, "Yes."

"I am forty years old, to be sure," said she, her eyes downcast, "but——"

"And I am forty-three," said Mr. Grey. "But even if I were eighty-three, I don't see why any number of years should be a bar between me and happiness."

And so the evening of her fortieth birthday was the happiest that Mary had ever known.

The clock was striking eleven, when little Lucy cried sleepily from her bedroom:

"Aunt Mary! Aunt Mary! please to give me a drink of water."

Something glittered in the night-light, on Mary's finger, as she brought the child a glass of water.

"What's that?" said Lucy.

"A ring," said Mary, "that your papa has just given me."

"He must love you very much to give you such a ring as that," said the child.

"I hope he does," muttered Mary.

And Lucy turned over on the pillow and drifted into the visions of childhood. But it is a question whether her dreams, that night, were any sweeter than those of Aunt Mary's.

THE OLD PATHS.

The process of augmenting landed estates, by adding field to field, which followed the adoption and extension of the large farm and high rent system, has necessitated the formation of societies with the view of preserving to the public use what remains of ancient commons, waste ground, old fields, and river-bank paths and roadside margins, in connection with which there exists inalienable rights of grass-cutting and pasturage. The exercise of vigilance was indeed required to put a stop to further encroachments and appropriation. It was just the want of this preventative watchfulness that led to the gradual diminution of wide expanses of common to less than one-half or one-fourth of their original extent. The dwellers in villages and roadside hamlets might grumble on from generation to generation when they observed what was taking place, but they did not move in the matter, and no person of influence took the trouble to act energetically on their behalf. But for the powerful and timely intervention of the Corporation of London, a few years back, the vast population in the East-end of the metropolis might have lost altogether, on account of the constant increase of enclosures, the splendid recreation ground of Epping Forest, which is the favourite resort of thousands on summer holidays. Rights of way, in connection with old field paths and riverside paths, need to be jealously guarded, in a similar manner, in order to ward off the risk of finding them surreptitiously filched away. It is easy to understand the combination of disappointed, disgusted, and angry feelings which must agitate the enthusiastic angler who, when he has set out to enjoy the first day's sport, with rod and fishing tackle all in good trim, on the return of a new season, suddenly discovers to his dismay, as he nears his favourite pool, that his further progress is debarred by a notice-board announcing that trespassers will be prosecuted with the utmost vigour of the law. Some selfish new proprietor, he finds, has actually resolved to keep out all itinerant anglers, and to set up a claim for sole right of fishing along the whole stretch of river that runs through his many-acred domain. The expense of contesting unjust claims of this kind before the proper tribunals has often proved injurious to the interests of the public. It is in the suburban districts of great cities that immemorial field paths and rural lanes bordered with hedgerows are felt to be most delightful, affording refreshment to the eye and solace to the mind; and yet there, beyond anywhere else, the societies referred to find themselves helpless when all the land about is delivered into the hands of building companies and speculators in clusters of red and white brick villas, which have generally an upstart look about them wherever they stand. Truly, in all cases when it is practicable, the old familiar byeways paced slowly with meditative steps by heavy feet that have trotted over them lightly enough in early years, should be carefully preserved from age to age, like cherished family heirlooms, around which cluster many endearing associations. There is an indescribable charm in the field paths wherever they meet the eye, leading off from the dusty highway into the heart of green pastures, skirting the hawthorn hedge that crowns the embankment where wild flowers peep out from the tangled grass crossing the rustic bridge over a prattling pebbly brook, dipping under the shadow of a line of leafy trees in whose branches song-birds carol sweetly, and winding up the slopes of hilly ridges where they seem, like Thomas the Rhymer's bonny braeside bridle-road, in the quaint mediæval ballad, to shape their course far away to the dreamy regions of Fairyland. These pleasant paths are knit to the heart by many memories. They are associated with the flower gathering, and nutting rambles, and gleesome sports of childhood; the summer twilight and moonlight walks of fond lovers, who linger long at the stiles; the delightful sensations of returning health felt by convalescents on revisiting favourite spots; and recollections of solitary strolls when the mind expanded under the genial influences of nature, or formed resolves that bore good fruit in later life. Many there are who would willingly see the words, "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark," changed into "Curseth be he that destroyeth the old fieldpaths." Only surly misanthropes can have the heart to dispute the rights-of-way on river banks which possess charms for thousands, besides the ardent devotees of the gentle art of angling in still waters. Has not Robert Burns penned these lines?—

The Muse, nae poet ever fand her
Till by himsel'; he learn'd to wander
Adown some trotting burn's meander,

his belief evidently being that if inspiration did not come where rivers flow, it would come nowhere else in the world; not even on the mountain top, or on the shore of the sounding sea. From Shakespeare, who has described the streamlet "making sweet music with the enamelled stones," to Tennyson, who has imitated, in liquid verses, the rippling melody with rising and falling cadences of the ever-running brook, all our finest poets have imbibed inspiring influences from the same source, and therefore the riparian owners of land, who seek to block the river banks, are enemies not only of ordinary mortals in search of wholesome recreation, but of the tuneful immortals—sons and daughters of the Muse—who form the consummate flower of the human race. On the banks of romantic streams there are resting nooks where hours may be spent pleasantly in profitable contemplation. In the most solitary spots, there is abundance of life and movement. The ceaseless flow of the water creates a thoughtful mood, and it is interesting, in the highest degree, to watch and study all that comes within range of the eye up and down stream—the sudden vigorous upspringing of a fly-catching trout, the graceful paddling of water-fowl in and out among the reeds and broad fronds of aquatic plants, the swimming of a water-rat from bank to bank, the curving flight of swallows as they dip their wings and skim away, or the flash past of the bright kingfisher hastening homeward to its nest on some overhanging bow. Byron has said that "There is a pleasure in the pathless woods," but there is also a pleasure in leisurely pacing along the pathways that lead through woods, where the silence is only broken, in the stillness of summer noon, by the whidding sound of scared rabbits, the pattering of squirrels' paws as they take flying leaps from branch to branch, and the mellow cooing of stock-doves that has the pleasant effect of a bass accompaniment to the treble piping of the smaller tribes of singing birds. The people's prayer for the sparing of old paths must be held to include woodpaths, as well as those that lead through the fields and along grassy or tree-fringed river banks.

Why is O the noisiest of all the vowels?—Because you can't make a noise without it, whilst all the others are in-*audible*

Loch Torridon.—The scene on descending to Loch Torridon is striking; except for the colours, we could readily imagine ourselves on some fjord on the western coast of Norway. The loch appears from this point of view completely land-locked—the hills rising in elevation as they recede from the sea, till they culminate in the great masses between which we have been passing. On a still summer day the water is calm, like the surface of a lake; it is only brackish to the taste, and but for the barnacles and seaweeds fringing the edge, we could readily imagine ourselves on an inland lake. Trees are few, vegetation generally scanty; all around are the bare and ruddy terraced rocks. There is indeed a little hamlet, consisting of a dozen or two of cottages, one of which is called an inn, and a comfortable shooting-lodge, pleasantly situated, but altogether it is as lonely-looking a spot as one of the villages on the shore of the Lofoten islands. The cottages are of the regular Highland type—one storey only, and that low—built of rough stones with thatched or turfed roof, overgrown with grass and moss, a door in the middle and a tiny window right and left; a chimney is regarded as a luxury, and perhaps is not always present where the owner prefers a Spartan simplicity.—*Our Own Country.*

Jumping to Conclusions.—Mr. Toole, who was one of Artemus Ward's most intimate friends in London, says that he told him the following story: He went to a lecture at a remote place, where his face was not known. He was a little late; the audience became impatient, and began to stamp with their feet and to whistle. By-and-by Ward came out and began to move about the platform, dusting the chairs and desk. The people took him for a "supe," and became still more impatient. Presently he turned round, dropped the dust-cloth, and said: "Now, having dusted the chairs I will begin my lecture." Many of the jokes he made were not so good as this, but, no doubt, served to amuse himself and others. An acquaintance told me that he was once riding in a Broadway omnibus when Ward got in, and, on being asked for his fare, inquired of the driver if he could change five dollars. The driver said he could not, stopped the coach, and requested Ward to get out. Upon this Ward became very indignant. Why should he get out? Because he had not the proper fare. "But I have," he said; "I never said I hadn't ten cents. I only asked if you could change five dollars."—*Scribner.*

Never insult another by harsh words when applied to for a favour. Kind words do not cost much, and yet they may carry untold happiness to the one to whom they are spoken.

A Walk through Rotterdam.—The whole of the city is intersected by canals, broad, long, and deep, and capable of accommodating vessels of heavy tonnage. These canals divide the city into so many islands, united by drawbridges, swivel bridges, turning-bridges, and a few stone bridges. It is curious to walk through Rotterdam and find everywhere these canals, with streets on either side, and trees along the side of almost every street, and more curious still to find that you can never get away from the shipping. In the very heart of the city large ships are discharging their cargoes; the masts of ships are seen among the houses, above the trees, beside the churches, and all along the centre of the main thoroughfares. Many of these ships are built expressly for the Rhine and Holland; they are single-masted, broad, stout, and all highly coloured and ornamented. The prevailing style is bright green for the hull, with red or white stripes, gilded poops, varnished or highly polished decks and masts, while buckets, hatches, barrels, and other things are usually painted a bright red, with white or green stripes. The cabins are models of cleanliness and comfort, with brightly-polished windows, snow-white muslin curtains, and pots of flowers. Besides the novelty of finding "a fleet imprisoned in the heart of a city," there are many things to attract attention in the streets of Rotterdam. The houses have pointed façades, are of all shades of brick, from the darkest red to the pinkest pink; whitewashed stone or wood ornaments the façade, the windows and doors are bordered with broad white stripes, the window-sills are generally full of flowers; the windows are provided with little mirrors, by means of which the inmates can see all that takes place up or down the street without being themselves seen; brass plates and brass knobs in a high state of polish adorn the doors, by the side of which birdcages frequently hang. It is a curious fact that nearly all the houses are a little out of the upright, and lean more or less, while sometimes in a street all the houses will lean slightly in one direction.—*Cities of the World.*

March Winds.—Even storms are friendly; they are followed, as has so often been noticed, by a sensible improvement in the air and increased comfort; as some one has said, something has been going wrong in Nature's household, and these are to clear and to cleanse. A storm will frequently check a pestilence which all human skill was quite unequal to prevent; cholera epidemics, it has been noticed, have usually been attended by a great stillness in the atmosphere, by which no doubt the indication was given of the concentration of the poison. Dr. Child says, "On the banks of the La Plata, in South America, there is a wind which comes charged with the germs of intermittent fever from the marshes lying to the North. The wretched inhabitants droop and sicken, and shiver into their graves; suddenly a hurricane sweeps across the Pampas from the cold summits of the Andes in the south-west, and in a few days the seeds of the disease are roughly yet effectually expelled by its searching force." And our March winds perform in a more gentle manner very much the same kindly service for us. They do not always leave very gentle impressions, yet the proverb says, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb," which is only another way of reminding us that "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers."—*Sunday at Home.*

The old rhymes about Alexander the Great have started again:

How big was Alexander, pa,
That people called him great?
Could he upend his mother-in-law
The best five times in eight?
On no, my child, about the heft
Of me or Uncle Jim;
Old Aleck just got up and left
When she got after him.

"A put-up job," said the grocer's boy, as he tied a package of sugar.

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A SONG.

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

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

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

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

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A CASE.

They said that he was dying.
I watched him day and night.
I fancied every moment
The spirit would take flight.
His life was hanging merely
Upon the faintest breath,
Physicians told me sadly
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But a dear friend I cherish
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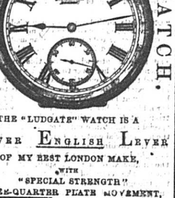
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NORTH-WEST DIVISION OF DURHAM.

CONSERVATIVE MEETING AT CONSETT.

Last (Thursday) night, a meeting of Conservatives was held in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, in connection with the Consett Polling District Association and the Consett Habitation of the Primrose League, to hear an address on "Organisation" by Mr Lyons, of the Central Conservative Offices, London. The services of Mr Lyons have been secured for a short period by the North-West Durham Conservative Association, for the purpose of re-organising the party in this Division. There was a pretty good attendance, principally of working men. The chair was occupied by Lieut.-Col. Wilbraham, J.P., of Shotley Bridge, who stated that ever since the recent contest he had seen the necessity for something been done towards organising their forces in that constituency. It was at his instigation that Mr Lyons had been sent down from London, and he (the Chairman) promised to do all he could towards helping forward the cause. (Applause.) He strongly urged upon all Conservatives to put their shoulder to the wheel, and work with energy and perseverance; and not allow themselves to be disheartened by defeat. If they all laboured together with a strong will, he felt convinced that at some future time the victory would be in their hands. (Applause.)

Mr Lyons then delivered a vigorous and eloquent address, and his remarks were frequently cheered. After examining the present position of the Conservative party in that Division, he condemned in strong terms the action of the Trades' Union officials in the county of Durham in prostituting their labour organisations and associations for the purpose of promoting the Socialistic principles of Radicalism, instead of devoting their energies towards furthering the common interests of the working classes; and averred that those so-called trades' unions were the great bug-bears which the Conservatives would have to contend against in North-West Durham. He then descried the benefits and advantages to be derived from organisation on a popular and thoroughly representative basis, and propounded in detail a scheme for properly re-organising the Tory party in North-West Durham, believing that in the end they would succeed in having a sound Conservative to represent that constituency at no distant period, instead of the gentleman who now misrepresented them.

After the method submitted by Mr Lyons had received the approval of those present, and a committee appointed to manage the various sections into which the Polling District had been mapped, a discussion took place as to the desirability of merging the Primrose League and the local Conservative Association into one body, the former being regarded as the most popular form of Association, especially amongst the working classes. The question, however, was deferred until a future meeting.

Votes of thanks to Mr Lyons and the Chairman closed the proceedings.

THE PRESENTATIONS TO MR WM. JOHNSON, AT WEST STANLEY.

On Wednesday evening, there was a large gathering of friends of the above-named gentleman in the Catholic School-room, West Stanley, including a large number of ladies. Amongst those present were the following:—Messrs J. Watson, J. Fairley, Jos. Gray, J. Robinson, J. R. Henderson, E. Wilkinson, T. C. Frater, T. Lamb, Wm. Blackburn, G. Marshall, J. Boal, W. Gray, J. Errington, T. Wright, Ed. Herron, J. G. Mann, J. Dixon, R. Peacock, M. Anderson, G. Bullerwell, J. Toes, J. Chaytor, J. Wherley, J. Boucher, &c.

The presentation, which consisted of a purse of gold and an illuminated address, was as follows:—

"Presented to Mr William Johnson, manager of West Stanley Colliery, by the workmen, tradesmen, and his many friends, together with a purse of gold, on the occasion of his leaving West Stanley, as a mark of the high esteem and respect so generally entertained for him throughout the neighbourhood, during his residence amongst them for a period of over nine years, and to express their sincere wishes for his future health, happiness, and welfare.

(Signed on behalf of the subscribers),
JOSEPH WATSON, Chairman.
WM. INDIAN, Treasurer.
GEO. RIDLEY, J. G. MANN, } Secretaries.

"Stanley, January 5th, 1886."

A beautifully-illuminated album for Mrs Johnson with the following inscription:—

"Presented to Mrs William Johnson as a token of respect on leaving West Stanley.
"January 5th, 1886."

Also a gold albert with a Maltese cross pendant, for his eldest son, Mr W. Johnson, on which was the following:—

"Presented to Mr Wm. Johnson, jun., by a few friends, on his leaving West Stanley.
"January 5th, 1886."

Mr Wm. Johnson and Mr Wm. Johnson, jun., on entering the room, were greeted with an our-burst of applause. On the motion of the meeting it was unanimously decided that Mr Wm. Indian should take the chair.

The CHAIRMAN said: According to circular the time has rather more than expired for the opening of the meeting. Unfortunately, the Rev Father Keenan is unable through illness to make (as he had agreed to do) the presentations. We have therefore had to select Mr J. R. Henderson, who was to have been chairman had Father Keenan been able to keep his appointment, and who had known Mr Johnson for 20 years. (Applause.) Not only has it been a surprise to Mr Henderson to have to occupy Father Keenan's place, but it has taken me unawares to have to step into the Chairman's duties. I am sure you will look over any shortcomings under the circumstances. (Applause.) I am proud, as a working man, to have the honour of presiding at such a gathering as this (applause), to do honour to Mr Johnson, who as a master, as an employer, and as a citizen at West Stanley for over nine years (I think, in my own mind, as a working man) has proved himself a typical gentleman. (Prolonged applause.) Let me say that, as the representative of the workmen, on all occasions when we have had to meet him on business, he has always met us in the right spirit, and endeavoured to do justice both to master and men. (Applause.) As a master, he has done his duty, for we as workmen know that he has behaved to us as a manager ought to do (applause); for whenever we have had to meet him, instead of having embittered words, we got to social terms. We could meet him and state our grievances without having to go to Newcastle under independent men to get matters settled, and I say this is a great point with regard to a manager. (Applause.) As a citizen we know their value. Perhaps everyone does not know so well as myself the many good acts Mr and Mrs Johnson have done to those in need in this district—indeed, no one but themselves know the good done to certain individuals really in need, and it is under such circumstances that I am glad to have the honour of presiding to night. This testimonial has been subscribed to by the workmen right manfully; they have indeed come up to the mark, and that proves to my mind that he is respected by them. (Applause.)

Several letters expressing regret from gentlemen not being able to attend were read, and the Chairman called upon

Mr J. R. HENDERSON (who was heartily cheered) to make the presentation. He said: I am sorry our arrangement has fallen through, as I originally intended to occupy the chair, but we will just have to make the best of matters. Our worthy guest to-night is a man for whom I have a very high opinion. He his like all good Englishmen; he may have his failings, but he has many manly qualities. If we do not all know him intimately as a personal friend, we at least know him as an old acquaintance or a late employer, and, it may be, all three. I am sure in all our experience, if has had failings, they are like those of the village parson in Goldsmith's "Deserted Village":—

"They lean to virtue's side."

(Prolonged applause.) Like most Englishmen he is vigorous, generous, and kind to a fault; but, in the battle of life, in his honest endeavour to deal fairly, there is one thing he does not like, and that is to be hit below the belt. (Applause.) I am sure as an employer of labour he never hit you there. (Applause.) If he had, and you could prove it, or it ever had been proved, I would not have made this presentation to-night. But I feel confident you could not bring such a charge home. From the moment that Mr Johnson took upon himself to leave West Stanley—from causes into which we will not enter—"We'll bury the hatchet"—there was abundant proof that amongst his workmen, at least, he was well respected. The testimonial, all things considered, I think is a handsome one. What enhances its value is that although subscribed to by many of his personal friends, it had its origin amongst and in the main is the work of the men of West Stanley Colliery. Had it not been for them these testimonials might not have been here to-night. But now we have ample proof of our good wishes and sympathetic feeling in these tokens we have before us. If in the course of the next decade of his profession he makes the same mark with his *employes* as he has done in the present and in the past (Mr Johnson having been the recipient of a splendid testimonial from the men of Burradon Colliery, on leaving there to come to Stanley), I do not think he need fear where he goes. (Applause.) It is a pleasure to me to present Mrs Johnson with a little token of respect, for she is one of Nature's ladies, and I am sure we all acknowledge their good old British qualities of integrity, honesty, straightforwardness, and their sense of respect for high and low. (Applause.) Mr Johnson, allow me, on behalf of the subscribers, which are in a great measure your late *employes*, to present you with this address and a purse of gold, and to Mrs Johnson this little momento in the shape of an album. Long may you live, happy may you be; you have lots of "olive branches"—but I am sure that the heart of the tree is sound. May you never have one to cause you regret. (Prolonged cheering.)

Mr JOHNSON, who was greeted with rounds of applause, said: Mr Chairman, Mr Henderson, ladies and gentlemen,—I am sincerely obliged to you for your very kind expressions of feeling to-night, and in this testimonial. It is a very handsome present, but it is ten thousand times more handsome to me than it is to you. (Applause.) Mr Henderson said something about being "hit below the belt." I must confess I was hit below the belt, and I could not stand it, and for that cause I am what ought to be termed "on the shelf." (Laughter.) I have been manager of West Stanley Colliery nine years, and during that time I have scarcely had an unpleasant word with any-one upon the colliery. (Applause.) The pits have never lost half-an-hour's work through any disagreement with the men, and I can say the same with regard to my *employe*, as we never had a wrong word until the final day—(loud applause)—and the only time I have seen him since was in this very room, when he requested to see me, and I came on to the platform beside him at the meeting which no doubt many of you remember. However, that is past and gone. I must thank you most sincerely for the great kindness and sympathy I have received at the hands of everbody, not only in the surrounding district, but in the whole of the coal trade. From the largest coal-owners and viewers downwards the song is sung to the same tune. With so much sympathy and good feeling, I am bound to be in the right. Again I thank you all. (Prolonged applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then invited Mr Henderson to present Mr Wm. Johnson, jun., with a gold albert and a stick, made by a workman lately under Mr Johnson. Mr Henderson having done so in an able manner,

Mr JOHNSON, jun., who was heartily applauded, said: I wish to thank you very much for the beautiful present you have made to me to-night. I will be very glad to wear it in remembrance of you, and I hope you will never have cause to regret having made me the recipient of it. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then expressed the regret of the men at losing Mr Johnson, but they trusted that their loss would be his gain. (Applause.)

After the usual votes of thanks, the meeting concluded with cheers for Mr Johnson.

PUBLIC SUPPER.

After the meeting, Mr Johnson and his son were entertained to supper at Mr J. Clarkson's, Commercial Inn, when about 50 persons sat down to a substantial repast, a credit to the host and hostess. After the usual toasts and songs, the toast of the evening, "The health of our guests," was proposed by

Mr FAIRLEY, who spoke of his acquaintance and regard for Mr Johnson, and he hoped there was yet a bright future before him. There was no doubt about it in his mind, for with his ability he cannot fail to meet with what he deserves at no distant period. (Applause.) He regretted to see him in the position he was in, and the manner in which it came about. He did not know all the circumstances of the case, but one thing struck him very forcibly, and one which he could not omit to mention. He believed there were a number of charges made against Mr Johnson which were the cause of him resigning his position at West Stanley Colliery, but every Englishman, Scotchman, and Irishman knew very well that if he is charged with anything, he ought to stand face to face with his accusers. He understood that was not done in this case. ("Shame.") It is a very easy matter to charge a man with something, but if you give that man an opportunity of facing his accuser it is a very different matter. He was sorry that his employer did not see his way to do Mr Johnson justice that far; whatever might have been his decision afterwards he ought to have given him that opportunity. (Hear.) However he hoped Mr Johnson had a bright future before him, and also his son, who is a very promising young man. (Applause.)

After their healths had been duly honoured, Mr JOHNSON expressed his obligations for their kindness. Regarding the future, he said he was as able and as willing to try again, but as to ability he left that to those who knew him. A gentleman recently said to him, "For goodness sake don't apply to anyone for a testimonial after being nine years at Stanley: that is all the testimonial you want." His employer and himself never had a wrong word all the time about prices or the working of the colliery, until the final day, when that was sufficient for him. If Mr Burn could do without him, he would have to try and do without Mr Burn. He hoped the day was not far distant when he would be in harness again after the little refreshing rest he had enjoyed. A "butterfly" friend of his used to sing a song about "When you are in need of a friend nobody kens you," but that was not his experience. (Cheers.) Stanley was the first place he came to of his own accord, and that was much against the wish of the employers he then left. He had been asked to go to two or three places, and he always left them so that he could go back again, but he did not want to come back to this one. (Applause.)

After further harmony and the usual votes of thanks, a most happy evening was brought to a close.

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

Lady Mount-Temple's Plumage League is one of the social topics of the day. This is a movement in which politics have no part, and polemics are conspicuous by absence. It does not oppose the canons of any school of art, or controvert the theories of any body of scientists. The Plumage League is in defence of the most beautiful works of nature, the small birds of varied plumage that make the woods beautiful and melodious in this and in foreign countries. Of all the tyrannies of which fashion was ever guilty, this wholesale slaughter of poor little birds for purposes of vanity is the most detestable. Look at the hats and bonnets not alone in shop windows but on women's heads, and gauge the destruction of small birds going on over the world. Not alone one bird on a hat, but two, three, or four are piled up; as many as 12 or 14 inches of tall crown will accommodate. Then comes the muff with one or perhaps two more, and there are monsters in female form who perch a bird upon their shoulders besides. As to evening dresses, the plague has extended even to them also, and we are told that one tulle dress requires at least 20 humming birds to scatter over the skirt, as larger birds would be too heavy. Defenders of the barbaric institution of wearing stuffed birds instead of artificial flowers assure us that many of the birds are artificial, made up from loose feathers. Would that this were so, and there would be no necessity for a Plumage League to put down bird killing. But, unfortunately, it is cheaper to rob Nature in her haunts and export the plunder than to follow art in a Parisian *atelier*. The hope for the new propaganda is in the advocacy of gentlemen. It is now, as it was in Shakspere's time, that "man's taste is woman's test," as the stronger sex, to a man, follow Lady Mount-Temple in her new crusade.

WHISTLING.

WHISTLING, as practised by schoolboys and message boys, must be regarded as anything but an accomplishment. It is bad enough when heard on the street, and still worse within doors. Unless the juvenile performers have an aptitude for picking up popular airs, they are quite satisfied with the shrillest sound they can emit from the little orifice formed by their contracted lips, and seem to feel as proud of the feat as if they had in smoking a half-pipeful of dry shag without showing, in the changed hue of the face, the white feather of sickness. Boys find whistling aloud useful in keeping their courage up when they are in the dark alone, and it also serves to give them an air of seeming courage when they are really in a state of fright. It is easier to hum a tune than to whistle one—a saying which anyone may readily put to the proof for his own satisfaction. Indeed, good whistlers are exceedingly rare, which is rather remarkable, as the use of the lips in this way must have preceded, in the earliest age, the most primitive form of the shepherd's pastoral reed or Pan's pipe. Only occasionally can a company of young men be found capable of whistling a tune together and keeping time with the regularity of a fife band. Douglas Jerrold once felt so nettled at the boast of a pretentious bore, who styled himself an admirable whistler, that the celebrated wit promptly requested him to show his skill by whistling himself off. Beyond doubt the best whistlers are to be found in the rural districts. Labour in the fields has the effect of giving a stimulus to whistling, which in turn enlivens the long hours of toil under the open canopy of the clear or clouded sky. Certain it is that the cheerful, tuneful ring of the farm-worker's whistle, mellowed by distance, blends in unison with the sounds of nature. Has not the poet assigned "the ploughboy's whistle and the milkmaid's song" places amid the pleasant associations of rural life? Among town artisans the men who whistle most at their work are house-painters and paperhangers, and as the rooms in which they carry on their occupations are devoid of furniture, they generally succeed in making their resonant notes pretty well heard, while the significant pauses which occur at intervals indicate that the process of "wetting their whistles" is duly attended to in the course of the day. It is not easy to understand why the male sex should seek to monopolise whistling, and why it should be thought any more unsuitable than singing for the lips of young women. But such is the case nevertheless, and whistling maids are placed in the same tabooed category as crowing hens. Rustic maidens, who may make an attempt to whistle, or who give up trying any more after repeated failures, have quick enough ears for catching, even when they are busily occupied at the time, the familiar whistle of their lovers. A well-known song of Burns' has the following refrain:

"Oh, whistle, and I'll come to you, my lad,
Oh, whistle, and I'll come to you, my lad,
Though father and mither 'ill be sae mad,
Oh, whistle, and I'll come to you, my lad."

The maiden into whose lips this song is put does not want her lover to let it be seen or suspected that he is courting her, and she accordingly carefully instructs him how he is to deport himself "at kirk and market," and just to "steal her a blink o' his bonny black ee," while contriving at the same time to look as if he had no special acquaintance with her at all. It has been the immemorial custom of rustic lovers to draw near the dwellings of their sweethearts at the twilight hour, and emit a whistle which has all the influence of a magic spell. It is sure to reach the ear of her it was intended for, though it should be heard by no one else, and this is what constitutes its magical virtue. Fishermen have a peculiar way of whistling for a breeze when there is not a breath of air stirring to act upon the sail of their boat, and if a capful comes at last they take credit to themselves for having raised the wind. The whistling, of course, is often in vain, and hence the common expression, "You may whistle for that," means that you are seeking or wanting what you are not likely to receive. In Longfellow's "Golden Legend," this sentence occurs:

"Only a little hour ago
I was whistling to St. Antonio
For a capful of wind to fill our sail,
And instead of a breeze he has sent a gale."

Sir Walter Scott, in his "Rokeby," also refers to "whistles rash" making tempests roar, so that the saints or spirits, who were supposed to have control over the winds, were capricious enough to send no breeze at all, when it was whistled for, or to send instead a destructive gale. In the night watches, when a householder, lying awake, hears a long, low whistle, he conjectures that burglars are abroad, and is at once on the alert, though the sound that has startled him may only, in fact, be the preconcerted signal of some belated neighbour to an inmate of his house, in order to avoid disturbing the sleeping family by using the knocker or ringing the door-bell. Travellers who walked along lonely roads late at night in the days when footpads were rather too common had some reason to feel scared when a signalling whistle met their ear, as they might lay their account with being set upon at any moment by two or three outlaws who were lurking in ambush. Among the lower animals, the dog is the only one that really appreciates whistling, and regularly responds to it when, on pricking his ears, he recognises the familiar call of his master. There is a rush of hounds whenever the dog-whistle sends forth its shrill and far-heard signal to the pack. It may be questioned if any of the artificial whistles of the present day, whether used by night-constables, railway-guards, tramcar-drivers, boatswains, or masters of the hounds, are ever so much in requisition as were the whistles, forming part of the old whistle tankards, which came into play when the drinking utensil was empty, and signify to the drawer that more liquor was wanted. Hence arose the expression that when a person desires drink he must whistle for it; and it may also have something to do with the origin of the phrase about wetting the whistle. The most dismal of all whistling sounds is that of a strong cold wind on a wintry night, and the most excruciatingly ear-piercing is that of the steam-whistle, which sometimes does duty instead of a factory-bell, and which is worse than a dozen locomotives blowing in full blast.

THE tide is turning at last. A young man in Nelson County, Iowa, armed himself with a revolver and sallied out to shoot a young woman who had declined the offer of his hand. But she was up to snuff. She read the papers and had frequently seen accounts of similar affairs, quietly resolving that no discarded lover could make a victim of her, not if the court, or rather the courted, understood herself. When the young man arrived at the house on his deadly mission he found the fair but cruel one in the kitchen doing the week's ironing. She didn't appear to suspect, and he expected to have an easy time preparing her for the coroner; but when he reached around to the pistol pocket, with the remark that her time had come, she stated, "I guess not!" and knocked him down with the flatiron, demolishing his nose and front teeth. Then she gave him the scalding contents of a tea kettle that was singing a cheerful air on the stove, and when the family came in she was mopping the floor with him. The next time he proposes and is refused he will probably conclude that that settles it.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., boasts of a woman with a beard fourteen inches long.

LADIES wager gloves on the races at Saratoga.

THE waiters at Niagara Falls say that brides have good appetites.

SAID Miss Posigush to Syntax, the college tutor: "So you teach at Harvard? That must be so delightful, I'm sure. But then I should be frightened to death to meet any of the students, with half a dozen foreign languages at their tongues' end. I suppose they never speak English at all?" "Very seldom speak it," said Syntax, in a dreamy way. "There! I knew they didn't!" continued Miss Posigush. "What language do they speak most, Mr. Syntax, Greek or Latin, or——"

Market Reports.

NEWCASTLE FLOUR, Saturday—Prices:—Hungarian 2s 0d; American, 1s 9d; No. 1 superfines, 1s 8d; superfines, 0s 0d; fines, 1s 6d; households, 1s 4d; seconds, 0s 0d; ryemeal, 1s 6d; wheatmeal, 1s 6d. Oatmeals—English, 2s 2d; Scotch, 2s 0d per stone; 4lb. loaf, 6d.

NEWCASTLE FRUIT AND POTATO, Saturday.—Prices: Scotch potatoes, 6d to 8d; onions, 10d to 1s per stone; figs, 4d to 8d per lb; cauliflowers, 1½d to 2½d each; pears, 2d to 4d per lb; apples, 1s to 1s 6d per stone; green grapes, 6d per lb cabbages, Roots, and other classes at late rates.

NEWCASTLE MEAT AND POULTRY, Saturday—

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
Prime large beef	0	9	to	0	11	Pigeons, pr couple	1	6	to	2	6
Prime mutton ...	0	11		1	0	Turkeys, per lb...	1	2		0	0
Meal Pork.........	0	9		0	11	Turkeys, pults ...	0	0		0	0
Veal	0	8		0	9	Partridge, brace.	2	6		3	0
Lamb per lb	0	10		0	11	Pheasants	7	6		8	0
American beef....	0	2½		0	6	Geese, per lb	0	10		0	0
" mutton	0	5		0	9	Goslings, each ...	0	0		0	0
" lamb ...	0	0		0	0	Hares, each	3	6		4	0
" veal ...	0	7		0	9½	Leverets	2	6		3	6
" pork ...	0	8		0	9	Rabbits, couple...	2	6		3	6
Hens, each.........	1	0		1	9	Ptarmigan, couple	0	0		0	0
Ducks, per couple	6	0		7	0	Black Game, brce	5	0		6	0
Ducklings, per cpl.	0	0		0	0	English fresh butter, per lb...	1	3		1	6
Chickens............	5	6		6	6	Fresh eggs 12 for 1s					
Wild ducks, brace	0	0		0	0	Salmon, per lb....	0	0		0	0
Quails, per couple	0	0		0	0	Do. trout ..	0	0		0	0
Grouse, per couple	0	0		0	0						

DURHAM PROVISION, Saturday.—Beef, 6d to 8½d.; mutton, 6d to 8d; veal, 7d to 8d; bacon, 3d to 5d; ham, 5d to 6d; cheese, 6d to 0d; lard, 6d to 0d per lb; Chickens, 2s 0d to 2s 6d; hens, 1s 6d to 2s 0d; ducks, 2s to 2s 9d.; turkeys, 7s 6d to 8s; geese, 8s 0d to 9s; hares, 3s 6d to 4s each; pigeons, 1s 0d to 1s 3d per couple; rabbits, 2s 0d to 3s 6d per couple; butter, 1s 6d to 1s 8d; do. salt, 1s to 1s 2d; butterine, 9d to 10d per lb; eggs, 7 to 8 for 1s; grapes, foreign, 4d to 8d; pears, 2d to 0d; tomatoes, 9d to 1s per lb; figs, 4d to 6d; prunes, 4d per lb; pomegranets, 1s 6d to 2s; apples, 2s to 2s 6d; onions, 1s 6d to 1s 10d; potatoes, 6d to 0d 0per stone.

HEXHAM PROVISIONS, Tuesday.—Butter, 1s 4d to 1s 3d per lb; eggs, 7 to 8 for 1s; potatoes, 6d to 7d per stone; lemons, 0d; pears, 2d to 4d per lb; apples, 2s to 0s 0d per st; onions, 6d to 1s 0d per stone; carrots, 8d per stone; oranges, 6d to 1s per dozen; cabbages, 1d each; cucumbers, 8d to 10d each; chickens, 2s 9d to 3s 0d each; ducks, 2s 6d to 3s 6d each; geese, 8½d to 9d per lb; rabbits, 2s 8d to 3s per couple; leverets, 3s to 3s 6d; hares, 3s 6d to 4s 6d each; partridges, 3s to 3s 3d per brace.

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £4 0s to £4 18s; this year's growth, £0 0s to £0 0s; new land hay, £4 10s to £6 0s; this year's growth, £0 0s to £0 0s per ton; clover hay, £0 0s to £0; wheat straw, 1s 11d to 2s 5d; barley straw, 1s 9d to 2s 0d; oat straw, 2s 2d to 2s 4d per thrave; carts of hay at market, 150; straw, 36.

NEWCASTLE CORN, Tuesday.—Arrivals into Newcastle, week ending January 18th, 1886:—Coast and rail—Wheat, 3,083; maize, —; barley, 375; oats, 355; beans, 285; peas, 106; flour, 1,745. Foreign—Wheat, —; maize, 5,875; barley, 200; oats, 50; rye, —; flour, 1,448 qrs. The arrivals of wheat from the coast are fair, with nothing from abroad. At this day's market there was very little business doing owing to the holidays, and prices for all description of wheat were unchanged. Maize dull, with prices tending downwards. Scotch oats, with small supplies, were steady; foreign dull. Malting barley with hardly any inquiry. Beans and peas 3d cheaper. Feeding barley firm. Flour 6d per sack lower.

NEWCASTLE, Tuesday.—The arrivals from a distance consisted of 141 head of cattle and 329 pigs from Aberdeen and the North-East Coast of Scotland, 212 beasts and 140 pigs from Ireland; 1,202 beasts, 38 calves, and 206 sheep from foreign countries.

Respecting quality, that of cattle was middling, while that of sheep was fairly good.

40 head of cattle went south yesterday to Manchester, 20 to Wakefield, and 20 to London.

The supply of beef comprised 2,533 head. The better sorts sold well up, but the middling and inferior were a slow dull trade, with a good demand for the South; at the close of business a few lots were left over.

The number of sheep shown was 4 886. The mutton trade was steady, and late rates were well supported. At the finish all changed hands, a few lots being bought by the South men.

Pigs: 750 were shown. There is no change to note in the pork trade to-day.

PRICES FOR THIS DAY SINKING THE OFFAL.

Beasts, prime heifers, per stone	8s 0d	to	8s 3d
Secondary sorts	7s 6d	...	7s 9d
Good steers	7s 9d	...	8s 0d
Middling Sorts	7s 3d	...	7s 6d
Cows and inferior	6s 0d	...	6s 6d
Pigs	5s 6d	...	8s 6d
Sheep, small, per lb.........	0s 7½d	...	0s 8d
Sheep, large fat, per lb.........	0s 7½d	...	0s 7½d
Tups and Ewes.........	0s 5½d	...	0s 6d

Nos. shown:—Cattle, 2,533; sheep, 4,886; pigs, 750

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE	Dep.	6·10	9·40	11· 0	12·20	2·30	5·25	7·30
Scotswood	"	6·17	9·47	11· 7	12·27	2·37	5·27	7·37
Swalwell	"	6·24	9·54	11·14	12·34	2·43	5·32	7·44
Rowlands Gill	"	6·34	10· 4	11·24	12·44	2·53	5·49	7·54
Lintz Green	"	6·40	10·10	11·20	12·50	2·59	5·55	8· 0
Ebchester	"	6·53	10·20	11·40	1· 0	3·12	6· 5	8·13
Shotley Bridge	"	6·59	10·24	11·44	1· 4	3·18	6· 9	8·19
CONSETT	Arr.	7· 5	10·30	11·50	1·10	3·23	6·15	8·25

		A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
CONSETT	Dep.	7·10	10·32	1·12	3·25	6·33
Knitsley	"	7·21	10·43	1·23	3·36	6·44
Lanchester	"	7·30	10·53	1·32	3·45	6·53
Witton Gilbert	"	7·38	11· 1	1·40	3·53	7· 1
Aldin Grange	"	7·45	11· 9	1·47	4· 0	7· 9
DURHAM	Arr.	7·50	11·15	1·52	4· 5	7·15

		A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
DURHAM	Dep.	7·25	11·45	2·35		5·25	8·10
Aldin Grange	"	7·32	11·52	2·41		5·32	8·17
Witton Gilbert	"	7·40	12· 0	2·48		5·40	8·25
Lanchester	"	7·50	12·10	2·54		5·50	8·35
Knitsley	"	8· 2	12·20	3· 8		6· 0	8·45
CONSETT	Arr.	8·12	12·30	3·18		6·10	8·55

CONSETT	Dep.	8·15	9·10	12·33	3·25	6·15	9· 2
Shotley Bridge	"	8·20	9·15	12·38	3·30	6·20	9· 7
Ebchester	"	8·24	9·19	12·42	3·34	6·24	9·12
Lintz Green	"	8·34	9·29	12·50	3·44	6·31	9·22
Rowlands Gill	"	8·39	9·34	12·55	3·50	6·39	9·28
Swalwell	"	8·47	9·42	1· 3	3·57	6·48	9·36
Scotswood	"	8·54	9·49	1· 9	4· 4	6·53	9·43
NEWCASTLE	Ar	9· 5	10· 0	1·20	4·15	7· 0	9·53

SUNDAYS.

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

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.
NEWCASTLE ..	7·10	4·15	DURHAM ...dep.	7·55
Scotswood.........	7·17	4·22	Aldin Grange	8· 1
Swalwell	7·24	4·30	Witton Gilbert	8· 9
Rowlands Gill....	7·34	4·40	Lanchester	8·20
Lintz Green.........	7·40	4·46	Knitsley	8·33
Ebchester	7·53	4·59	CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8·45
Shotley Bridge.........	7·59	5· 5	CONSETT and BLACKHILL d	8·50
CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8· 5	5·12	Shotley Bridge	8·55
CONSETT and BLACKHILL d	9·20	...	Ebchester.........	8·59
Knitsley	9·32	...	Lintz Green.........	9· 9
Lanchester	9·41	...	Rowlands Gill.........	9·15
Witton Gilbert	9·50	...	Swalwell	9·22
Aldin Grange.........	9·59	...	Scotswood.........	9·29
DURHAM......arr	10· 5	...	NEWCASTLE dp	9·40

The Grosvenor Catalogue is this year written by a lady, Miss Helen Zimmern, quite a new departure in the literature of art. The catalogue prepared for Mr. Herkomer's exhibition at the Fine Arts Society in Bond-street was also the work of this young lady. A few years ago no artist would have thought of entrusting to a woman the task of interpreting between the public and himself. Some would have had sufficient confidence in the language of the brush used to address his audience, and others would have doubted the wisdom of putting themselves, literally, into the hands of a lady scribe. But Miss Zimmern is sure to justify the confidence reposed in her, and Sir John Millais is the last man in England to do an unwise action. The fact is that very few artists express themselves well on paper. It is the nature of their calling that their knowledge should be instinctive, rather than academic. History, geography, arithmetic, and any of the ologies may be crammed, but not the knowledge of art. It is a plant of slow growth which must begin early, be carefully fostered, and generously tended. The lectures given by great painters are very dull, useless indeed. Like Sir Frederick Leighton, they break away from *technique* and discourse from a historical point of view, giving the subject literary rather than historical treatment. In his address to the students at his prize-giving at the Royal Academy the other day, Sir Frederick talked to them of Etruria, and Etrurian art. We all like to allude to Etrurian art because so little is known of the strangely cultured people who left such finished art-work behind them. Sir Frederick Leighton constructed his Etrurians from their remains, just as Professor Owen, if given a bone, could draw the whole animal to which it belonged.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The usual meeting took place at the Union Buildings, at Lanchester, yesterday (Thursday) morning, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. (chairman). The Guardians in attendance were the Revs Canon P. Kearney and J. P. De Pledge, J.P.; Messrs T. Taylor Smith, W. H. Hedley, W. Logan, G. Hobson, J. Buckham, R. W. Shaw, J. Lax, T. J. Muse, J. Collinson, J. A. Curry, W. Cumming, and the clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

A DISLIKE TO WORK.

During the consideration of the relief business, a most amusing dialogue took place between several Guardians and a man named McDonald, who sought admission to the Workhouse. McDonald explained that he was an ironworker, and left Scotland some twelve months ago to come to live with his parents at Greencroft.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you an able-bodied man?

Applicant: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: When did you work last?

Applicant: I haven't worked at all since I left Scotland.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you ever looked after any work?

Applicant: I would like to know where I can get it.

Mr HEDLEY: That is not an answer to the question. Have you sought for any work?

Applicant: I don't know.

Mr HEDLEY: Why haven't you been at work lately?

Mr LOGAN (*sotto voce*): Because he doesn't like it. (Laughter.)

Applicant: Because I cannot find any.

Mr CURRY: Have you ever asked anybody for work?

Applicant: I've been looking after it every day.

Mr HEDLEY: Have you ever asked anybody to find you any work?

Applicant: I should just think I have. I wonder at you asking such a question. I think you are playing with me. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN: Tell us where you have been to look for work?

Applicant: Several places.

The CHAIRMAN: Tell me where?

Applicant: I don't exactly remember.

Mr CURRY: You've been asked the question several times, and not given an answer.

The CHAIRMAN: Now tell us the places you have asked for work?

Applicant (with some hesitation); I have been to Dipton, Stanley, Craghead, and Consett.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you ever tried South Medomsley Colliery?

Applicant: I'm not fit to work at present.

Mr CURRY: There's some men very like you working there now.

Applicant (leaving the room): Have I to come into the House?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. (Laughter.)

THE PAUPERS FROM GATESHEAD.

The Master (Mr W. Brotherhood) announced that he had received a letter from the Master of Gateshead Workhouse intimating that he would send 20 adults and 10 girls to the Lanchester Workhouse, attired in their own clothing, so that they could discharge themselves whenever they desired. He wrote to Gateshead in reply that the Guardians had not yet passed a resolution authorising him to receive these inmates. The Master further pointed out that if the paupers were allowed to come with their ordinary clothing, they could leave the Workhouse and they might probably remain in the district until they became chargeable to that Union.

The Clerk explained that before any paupers were received from Gateshead, it would be necessary to submit an agreement for the approval of the Local Government Board, and it was decided that the Gateshead authorities should prepare the requisite forms before they accepted any of their paupers.

THE SMALLPOX AT WEST STANLEY.

The Local Government Board wrote to the effect that their Inspector (Mr Knollys) had informed them of the outbreak of smallpox at West Stanley, and enquiring what steps the Board had taken to prevent the spread of the epidemic. They also enclosed copies of memorandums issued by the Local Government Board containing regulations for the purposes of vaccination and re-vaccination, and likewise suggested that the Medical Officers should make a house-to-house visitation for vaccinating or re-vaccinating all parties who were likely to come in contact with the patients.

The Clerk stated that he had forwarded a copy of the letter to Dr Benson the resident Medical Officer, who had promised to do all that was necessary to stem the epidemic. As the patients were confined to a single house, it was perhaps not necessary to make a regular visitation for purposes of vaccination.

It was reported that another case of smallpox had occurred at West Stanley on the previous day (Wednesday).

ANOTHER COMPLAINT BY THE VACCINATION OFFICER.

Mr John Proud, Vaccination Officer, Shotley Bridge, in his quarterly report, preferred a series of complaints against Mr J. J. Thompson, of Lanchester, registrar of births and deaths, the principal being the delay in sending in the monthly returns.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE, commenting upon one of the instances mentioned in the report, explained that a party in the Satley district, who had a child died, came twice to Lanchester to Mr Thompson, but failed to see him. He came a third time with a similar result, and he (the speaker) advised the man to have the child buried without a certificate, and told him that Mr Thompson would visit Satley at a certain period, and he could see him then.

Mr COLLINSON said that people were not obliged to come to Lanchester to see Mr Thompson. If they put themselves to this trouble, it was entirely their own fault. Mr Thompson had a day fixed when he would visit a particular neighbourhood, and they could wait till then. He is not bound to remain at home to please any callers.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE: Mr Thompson is not bound to stay at home on purpose to see those who might happen to call.

Mr COLLINSON: Then he cannot be blamed if people come down to see him and do not find him. He is only to be at Lanchester once a week, and the remainder of the days he has to travel to other parts of the district.

Mr SHAW said there appeared to be some doubts in the minds of the people with regard to the certificates of deaths, and he thought the difficulty could be removed if the reporter only published what he was going to say. A great many persons laboured under the idea that it was quite necessary to have a certificate of death to present to the minister or clergyman before the deceased could be interred. There is no need for this certificate, as the officiating clergyman would communicate to Mr Thompson that he had buried a certain party, and the registrar could obtain the desired information in due course when he happened to be in that particular locality. This arrangement would obviate people a good deal of trouble and annoyance. There were hundreds of people who were buried without a certificate of death being first obtained.

Mr DE PLEDGE thought it would be a great pity if an impression got abroad that the certificates were unnecessary, as it would entail a vast amount of work upon the officiating ministers if they were obliged to notify to the registrar every time they had interred a corpse.

Mr SHAW replied that there were certain fixed days when the people could see Mr Thompson, and they could easily wait till then.

Canon KEARNEY said he had always carried out the plan suggested by Mr Shaw. Whenever he conducted a funeral, he always sent a post-card either to Mr Geo. Ridley, Stanley, or Mr Thompson, informing these gentlemen of the fact.

Mr SHAW: I don't know whether the clergy are bound to do so, but Mr Mitchell, vicar of Leadgate, does this regularly.

Mr LOGAN proposed that a copy of Mr Proud's complaint be sent to Mr Geo. Alder, the superintendent registrar, and to Mr Thompson, asking the last-named gentleman to forward an explanation to that Board.

The CHAIRMAN having seconded, the proposal was adopted.

Mr LAX believed there were some grounds for these complaints. Mr Thompson's returns ought, by the latest, to be sent to Mr Proud by the 3rd of each month, and many a time that gentleman did not receive them until the 9th. Mr Proud's position was an unenviable one, as he had the Inspector hammering away at him, because he had not the returns sooner, and consequently he had a lot of running about to get the lists put right.

INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE.

The Master (Mr Brotherhood) reported the No. of inmates of the institution to be as under:—

Week ending Feb. 3rd	180
Corresponding week of last year	182
Week ending Feb. 10th	183
Corresponding week of last year	178
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight.........	5
" corresponding fortnight last year	12

BALANCE IN HAND.

The treasurer (Mr John Cummings) reported the balance in hand on February 11th to amount to £2,214 6s 7d.

There was no further business.

A PERSON overheard two countrymen, who were observing a naturalist in the field collecting insects, say one to another, "What's that fellow doing, John?" "Why, he's a naturalist." "What's that?" "Why, one who catches gnats to be sure."

PULLING A BABOON'S TOOTH.

To sit still and patiently endure the pain of having a stubborn tooth extracted is hard work for a human being, gifted though he be with reason and the power of self-control. What must it be then for a member of the brute creation? Here is an account of how a dentist managed to perform a tooth-drawing operation on a monkey.

Some time ago a large baboon in the monkey-house of the Zoological Society at Regent's Park was suffering for several weeks from toothache, which culminated in a large abscess. The poor creature must have suffered intense pain, judging from the large swelling on its cheek under the left eye, and the sense of agony which he manifested was much the same as a human being would shew under a similar affliction. He was unable to eat his ordinary food, and his spirits were much affected by the incessant suffering proceeding from the abscess. It was a common sight to see the baboon nursing his own head and face in the corner of his cage, apparently anxious to abstract himself from the notice of everyone, his hand being held over the affected part as though to soothe it.

The circumstances having been mentioned by Mr. Colam, secretary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to Mr. Gurnell Hammond, a West End dentist, that gentleman at once offered to extract the tooth, under chloroform, at his own expense.

The sufferings of the baboon made him unusually suspicious of strangers, and consequently the operators could not approach the animal without considerable danger. It was thought desirable not to pinion Peter, as the animal is called, and to secure him only with a short chain. The baboon evidently liked the odour of the chloroform, and permitted the operators to place the linen which was saturated with the spirit near his nose, but not closely enough for it to produce insensibility.

Peter for nearly half-an-hour successfully baffled the skill of the operators by licking the chloroform off the linen, instead of inhaling it. But it was apparent that he was becoming more and more drowsy. At length the perseverance of the dentists (who were assisted by the keepers) was rewarded, and in about 10 minutes Peter drooped in his cage, being well under the influence of the anaesthetic.

Mr. Hammond then endeavoured to remove the first molar tooth in the upper jaw, which he failed to accomplish until he had made several attempts. The tooth seemed to resist all his muscular strength, but, fortunately, he succeeded before the sensibility of the animal returned. The tooth was found to be badly decayed, the nerve being dead, which led to the formation of the abscess.

Ten minutes later Peter sat on his haunches, perfectly recovered, free from pain, and at once commenced to eat, apparently thankful for the performance of this act of mercy.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

CONSETT.—Middle Street, 9th inst., the wife of H. Cornforth, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

LANCHESTER.—Register Office, 6th inst., William Walker to Rhoda Perkins, both of Oxhill.—Same day, William Fenwick to Isabella Laidler, both of East Stanley.—Same day, William Wilkinson to Isabella Waugh, both of Burnhope.—9th inst., William T. Atkinson to Mary Jane Hobkirk, both of Burnhope.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—St. Mary's Church, 8th inst., George, son of Mr T. Jackson, stationmaster, Gilsland, to Mary (Polly), second daughter of Mr T. Thompson, builder, &c., Chester-le-Street.

LONDON.—Parish Church of St. Marylebone, 6th inst., by the Rev G. E. Thomas, M.A., B.C.L., Oxon, Mr William Nicolson, of Darnley, Natal, South Africa, to Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of the late Jon. Hall, of Wolsingham.

DEATHS.

LEADGATE.—Pont House, 9th inst., aged 77, Jane, wife of John Eltringham.

EBCHESTER MILL.—11th inst., in her 94th year, Jane, widow of the late John Moody.

DIPTON.—5th inst., aged 73, William, husband of Margaret Richardson, late of Walbottle.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—7th inst., aged 77, Richard, husband of Mary Hodgson.

WEST STANLEY.—5th inst., aged 33, Elizabeth, wife of Richard Johnson.

LANGLEY PARK.—Finings Farm, 8th inst., aged 58, Ann Pattison.

LANGLEY MOOR.—4th inst., Mary Jane, daughter of David Howey, labourer.
10th inst., aged 69, Mary Ann, widow of the late James Smart, master shifter.

WATERHOUSES.—5th inst., aged 85, Sarah, widow of Wm. Hosler, labourer.

SPRINGWELL.—3rd inst., aged 55, James Watson.

STELLA.—(At the residence of his grandfather), 6th inst., aged 1 year and 2 months, John William, son of Richard Teasdale.

SWALWELL.—(At the residence of his son-in-law), 10th inst., aged 66, John Adamson, formerly of Winlaton.

BLAYDON.—Albert Terrace, 5th inst., Isabella, wife of George Scott.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mechanics' Institute, 4th inst., aged 72, Frances Mary, wife of John Robinson.

CROOK.—Hope Street, 8th inst., aged 52, Ann, wife of Joseph Spark.

GATESHEAD.—Gladstone Terrace West, 5th inst., aged 4 years, Edward Lowther, infant son of E. J. Harding.

FRANCE.—Boulogne, 6th inst., suddenly, Jane (twin), daughter of the late R. H. Gee, Esq., Lanchester, and Isabella Gee, Tynemouth.

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