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

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

☞ WANTED TO PURCHASE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE FOR CASH.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

The Consett Guardian
AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

No. 1,279. | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, February 13th, 1885. | 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 Insurance 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 Tuesday, the 10th inst., at Annfield Plain, a Black and Tan RETRIEVER DOG; answers to the name of "Carlo."—Reward if returned to GEORGE PHILIPSON, Agent, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

Wanted.

TO GROCERS.—WANTED, a good Man to Manage a Branch, at Hury Waterworks, Teasdale.—Apply to T. D DRYDEN & Co., Consett. 118u

WANTED, AGENT to push first class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission.—Box 31, Post Office, Liverpool. 978t

HOUSE WANTED, in Shotley Bridge, or any sheltered situation within half-an-hour's walk from Consett; 5 Rooms.—Particulars to Box B. *Guardian* Office, Consett. 15u

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

WANTED to Purchase a self-contained HOUSE, from 3 to 6 Rooms, with the necessary outbuildings, situate in Annfield Plain district, or Leadgate.—Apply to T. COLLINSON, Catchgate. 104u

WANTED, a DISTRICT SUPERINTENDANT for the Insurance Business, with local influence and prepared to identify his interest with the Company by taking Shares.—Send reference and full particulars to Directors, Insurance Offices, McDonald's Lane, Manchester. 114u

MRS. ARMSTRONG'S REGISTRY OFFICE, 15, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle.—Ladies requiring Servants can be suited daily with Cooks, Housemaids, Nurses, and good General Servants; and Servants of all classes with good situations, by applying at above address. 516t

GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD.

WANTED, for the above Board, a CARETAKER AND ATTENDANCE OFFICER. Salary Twenty-five Pounds per annum.
Applications to be sent to me on or before the 19th February inst.—By order,
W. W. THOMPSON, Clerk to the Board.
Lanchester, February 2nd, 1885. 78u

To Let.

TO LET, a HOUSE in Leadgate.—Apply to GEO. HAWDON, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 127u

TO LET, Three COTTAGES, at Blackfine.—Apply to J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer, Benfieldside. 40u

TO LET, a HOUSE, in Mill Street, Shotley Bridge. Apply to JOSEPH SHUTERS next door. 107u

TO LET, at February Term, a self-contained HOUSE. Front Street, Catchgate.—Apply to GEORGE LEADBITTER, Catchgate 125u

WELL-FURNISHED SITTING-ROOM and BED-ROOM TO-LET.—Apply to Mrs. ATKINSON, 8, East Parade, Consett. 12u

TO LET, in Durham Road, Blackhill, an Eight-Roomed DWELLING-HOUSE. To view, apply on the Premises.—For further particulars apply to THOMAS LONGSTAFF, Leadgate 91u

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

TO LET, from 13th day of May, either on Lease of Seven Years, or from Year to Year, SEVERAL FIELDS OF ARABLE LAND, at Stoney Heap, now occupied by Mr. A. Blanch.—Offers sent to the Owner, J. DUNN, Esq., Little Shelford, Cambridge, till 20th February, 1885. 25u

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a Five-roomed HOUSE, in Medomsley Road, Consett.—Apply to JOHN ALLISON, Consett.

WASTE PAPER FOR SALE.—Apply at the *Guardian Office*, Consett.

FOR SALE, a SHOP WINDOW.—Apply to MATTHEW ATKINSON, Maiden Law. 110u

SMALL HARMONIUM, in Mahogany, FOR SALE. Useful for a learner.—Apply to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 113u.

FOR SALE, 100 SHARES in the Consett New Town Hall Company, Limited.—Apply ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 931t

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

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

A GOOD PLAN.

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

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

FOR SALE, a very desirable FREEHOLD HOUSE, at Unthank, near Shotley Bridge, being at present the Vicarage House of Shotley Parish. It contains 2 Sitting-rooms, Kitchen, Scullery, Pantries, &c., on Ground Floor, with 4 Bed-rooms and Dressing-room above. Also, Stable, Cowhouse, Coachhouse, and excellent Garden containing in all 2 Roods and 13 Perches.—Apply to Mr. SAMPLE, Land Agent, Matfen, Newcastle-on-Tyne. About 10 Acres of good GRASS can be LET to the Purchaser of the above if desired. 79u

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

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. 148u

GEORGE RICHARDSON'S
ANNUAL
SALE OF SURPLUS AND WINTER STOCK,
Will be Sold on his Premises, at
SHOTLEY BRIDGE,
COMMENCING ON SATURDAY, THE 7th FEB.
And will be Continued for 14 Days,
WHEN THE WHOLE OF THE STOCK WILL BE REDUCED, AND THE
CLEARANCE SURPLUS WILL BE SOLD AT VERY GREAT REDUCTIONS.

☞ All Goods bought at Sale must be Paid for at time of Purchase. 70u

Business Announcements.

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

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.

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

☞ All Business promptly and carefully attended to

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. 384c

THOMAS RAINE,
JOINER, CABINET MAKER, UNDERTAKER AND GENERAL CONTRACTOR,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL,

BEGS to thank his numerous Customers and Friends for their past support and patronage, and hopes by strict attention to business, to merit a continuance of their favours.

T. R. wishes to inform his customers and the public generally that he has now on hand a Large Stock of IRON and BRASS BEDSTEADS, at remarkably low prices. Also, FURNITURE of every description Made and Supplied to Order, and of the best Workmanship.

T. Raine also desires to inform the inhabitants of Leadgate and surrounding neighbourhood that he has arranged with Mr. JOSEPH SLATER, at Mr. H. Lee's, Front Street, Leadgate, to take orders for Undertaking. Black Cloth Coffins Mounted from 35s. All Orders received shall have prompt attention. 878s

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

CURRY'S Invaluable STOMACH & LIVER PILLS.

CURRY'S TOOTHACHE DROPS.

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

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

Dr. SCOTT'S ELECTRIC APPLIANCES.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

☞ SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS,
AND VARNISHES.

HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES

ALTERATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES.

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

HUGHES & CO,
64, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE IMPROVED

MAGNETIC BELTS,

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

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

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

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND ASTHMA.
H.M. Prison, Durham, September 6th, 1884.
DEAR SIR,—I have worn your Magnetic Invigorator for nearly two years, and am happy to say that I now feel much better than when I commenced to wear it. My complaint—chronic bronchitis and asthma—is of long standing, and I do not expect a permanent cure. You can use this as you choose.—Yours truly,
Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN ROBINSON.

MAGNETISM FOR LOSS OF VOICE
Eslington Inn, Teams, Gateshead, Aug. 26th, 1884.
DEAR SIR,—Towards the end of last year I procured one of your Magnetic Throat Protectors for my wife's sister, who had been suffering for nearly three years from entire loss of voice. It gives me the greatest pleasure to inform you that she has now completely recovered her voice, and is as well as ever she was. She was under treatment by several doctors; but there was no good done by all the means recommended, and this makes me all the more anxious to inform you of the success of your Magnetic Appliance, and to allow you, if you wish, to publish this as a Testimonial for the benefit of other sufferers.—Yours truly,
Mr. D. Lamont J. MADDISON.

ASTHMA AND BRONCHITIS.
Prudhoe-on-Tyne, June 21st, 1884.
DEAR SIR,—My wife was a great sufferer from shortness of breathing left after a severe attack of Bronchitis. She had also since then been slightly Asthmatic. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the Magnetic Invigorator purchased from you has been of wonderful use to her, and she has now worn it nearly two years. She feels altogether improved in health, and bids me say that she has found the Invigorator of the greatest value, both as regards the relief it has given her and in keeping her well.
I may also tell you that my wife's father, who suffered from Rheumatism, and spent pounds and pounds without relief, has derived astonishing good from your Appliances. Use this in any way that will be the means of making your Appliances more widely known.—Faithfully yours,
Mr. D. Lamont. JAMES R. GREEN.

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

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

D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT,
(PERMANENT AND ONLY ADDRESS),
44A BLACKETT STREET NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
NOTE.—The Appliances forwarded Post Free.
672

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

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

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

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(OVER 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. 691n

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

WILL. ELLIOTT,
ASSISTANT OVERSEER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

BRICKS! SANITARY PIPES!

FIRE BRICKS, 2½in. and 3in., Quarls, various sizes, Ground Fire-Clay, Common RED BRICKS, RIDGE TILES, FIRE 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.
CEMENT, PLASTER, &c., at WAREHOUSE, GIBSON STREET.
824t

THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS!

9, AND 9A, MIDDLE STREET.

SALE OF REMAINDER OF RIDLEY'S STOCK.
SALE OF BLACK AND COLOURED DRESS GOODS.
SALE OF FLANNELS AND BLANKETS.
SALE OF CALICOES AND COTTON GOODS.
SALE OF MILLINERY AND MANTLES.
SALE OF ALL KINDS SURPLUS STOCK.

LUTON HOUSE, 22, MIDDLE STREET.
☞ See our range of PATTERNS FOR SUITS to Measure at 42s. 6d., made on the Premises by Experienced Workmen.

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR. 57u

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 DARJIELING TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST BUTTER.
HALL'S for BEST LARD.
HALL'S for MANNA CAKE.

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

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

JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN 298t

Business Announcements.

J. BATES,
JOINER, UNDERTAKER, AND FURNITURE BROKER.
SECOND-HAND FURNITURE BOUGHT, SOLD OR EXCHANGED.
☞ HARVEY STREET, CONSETT. 306t

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

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

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

HERBS, ROOTS, AND BARKS.

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

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

JOHN WALKER & CO.,
BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS TO THE QUEEN,
GLASGOW,

BEG particularly to call the attention of the Public to the superior quality of their Biscuits, which are manufactured only from the finest machines.

They submit a few of their Specialties, which are well worthy of a trial, viz:—Alberts, rich Tea, Wine, Shaughran, Water, Ginger Nuts, extra Toast, Digestive (rich and royal); also, their famed Scotch Farls (rich) and Scotch Oat Cakes (plain). These can be had from all Grocers, and from their Wholesale Agents
CURRY & CO, CONSETT. 119

JOHN JOHNSON
JOINER AND CONTRACTOR,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD (near the British Schools),
CONSETT.

PREPARES Plans of Houses, together with strict and exhaustive Written Specifications for each Branch of the Building Trade.

Specimens of both may be seen at any time.

Charge moderate, being 2 per cent. on the value of the property to be built.

N.B.—Beams, Rafters, Posts, &c., subject to heavy strains, will have their dimensions determined by Mechanical and Trigonometrical Formulæ, instead of trusting to mere guess work. 278

FURNITURE AND HARDWARE SOLD UPON THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM.

DISCOUNT 2s. IN THE POUND FOR CASH ONLY

WILLIAM WILKINSON,
CATCHGATE,

BEGS to inform his friends that owing to the great increase of business he has had to take the whole of his premises to meet the demands of his customers, and is now prepared with a well selected Stock of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, in all its Branches. Also, HARDWARE, GLASS, CHINA, CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY. WEDDING RINGS from the best makers—Wholesale and Retail.

Agent for the New Patent Table Wringing and Mangling Machine, Hickman and Clay Coffin Furniture, and Patent Horse Nails. 371r

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

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

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

☞ TO ADVERTISERS.

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

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

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

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
AT
59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

Where Advertisements are received up to NINE o'clock on that morning.

Business Announcements.

MACHINES.

STONE and COAL-BORING MACHINES, STEMMING GEAR, SEWING MACHINES, WASHING, WRINGING and MANGLING MACHINES, PATENT PIT STAFF SPRINGS.—Sold wholesale and Retail by GEORGE HUNTER, Medomsley, Lintz Green. 63t

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

CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT.
FOR
FANCY AND GENERAL STATIONERY OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
TRY

JASPER COCKBURN,
STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, PRINTER, & BOOKBINDER,
15, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

☞ London and other Daily Papers supplied to order. Books not in Stock, to be had on a short notice.

TEETH.

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

Artificial Teeth at reasonable prices.
They are adapted to the mouth on an improved system, guaranteed in every case to fit perfectly, and warranted for five years.
No extraction of stumps necessary.
A complete Upper or Lower Set from 30s to £4 10s., 3s. to 10s. per tooth.
Nitrous Oxide Gas for Painless Dentistry.
Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.
Country patients visiting MR CAMPBELL'S Establishment in Newcastle, will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and, whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare. 810t

☞ ARRIVAL OF NEW GOODS,
AT

C. F. COOKE'S,
THE NOTED CHEAP SHOP,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

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

C. F. COOKE, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

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 steamer 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...£[illegible] 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, £[illegible].

For further particulars regarding Passages, Land Laws, and Resources of the Colony, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL & Co., 109, Leadenhall Street, London, and [illegible], Renfield Street, Glasgow; or to the Local Agent, A. BRODIE, Town Hall Consett, or to
WILLIAM J. JOHNSON,
Queensland Emigration Office,
20u 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

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

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

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

PURGING BALLS,
ALTERATIVE POWDERS FOR HORSES.
FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE

☞ HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

MILNER'S HAIR RESTORER, 1s. PER BOTTLE

Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture. Dandelion and Podophyllyn Antibilious Pills.

QUININE WINE PREPARED ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒA.

Invigorating Hop Bark and Columba Bitters.
QUININE AND IRON TONIC.
BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.
COUGH LOZENGES, COUGH PILLS, &c

FINEST NEW SEASON'S COD LIVER OIL
MALT EXTRACT, PARRISH'S CHEMICAL FOOD, FINEST COD LIVER OIL.

COMPOSITION ESSENCE AND COMPOSITION POWDER.

Agent for Mr. LAMONT'S Magnetic Chest Protectors, &c.
SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.
TRUSSES, BANDAGES, ELASTIC STOCKINGS.

MENTHOLINE FOR TIC, TOOTHACHE, &c.,
PREPARED BY
MILNER, CHEMIST, 563t
7, SHAKESPEARE STREET CONSETT.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 1885

THE CHAMBERLAIN LAND SCHEME

MR CHAMBERLAIN has been naturally annoyed at his views upon the land question having in some quarters been confounded with those of Mr GEORGE. There is really a great difference between the proposals of the English Statesman and those of the American agitator. The latter, as we understand him, advocates the transfer of all landed property to the State without compensation to present owners, whether these be large or small proprietors, descendants of original Crown grantees or recent purchasers for full cash value. This is simple confiscation, based upon the idea that private property in land is robbery of the community, which is rightfully the corporate owner of the whole national soil. Having dispossessed the present owners, Mr GEORGE would have the State let out the land in small parcels to actual cultivators, who would pay fair rents to be used as national revenue instead of taxation. Mr CHAMBERLAIN, however, proposes no such extreme measure. He would merely have the State do in Great Britain what it is actually doing in Ireland—namely, provide the purchase-money to pay out large landowners in order that the land might be distributed amongst actual cultivators who would be required to repay the outlay of the State by terminable annual payments. There would be no confiscation about this scheme. It would inflict no injury upon landed proprietors, many of whom no doubt would, with the existing prospects of agriculture in Great Britain, be glad to exchange their land for money which they could invest in more remunerative property. But it is a debatable question whether any other class of persons would be benefited by the change. The scheme involves the assumption that by being cultivated in small instead of large holdings, and by men working as prospective owners instead of as hired labourers, the soil could be made to supply a better maintenance to the cultivators, while they were also paying for a good many years to come more than present rent for its possession. If this could be accomplished, it would imply a general benefit to the community in the shape of increased production from the national soil. But it is not reasonable to ask the State to incur enormous liabilities on the mere assumption of such favourable results. Mr CHAMBERLAIN and other wealthy men who agree with him should put their views to the test of actual experiment on a sufficiently large scale. There is plenty of land now to be had in the market at a moderate price, and no risk could be run in buying it for re-sale to peasant proprietors if the CHAMBERLAIN theory be well founded.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY EVENING.

The fate of General Gordon appears to be no longer a matter of doubt. The grief with which the news has been received is simply unspeakable. It has stirred the hearts of England to its core. From the Queen to the lowliest cotter in the land, the thought that Gordon is dead creates a profound sense of personal bereavement. Last Sunday in sermons and prayers Khartoum was much referred to, almost invariably, however, with an amount of pious circumlocution which seemed to suggest that there might be some degree of indelicacy in directly mentioning it. General Gordon likewise was prayed for with that reverent vagueness which led a clergyman during the Irish famine to allude in worship to the potato as "that succulent esculent." The Ritualists took a special religious pleasure in praying for him on account of the great probability of his being dead, and Nonconformist ministers were careful to make their prayers contingent merely, lest they might be misconstrued in case the hero were defunct. They prayed, so to speak, without prejudice. Towards the close of the day the rumour spread far and wide that the Archbishop of Canterbury had been authorised to state that Gordon was alive. It was not until Monday morning that it was definitely ascertained that his Grace had made a mistake, and proved that even Deans and Right Reverend Prelates, like other men, may unwarrantably jump to conclusions. The *Daily News* on Wednesday was printed with ominous black borderlines, and the telegrams, alas! were of too circumstantial a character to leave to the most sanguine a ray of hope. Since the Great Duke was buried within a "people's lamentation" no event has so sorely touched the heart and depressed the spirit of Englishmen.

Lord Granville has made so many mistakes that it is only fair to credit him with a single success. He is entitled to this in his Italian policy. It cannot be said that we are without a single ally, since Italy with her occupation of the port of Massowah is likely to make a useful diversion in our favour. The occupation of this port means an extension of Italian territory on the Red Sea. Not much is likely to come of this from a colonising point of view, and Italy is likely to find herself with something worse than Algeria on her hands. Still, it is an outlet for the pent-up energy of Italians, and, though it will not pay in the least, it will give public opinion in Italy something to think about, and also some diversion from the petty squabbles of party which make the Italian Parliament even more like a parish vestry than our own. Already an expedition in force is decided on, and Lord Granville has so far smoothed the way for it as to disarm the opposition of the Sultan, who at first was inclined to meet it with a somewhat more than formal protest.

Gossip, with its hundred tongues of brass, never let loose a sillier rumour than that Dr Trench, the ex-Archbishop of Dublin, had gone over to Rome. The tale scarcely needed contradiction, and we are at a loss to know how it got wind, unless it be from the fact that the Archbishop's daughters are Anglicans of an advanced type, and it may not be impossible that their tendencies may have been supposed to be fostered by fatherly counsels, which for my part, I think is unlikely in the last degree.

The West End week of Missions is in full blast, and is carried on with very varying degree of success, in proportion to the ability of the mission preachers. By the way, who is responsible for that barbarism, "missioners"? The phrase is used in certain High Anglican circles, and it has a Roman twang about it. But to sensible people who do not like to be regarded as dwellers in heathen darkness because they are only occasional Church-goers, generally because they find themselves shut out by the sacerdotal ways and ideas of the clergy, it is disappointing to find that this note is struck by some of the most zealous preachers, who mix up the common sense and the transcendental ideas of Christianity, the latter of which have grown fashionable of late among half thinkers. For instance, Mr Body delivered an instruction at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, in which he pressed the thought of the two Sacraments being a kind of continued Incarnation of Christ in the Church. I have no wish to discuss such points of abstruse theology, but to the ordinary layman they are as unmeaning as Kant's transcendental æsthetik, and as such had better have been left aside in a week of mission services.

THE SINGULAR LOCAL LAW CASE

DICKINSON *V.* DICKINSON.

THIRD DAY.

In the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on Thursday week, the case of Dickinson v. Dickinson was proceeded with before Mr Justice Chitty. The plaintiffs, Mrs Emeline Meall Dickinson and the executors of Messrs T. and W. Dickinson, seek to recover profits alleged to have been earned in their business, as owners of the South Derwent Colliery, of which the defendant, Mr Robt. Dickinson, was manager. The cross-examination of Mr John Bell, formerly employed in the Newcastle fitting office, was resumed and concluded by Mr Romer, Q.C.

On the re-examination of the witness being commenced by Mr Ince, Q.C., Mr Justice Chitty observed: "You don't expect that I shall give any credence to this witness."

In re-examination, witness said that in the case of goods supplied to Messrs Bandini, the total loss which ensued was apportioned between South Derwent and Mr Dickinson, although none of the goods were supplied by South Derwent.

In answer to Mr Ince, Bell said that when he first went as clerk to the fitting office he could not understand the books, and speaking to Mr Robert Dickinson on the subject he explained them. Mr Ince was proceeding to put a further question, which he commenced by saying: "Now, with respect to this unpleasant transaction with the Usworth Colliery," when Mr Justice Chitty said, "Why do you call it unpleasant? It was a gross fraud committed by means of false invoices. Do you think I am a child?" Mr Ince then ceased putting any further questions to the witness.

The next witness was Richard Chas. Symonds, a ship and insurance broker, who had been clerk in the fitting office, and went into partnership with Bell. He deposed that he left the office at the same time that Bell left in 1881. The charter parties were signed by Robert Dickinson, and he did not think that more than half-a-dozen were signed by Robert Dickinson on behalf of the South Derwent Colliery owners. Robert Dickinson told him that if William or John Dickinson said anything to witness about the profits of the fitting office he was to refer them to him. The witness was then taken to the transactions deposed to by Bell, for which they had to pay Robert Dickinson £4,000. He admitted his implication in these transactions, but said in answer to questions that before Robert Dickinson complained of them he (Dickinson) never said anything to him which would lead him to infer that he knew they were going on. He was present when the conversation took place between Robert Dickinson and Bell about the loss over the Bandini transaction, and remembered Robert Dickinson saying it was to be charged to the South Derwent Colliery. In answer to further questions the witness corroborated the evidence given by Bell on Wednesday as to the conversation at Robert Dickinson's house at Shotley Bridge about the measures to be taken to stop the irruption of water into the colliery. Further examined, he supported the last witness's evidence of payment of £39 to Lamb. He did not, however, remember what directions Robert Dickinson gave as to the way the sum was to be posted in the books. On the subject of Mr Cochrane's visit to the fitting office he also corroborated Bell's evidence. The remainder of the witness's evidence was confirmatory of Bell's evidence with respect to the alleged frauds.

Mr John Hopper, coke fitter, Lombard Street, Newcastle, testified to the mixture of Dipton coke with West Garesfield in the contract with Sir W. Armstrong and Co. He said that on Cooke and Hassell's failing, Mr John Bell spoke to him about taking a base of 5, Lombard Street, Newcastle, in the name of the owners of the South Derwent Colliery. It was, therefore, not true that it was owing to a mistake that the base was taken out in that name. Witness proceeded to give instances in which the late Mr Robert Dickinson had not carried out the instructions of customers as to the goods with which they were to be supplied, but had substituted in some cases South Derwent for Dipton, in others Dipton for South Derwent, according to the state of the Dipton.

By Mr Whitehouse: He carried on an independent business as a merchant and ship broker.

Mr J. W. Hodgson, certified mining engineer (the manager of the Dipton Colliery), gave evidence to the effect that Murray's trespasses on the Willie Pit were made with the knowledge and by the orders of Mr Robert Dickinson. The working plan of the Shield Row seam did not show the trespass workings. The workings went on from 1877 to 1881. Had to meet Mr Armstrong at Mr Shipley's office on the subject of this trespass. Was colliery manager at Dipton at the time, and knew what was going on. Mr Robert Dickinson knew all about the trespass, and gave Murray instructions. In support of this witness produced a letter from Mr Robert Dickinson to him, dated 3rd March, 1882, asking witness to meet him at Low Elswick, and bring with him particulars of trespass, and containing the following paragraph:—"You are not on any account to admit that I knew of the trespass. Don't equivocate in your evidence, but be firm. Warn Murray to be equally silent and admit nothing." He never asked witness to make the trespass.

Cross-examined: Witness remembered going to the fitting office on the 6th March, 1882, and seeing Walker, but did not remember his asking who was responsible for the trespass. Never pointed to himself and said "Hodgson." Did not say Robert Dickinson was responsible. Was asked specifically whether Robert Dickinson knew of it. Answered "No." Went on 27th March, 1882, to the mine, and saw Armstrong, Shipley, and Murray. Produced on that occasion the trespass plans, but did not explain or profess to explain how the trespass occurred. Murray said that what he had done was without Mr Robert Dickinson's direction. Witness remained silent. Never said that Robert Dickinson had not been consulted, or anything of the sort. Would swear that he told Mr Shipley that Robert Dickinson knew of the trespasses while they were going on. Also told the same to Mr Barker and Mr Wood. Did not tell that to Mr Walker at the interview of 6th March, 1882. Told him the reverse. Was instructed to do so.

The Court then adjourned.

FOURTH DAY.

On the resumption of the trial on Tuesday, Mr Romer, Q.C., and Mr Whitehorne, Q.C., asked Mr Justice Chitty to adjourn for a short time, to allow of a conference amongst the counsel, solicitors, and parties for the defence, with a view to a settlement of the case. His Lordship readily acquiesced, and stated that he did not think the time would be thrown away. The case was then adjourned for ten minutes, but at the end of that time Mr Whitehorne, Q.C., and Mr Greenwood returned, and said the case must proceed.

Mr John Martin Winter, accountant, carrying on business at 16, Lombard Street, Newcastle, was examined. Witness said that by instruction of the plaintiffs he inquired into the accounts of the fitting office and the colliery office. He found that on November 17th, 1866, an account was opened at Hodgkin's Bank by the payment of a cheque of £17. This payment, as well as the subsequent sums paid into the account, was made by the South Derwent Colliery Company. Up to March, 1867, the account in the ledger of the colliery office was kept in the name of "J. C. Hassell." Subsequently the account in the ledger stood in the name of the fitting office. When Hassell's account was closed on December 10th, 1868, a banking account was opened in the name of Bell by the deposit of £150, and from time to time large sums of money were paid into the account from the colliery account. He had examined the charter parties, and found that they were made out in the name of the "Owners of the South Derwent Colliery, agents to the freighters of the said steamer (or ship)," as the case might be, the latter part of this description being a legal formula to protect the character against action in the event of anything going wrong. The brokerage was 5 per cent. on freight, steamer or ship lost or not lost, payable to R. Dickinson. Previous to 1875, with two or three exceptions, brokerage was made payable to the owners of the South Derwent Colliery, but after that date it was transferred to R. Dickinson. Whatever the form of the charter party, the whole of the brokerage went to "T. B. Dickinson" or "T. B. and R. Dickinson," and none of it was credited to the owners of the South Derwent. From November, 1866, to March, 1867, it was credited to T. B. Dickinson. Many of the charter parties contained a clause to the effect that bunker coal was to be supplied by the charterers. In some instances the clause was struck out. The usual custom was for Robert Dickinson to supply these coals, and they were paid for by cheques on the colliery account. Witness then proceeded to describe the process by which the bunker coal was supplied. A man named Southern purchased from the South Derwent Colliery at 6s, and he was debited in the books at that price. R. Dickinson then bought from him at 6s 3d per ton, and this was set off against the other, so that Southern remained a creditor for 3d. Witness went on to deal with various contracts for the supplying coal, coke, and other goods, and said it appeared from the accounts that in the cases where profit had been made that had been credited to Robert Dickinson, while in cases where loss had been suffered that loss was charged to the colliery. In one case it appeared that Mr R. Dickinson entered into a contract with the Rosedale Iron Company for the supply of 350 tons of Dipton coal per week at a price of 9s per ton. At that time (November, 1873) the market price was 30s per ton. From this date until April, 1875, Mr R. Dickinson supplied the Rosedale Company with South Derwent coal, paying to the colliery 9s per ton, the contract price. Other similar cases were cited in which the coals for carrying out Dipton contracts were purchased from the South Derwent Colliery at the contract price. Summing up these cases, Mr Davey remarked that the higher the contract price the larger was the contribution from Dipton and the less the quantity of coal supplied from South Derwent, and *vice versa*.

Cross-examined by Mr Whitehorne: From the year 1863 to the end of October, 1866, Cooke and Hassell acted as coal-fitters. He was aware that with regard to the foreign trade those gentlemen acted as purchasers. They bought coal from South Derwent and resold it on their own account. How they were remunerated as to home trade he did not know. His investigation extended back only as far as 1866. With regard to brokerage, witness said that if the proper sheets were sent to the colliery office it was impossible that during a portion of the time the people at the colliery office should be unaware of the brokerage profits which were being made. The same thing applied to the interest on advances. He did not know that after 1867 T. B. Dickinson, who was then publicly advertised as fitter, paid the office rent, taxes, and wages. The balances in the fitting-office ledger and the colliery-office ledger agreed from month to month. Mr Jos. Dickinson died on August 20th, 1867, and, by a deed executed in December of the same year, his son, W. R. Dickinson, was admitted into partnership. He was not aware that in view of this deed the books had been made up between the partners from the 6th January to June 30th, 1867. The partners signing the deed must have been aware of the profits that the fitting-office had been making. He found in the colliery books a credit to the fitting-office of 1,971 tons of Dipton coal. £565 was credited, and was a debt owing by South Derwent to the fitting-office. There was no particular ear making of accounts. On the face of the accounts, the colliery paid for the Dipton coal. There were items in the books which showed purchases of coals from other collieries. Referred to certain items of expense in the accounts, he could not reconcile this with the idea that the fitting-office was a department of the South Derwent Colliery. In 1872 there was a charge of £320 13s 2d by the fitting-office against the colliery for interest on over payments by the fitting-office. There was no truth in the suggestion that the fitting-office kept two sets of books—one secret and the other not. The colliery owners were interested with other persons in the Consett Brick Works. The colliery books and the Consett books were carefully kept. There were only a few cases in which the colliery made a loss, as in the case of Bandini. There were only eleven such cases, including mixed cases between Derwent and Dipton. These were not cases in which Dipton was charged with the whole loss or more than its proportion of the loss. He was aware that Southern mixed coal from South Derwent with coal he purchased elsewhere for bunkers. Southern was a dealer in bunker coal, as well as being a salaried clerk in the fitting-office.

The witness was still under cross-examination when the court rose.

FIFTH DAY.—A SETTLEMENT.

The hearing of this case was resumed on Wednesday, when the cross-examination of Mr Winter, the public accountant, was continued by Mr Whitehorne, in reply to whose questions the witness said that a considerable part of the coke sold by Southern to the fitting office was bought from other collieries than South Derwent and the Dipton. In reply to a question as to whether there was any truth in the suggestion that Southern was a mere dummy for the fitting-office, and that the sales were not real sales, the witness said there was no doubt they were real sales. Witness said that as regards the advances upon which profits were made at the fitting-office, the amounts of the advances regularly appeared in the invoices sent to the colliery.

Mr Davey said that his learned friend must not assume that these copy invoices were sent to the colliery office.

Mr Whitehorne said that that would be proved.

Witness said that the foyage or clearance fees did not appear in the colliery books, nor the cash payments on that account, as they were paid out of petty cash. Could not say from his own knowledge whether, as regarded f.o.b. contracts, the fitter was to be regarded as the customer's agent. In the two cases mentioned when several insurances together were charged in the account sent in by the insurance broker, the cheques were drawn upon the colliery account, and they got credit in their books. Cross-examined upon the list of losses, which had since Tuesday been furnished by the other side, the witness stated his reasons for considering why losses, which had been debited wholly to the South Derwent Colliery, should have been apportioned between that and the Dipton Colliery. As to one loss in particular, witness said it appeared from the entry in the books that the loss arose from the bad quality of the coke sent by the said Derwent. Being asked whether he suggested that if that were so the South Derwent ought not to bear the loss, the witness said he did not suggest anything. In cross-examining the witness upon the fact that in some cases South Derwent had fulfilled contracts when coke was at a low price, and that Dipton had fulfilled contracts when the price was high, the learned counsel suggested to the witness that a colliery might be choked with coke at times, and that it would then be glad to sell at any price, to which witness replied that he could not speak as to the positions of the two collieries in this respect at the time referred to. Two letters were produced, written by officials at the colliery office, enclosing blank invoices, and asking the clerks at the fitting-office to fill in and return the prices at which the goods were to be charged. As regards one amount of an advance made out of Bell's account, and which had been charged to the colliery account as a bad debt, witness, in re-examination by Mr Horace Davey, said that if John Bell's account were the colliery account that would be right, but it was not right if the account was John Bell's private account.

Mr Justice Chitty suggested at the close of the re-examination that there might in these voluminous accounts—it might well be that there were errors on both sides of the account.

Mr Wm. John Carr, merchant at Newcastle-on-Tyne, carrying on business in conjunction with his father, under the firm of John Carr and Son, said that their firm bought and sold large quantities of coal, and remembered a purchase which they made in 1875 of West Garesfield coke bought from the South Derwent Colliery. The coke was loaded, but it was found to be partly Dipton coke, which witness at the time was of opinion was of a quality very inferior to the West Garesfield. Saw Mr Bowerman afterwards about it, and understood from that gentleman that he had bought the coke in question, but did not know that Mr Bowerman had taken any steps in consequence of the conversation with witness.

In cross-examination by Mr Whitehorne, witness admitted that the coke had been bought by their firm from Mr Hopper, and not from the colliery. The course of such transactions was for the instructions to be sent to the docks, whence trucks and instructions were sent to the colliery, and the colliery people filled the coke into the waggons and despatched them to the docks.

Mr John Gregory, a colliery fitter, was called, and said that he had had 39 years' experience in John Bowes and Partners' collieries, and for 25 years of that time he had been a fitter. There was no custom by which a colliery was entitled as of right, without a bargain with his employer, to take commission and other perquisites of a fitting-office business. He was usually paid by salary.

After some consultation with his clients, Mr Whitehorne said he was instructed to admit that there was no custom in Newcastle, in the absence of a bargain, that a fitter should take commission and other perquisites such as had been put to the witness. Mr Whitehorne was understood to say that, though that was so, it was not unusual.

Mr Ince said he would now put in the writ in the action by Bainbridge against Robert Dickinson and others; but Mr Whitehorne objected that that was a writ in another matter, which had been arranged to be submitted to arbitration, and had been arbitrated.

Mr Ince said that was so. The mines belonging to Bainbridge had been invaded, and Bainbridge made a claim against this partnership. An agreement was made to refer, and the arbitrator made his award, and in that award had found who committed the trespass.

Mr Whitehorne said he denied that, or that if the arbitrator did so find, the award ought to be excluded, because it was one of the issues which his lordship had now to try. What really was submitted to the arbitrator was what had to be paid for the trespass. In order to ascertain whether the severer rule or the milder rule should be applied, the arbitrator had to determine who committed the trespass, and he submitted that it was not evidence for the purpose of this action.

Mr Justice Chitty suggested that it had better go in. It might be that there was only such a reference as Mr Whitehorne had contended, but it might be that the issue between the plaintiff and defendant was such that the arbitrator was justified in finding particular facts against one on the obvious ground that the nature of the ultimate result depended upon it.

The documents were then put in, and it appeared that it was upon a claim for £22,008 for damage by trespass upon the Hutton seam, &c. The award found that the trespass had been committed by Robert Dickinson.

John Lowes, shorthand writer, who took notes of the evidence before the arbitrator, was called, and proved the correctness of the transcript of his notes in that case.

Mrs. Melene Dickinson was then called, and examined by Mr Ince, witness said she was one of the plaintiffs in this action, and administratix of her deceased husband's estate. She said her husband was formerly certificated manager of the South Derwent Colliery, but in consequence of ill-health ceased to hold that post after September 1877. After her husband's death she had a conversation with Mr Robert Dickinson as to a trespass which had been committed. That was in the summer of 1881. Mr Robert Dickinson told her that a very large trespass had been committed on Bainbridge's colliery, and added that it had better not be mentioned, observing that one or two people knew of it already. Mr Dickinson then went on to say that witness had been damaging his name and character by sending Mr Cochrane to the office to look into the accounts. To that witness replied that she could do him no harm if nothing was wrong. If people were talking about him it was his fault for keeping and continuing to pay men who had committed the trespass, and who were known not to be honest. In answer to these remarks Mr Dickinson offered to tell her the reason for keeping these men on condition that she would undertake not to tell anyone. She refused to give such a promise, and said she thought she knew the reasons. Mr Dickinson then told her that these men knew of the trespass, and if they were offended could simply ruin the partnership, as the trespass was a very large one—much larger than Joicey's. Witness then asked Mr Dickinson if he had known the trespass was being committed. She could not swear that Mr Dickinson replied, "I did not know," but the impression left upon her mind was that he had not known of the trespass. Witness then asked to whom Mr Dickinson had paid the tonnage rent if he did not know of the trespass. Mr Dickinson said there had not been any paid. Nothing further took place at this interview. In answer to further questions, witness said she had not been aware that Mr Robert Dickinson was carrying on a separate business at the fitting office and making profits on commissions and brokerage, but she did not know much about this part of the business.

Cross-examined by Mr Greenwood: Mr Thirlwell and Mr Jordan might have dined with her husband after his retirement, but she did not know. Mr Thirlwell was in the habit of calling to make inquiries as to her husband's health. She did not know of any correspondence having passed between her husband and persons connected with the business.

The learned counsel said that he would call for two letters of 29th April, 1878, and 19th July 1878, from Thirlwell to Dickinson, but was informed that they were not in the possession of the plaintiffs, who declined to admit copies. The point was not pressed, but Mr Greenwood asked the witness generally whether she was not aware that a good deal of correspondence passed between her husband and Thirlwell, and witness said that she had no doubt some correspondence did take place between them before 1877 and the date of her husband's death.

The witness having retired, and while waiting for the next, Mr Justice Chitty remarked that he had heard of the baneful influence that a horse had upon a man, and he could not help thinking that coal had the same sort of influence.

Mrs Sarah Dickinson, widow of the late Mr John Dickinson, was called, and examined as to the appointment of Rutherford as mining engineer at the South Derwent Colliery, said that she first heard of the appointment from her son. Her husband died in August, 1879, and during his lifetime he very seldom went to the colliery offices. Witness knew nothing of Mr Robert Dickinson's making profits on his own account at the fitting-offices.

The witness being an aged lady, and not appearing to apprehend the exact bearing of some of the questions, Mr Justice Chitty explained to her that Mr Robert Dickinson in his life-time had sworn that after the death of John Dickinson and W. R. Dickinson, he had appointed Mr Rutherford, and that before doing so he consulted Mrs Sarah Dickinson and that she consented. The witness then said that Mr Robert Dickinson did speak to her about it before the appointment was made and that she had said to him that she thought it would be a very likely appointment.

This witness was cross-examined by Mr Whitehorne as to the position which her son occupied at the colliery offices, but it appeared from her replies that practically she took no personal interest in the business of the colliery, and was really ignorant of what was being done there.

At the conclusion of her examination the Court adjourned for luncheon. On re-assembling it was stated that the parties had come to an arrangement as to the amount to be paid to the plaintiffs, but the method of payment was still in dispute. Council on both sides concurred in asking his lordship to allow the case to be adjourned for a short time in order that a complete settlement might be effected. The next case was then called upon, and the parties retired.

Later in the day the parties returned into Court, and Mr Ince, Q.C., said: The parties in this case are now agreed, and the terms have been signed on behalf of the plaintiffs and defendants, upon which terms an order can be drawn. I now desire, at the instance of my clients, as well as at the request of my friends on the other side, to say that we unreservedly withdraw all charges against Mr Robert Dickinson. It is the interest of the family that that should be done, and in doing so I think we are justified; because your lordship will see some of the evidence on which we had to rest, and perhaps the less said about it the better.

Mr Justice Chitty concurred. Judgement accordingly.

Subsequently the case was again mentioned in reference to the fact that Mr Dickinson's estate was being administered in Court, and Mr Ince stated that the plaintiffs were now practically taking £23,000, their original claim having been £100,000.

DURHAM LEASEHOLDERS AND THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS.

THE FIXITY OF TENURE QUESTION.

On Monday, a meeting of the leaseholders of the Dean and Chapter in the County Palatine of Durham was held in the offices of Messrs Ord and Maddison, Darlington, when a number of leaseholders from various parts of the county were present. It will be remembered that on October 13th last, a deputation of leaseholders had an interview with Sir J. W. Pease, Bart., M.P., in Darlington, with a view to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners being approached on the subject of their Durham leases. On that occasion Sir Joseph intimated that if the matter was brought before him in the spring, he would do all he could for them. The case of the leaseholders would seem to be that down to the time of the Reformation the Durham leaseholders had held their customary estates for a very long-lengthened period, during which their lords in seignority were the Prior and Convent of Durham. When, in the 16th century, the Dean and Chapter of Durham became the lords they were induced by them to take 21 years' leases of their ancient holdings, which were to go on by septennial renewals for ever. The "out" rents were deducted at about 4d per acre, and the fine for each renewal was to be equal to a year's rent. These renewals went on for about 300 years without interruption, the Dean and Chapter receiving about one-fifth of the rental proceeds of the property, and the tenants the remainder. Thus the tenants had a continuous estate in the property, such estate having a value to them, 70 years ago, equal to the value of freehold. The leases were given and received accordingly, and, until 21 years ago, have been regularly renewed. There is nothing in the leases themselves in evidence of the renewal arrangement, and the Commissioners are declared to be taking advantage of this, and refuse to renew the leases. The subject has been agitated for some time, and is now taking more public form as shown by the proceedings at the meetings of the leaseholders.

Mr W. O. WOOD, of Durham, was elected chairman, and explained that the object of the meeting was for the purpose of appointing a deputation to wait upon the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Sir Joseph W. Pease, M.P., had kindly undertaken to accompany the deputation, and also to afford them material assistance in furtherance of their object.

Mr J. R. ORD (Houghton Hall) said that some time ago he and several others were at considerable pains to submit to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners a mass of evidence which they had obtained in order that the leaseholders might retain peaceful possession of their holdings, which they had held for, perhaps, a thousand years before. They were disappointed in this expectation; the Commissioners, to whom they looked for simple justice, had invariably pushed a scheme to derive the tenantry of their customary estate in the Church land, and had done so in such a manner as almost to indicate that the last three commandments of the Decalogue had become obsolete. The money expended by the Commissioners in endeavours to deprive the leaseholders of their estates came into their hands for no such purpose. An instance of its working was shown by the fact that the trustees of Sir Wm. Eden, Bart., had had to purchase a farm, their lease of which had just expired at the full price of the freehold. In a letter addressed to the Bishop of Durham by Mr Ord, on January 16th, 1884, on the subject, the writer says, "The pernicious idea which many years later arose of unduly augmenting the revenues of the Church at the expense of her ancient tenantry, appears to have originated with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who eventually, regardless of all rights, customs, considerations, and obligations, refused to renew the leases; and now, to the utter dismay of the tenantry, it would appear that a scheme for the confiscation of those estates is rapidly approaching its terrible consummation." Speaking with reference to the farm lands at Newton Ketton which are held under the Dean and Chapter by his brothers and himself, Mr Ord states—"I have, in the faith of my possessing those ancient and customary rights, continued, as I still continue, year by year freely to expend money in the improvement (I mean what are called landlord's improvements) of my leasehold property, feeling assured, with my knowledge of the history of such properties, that I might do so with perfect security in the continued possession of my tenure." He reminded the Bishop that "The incomprehensible proceedings of the Commissioners affected, to an alarming degree, a great number of families in your lordship's diocese, and it is to be apprehended that an early future will witness scenes of ruin and desolation fearful to contemplate. Many a widow's house and the heritage of many an orphan child will be sacrificed in this terrible confiscation and unwarrantable oppression, if carried out." The Bishop of Durham forwarded the letter of Mr Ord to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and that gentleman received the following reply:—

Ecclesiastical Commission, 10, Whitehall Place,
London, S.W., 1st March, 1884.

SIR,—The Bishop of Durham has handed to me your letter, dated 16th January, for submission to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and to be answered by them. It had been, accordingly, laid before the Commissioners, and they direct me to state, in reply, that the whole of your argument appears to be framed without regard to circumstance which do not merely affect but have, practically, disposed of all argument upon the subject. The hardship, against which you protest, appears to be that property held by leases which the Dean and Chapter of Durham (as well as other Ecclesiastical Corporations) were authorised to grant out upon leases in consideration of fines, and periodically to renew, taking fines for such renewals, has been, and is dealt with in the interests of the Church as property whereof it has the ultimate freehold, and the option of parting with or retaining. The raising, at the present time, of a question as to the legality, or the general policy of this position, seems to the Commissioners to be somewhat out of date; for it is nearly fifty years since the whole subject of Church leaseholds was made matter of lengthened inquiry by a committee of the House of Commons. It is more than forty years since the reversions to the property of the non-residentiary Cathedral preferments were vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, in the confident expectation, if not with an expressed direction, that they should not renew the beneficial leases; by the granting of which the holders of those preferments had obtained (in the only way legal and possible for them) their official incomes. There followed in the years 1849-50 the Royal Commission of Inquiry, presided over by the late Earl of Harrowby, which, in addition to the chairman, was composed of the late Lord Hatherley (then Sir William Page Wood, Solicitor-General), the late Sir John G. Shaw-Lefevre, the then Dean of Canterbury (Lyall), the Reverend Richard Jones (a Tithe Commissioner), and Mr Robert B. Armstong, M.P. for Lancaster. That Commission received evidence from (amongst others) Mr E. S. Cayley, M.P. for the North Riding, and Mr H. Aglionby-Aglionby, M.P. for Cockermouth, the latter of whom held a valuable property by lease under the Chapter of Carlisle; also from Mr Robert Ingham, M.P. for South Shields, and Mr John Gregson, who was a considerable holder of leases under the Chapter of Durham, and who was specially chosen to represent a large section of the lessees of that chapter. The main recommendation of the Commission was to the effect that the holders of accustomably renewed leaseholds under the Church should be made, by Act of Parliament, the freeholders of those lands, subject to perpetual rent charges on their property to represent the value of the former interests of the Church in the same. A bill for giving effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission was thereupon introduced into the House of Lords by the Earl of Carlisle, representing the then Government. But the bill having been referred to a select committee of that House, and further evidence having been taken in the interests of the lessees as well as in those of the lessors, the conclusions of the committee were, from both points of view, entirely adverse to the proposed measure. Moreover, Sir John Lefevre, who was understood to have influenced, to a large extent, the report of Lord Harrowby's Commission, acquiesced in the conclusions of the committee, and assisted in the preparation of another bill which was substituted by the Government for that first introduced by them. The substituted bill was passed during the same Session of Parliament (1851); and, under its authority, the "Church Estates Commissioners," who, then, as now, constituted the majority of the "Estates Committee" of the Ecclesiastical Commission, sanctioned voluntary enfranchisements of property held by lease under the various Bishops and Chapters, and notably under the Dean and Chapter of Durham, either by way of selling to the lessees the reversions expectant on their leases, or of buying up the leases. The option as to selling the reversions was left to the Church, *i. e.*, to the Bishop or Chapter who owned them, or quoad property vested in the Ecclesiastical Commission, to its Estates Committee. The measure of "due consideration" for the reasonable claims of the lessees arising from the long-continued practice of renewal was understood to be that indicated in the recommendations of the House of Lords' Committee above-mentioned. But certain modifications of that measure were made by the Acts which subsequently extended the period of three years to which the Act 14 and 15 Victoria, chapter 104 was originally limited, and also by the Ecclesiastical Commission Act of 1860, 21 and 24 Victoria, chapter 124. The later Acts contain certain provisions as to arbitration in the case of disagreements between the Ecclesiastical Corporations and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on the one side, and the Lessees of Estates on the other. Under the one or the other class of statutory provisions above-mentioned there have taken place thousands of sales and purchases with a view to the enfranchisement of Church Leaseholds. These have involved dealings with property valued at many millions of money. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have for more than forty years past invariably refused to renew, in consideration of fines, the leases of property which has become vested in them in reversion. The Board have always kept steadily before Parliament, the Church, the lessees, and also the public, their determination to adhere to this course. They have always considered that to do so was one of the chief objects with which the property was vested in them. Their proceedings, in these respects, were under investigation by committees of the House of Commons in the years 1847-8, 1856, and 1862-63. Moreover in 1868 Parliament passed an Act for confirming numerous orders in council which had been made since 1851, for transferring to the Board the estates of various Deans and Chapters with the avowed intention of facilitating the termination of the system of fine renewals; and later, in the same session, another Act was passed for facilitating similar transfers for similar objects. The Commissioners, under these circumstances, cannot suppose that it is in the year 1884 that they could seriously be expected to depart from the line of action which, with a full knowledge of the intentions of the Legislature, they have continuously followed for so long a period.—I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

GEORGE PRINGLE.

John R. Ord, Esq., Houghton Hall, Darlington.

Mr ORD, commenting upon the letter of the Commissioners, pointed out that the leaseholders had not been compensated for, or received the due consideration stipulated for, their reasonable claims arising from the long-continued customary tenure, which had been held for upwards of three centuries under the Dean and Chapter alone. The rights of the Durham leaseholders are peculiar differing from those of other leaseholders. They urged that the Legislature never gave any reason for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to assume that they possessed any "expressed direction" that they should not renew the beneficial leases. On the contrary, from the time of the Royal Commission to the latest enfranchisement Acts, the Legislature had invariably recognised the leaseholders' right, and had never given authority to the Commissioners to put an end to the renewal of these beneficial leases. The Act dealing with the conventionary tenants of the Duchy of Cornwall (who renewed, like the Durham leaseholders, every seven years) provided for such customary estates becoming fixed and permanent freeholds, subject to the payment of annual sums equal to the average amount of the rents and service previously paid; and the Irish Church Act of 1869 also preserved to the tenants all rights of customary renewals. The leaseholders emphatically disclaimed that the Act of 1868 was passed for facilitating the termination of the system of fine renewals, and submitted that the interpretation of the Commissioners that "facilitating the termination of the system" meant a destruction without compensation of the tenants' estate, was entirely opposed to the expressed views and intentions of the Legislature. When these great questions came to be discussed in Parliament a reservation of the rights and claims of the tenantry was always an element of the cases.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that if they had been Irishmen they would have got all they wanted by law.

Mr ORD: That is so.

Mr F. W. BEADON stated that Sir Wm. Eden's trustees as trustees could not fight their case, and Sir William Eden was only tenant for life. He, however, was as strongly opposed as any of them to the action of the Commissioners. The trustees of Sir Wm. Eden had only bought the property under protest.

Mr W. H. D. LONGSTAFFE, the historian and antiquary, offered some remarks upon the history and customs which had applied to the leasehold tenure supporting the view of the leaseholders, and in reply to Mr Ord, said the Durham leaseholders were quite out of the ordinary category of Church leaseholders, and had, in his opinion, the strongest case of any he had examined. The customary estate was not destroyed by the taking of leases, but merely suspended, and it could be, and should be, renewed.

Mr LAWSON did not see any course but fighting the matter out in Chancery.

The CHAIRMAN said the Commissioners had given the leaseholders on Tyneside terms which were perfectly satisfactory. He believed he was right in saying they had given leases for 999 years upon something like 1-7 of the present annual rentals, which was really equal to the old system of rentals except that it was commuting it into an annual payment instead of a septennial one. Therefore what was justice for Tyneside should be justice for Wearside. The only reason put forth by the Commissioners which, in their opinion, did not make the two cases analagous was that the land at Shields, Jarrow, &c., was building land, whereas that in Weardale was agricultural. He submitted, however, there was a considerable quantity of house property in their holdings on Wearside. If the proposed interview with the Commissioners did not end in anything practical, and Sir Joseph Pease did not succeed in getting justice for the Durham leaseholders through the House of Commons, he (the speaker) would be prepared to fight the matter in the law courts.

The meeting passed the following resolutions *nem con*:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the action of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners intending to run out the Dean and Chapter leases, and by this means depriving the tenantry of their estates, is unjustifiable.

That a committee be appointed to wait on the Ecclesiastical Commissioneas, to be introduced by Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease; that the following gentlemen form such deputation:—Sir Wm. Eden, J. Ord, W. O. Wood, R. Richardson, and F. Tweddle.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr F. W. BEADON, it was determined that a voluntary rate be made of one shilling in the pound on the gross rental of leaseholders, for the purpose of meeting the expenses which were being entailed in this matter.

A vote of thanks was extended to the chairman.

WARNING TO MINERS.—The following warning was issued on Monday:—The attention of miners is directed to the continued arrival of barometrical depression from the Atlantic. Present appearances indicate no prospect of an immediate cessation of disturbed conditions, although it is highly probable that the passing away of the disturbances will be followed by a period of very high pressure. No accidents have been reported with the recent fluctuations, but it is desirable to renew the caution of a fortnight ago.

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.

DURHAM RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.—At Saturday's meeting of the Durham Rural Sanitary Authority letters were read from various local authorities respecting the providing by the joint authorities of an infectious diseases hospital for the united districts. The clerk (Mr Lisle) was instructed to arrange for the holding of a meeting of committees of their Boards at an early date.—Bills of various amounts were laid before the Authority, but in consequence of their being no balance in the hands of the treasurer, they were ordered to stand over for a month.

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

Local Police Courts.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, Feb. 5th. — Before M. KEARNEY, Esq (chairman), the Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE, GEO. G. TAYLOR SMITH, Esq., Major E LEADBITTER SMITH, GEO. HEDLEY, Esq., and Lieut.-Col. A. B. WILBRAHAM.

GAME TRESPASS.

William Warrington, an ex-gamekeeper, and *John William Walton*, a young man of respectable appearance, were charged with trespassing in search of conies, on the Sobdon Farm, near Lanchester (in the occupation of Mr Frank Vickers) which belongs to Mr Edward Taylor Smith, J.P., of Colepike Hall, who claims the right of shooting, and reserves the ground game.—The case was proved by James Pallas, game-watcher, who saw the two defendants, along with Mr Vickers, the tenant, shooting over the land on the 24th ult. They were accompanied by dogs, each carrying a gun; and Warrington had some rabbits in his possession.—The defence of Warrington was that Vickers gave him leave, having invited him for a day's shooting, but he had not summoned that gentleman as a witness, nor could he produce his written consent, as required by the Ground Game Act. Warrington also alleged that Mr Vickers sent the other defendant (Walton) to invite him; and at the close of the day's business, he (Vickers) gave him 3s for his services.—Walton, however, asserted that Warrington did not receive an invitation to shoot at all.—Moreover, Mr Oliver (Durham), who prosecuted, pointed out that it was simply for them to prove the offence, and it was for the defendant to show that he had the tenant's permission. The occupier, however, could only allow one party at a time to shoot over his farm.—Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith was sworn, and he attested that his father not only claimed the right of shooting but by agreement orally reserved the whole of the game.—Defendants were fined 5s each and costs.

James Walker, a farm labourer, in the employment of Mr Hands, was also mulcted in 5s and costs, for being guilty of a similar offence, in Hagg House Wood, near Ushaw Moor, on January 24th.—The land is in the occupation of Mr Collinswood, and on the day referred to, P.C. Garbutt watched the defendant enter the wood, along with a couple of dogs, which he "hounded" on to scent; and they ran a rabbit into a hole, which the defendant probed with the stick produced. The officer ran after Walker and on his return, he saw the rabbit (produced) lying dead at the mouth of the hole.

A BATCH OF ASSAULTS.

William Franks was fined 1s and costs for assaulting John Sherrington, miner, Hamsterley, on the 31st ult.; and was also ordered to pay 1s damage and costs for tearing Sherrington's coat during the affray; *Samuel Franks* (defendant's brother) was fined 5s and expenses for kicking at Sherrington's wife on the same occasion; and *Alfred Thornton* was mulcted in 1s and expenses for striking at Joseph Wm. Craggs. Dr Carr appeared for the whole of the defendants.—The cases arose out of a disturbance in the street at Quebec, on the night in question.—The Chairman said the cases were of such a trivial nature, that they never ought to have been brought into Court.

GATESHEAD COUNTY POLICE.

TUESDAY, Feb. 3rd — Before J. M. REDMAYNE, Esq (chairman), and R. O. LAMB, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

James McNastern, sen., of Westwood, was summoned by P.C. Pattison on a charge of being drunk and disorderly near the Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill, on Jan. 24th.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

Thomas Harle, of Prudhoe, charged by P.C. Pattison with having been drunk and disorderly in front of the beerhouse at Blackhall Mill on the 25th ult., was fined 2s 6d and costs.

George Fraser, of Prudhoe, summoned by P.C. Pattison for having been drunk and causing a disturbance in front of the beerhouse at Blackhall Mill, on Jan. 25th, was also fined 2s 6d and costs.

James McNastern, jun., of Westwood, was charged by P.C. Pattison with being drunk and using some disgusting language to females near the beerhouse at Blackhall Mill, on Sunday night, 25th Jan.—Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.

Thomas Billclough, of Hamsterley Colliery, charged by P.C. Farrar with being drunk and disorderly in front of the Ship Inn, on Jan. 24th, was mulcted in 2s 6d and costs.

Thomas Atkinson, of Winlaton, was found guilty upon the evidence of P.C. Farrar, of having been drunk and using obscene language at Blackhall Mill, on the 24th ult.—Fined 2s and costs.

Martin Gordon, of Milkwell Burn Colliery (for whom a young woman appeared, and who, judging by her appearance, seemed to be a good deal under 20 years of age, and called herself his wife) was charged by P.C. Farrar with having been drunk and disorderly at Blackhall Mill, on Jan. 25th.—A fine of 2s and costs was imposed.

John Morton, of Winlaton, charged by P.C. Eland with being drunk and disorderly at Winlaton, on Jan. 24th, was fined 1s and costs.

Anthony Nicholson, of Streetgate, was charged by P.C. Green with having been drunk and disorderly near Whickham, on Jan. 31st.—He was fined 1s and costs.

ASSAULT AT WHICKHAM.

Anthony Nicholson, of Streetgate, was charged with having assaulted William Walsh, cab driver, of Gateshead, near Whickham, on Jan. 31st.—Defendant was fined 5s, including costs.

MINES' ACT.

Jacob Heslop, miner, of Emma Villa, was charged with a breach of the Miners' Regulation Act by violating one of the special rules of the Emma Pit, near Ryton, on the 23rd January, by going beyond the caution-board without his safety lamp being examined and locked by the deputy (William Milburn) appointed for the purpose.—Defendant pleaded guilty to the offence, but stated that he did it without any thought of infringing the rules. The Bench fined him 2s 6d and costs.

THEFT OF DRAPERY GOODS.

Margaret Wilson, alias "Cherton Meg," was brought up in the custody of Sergeant Maxwell, and charged with stealing a black straw bonnet, a skirt, a small tartan shawl, a pair of drawers, and a pair of stays the property of Matthew Barnes, of Dunston, on the 31st Jan.—Prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, February 9th.—Before JAS. ANNANDALE, Esq. (in the chair), Lieut.-Col. A. B. WILBRAHAM, and J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Thomas Thompson, miner, of Dipton, pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly.—Sergt. Thornton said that on Saturday night, the 24th ult., he saw the defendant at Dipton in a very drunken and disorderly state. Thompson's conduct was most outrageous; and he wanted to fight with his clothes off. There was a large crowd standing around the man, and the officer had to threaten to lock him up before he would take his departure.—A fine of 5s and 5s 6d costs was imposed.

Francis McGlynn and *Thomas Hughes* were brought up for having been drunk and disorderly at Consett last Saturday night.—About 9·45 p.m., P.C. Newton observed the prisoners turned out of the Edinbro' House in Middle Street, when they began to fight and quarrell in the thoroughfare, and he was obliged to lock them both up.—Defendants were fined in 5s each and costs; but being unable to pay, they were committed for seven days' imprisonment.

Charles Grant, who was charged by P.C. Jameson with being helplessly intoxicated in John Street, Consett, at eleven o'clock on the previous Saturday evening, was mulcted in the sum of 11s 10d, including costs.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.

George Herron, of Dipton, was summoned for neglecting to cause his child to attend school.—Mr David Mole, attendance officer engaged by the Collierley School Board, stated that the defendant's son was formerly in attendance at the Brooms Catholic Schools, but for several weeks past he learnt that the lad had been absent. Since the service of the summons, however, the boy had been attending the Collierley Schools pretty regularly.—Herron explained that the reason of the boy's irregularity at school was because the children had lost their mother; and the eldest girl, aged thirteen, was the only person who was left in charge of them.—Fined 5s, including costs.

Richard Longstaff, also of Dipton, was summoned for the same offence, and an attendance order was issued for his child to attend the Collierley Board Schools.

NON-MAINTENANCE OF A FATHER: AN IMPUDENT DEFENDANT.

John Lamb, now employed by as a 'bus-driver by Mr T. Rawes, of Consett, was summoned for not contributing towards the maintenance of his father.—Mr John Moon, relieving officer for the Western District of the Lanchester Union, stated that the Magistrates made an order, on the 22nd September last, for the defendant to pay 1s 6d per week towards the support of his father. Lamb promised to pay 8s at the time, and he had contributed another 1s 6d since the summons was issued; but still there were 19s 6d in arrears. He (Mr Moon) applied for an order for the payment of arrears due, together with the weekly instalments, within a reasonable period. Defendant (Mr Moon added) was in receipt of 18s per week from Mr Rawes; but he had told witness that he should not pay the money.—Defendant: I am only getting 15s a-week from Tom Moir, and he is here to prove it.—Mr Moon: Moir is not your employer.—Defendant proceeded to state, somewhat excitedly, that the summons was originally served upon him when he was labouring at Scotswood, but he never received it. He had three brothers who were tradesmen in good [illegible] quite able to keep his father, and yet no action was taken against them. Defendant added (excitedly): I am not going to pay the money. You can send me to gaol if you like.—Mr Greig (Clerk to the Court): Well, a judgment summons will be served upon you.—Defendant: I don't care: [illegible].—The Chairman: Are you willing to pay [illegible]?—Defendant: No; I am not going to do it. You can send me to gaol if you like. I will give you [illegible] month.—Defendant thereat indignantly left the Court.

RIFLING A "CHEAP JACK'S" STOCK-IN-TRADE.

Five boys named *Cuthbert Gardner* (16), *Samuel Ward* (14), *Joseph Nichol* (12), *John Richardson* (13), and *Joseph Fenwick* (11), were all put forward to answer charges of feloniously stealing about a dozen teapots and a number of cups, the property of Ralph Watson, a travelling auctioneer.—Prosecutor deposed that his auction van was at present stationed at Hamsterley Colliery. On the night of 24th ult., he had a "crate" of teapots underneath his van. Shortly before a quarter to ten o'clock at night, he saw three or four boys running away, and he subsequently ascertained the "crate" had been broken into and a dozen teapots abstracted therefrom. He gave information to the police. Prosecutor identified the teapots and cups produced as his property. The articles would be valued at about £1. The father of Gardner said that, although he had not seen the van, he understood these articles were exposed to view; and moreover the prosecutor had been in the habit of employing these boys to hand the things up to him during the auction sale, thus giving them every encouragement to commit a felony.—P.C. Best adduced that, acting upon information received, he proceeded to Blackhall Mill on the 27th January, and apprehended the four prisoners. He first charged Gardner with stealing the teapots from Mr Watson's van. Gardner admitted taking two teapots; but he beseeched the officer not to arrest him by himself, as Richardson next door was as bad as him. Witness went to Richardson, and the boy alleged that Nichol gave him two teapots, but *en route* to the Police Station, he admitted taking one of them. Afterwards the policeman visited Fenwick's house, and saw that Mrs Fenwick had thrown one of the teapots behind the fire; and she was in the act of similarly disposing of the other one when he arrived. He also charged Ward, who said he had stolen three tea cups; and Nichol, the last defendant, confessed that he had taken two cups. All the cups and teapots were new, with the exception of the one at Gardner's.—Nichol's father asserted that the prosecutor was in the habit of tossing the cups about in the most reckless fashion, and had even hurled them at people's heads. (Laughter).—Prosecutor said he had not the least desire to press the charge against them; but the crate of teapots had only arrived from Staffordshire, and it would be with the greatest difficulty that the defendants could get them unpacked.—Ward denied the charge, alleging that Richardson gave him a teapot. All the rest of the defendants pleaded guilty.—The Chairman said the magistrates had given the case their careful consideration, and had decided to fine the defendants as follows:—Gardner, being considered the ringleader, was fined 30s; Ward, Nicol, and Fenwick fined 20s each; and Richardson 10s, including costs.

ASSAULT AT CONSETT.

James Hagan appeared to answer a charge of assaulting an old woman named Catherine Conroy, on January 31st, at Consett.—In the evening named, the complainant entered the house of the defendant, when she noticed that the oven was all wrong, and she remarked, "The oven is going mad."—Defendant thereupon said, "I sometimes go mad as well as the oven" (laughter), and flinging off his vest, he began to use some offensive language to the complainant. Hagan followed her out of the house, and just as she was turning the corner of McGurk's public house he deliberately struck her in the eye with his hand, causing her to fall against the wall. The eye was blackened.—Replying to the Bench, complainant said she was sure that the defendant hit her with his hand, as she saw him draw it out of his pocket; but she could not swear that he held anything in his fist.—Cross-questioned by the defendant: She did not say, after he applied an offensive epithet to her, that she would lie his b—— head open. Never ran to the fire to snatch up the poker. When they met again in the street, she did not say to him, "You rotten old b——, you are not in your own house now, and cannot do as you like," or attempt to strike him. She ran to pick up a stone after, but not before, he struck at her. He knocked the basket out of her hands, and "shoved" her against the wall. She never mentioned anything respecting the condition of the Consett Company's houses; but she told him that he was talking as though the whole place belonged to him. (Laughter.)—Defendant called a witness named Crawley, who spoke to hearing both parties arguing near Mr McGurk's house. He advised the defendant to go home, and he went away. Both the complainant and the defendant were calling each other names; but he did not see any blows struck.—Hagan explained that he married the complainant's daughter, and he considered it a great shame that he was not permitted to manage his own affairs, without the women coming to interfere and bull-baiting them just as she had a mind. He was sorry, however, for what had transpired.—The Chairman, in imposing a penalty of 5s and 14s 6d expenses, remarked that the defendant had received a good deal of provocation, otherwise the punishment would have been more severe.

HUSBAND AND WIFE.

George Walker, a labourer in the employment of the Consett Iron Company, was summoned for committing an aggravated assault upon Mary, his wife at Consett, on the 23rd of last month. Dr Carr, who prosecuted, intimated that it was with the greatest reluctance that Mrs Walker had been obliged to take this course.—Complainant, an elderly person, said she resided in Delves Lane. She was the defendant's second wife, having been married to him for nearly six years. There were two families together—hers consisting of three children, one of which had died. During the period they had lived together her husband had not treated her kindly. From the first, he had repeatedly subjected her to violence and ill-usage; and he had also encouraged his sons to do the same. Defendant had, many a time, aimed pots, jugs, and glasses at her head; but luckily none of the missiles had hit her, as she managed to get out of the road. He had occasionally [illegible] the poker, and threatened to take her life; but he had never struck at her. A fortnight ago last Friday evening, she went out to do some shopping, and on her return about ten o'clock, she found the little girl belonging his first wife crying. She persuaded the child, aged only seven years, to sit down until her "da" came home, and on the defendant's return half-an-hour later she told him what had occurred, he exclaimed, "This is all through you, you old b——." The girl was crying in bed, and her husband threatened to "kill the young thing b——." He caught hold of the poker, and rushed upstairs. She followed him—(Defendant: Now be careful what you say)—and when about half-way up the stairs, he turned round, and kicked her right in the stomach. Complainant was carrying the baby in her arms at the time. She fell down four steps, but managed to catch hold of the banisters, and thus prevented herself from stumbling further. Defendant then continued to ascend the stairs, muttering that he would kill the little girl. However, as the defendant could not have his revenge upon the child, he seized hold of her (complainant) roughly by the arm, and squeezed it so violently that the flesh became all discoloured. The pain was so intense that she sought relief at the hands of a doctor, who prescribed a lotion for it. Defendant likewise got hold of the poker and flashed the weapon in front of her face, but he did not touch her with it.—In answering the Chairman, complainant said that her husband had never treated her kindly. She had not a witness as there was no one present during the affray; but the neighbours could speak of hearing a disturbance. Her husband had never actually struck at her; but many a time he had held his hand up to her mouth.—Defendant: What's that you say?—The charge was not denied by Walker, but he said that he had begged of his wife to hold her tongue, and then there would not have been anything more about it. He had requested her to be quiet many a time, but she refused to keep still.—The Magistrates, after a brief consultation, fined the defendant £1 and 9s costs, or one month's hard labour in case of default.—Complainant applied for a judicial separation, but the Bench refused to grant such an order.

STEALING WATER: CAUTION TO HOUSEHOLDERS.

Mary Twaddle, a girl of 13 years, was summoned for stealing water at Dipton.—The mother of the defendant appeared to answer the charge.—P.C. Davidson attested that on Tuesday, 20th ult., about 5·30 in the afternoon, he saw the defendant draw two pails of water from a tap at Flint Hill, the property of the Consett Waterworks Company. Twaddle's did not pay for any water, and they knew perfectly well that they had no right to take it from taps.—Mrs Twaddle alleged that if they were not permitted to procure the water from the taps there was no other for them. They had been in the habit of using the water from a trough by the roadside; but as cattle and horses were accustomed to drink out of this trough, the water was quite unfit for domestic purposes.—Mr W. Wiles, secretary to the Consett Water Company, said Mrs Twaddle had not agreed for a supply of their water, although she could do so for the sum of 2s 6d per quarter.—Mrs Twaddle stated that she was quite willing to arrange for the water being laid into her house and pay for it, but the Company had refused to do this. She also averred that she sent the little girl to the roadside trough and not to the tap for the water.—Mr Wiles explained that the woman formerly resided in one of the colliery houses, but since she had removed into a private house, she ought to have made application to have the water laid in, the same as the other occupiers, who paid direct to the Company.—A fine of 10s, including costs, was imposed.

AN INCORRIGIBLE BOY: SAD REVELATIONS.

Edward Smith, labourer, of Consett, was summoned by Mr W. Ward, acting from instructions from the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee, for not causing his son to attend school, the lad only having made three attendances since Christmas.—Defendant averred that the boy was utterly incorrigible and beyond his control. He was separated from his wife, and the boy refused to go to school. The lad preferred to stay out at nights, and to roam about the Iron Works or the Paper Mills at Shotley Bridge. He was completely master over him.—Defendant was fined in the usual penalty of 5s.

Charles Smith, aged 11 years, the boy above referred to, was next brought up on a charge of vagrancy.—P.C. Towse testified that on the [illegible] inst., he saw the lad wandering about the street of Shotley Bridge. He was trying to gain admittance to a certain place but the people refused to let him in. Smith was standing near the Shotley Co-operative Store in front of a private house. Witness asked the boy why he did not go home, and he replied that his father always turned him out of the house. He next told the lad that if he did not proceed to his home, he would be obliged to take him to the Police Station. He (the officer) had on several occasions, found Smith wandering about the streets, and this was the third time he had locked him up. Sometimes he had seen the boy roaming the streets for four or five nights in succession. He had ascertained that the lad's excuse about his father putting him out of the house was false.—Col. Wilbraham: Where does this boy get his food?—Officer: Everywhere where he can beg it. He also sleeps wherever he can get.—Sergeant Cruickshank also spoke to having twice or thrice arrested the boy for roaming about the streets at nights several months ago, but he was subsequently released on his friends promising to take care of him. The officer then graphically described at length the immoral and unhealthy atmospheric surroundings of the house occupied by the parents of the boy during their residence at Highgate, when his father cohabited with a wretched and dissipated woman named Ann Glancey. The family were huddled together in one room, and not only was the atmosphere distasteful and unhealthy to the boy, but such as to induce him to run away. Indeed, he (the officer) once had a charge of larceny from that house tried at Lanchester, but the Magistrates dismissed the case in consequence of the abominable and disgraceful condition of the house from a moral point of view.—Mr Moon, relieving officer, was sworn and he attested that on the 27th ult., he received intelligence that the prisoner had been arrested at Shotley Bridge, and that the "Mayor" of Shotley had detained the boy until such times as he could communicate with his parents. Witness subsequently escorted the boy to Consett, but on reaching Pitt Street (where his father lived), they could not find the house for a considerable time, inasmuch as the boy was deceiving him as to the location of his father's place of abode. On the last occasion the lad was apprehended, he told him (Mr Moon) that his father had put him out of the house, but this statement was proved to be incorrect. Witness handed the boy a note to take to his father, but instead of delivering it, he deposited it in the letter-box; and the communication eventually found its way back to Mr Harrison. He believed the boy was beyond the control of his father and the woman cohabiting with Smith was not a fit person to have charge of the lad.—Sergt. Cruickshank explained that Smith's wife had left him and was living with another man at Jarrow; whilst Smith himself was residing with the woman Glancey.—The Magistrates remanded the prisoner for a fortnight, preparatory to his being committed to an Industrial School, the father consenting to defray the cost of his maintenance.—Mr Ward now applied for the fine imposed on Smith to be cancelled; but the Bench decided not to remit the penalty.

WOLSINGHAM COUNTY COURT.

SATURDAY, Feb. 7th.—Before His Honour E. J. MEYNELL (Judge).

THE VALUE OF A WATCH.

HYMES *v.* DICKINSON.—David and M. Hymes, jewellers, of Middlesbrough, sued John Dickinson, of Wolsingham, for £3 10s., balance of value of watch sold for £6. Plaintiffs failing to prove the debt, Judge Meynell found for defendant with costs. Mr R. G. Wooler defended.

SINGULAR ACTION AGAINST A TOW LAW FARMER.

CRAGGS *v.* BAINBRIDGE.—An action was brought by William Craggs, farmer, of Helm Park, Tow Law, against Joseph Bainbridge, a neighbouring farmer. Plaintiff, for whom Mr G. Maw appeared, sued for £7, the value of a heifer; £1, part value of a tup; and 13s 4d. Mr J. T. Proud was for the defendant. The sum of £1 had been paid into court.—On the 30th of October plaintiff had a tup in a field with 10 ewes, which was attacked by two tups belonging defendant, and inflicted injuries which rendered necessary the slaughter of the injured animal, which, worth £3 when alive, was sold to Thomas Hodgson for £2. Plaintiff not possessing another tup, his ten ewes were placed with Henry Dowson's tup, at a cost of 13s 4d, which sum plaintiff now claimed, as well as £1, the balance of the value of the dead tup. Defendant had paid £1 into court. On a further claim for £7 plaintiff stated that on the night of the 14th Nov., he was coming from Tow Law, and after passing defendant's house, between ten and eleven o'clock, Bainbridge cried out "Cush-hope," and immediately afterwards plaintiff heard a rail crack upon his land. He (plaintiff) perceived one of the defendant's beasts getting over the fence, and another on the highway. He went to the pasture gate, and there saw the beasts goring his animals. Defendant's cows butted plaintiff's heifer, which was thirteen months old. Bainbridge appearing upon the scene, the animals were separated. On Saturday he noticed a red heifer appeared sickly, and had it removed to the farmhouse, where it died. The animal was opened out, when a wound on the cheek, one behind the fore leg, and another on the loin, were discovered. The beast was in good health with the exception of the three wounds. The injury on the loin was the cause of death.—George Spedding, butcher, found, when the beast was skinned, three wounds, caused, it was alleged, by the defendant's beasts.—Mr Spedding, in cross-examination, declared that the plaintiff's beast had not died from the disease known as "quarter ill."—Mr Proud submitted that his client had acted fairly. He had offered plaintiff a young ram, then agreed to arbitration, and finally paid £1 into court. Besides, as plaintiff had admitted, defendant had never been called in to see the dead heifer. There had been no "tupping" by defendant's beasts, and plaintiff said nothing about the matter till a week afterwards. With regard to the heifer, defendant should have had notice when it was skinned. The animal was suffering from "quarter-ill" and was not killed by being gored.—Mr Coulson, a farmer, having given evidence, Mr Farrow, jun., of Durham, in veterinary practice, was quite of opinion that plaintiff's heifer had died of "quarter-ill," a disease peculiar to certain districts, and prevalent amongst young stock, especially in the autumn of the year.—His Honour found for plaintiff for £7 10s above the amount paid into court, allowing all the witnesses costs except one.

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

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of this body was held in the Board-room, Dipton, on Wednesday afternoon, under the presidency of the chairman, Mr J. A. Curry. There were also present—Messrs Wm. Robson, C. Holmes, M. Martin, and W. W. Thompson (clerk).

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

The following statistics for the past month were submitted by the master (Mr Prevell):—

	Boys	Girls	Infts.	Total.
No. of children on school books	221	207	128	556
Average No. of children in attendance	179·4	150·3	84·35	414·05
No. of children admitted to school	6	3	2	11

Amount of school fees received, £18 6s 4d.

The Master complained of the poor attendance of the scholars, especially in the Infant Department.

Mr MARTIN enquired if the attendance amongst the infants was any lower than this time last year?

Mr ROBSON: Oh! yes, much lower.

The Attendance-Officer (Mr David Mole) explained that there was a prevellancy of whooping cough and scarlet fever in the district, which would no doubt have something to do with the bad attendance.

Mr Mole was instructed to do his best to make the attendance better.

The Master likewise complained of the play-grounds being in very bad condition, for want of a covering of ballast or other material.

On the motion of Mr ROBSON, seconded by Mr MARTIN, Mr Holmes was requested to supply the Board with a load of ballast, which that gentleman promised to do.

REMITTANCE OF SCHOOL FEES.

Mrs Morris, of Dickinson Square, applied to the Board for the remittance of the school fees of her four children. Her husband was out of work, and she could not possibly pay the money.

After some discussion, it was arranged to allow two of her children to attend school free, with the understanding that Mrs Morris pay for the other two, until her husband succeeds in getting employment.

REDUCTION OF THE HEAD MASTER'S SALARY.

Mr ROBSON, according to notice, begged to move that instead of Mr Prevell receiving one-fourth of the Government Grant, his portion be one-sixth of that amount. If, he said, Mr Prevell's salary had been equal to any in the neighbourhood he never would have thought of bringing forward his motion; but it was his opinion that Mr Prevell had the best salary in the district. Why he wished for the Grant to be reduced instead of Mr Prevell's regular salary, was all for that gentleman's benefit. If an epidemic raged in the district, and through which they were compelled to close the schools for three months or so, then Mr Prevell would only lose at the Grant; whereas if they reduced his regular salary, he would lose both ways. Mr Prevell's stipend was £100 per annum, and for the past three years his share of the Grant had been as follows:—1882, £83 17s 6d; 1883, £97 14s 0d; 1884, £111 16s 8d. Taking the average for the three years, Mr Prevell's salary would amount to something like £197 per annum—nearly £4 per week. This, he thought, was too much; there was hardly a man in the whole district had a salary anything like it. He admitted that Mr Prevell was a good master, as he had proved himself to be; but at the same time it was their duty to economise and make the rates as low as possible. If they took the average Grant of the last three years, and reckoned Mr Prevell's portion at one-sixth, he would still have about £3 per week, which he considered was a very good thing.

The CHAIRMAN said he always liked to see everybody fairly and respectably paid; but at the present time the rates were very high, and he thought it was their duty, if possible, to alter the state of things, as he knew for a fact that it took a great number of the ratepayers all their time to pay the rates.

Mr MARTIN thought Mr Prevell would still have a very good salary if the reduction was made.

Mr ROBSON said if they were not paying Mr Prevell too much, they were paying someone much too little. Mr Henderson, the assistant-master, had a pittance of £70 per annum; and taking into consideration that he was a very clever young man, and taught almost as many scholars as Mr Prevell, it was very flagrant that a mistake was being made in some way. £4 per week was a great wage, and he considered they were fully justified in reducing it.

Mr MARTIN seconded the motion, which was carried, Mr Holmes being neutral.

Mr ROBSON explained that for a long time past it had been understood by the members of the Board and the ratepayers generally that Mr Prevell found his own coal; but it had lately come to light that this was not the case, he having all along been using coals bought by the Board. It was a general rule for school-masters to find their own firing, and he thought Mr Prevell—who would average about £3 per week, besides having house free—should do the same. Therefore, he moved that in future Mr Prevell find his own coals.

On Mr MARTIN seconding the motion, it was carried, Mr Holmes again being neutral.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

The CHAIRMAN said he would give notice to move at the next meeting of the Board that Mr Thompson be asked to resign his position as Clerk to the Board, as he thought this should be filled by someone living in the township, through which arrangement they could get the work done at less than one-half of the present cost. It was not to reflect anything upon Mr Thompson that he intended bringing this motion forward, as that gentleman had filled the capacity with credit; but he thought, knowing that he lived so far away, they could hardly expect him to do the work for the amount they wished to pay.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

The CHAIRMAN said he had had various complaints regarding the female teachers using the cane too freely, and quoted one instance which he had seen of a little girl, on whose hand a large lump had been raised through the bat of a cane. This, he thought, was going too far, and should be put a stop to. He hoped he would not have to complain of this sort of conduct again; but in order to effectually stamp it out, he would propose that a strap be used for those in standard 3 and below; and in the standards above that, the cane be used much more mercifully.

Mr ROBSON said he had been speaking to Miss Fairley on the subject, and she seemed to be quite agreeable for a strap to be used, provided that a one was got that would have some effect; because, she said, in many instances were a strap was used, it was rather provoking to see the scholars going to their seats laughing after they had been punished. He thought the Chairman's idea was a good one, and, therefore, begged to second the proposition.

Agreed to.

After signing the cheques, the Board rose.

HYMNS for Sunday School Anniversaries, &c., printed on the shortest notice, and at the *cheapest* rate, by ROBERT JACKSON, Consett.

"BUCHU PABIA." Complete cure of all kidney and kindred complaints, stinging, irritation, inflammation. At Chemists. F. NEWBERY and SONS, Agents, 1 King Edward Street, London.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC, LONDON.—The six pupils sent for examination last December, from Mrs Cleminson's school, Bishop Auckland, passed as follows:—*Junior Division*: Mary Ada Robinson, Sadberge, first class honours; Margaret Ellen Copeland, Bishop Auckland, first class honours; Minnie Brooks, North Shields, third class honours; Edith Anburn, Alexandra Road, Manchester, passed; Mary Jane Pescod, High Grange, passed. *Senior Division*: Bella Garbutt, Old Shildon, passed.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Health's Defences. None save the strongest can with impunity pass through the sudden transitions from wet to dry, from cold to muggy weather so prevalent during the autumnal and early winter months. Influenza, bronchitis, cough, soare throat, or quinsey will attack those most watchful of their health; but they can readily arrest any of these complaints by rubbing Holloway's Ointment twice a day upon the skin over the affected parts, and by assisting its corrective action with appropriate doses of his Pills. This well-known, safe, and easy made of treatment efficiently protects the invalid both from present and future danger without weakening or even disturbing the system in the slightest degree.

Sporting Items.

RABBIT SWEEP AT TOW LAW.—H. Peace's rabbit sweep was brought to a conclusion at Tow Law on Saturday. £7 was given to be coursed for by 64 dogs, and the result was as follows:—Brown's Moor Hen, 1; Parkin's Peep o' Day, 2; Brass Finisher, 3; Bless's Wood Leg, 4.

LINTZ AMATEUR BICYCLE CLUB.—At a meeting of this club, the following officials and committee were elected for the ensuing year:—Captain, Mr R. Burdon; vice-captain, Mr W. Pritee; bugler, Mr R. Harrison; hon. sec., Mr W. Turnbull; hon. treasurer, Mr W. Gladders; committee, Messrs W. Gladders, R. Harrison, W. Pritee, R. Burdon, S. Bainbridge, E. Henderson, and J. Fenwick.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT HIGH SPEN.—Messrs Hewison and Spear's handicap was concluded on Saturday near the Miners' Arms, High Spen, when there were 36 entries. Owing to darkness setting in the following divided:—R. Dixon, E. Snottow, T. Laybourne, J. Armstrong, and J. Robinson. A. Spears and G. Hewison acted as trapper and handicapper respectively, and W. Cawthorn as referee.

RABBIT COURSING AT WHITE-LE-HEAD.—The coursing promoted by Mr Thomas Brown at Mr Atkinson's, Waggon Inn, White-le-Head, was run as follows:—Tweddle's Nun, 14½, beat Houghton's Lillywhite, 15½; Nicholson's Crooktail, 17½, beat Parker's Black Peter, 14½; Nicholson's Champagne Charlie, 17½, beat Brown's Little John, 17½; Houghton's Starvation, 15½, beat Burdis's Port Wine, 15; Brown's Little John beat Nicholson's Champagne Charlie. First ties—Nun beat Crooktail; Black Peter beat Champagne Charlie; Starvation beat Little John. Stake divided. E. Reay was judge, and J. Turnbull pistol firer.

WRESTLING NEAR PRUDHOE.—The fifth competition for the silver cup, given by Mr Tulip, for wrestling, for 10½ stone men, took place on Saturday night at Halfway House, near Prudhoe. In the final falls, J. Graham, Emma Villa, threw M. Scott, Mickley, in the first and third falls and won.—There were 30 entries for the wrestling for youths under 16, which was won by W. Wade, of Mickley, A. Tulip, Halfway House, being second. The wrestling, as a whole, was very good.

HARE-HUNTING IN WEAR VALLEY.—Mr J. A. Pease's beagles, by permission of Mr Crawhall and the several owners and tenants, had a good afternoon's sport on the south side of the river Wear, west of Wolsingham, on Friday, and a capital day's hunting on the north side on Saturday last, throwing off at Frosterley about 10 a.m. Unfortunately the ground was very wet, and to make matters worse it was showery, but the gallant little pack, well in hand of their indefatigable master, won golden opinions from such fields as are rarely seen outside this sport-loving valley.—The Durham Beagles met at Wolsingham on Wednesday se'nnight, when a start was made at 9·30 for Bail Hill. A good hare was soon on foot, giving the hounds a merry time, through Spring Gill to Salter gate, round by Travellers' Rest and Almond Carr, finally pulling her down in the open near the Bridge Inn, after one hour and thirty five minutes without a check.

PIGEON SHOOTING HANDICAP AT LANGLEY PARK.—The annual pigeon shooting promoted by Mr W. Smith, of Langley Park, took place on Saturday afternoon, in a field near the house of Mr Edward Waite, of the Langley Park Hotel, Witton-Gilbert, Durham. The conditions were as usual as regards charge, and 60 yards fall with a handicap of from 19 to 27 yards rise. The promoter added £3 towards a sweepstakes of 5s each, and three birds each were allowed. The handicap obtained the satisfactory entry of 34 competitors. Sixteen lots were shot off, of which seven are standing. The birds were a grand sample, and very strong on the wing.—The shooting was resumed on Monday. Considering the boisterous weather the shooting was excellent, notwithstanding that the birds were very strong on the wing. This was evident from the fact that only four divided the stakes, viz., Brass of Derwent, 20; Kill All, 19; [illegible], 19; and Calabar, 20; who also six birds each. [illegible] W. and K. Smith were trappers; G. Bell, handicapper; and G. Robson scorer.

Football.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

Feb. 14.—Hobson Wanderers v. Stanley, at [illegible]

" " Consett 1st v. Tudhoe District at [illegible]

" " Tanfield Lea 1st and 2nd v. Pelton Fell 1st and 2nd, at Pelton Fell.

" 21.—Hobson Wanderers v. Tow Law, at the Hobson.

" " Page Bank 1st v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Tanfield Lea.

" " Elswick Ordnance Works 1st v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, at Tanfield Lea.

" 28.—Tanfield Lea 1st v. Hebburn 1st, at [illegible] turn.

Mar. 7.—Beamish 1st v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Tanfield Lea.

" " Heaton 2nd v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, at Heaton.

" " Heaton Juniors v. Tanfield Lea Juniors, at Tanfield Lea.

" 14.—Hobson Wanderers v. Hedleyhope, at Hedleyhope.

WOLSINGHAM v. TOW LAW.—Played on Saturday at Tow Law, and ended in a victory for Wolsingham by two goals to two goals disputed.

HEDLEY HILL v. SUNNYBROW (A.).—These two association clubs met on the ground of the latter on Saturday, and a pleasant game of two thirties resulted in a victory for the visitors by two goals to one.

BIRTLEY SCRATCH v. PELTON FELL 1ST (A.).—Played at Birtley on Saturday, and after an easy game the home team were declared the victors by four goals to one. All the visitors played well, and had there been a little more combination they would have made a tighter game of it.

BIRTLEY 3RD v. PELTON FELL 2ND (A.).—Played on Saturday, Birtley kicking up hill the first half, during which they scored a goal. After change of ends they played a capital defensive game against the wind, and prevented their heavier opponents from scoring, thus winning by one goal to nil.

RYTON v. NORTH DURHAM (R.).—This match was played at Low Fell on Saturday before fully 700 spectators, the result being a win for North Durham by a try to nothing. The game was a hard, and at times, a rough one.

NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION—SENIOR TEAM COMPETITION—OVINGTON WANDERERS v. PRUDHOE ROVERS.—These clubs, after playing two drawn games, met at Ovingham to decide which had to enter the second round of the senior team competition, and an exciting game ended in a victory for the Ovington by two goals to one.

THE DANGER OF RUGBY FOOTBALL.—At a match under Rugby rules between Darlington and Crook played at Darlington on Saturday (when Crook got four touches down to nil), Mr Meiklejohn, of the Darlington team, had his collar-bone broken, while Mr W. Hare, of Crook, had the small bone of his left leg broken. Dr. Lawrence, who was on the ground, attended to Mr Hare's injuries, but Meiklejohn was probably unaware of the serious extent of his injuries, as he pluckily played to the end of the game.

LEADGATE WHITE STARS v. CATCHGATE RED STARS.—The return match between these first teams was played at Leadgate on Saturday afternoon. A somewhat fast game resulted in a draw, slightly in favour of the White Stars, who scored one goal to one disputed goal. Teams:—Leadgate—Goal, A. Burnhope; backs, Ferrington and Postle; half-backs, Hardy (captain), Parker, and Suddy; forwards, Bartram; right wing, Usher and McNally; left wing, Reed and Watson. Catchgate—Goal, Holmes; backs, Bowdon and Brown; half-backs, Stobart, Foster, and Palliser; forwards, Mason (captain); right wing, Sleep and Dixon; left wing, Dixon and Russell. Umpires, Mr W. Saunders and Mr R. Moore. Both goals were well defended by Burnhope and Holmes.

OUSTON WANDERERS v. BEAMISH AND DISTRICT.—The return match between these teams was played on the ground of the latter on Saturday. A good deal of excitement was manifested in this match, seeing that the first fixture ended in a draw, one goal being registered for each club. However, the home team managed to force the leather through the uprights and won by one goal to nil. Teams:—Ouston—Goal, Bradley; backs, Skelcorn and Harle; half-backs, Heel, Henderson, and Stewart; forwards, Miller, White, Henderson (captain), McDonald, and Carr. Beamish and District—Goal, Ritson; backs, Gray and Reed; half-backs, [illegible], G. Theobald, and Darling; forwards, Lee, Jackson, Kay, Kilham (captain), and H. Theobald.

ELTON 1ST v. CLEVELAND COLLEGE.—This match was played on Saturday, on the ground of the latter, and after a good game, resulted in a victory for the College by two goals to nil. For the College, Leadbitter, Wharton, and Knott played well; for the visitors, Woodward and Jackson played a good game. It will be remembered that the first time the above clubs met on the Elton ground, the College lost by two goals to nil, and for the return both clubs brought up their strongest eleven, one master being allowed to play for the college. The College in the first half, playing against a high wind, had a goal put to their credit by Leadbitter, who made a brilliant dribble right up to the goal. During the second half, Elton began to play rather rough, but the College, by the coolness of their captain, kept calm until the master (Mr Miller) was lamed unintentionally by Woodward (captain). Then Leadbitter was put full back to fill Miller's place, who by a sharp charge brought Woodward down on the ground, and it is feared he will not be able to play again this season. Both sides then got furious, but the College boys showed the Elton men they were not to be played with. All marked Leadbitter, who faced each man bravely, and after a grand run added number two to the College, which was received with cheers by the spectators.

TANFIELD LEA 1ST v. HAMSTERLEY RANGERS 1ST.—These teams met on the ground of the former on Saturday to play their return match. The game was played in two thirties; the home captain winning the toss played with the wind. In the first half, Weedy kicked off for the visitors, and for the first ten minutes the ball was kept in the centre of the ground. The home forwards playing very unsteadily, the ball, then got into the visitors' territory, and the first goal was got after 12 minutes play. The ball was again re-started by Weedy, but Fields, for the home team, drove the ball back, and shortly afterwards the leather went between the posts again, but the line being slack, an argue arose, and a disputed goal was the result. The ball again restarted, soon after hands were called of one of the visitors, the free kick was well placed and Morton, the home forward, headed but caught the goal post and went out of touch. The goal kick was well placed up the field, but the home forwards were on the alert now, as time was nearly up, the ball came into the visitors territory again, striking the goal post and rebounding into play, was sent between the posts by Brown. Time was now called, the home goalkeeper never having to play the ball the first half. The players now changed ends, Fawcett kicked off, and a bit of fast play ensued, the home forwards showing some progress in their passing since they played at Hamsterley. Donald got the ball up the right wing a few times, but the visitors backs stopped the score from going by sending the ball down the ground again. Hands were claimed of one of the home team close to the goal, and the ball stopped for a few seconds; the umpires not giving their decision, the visitors took the advantage and played the ball rather downwards, which struck one of the home backs and bounded through the goal. After this the game was very fast to the finish, and when time was called the score stood: Tanfield Lea, two goals and one disputed goal to one goal. Johnson, Bell, and Weedy played well for the visitors, while the whole of the home team played a good game.

DURHAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

SECOND TEAM (MEDAL) COMPETITION.

MONKWEARMOUTH v. CATCHGATE RED STARS.—These teams met on the Monkwearmouth ground on Saturday week, to play off their tie in the first round of the above competition. Sleep winning the toss for the visitors elected to play with the wind. Monkwearmouth kicked off, but the ball was returned, and the visitors' forwards, by some quick play, scored a goal through S. Dixon. After the kick-off, Sleep made a capital run, and after dribbling past the home backs crossed to Dixon, who managed to score a second goal within [illegible] of the game. The home forwards now began to warm to their work, [illegible] several good [illegible] time by W. [illegible]. The ball again began to get [illegible] was claimed by the visitors. The kick was taken by Pallister, [illegible] the posts, when it [illegible] the home backs. The home team again began to press. Holmes [illegible] and after several attempts they obtained their first goal. Shortly after half time was called. In the second half, [illegible] twice from the [illegible]. Sleep and Dixon now made some [illegible] wind which [illegible] several [illegible] had to [illegible] stars played a man [illegible] capital game and [illegible]. Much of the play were [illegible] the splendid defence of Bell and Brown. [illegible] Douglas, of the [illegible].

BLAYDON LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Blaydon Local Board was held on Thursday evening in the Board-room, [illegible], Blaydon, Mr [illegible] presiding.

THE NEW WATERWORKS RESERVOIR.

It was stated that at an adjourned meeting of the Board, it had been decided that the work of laying the pipes and [illegible] the reservoir in connection with the new waterworks be let to Mr John Carrick, of Dunston, whose tender was for [illegible].

LIGHTING THE [illegible] CLOCK.

The question of the Board undertaking the lighting at night of the [illegible] clock at Blaydon was again brought up for consideration. A deputation had waited on the Board requesting that the clock should be so lighted, and [illegible] it was illegal under present circumstances for the Board to undertake the responsibility, the difficulty could be got over by the Board [illegible] the clock.

Mr PAXTON moved that the Board do not undertake the lighting of the clock. He said it would cost £25 a year, and would be of very little benefit, because the clock could not be seen from one house in a hundred in Blaydon.

Mr W. DOUGLAS seconded the motion.

Mr JENKINS moved, as an amendment, that the clock should be lighted if the Board could legally pay for the lighting.

Mr PATTERSON seconded the amendment.

On being put to the meeting, Mr Paxton's motion was carried.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT: BLACKHALL MILL AND WINLATON WATER SUPPLY.

The Medical Officer (Dr Brown) read his annual report, which stated that with the exception of enteric fever, which prevailed during a portion of the year at Blackhall Mill, the district had been in a large measure free from infectious and epidemic disease. The average yearly rainfall in the district was 28 inches; but during last year it was only 16 inches, making a difference of 12 inches. This serious diminution had been most prejudicial to the Winlaton, Blackhall Mill, and other dependent springs in various parts of the district; and to it he had no doubt in stating that nine-tenths of the fever mischief were due. Happily the Board was about to supply a remedy in the shape of a plentiful and wholesome supply of water. Infant mortality had been very great, and this was chiefly due to the dirty, neglected state of the children. He contended that it ought to be part of the education of all children that they should receive at school instruction in sanitary matters.

It was agreed to give a vote of thanks to Dr Brown for his report, and the Board shortly afterwards adjourned.

"ROUGH ON RATS." [illegible] rats, mice, [illegible], flies, ants, bed-bugs, [illegible] 1d. and 1s. boxes.

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 T[illegible] are on the Government Stamp [illegible] Prepared by JOHN I. B[illegible] European [illegible] London

each box. [illegible] & SONS, Boston, U.S. [illegible] removed to 33, Farringdon Road

Business Announcements.

THIRTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

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

ESTABLISHED 1830. 962p

"BON MARCHE."

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Important Purchase of another lot of Travellers' Samples of Ladies' and Gentlemen's

UMBRELLAS!!

AT A LARGE DISCOUNT OFF COST PRICE.
PRICES:—FROM 9½d. EACH, UP TO 22s. 6d.

NOTE.—With the exception of being shown a few days, every Umbrella is perfectly sound and fresh. This is a rare opportunity for securing first-class Umbrellas at a Saving of at least Thirty per cent.

27 DOZEN STAYS AND CORSETS.

Some Marvellous Cheap Lines will be offered in the above Goods, the principal portion being Travellers' Samples bought at a Discount of over Thirty per cent. off Cost Price. Ladies will please note that all our Corsets are specially Manufactured, and are *made to Fit the Body*—not the Body the Corset.

PRICES:—From 1s. 4½d., and upwards.
The "BON MARCHE" Corset (expressly made for ourselves), 2s. 11d. per pair.

For Beautiful and Cheap Fancy DRESSES, go to the "BON MARCHE."
For Bargains in VELVETS, SHAWLS, and SKIRTS, go to the "BON MARCHE."
Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Good and Cheap FLANNELS and BLANKETS.
Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Bargains in SHEETS, RUGS, and TABLE CLOTHS.
For the Best Value in Men's SHIRTS, BRACES, COLLARS, FRONTS, &c., go to the "BON MARCHE."
For Wonderfully Cheap CALICOES, HOLLANDS, HARNS, and DIAPERS, go to the "BON MARCHE."
Go to the "BON MARCHE" for extra Value in Gent's Lambswool UNDERCLOTHING.
Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Bargains in GLOVES, HOSIERY, LACES, FRILLINGS, &c.
70 Dozen TARTAN SCARFS, MUFFLERS, KNITTED CRAVATS, &c., 1d., 2d., 2½d., up to 1s. 6d.

PARTICULARLY NOTE THE ADDRESS—

D. BAIN & COMPANY,
"BON MARCHE" (New Drapery Shop) FOR GENUINE BARGAINS,
4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

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

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EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY
First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

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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; WM. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law. 85u

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

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

ROWATT'S PATENT LAMPS.

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

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RETAIL FROM IRONMONGERS AND LAMP-DEALERS.

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CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY

ESTABLISHMENTS,

59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET

STREET, CONSETT.

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

C. E. THOMPSON,
MANUFACTURER OF
RUBBER, STEEL, AND BRASS STAMPS,
SELF-INKERS, DATERS AND NUMERATORS,
PEN AND PENCIL STAMPS,
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EMBOSSING PRESSES, METAL-BODIED RUBBER TYPE,
AUTOGRAPHS, MONOGRAMS, CRESTS, &c., 809t
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SOUTH BIRTLEY STEAM, BRICK, AND TILE WORKS, CO. DURHAM.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

THE Proprietor, J. F. SWINBURNE, in returning his sincere thanks to his numerous friends for the liberal patronage they have bestowed upon him during the many years he has carried on the above Works, begs to inform them that he is in a position to Tender for Supplying, by Rail or otherwise, any quantities of AGRICULTURAL DRAINING PIPES of all sizes, and of the very best quality. Also, Best Machine-made BRICKS, PANTILES, FLOWER POTS, &c., and everything in the Trade as per Catalogue, which will be forwarded on application. 910t

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SUITABLE FOR A SCHOOL PRIZE OR GIFT BOOK.

VIEWS

OF

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

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

PORTRAITS.	
William Jenkins	1
Matthew Kearney	2
William Hedley	3
George Hedley	4
Thomas Colpitts Granger	5
John Graham Lough	6
John Annandale	7
John Renton	8
Joshua Lax	9
John Surtees	10
Robert Smith Surtees	11
VIEWS, &c.	
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Mr. ROBERT JACKSON, proprietor of the *Consett Guardian*, has been appointed Sole Agent for the Sale of the above Work in the Consett District, and will send a copy to any address on receipt of a Postal Order for One Guinea. 57

Public Notices.

☞ A THRILLING PIT STORY.

THE BLACK SHAFT;

OR, THE MINER'S DAUGHTER—A MYSTERY.

BY HENRY FRITH,

Author of "The Mystery of Moor Farm," "On the Wings of the Wind," "In Very Strange Company," &c.

THE PROPRIETOR has the pleasure to announce that the above NEW and ORIGINAL TALE is commenced in the

"CONSETT GUARDIAN" OF TO-DAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1885.

OUTLINE OF TALE.

The opening scenes of this thrilling and highly original tale are laid in Yorkshire, on the skirt of the old mining district, about twenty years ago. The discovery of a new vein, on the property of a certain Mr Duncomb, has necessitated an examination in the long-closed BLACK SHAFT—a dread and direful chasm, shrouded in mystery and gloom!

Around this centre the main incidents of the tale will revolve. The opening dialogue of two characters, and the expressed determination of a third, will shadow forth the mystery. As the tale developes itself the necessity for the concealment of a certain clandestine act will lead to events little suspected by the perpetrator, or by the reader. The characters enter the mimic stage, pass over it, and retire in a natural and sequential manner.

The exciting scenes, and the ever-increasing interest in the incidents of the tale, will keep the attention alive from the opening to the close of the narrative. Some of the action takes place in the American Praries, where the sensational fiction will enthral the readers. Nor will the romantic element be wanting amid the startling sensations, which are the features of this really exciting story.

Public Notices.

DERWENT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Members of the above Association will be held in the Town Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Saturday, the 21st inst., at Seven o'clock in the Evening.
105u W. PALLISER, Hon. Sec., *pro. tem.*

LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT!! for R. L. WALKER the Monarch of Scottish Song, and CAPTAIN SYDNEY HALL, the Man of Mystery from India, are coming on the 21st and 23rd February, and will astonish as well as please the People of Consett and neighbourhood, in the New Town Hall. Prices—3d., 6d., and 1s.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

ON Monday, the 16th February, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave CONSETT, at 5.30 p.m. (calling at intermediate Stations) for NEWCASTLE.

Fare, There and Back, Third Class, 1s.

The Return Train will leave Newcastle at 10.50 p.m. the same day.

For further particulars see Special Bills. 76u

THE WAR IN EGYPT.

THE Text of the Discourse by the Rev. EDWARD RILEY, on Sunday First, will be:—"Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand. Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.—Luke xiv, 31-32.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, CONSETT. Service at 6 p.m.

CONSETT & DISTRICT 741st STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

FIRST APPROPRIATION, March 11th, 1885, in the New Town Hall, Consett.

Chair to be taken at 7.30 p.m., by Mr. STARR or his Agent. Admission Free.

All who become members on or before March 11th can participate.

Members enrolled by applying to the Secretary, Mr. W. ELLIOTT, at the Office, New Town Hall.

Subscription Meetings every Monday night from 7.30 to 9. Be in time for First Appropriation. 117u

MEDOMSLEY CRICKET CLUB.

THE Committee of the above Club have great pleasure in announcing that they have arranged for a GRAND EVENING CONCERT, to be given in the Templars' Hall, Medomsley, on Monday Evening, February 23rd, 1885.

The following talented and highly popular Artistes have been engaged:—Miss STEPHENSON, Soprano, Newcastle; Mr. W. D. FERGUSON, Tenor, Newcastle; Mr. ED SOULSBY, Bass, Newcastle; Mr. GEORGE DUNCAN, Comic, Newcastle.

☞ Admission—A few Reserved Seats, 1s. 6d.; Second Seats, 1s.; Back Seats, 6d. Doors open at 7; to commence at 7.30. 109u

DURHAM BISHOPRIC ESTATES.

ALL those from whom small Freehold and Copyhold Rents, and the 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 2nd of February; at the VANE ARMS HOTEL, Stockton-on-Tees, on WEDNESDAY, the 4th; at the TALBOT HOTEL, Bishop Auckland, on THURSDAY, the 5th; at MEW'S, in Stanhope, on FRIDAY, the 6th; at the KING'S ARMS INN, St. John's Chapel, on SATURDAY, the 7th; at the BLACK BULL INN, Wolsingham, on TUESDAY, the 10th; at GREENWELL'S, Hamsteels, on WEDNESDAY, the 11th; at MAUGHAN'S, in Evenwood, and LEE'S, in West Auckland, on FRIDAY, the 13th; at the BLACK HORSE INN, West Boldon, on MONDAY, the 16th; at the QUEEN'S HEAD INN, Lanchester, on TUESDAY, the 17th; at BURN'S, LAMBTON ARMS, in Chester-le-Street, on Wednesday, the 18th; at LISHMAN'S, in Ryton, on THURSDAY, the 19th; and at the EXCHEQUER OFFICE, in Durham, on SATURDAY, the 21st of February, 1885, 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.

SMITHS AND GORE,
Receivers to the said Commissioners,
16, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.,
And 81, Bondgate, Darlington.
77u

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.

ENROLLED PURSUANT TO ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

CHIEF OFFICE:
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

The Directors are now prepared to advance money on Mortgage of Freehold and Leasehold Property.

NO LOAN FEES OR PREMIUMS CHARGED.

☞ The NEXT SUBSCRIPTION MEETING will be held in the Secretary's Office,

ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 1885,

But Shares may be taken up at any time on application to

ADAM BRODIE,
SECRETARY,
7u TOWN HALL, CONSETT

Public Notices.

MRS. TODD, of Leadgate, was the WINNER OF THE QUILT, Raffled for at No. 11, Bradley Cottages. 71u

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND 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 3rd day of March 1885, at Twelve o'clock at Noon, to receive the Directors' Report and the Account for the past Half-year, to declare a Dividend, and to elect two Directors and one Auditor in place of those retiring by rotation.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from 17th day of February to 3rd day of March.—By Order of the Directors,
126u M. RICHLEY, Secretary.

SUN FIRE AND LIFE OFFICES, LONDON.

FIRE.—*Established* 1710.
The oldest purely Fire Office in the World. Home and Foreign Insurances against loss by Fire and Lightning at moderate rates. Losses settled with promptness and liberality.

LIFE.—*Established* 1810.
Profits divided every five years. Large Bonuses. Tontine Bonus Policies granted. Very low premiums without participation in profits. No partnership liability. Simple Proposal Forms.

For further information apply to Mr. THOMAS W. WELFORD, jun., Agent (Fire only) for Consett, or to any of the Local Agents of the Society. 75u

RELIEF FUND FOR CONSETT & DISTRICT.

THE Committee of this Fund beg to inform the public that, in view of the distress now prevailing, they have set up Two of Messrs. WALKER & EMLEY'S PATENT COOKERS, which are now in active operation.

Contributions from the charitably disposed will be thankfully received by the NORTH-EASTERN BANKING Co., Limited, Consett; Messrs. HODGKIN, BARNETT, PEASE, SPENCE, & Co., Bankers, Consett; Mr. WILLIAM SHELL, Bar House, Chairman of Committee, Mr. ROBERT JACKSON, *Guardian Office*, Treasurer; or to
43u ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall Consett, Hon. Sec.

RELIEF FUND FOR CONSETT.

THE Benevolently-disposed Ladies and Gentlemen of the District are informed that Contributions in Kind, such as Food, Vegetables, &c., will be thankfully received, and may be sent to the Secretary, ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 44u

CONSETT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.

☞ Special Debate on the Women's Suffrage Question. Proceeds in aid of the Consett and District Relief Fund.

THE Council of the above Society respectfully announce that the Debate on Tuesday, February 24th, 1885, will be on the Question of WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, the proceeds being in aid of the Consett and District Relief Fund, when the following Members will Address the House:—

For—Mr HENRY LAMB, York; Rev. F. STEGGALL, City of London, Leader of the Opposition; Mr. ADAM BRODIE, Gateshead, Chancellor of the Exchequor; Mr. W. A. HOE, Premier.

Against—Mr C. C. McCOLVIN, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. M. RICHLEY, North Northumberland; Mr. J. S. REDMAYNE, Oxford, Foreign Secretary; Rev. E. P. RILEY, South Lincolnshire, Secretary for India.

Doors open at 7; to commence at 7.30 p.m.
Admission—Threepence each. 116u

CONSETT AND DISTRICT RELIEF FUND

GRAND EVENING CONCERT IN THE NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 1885.

THE Committee of the above Fund respectfully announce to the inhabitants of the District that the Consett Choral Society have kindly consented to give a GRAND EVENING CONCERT in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, February 18th, 1885, when the patronage of the public is requested for the relief of the distress now unhappily prevailing. A varied and select programme of choir music will be rendered. Doors open at seven o'clock; Concert to commence at half-past seven.

Tickets—Front Seats, One Shilling; Back Seats, Sixpence, may be had from Messrs W. Aynsley, Thos. Swainston, S. Rowe, T. D. Dryden, and W. Davison, Consett; Mr R. W. Shaw, Leadgate; Mr J. Palliser, Foundry Row, and Mr J. B. King, Cemetery Lane, Blackhill; Mr J. Lax, and Mr J. Brodie, Shotley Bridge; from members of the Choral Society; or of the Committee of the Relief Fund; or from Mr Wm. Shell, Barr House, chairman; Mr Robert Jackson, *Guardian* Office, treasurer; or Adam Brodie, hon. secretary.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT RELIEF FUND.

SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Thos. Spencer, Esq., Ryton-on-Tyne	10	0	0
St. Mary's Dramatic Society—proceeds of the Entertainment	10	5	0
J. Fleming, Esq., solicitor, Newcastle-on-Tyne	3	3	0
J. McCartin, Esq., solicitor, Consett	1	0	0
Primitive Methodist Society, Consett	0	16	0
Mr Jos. Pescod, workmen at brickworks	1	6	6
Mr James Hardy, workmen at engine-sheds, second contribution	1	0	0
Mr Matthew Clark, Mount Pleasant, Consett	0	10	0
Mr Robinson, Blackhill	0	10	0
Mr Thos. Hodgson, Blackhill	0	5	0
Mr Wm. Raw, Blackhill	0	5	0
Mr W. Eltringham, Blackhill	0	5	0
Mr Lowes, Blackhill	0	5	0
Collected by Ladies at Blackhill	1	0	3
Sundry Smaller Contributions	1	3	0

Mr Geo. Wade, Consett, meat to the value of 16s 6d.
Mr Walker, Ebchester, Load of Turnips and Vegetables.
Mr Walton, Medomsley, quantity of Cabbages.

Further Subscriptions either in money or kind will be thankfully received.

ADAM BRODIE, Hon. Secretary.
Town Hall, Consett. 119u

Public Notices.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

Sch. II. (25), and Sch. IV. (Form L). Public Health Forms, Sch. II. e.

REGISTER OF OWNERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF LEADGATE.

NOTICE OF TIME FOR MAKING CLAIMS AND OBJECTIONS.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that all persons who are entitled to vote as Owners or Proxies at the Election of Members of the Local Board for the District of Leadgate, and who are not on the Register of Owners and Proxies now in force, or who being on the Register do not retain the qualification or the address described therein, and who are desirous to have their names inserted in the Register about to be made for the said District, and all persons who are desirous of objecting to any name on the Register now in force, are hereby required to give or send to me, on some one of the first six days of March next, a Claim or Objection [as the case may be] in the Form hereunder set forth.

R. W. SHAW, Chairman of the Local Board.
Dated this 11th day of February, 1885.

OWNER'S CLAIM.

To the Chairman of the Local Board for the District of Leadgate, this day of 188

I, the undersigned claim to have my Name inserted in the Register of Owners and Proxies for the District of pursuant to the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, as Owner of the Property hereinafter described which is situated in the parish of that is to say:*

I also state that the Interest or Estate which I have in such Property, and the Amount of all the Rent-service which I receive or pay in respect thereof, and the Names of the Persons from whom I receive or to whom I pay such Rent-service, are set forth in the Form hereunder written.

Description of Property (a)	In respect of which I have an Estate or Interest (b)	And in respect of which I receive in Rent-service the sum of (c)	From (d)	And in respect of which I pay in Rent-service the sum of (e)	To (f)
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	

...................Signature of Claimant.
...................(g) Address of Claimant.

* Here insert a clear statement of the Property, as "House," "Building," "House and Acres of land."

(a) Describe the Property by its Name, Situation, or the Name of the Occupier, or any other designation by which it may be identified.

(b) Describe the Estate or Interest, as an Estate in Fee simple, of Freehold, a term of Years, and also whether it is held by the Claimant solely or jointly with others, and in the case of Partner claiming, insert the number and names of the other Partners in the firm.

(c) If the Property is let by the Owner, insert the amount of Rent received from each Tenant.

(d) Insert Name of Tenant or Tenants.

(e) If the Owner is a Lessee paying Rent, insert the amount of all the rent he pays.

(f) Insert the name of the Lessor.

(g) This need not be the Owner's residence; but should be some address within the District.

† A partner must set out the amount of Rent-service which he would receive or pay if the qualifying property were equally divided among his co-partners and himself.

CLAIM OF PROXY.

To the Chairman of the Local Board for the District of Leadgate, this day of 188

I, the undersigned, having been appointed by of Owner (or Owners) of the Property hereinafter described which is situate in the Parish of to vote as his (or their) Proxy, pursuant to the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, claim to have my name inserted in the Register of Owners and Proxies for the District of as such proxy.

I herewith transmit to you* the writing under the hand (or hands, or in the case of a Corporation, the seal) of appointing me such Proxy.

I also state that the Interest or Estate which has (or have) in such Property and the amount of the Rent-service which he (or they) receives (or receive) or pays (or pay) in respect thereof, and the Names of the persons from whom he (or they) receives (or receive), or to whom he (or they) pays (or pay) such Rent-service are set forth in the form hereunder written.

Description of Property. (a)	In respect of which the Appointor has an Estate or Interest of (b)	And in respect of which the Appointor receives in Rent-service the sum of (c)	From (d)	And in respect of which the Appointor pays in Rent-service the sum of (e)	To (f)
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	

...................Signature of Proxy.
...................(g) Address of Proxy.

* If the appointment itself is not sent, insert the words "an attested copy of."

(a) Describe the Property by its Name, Situation, or the Name of the Occupier, or any other designation by which it may be identified.

(b) Describe the Estate or Interest, as an Estate in Fee Simple, of Freehold, a term of Years, and whether it is held by the Appointor solely or jointly with others.

(c) If the property is let by the Appointor insert the amount of Rent received from each Tenant.

(d) Insert Name of Tenant or Tenants.

(e) If the Appointor is a Lessee paying Rent, insert the amount of all the rent he pays.

(f) Insert the Name of the Lessor.

(g) This need not be the Proxy's residence; but should be some address within the District.

FORM OF OBJECTION.

To the Chairman of the Local Board for the District of Leadgate, this day of 188

I hereby give you Notice that I object to the Name of the Person mentioned and described below being retained on the Register of Owners and Proxies for the District of

Christian and Surname of the Owner or Proxy objected to.	Address as described.	Nature of Qualification as described	Description (in case of Proxy) of Appointor.

...................Signature of Objector.
...................Address of Objector

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Pit Hill.—Saturday, Feb. 21st, 1885.

MR A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr J. ROCHESTER, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION all his Household FURNITURE AND EFFECTS. See Bills.

Sale to begin at Half-past One o'clock. 112u

Short Notice.

Todd's Houses, near Fox Inn, Dipton.—Monday, Feb. 16th, 1885.

MR A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr MATTHEW TODD, who is declining housekeeping, will SELL, as above, all his very valuable Mahogany and other Household FURNITURE, comprising 2 Feather Beds; Wringing Machine; Mahogany Wardrobe; Mahogany Drawers and Press; Mahogany Table; Mahogany Chair; Mahogany Couch; Carpets, &c. &c.; also Carriage Lamps; Carriage Rug; Saddle and Bridle; Coup Cart; Gig; Cart and Gig Harness; Trace Chains; about 2 tons of good Old Land Hay; Six year old Chesnut Pony, 13 hh., good worker and quiet; Stable appointments; Wheel Barrow; also Double-Breach Loading Gun, splendid article; &c., &c. See Bills.

Sale to begin at One o'clock prompt. 112u

CHEAP EMIGRATION TO AMERICA
EMIGRANTS WANTED BY THE 1,000

FARES REDUCED—£2 16s. 0d. from Liverpool to America, by the BEST LINES. Children Half-price.

APPLY TO A. PHILLIPSON, AUCTIONEER, DIPTON.

By Mr. John Crawford.

Market Lane, Bank Foot, near Whickham.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, instructed by the Misses TAYLOR, will SELL BY AUCTION, at Market Lane, Bank Foot, near Whickham, early in April, the whole of the FARMING STOCK and IMPLEMENTS, and Part of the Household FURNITURE. 95u

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

Business done promptly and on reasonable terms.

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket
The Oldest Established in the City.

SALES BY AUCTION of HORSES, CARRIAGE and SADDDLERY, EVERY TUESDAY, Two o'clock.

Entries respectfully solicited.

A. T. CROW, Auctioneer.
JOHN PEEL, Proprietor

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Monday and Tuesday, February 23rd and 24th, 1885.—Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett.—Declining Business.—Important Sale of Linen and Woollen Drapery and Fancy Goods, Shop Fittings and Counters, &c.

ADAM BRODIE is instructed by MR DANIEL HARRIS, Upen, near Lintz Green Station, who is Declining Business, to Remove and SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett, on Monday and Tuesday, February 23rd and 24th, 1885, the whole of his Stock of Linen and Woollen Drapery and Fancy Goods, Counters, and Fittings, and part of the Household FURNITURE, as follows:—Dress Goods, including Cashmeres, Beiges, and Brocades; Flannels and Calicoes; Shirtings; Hollands and Towellings; Silesias and Linings; Diapers and Muslins; Prints and Table Cloths; Men's Scarfs, Ties, and Fronts; Cardigan and Wool Jackets; Stays and Corsets; Ladies' Ties and Handkerchiefs; Lace Frillings and Edgings; Silk and Gingham Umbrellas, Pinafores and Aprons; Duck Jackets; Boys Coats; Crochet and Knitting Cottons; a few pairs of the best Blankets, and nearly every other article connected with the trade.

Also, the following Fixtures, Fittings, and part Furniture:—2 Shop Counters; large Mirror, 48 in. by 38 in.; Signboard; Three-leaved Screen 66 in. high; 6 High Chest Mahogany Drawers; good Birch Press; 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair seating; Wringing Machine; Tailors' Stove; excellent Sewing Machine; 2 Poss-tubs; Washing Tub; and sundry other Effects.

Sale to commence at One o'clock in the Afternoon on Monday, and Seven o'clock in the Evening of both days. The Fixtures, Fittings, and Sewing Machine will be Sold on the Monday Afternoon.

Full particulars of this Sale in Posters. 122u

Re JAMES FRODICK, in Bankruptcy—Sale of Household Furniture and Other Effects.

MR. A. BRODIE, instructed by A. S. MAPLES, Esq., Official Receiver, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett, on Tuesday February 17th, 1885, the whole of the household FURNITURE and MISCELLANEOUS EFFECTS, remove for convenience of sale, and comprising—2 Chests of Drawers; Round Tea Table; Square Table; 2 Kitchen Tables; 5 Windsor Chairs; 3 Cane Chairs; 2 Kitchen Chairs; Arm Chair; Child's Chair; Easy Chair; 2 Iron Bedsteads and Mattresses; 2 Washstands and Dressing Tables; Small Washstand; Child's Crib and 2 Towel Rails; 1 Timepiece; 1 Clock; Carpets and Oilcloth; Hearthrugs; Stair Carpet and Passage Oilcloth; Fenders and Fire-irons; 6 Pictures; Ornaments; Swing Glass; Toilet Ware; 1 Corn Bin; Cart Shafts and Wheels; together with the Kitchen Requisites and sundry Effects.

And the BUILDING MATERIALS in the Field near Mount Pleasant, as follows:—2 Ladders; 4 Trestles; Oven and Fire Grate; about 8 Loads Lime and 6 Loads Sand.

Also at the same time and place—Handsome Mahogany Chest of Drawers; Mahogany Drawers and Bookcase; Mahogany Bedroom Drawers; Painted Drawers; Mahogany Centre Table; Leather Couch; 2 Iron Bedsteads; Polished Tudor Bedstead; Best Feather and Down Beds; Excellent Carpet; Handsome Timepiece; Long Settee; 2 Ladies Japanned Tin Trunks; 4 Pictures; and Fine Toned, Full Compass Cottage Pianoforte; Good Wringing and Mangling Machine; 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating; Case of Stuffed Birds; Large and Handsomely-carved Aviary. Sale to commence at One o'clock, prompt. No reserve.

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

Postal Address—ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

☞ Royal Auction Mart, Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside.

☞ Monday, February 16th, 1885.

MESSRS. NICHOLSON & MURRAY will SELL BY AUCTION, the following STOCK:
15 Incalving Cows and Heifers
16 Fat Cattle.
96 Fat Sheep.
Half-ton of Hay.
24 Hams.
Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs, &c.
Sale at One o'clock. 115u

By Mr. John S. Murray.

Redwell Hills, near Leadgate.

MR. J. S. MURRAY, honoured with instructions from Mr. W. H. MADDISON and others, will SELL BY AUCTION, his SURPLUS STOCK, on Wednesday, February 18th, 1885, at Redwell Hills.

HORSES.
5 Horses.
2 Yearling Draught Colts.
1 Pony Foal.
1 Chestnut Colt, rising 3 years old, by "Lincropper."

CATTLE.
4 Geld Cows.
6 S.H. Stirks.
5 Incalving Cows, all close to profit.
2 S.H. Incalving Heifers, time close up.
3 One-and-a-half-years-old Steers.
8 Two-years-old West Highland Heifers (Kyloes), very fresh in condition.

HARNESS.
2 Sets of Plough Gears.
2 Sets of Saddles and Trappings.
1 Set of Double Harness.
A lot of Useful Odd Harness.

CARTS, &c.
2 Dog Carts.
1 Coup Cart.
1 Spring Cart.
A Set of Seats for fitting on Rolley.
1 Excellent Spring Cart, with Fittings for Butcher's Cart, nearly new.
1 Light Spring Waggon.
1 Dog Cart.
1 Waggonette, in good condition.
1 Barrel Churn, nearly new.

PIGS.
4 Sows, in Pig.
2 Store Pigs.

Parties having Surplus Stock to dispose of, can have them included in this Sale.

Sale at One o'clock prompt.

Entries solicited, and full particulars given—Apply to the Auctioneer, Benfieldside; or, Mr. W. H. MADDISON, Redwell Hills. 96u

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

By Mr. Joseph Oley.

At Coal Burn, near Greenside, on February 14th, 1885.

MR. JOSEPH OLEY will SELL the Household FURNITURE and other EFFECTS, belonging the late Mrs MARY BOWMAN, including incalving Cow, due at the time of Sale, and 1 One-year-old Heifer Stirk. For particulars see Posters.

Sale at Two in the Afternoon. 74u

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

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart.

MONDAY FIRST, FEBRUARY 16th, 1885.

PRESENT ENTRIES:—
30 Dairy Cows and Heifers from Weardale and surrounding district.
5 Geld Cows.
14 Steers and Heifers, 1 to 2½ years old.
12 Prime Fat Cattle.
100 Fat Sheep.
Calves, Pigs, &c.
1 Draught Colt, rising 4 years old. } Unbroken.
1 Do. Filly, rising 3 years old. } Unbroken.
1 Ton of Hay.
1 Ton of Oat Straw.
20 Bolls of Oats.
Dog Cart, in good order, &c.

Sale to commence with Fat Cattle at 1 o'clock, Cows and Store Stock at 2.30 p.m.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Partridge Close, Tow Law. 124u

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

THOMAS BOSTON'S,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Business Announcements.

CARRIAGES.

J. COWEN,
CARRIAGE BUILDER,
HEXHAM,

HAS FOR SALE, NEW DOG CARTS and WHITECHAPELS of most substantial make, elegant designs, and fine finish. For quality and price they are the cheapest in the market, and never fail to give satisfaction.

Carriages of any description built to order.
Repairs of all kinds well and cheaply done.
Gentlemen waited on, and Estimates given. 66a

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England. Established 1780.
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET.
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE.
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

N.B.—A large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold and Silver GUARDS, ALBERTS, &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT is now recommended by the leading Medical Men in the North, as being the most suitable Wine for Sick persons and Invalids. 3s. per dozen; 3s. per bottle. Carriage paid on 6 bottles and upwards.
W. GLENDENNING,
WINE MERCHANT,
9, GRAINGER STREET,
103t NEWCASTLE.

PATENT MEDICINES.

PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
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PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.

J. ROBERTS, 1, NEW BRIDGE STREET,
97, CLAYTON STREET,
NEWCASTLE.

SOLE PROPRIETOR OF
ROBERTS'S RENOWNED BUCHU BITTERS,
Roberts's Patent Blood Tonic, Quinine and Iron Elixir and numerous other justly Celebrated Compounds. 92a

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

Letter on "Representation of Consett," Obituary Notice, and Article No. III. on "Our Town," are held over for a week.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 1885.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

The pictorial illustrations now so popular in daily and weekly newspapers promised to be quite an interesting feature in modern journalism; but the representations of living celebrities are so dissimilar that one might as well have no illustrations at all. It is recorded that a lady, having occasion to visit a museum in the North, was shown the skull of a notorious character, which so surprised the fair one that she involuntarily exclaimed, "Dear me, they have one in London!" So it seems to be with most newspaper proprietors. Everyone seems to have a portrait for his own especial use; and as hardly two are alike, the public are just about as wise as ever. A slight cast of countenance is hardly worth mentioning; but it is beyond a joke when a man is ushered before the public with no fewer than three distinct types of nose. Really, the thing ought to be better managed, if the illustration business is not to be turned to utter ridicule.

"Man never is, but always to be blest," says Pope, but the blessing does not seem, somehow, to be quite general in application. There is, for example, the periodical sittings of the Consett Local Board. Who shall say that peace and concord dwells within that council chamber? So long as Mr Carss is to the fore the members of that interesting household may be prepared for squalls. To differ from other men has long been a prominent feature in "wor Harry's" composition, and doubtless will continue so to be till the end of the chapter. I do not think Mr Carss is a bad man; but that he is far too hasty and unguarded in his utterances few will, I think, attempt to gainsay. It appears that he acted very indiscreetly at Durham; and the Board was justified in showing its disapprobation of the step. There is a time for joking, and there is a time to refrain from that species of pleasantry. Besides, had Mr Carss been sincere in the assertion which he put forward by way of an excuse—that it was said in a jocular way—he would have hastened to tender the asked-for apology, instead of rendering himself the butt of combined contumely and scorn. An apology would not have detracted from his manhood a whit; whilst it would in some measure have healed the wound he gave. Mr Storey, M.P., speaking at a public meeting the other week, said that a man should always so conduct himself in this world that when the time came for him to leave it he would be greatly missed. It would seem as if Mr Carss had taken this text to heart; for in his intercourse with his fellow-men the spirit thereof is borne out to the letter—although hardly in the sense Mr Storey meant.

There must, at anyrate, be something wrong with somebody. Either Mr Carss is exceeding wise, acute, and discerning, or his lot has fallen among a herd of clowns. I leave the question an open one; but it should not be forgotten that the man that is over wise is on the verge of being a fool. There is a class of people who fancy themselves to be very smart because they allow their ill-regulated tongues to waggle and blurt forth every foolish notion that finds a lodgment in their empty noddles. These are the people who boast that they tell you what *they* think; and a more despicable class of fools is not to be met with. They prate and talk as if the whole nation was made up of abodexters, and that the gods had made choice of them as the only exponents of truth. They will say it is better to say so-and-so to your teeth than go behind your back and tell it. Perhaps so; but it might be better still did those innocents hold their tongues until they had sense enough to use them.

That horrible story from the Felling is enough to turn anybody's stomach; and what an impudence the woman had to call her illgotten venison by the name of "Scotch hare!" One has heard of Irish stew; but Scotch hare is not destined to become so popular. My attention was drawn some time ago to an advertisement in the Newcastle papers relative to the whereabouts of a prize cat, which had been, as the saying goes, either stolen or strayed. Poor puss! there is little doubt but she has been transformed into a Scotch hare, and subsequently entombed in the appreciative stomach of some Tyneside worthy. Henceforth people will be disposed to buy hares and rabbits with the skin on; for it would seem that pussy is so good an an imitation that, bar the thickening of the soup, there is really no method of distinguishing between the real and the counterfeit. About fifty favourites gone amissing, alas! and "none o'er their low bed may weep." It is well, however, that the people who have taken ill over this cat flesh question are not sick unto death. Some of the buyers are said to have thanked their stars that Scotch hare could be had at so reasonable a figure on Tyneside, and the depot whence the supplies came was kept for the knowledge only of special friends and cronies. All have shared more or less in the horror and consternation consequent on the discovery, but those who best knew the cheap shop have reaped a double measure of mortification.

The discovery of a Spa Well at Stanhope recalls an amusing incident in connection with that place. I had occasion frequently in former years to pay periodical visits to Stanhope, by way of the Derwent Fells. The road is almost as lonely as the pass of Glencoe; and it is somewhat remarkable that within half-a-dozen miles of Consett—as the crow flies—there should be many long-stretching miles of heath, with black-faced sheep wild as March hares; and grouse breaking the monotony of the solitude by the bold cry so well known to the natives of the mountain. My curiosity was, however, for a long time awakened by an object of a very different character. On the south side of the Fell, overlooking the green valley of Weardale, was quite a model little garden, and in the centre, half hidden by the surrounding foliage, was a gun of large calibre. The carriage seemed to be composed of artistically-arranged boulders of stone, around which the woodbine clung in graceful clusters. The shades of departed warriors seemed to haunt the spot, for I never passed it without being led in spirit to scenes of carnage and blood. The wars of the Peninsula, the Crimea, and the Indian Mutiny, marched past in quick review, but no voice came from out the past to tell the trophy's history or its name. Eventually I began to conjecture how it was possible to drag so formidable a weapon to so outlandish a locality. It would have taken all the horses in Weardale to have dragged it up the hill. Musing thus one day whilst in that neighbourhood, I accosted a countryman in this wise: "Where did that cannon come from, and how does it happen to be here?" "What cannon?" was the astounded reply, and the man opened his mouth as if that would add to his sense of vision. "Why the gun in the garden yonder," I remarked. This last observation drew from the countryman a loud and most provoking roar of laughter, and when the fit had spent itself, he coolly observed: "Wey, man, that's not a gun; its nowt but an awd wooden pump!" The visions I had treasured fled in a moment, but I declare that the representation was a faultless one—breech and tapering muzzle complete.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

An extraordinary rumour was current in Consett and the neighbourhood on Saturday night to the effect that Mr Gladstone had been shot. All manner of inquiries on the subject were made. We need not say that the rumour was without foundation. How it originated is of course not known.

HOME MISSIONS.—On Sunday, sermons were preached to good congregations in the Baptist Church, Consett, on behalf of the Baptist Home Missions, in the morning by the Rev R. Herries, of North Shields, and in the evening by the Rev E. W. Jenkins, Highgate.—Last (Thursday) night, the annual public meeting was held, at which there was a good attendance. Mr C. P. Douglas, C.E. (Consett), occupied the chair, and addresses were delivered by the Revs J. M. Murphy (deputation), London, E. W. Jenkins, and E. P. Riley. A collection was taken on each occasion in aid of the Home Mission Fund.

THE LOCAL BOARD EPISODE.—Remedy for a storm in a teapot:—Empty the vessel of its contents. A more effective plan it would not be easy to conceive, the only requisites being common sense to appreciate it and presence of mind to put it into execution. Both these requisites were at hand in the Consett Local Board yesterday. There was a dispute and an alleged "venting of spite and spleen." But the "venting" was plugged in the process; the Board was adjourned forthwith; and the business was deferred for a week. If for nothing else, because of this stroke of wisdom, the name of "Consett" deserves to prevail in the Boundary Commission.—*Newcastle Chronicle.*

WESLEYAN HOME MISSIONS.—The usual services in connection with the above were preached in Consett Wesleyan Chapel last Sunday, the Rev W. Hare occupying the pulpit in the morning and evening.—The annual public meeting took place on Thursday se'nnight, a fairly good audience being presided over by Mr Oliver, West Stanley. The chief speaker was the Rev J. H. Hopkins, of Manchester, who described the successful operations of the society in this county during the past year. The choir sang appropriate pieces; and collections were taken on each occasion in aid of the above missions.

THE TRAIN SERVICE ON THE DERWENT VALLEY LINE.—At the half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the North-Eastern Railway Company held on Friday in the De Grey Rooms at York—Mr J. Dent-Dent (chairman of the directors) presiding—Mr L. C. Ridley (Newcastle) asked why the service of trains on the Derwent Valley line was so inadequate to the number of the population? There was a train from Newcastle at 2·30, another at 5·30, and another at 7.30. Why was there not a later train? Some time ago the company promised more trains if they would let the matter stand over for two years. The two years had elapsed, and nothing had been done.—The Chairman said they could not discuss a matter of detail of that kind at that meeting. If a deputation were sent to the Traffic Committee the matter would receive full consideration.

RELIEF FUND.—On reference to our advertising columns our readers will see that the Choral Society have kindly consented to give a grand evening concert on Wednesday next, in the New Town Hall, in aid of this fund, and from the excellent programme which has been issued, and the fact that the entire proceeds are to be given for the relief of those in our midst who are in necessitous circumstances, we hope the effort will meet with a hearty response. We also observe that a special debate has been arranged for by the Council of the Parliamentary Debating Society on the Women's Suffrage question, to take place on Tuesday evening, 24th Feb., the moneys received for admission to which are to be devoted to the same object, when we trust they will have a bumper house to listen to the very able speakers who have undertaken to debate the question. The Directors of the New Town Hall Company have agreed to pay out of their own pockets the hire of the hall for the concert above-named.

ACCIDENT AT THE IRON WORKS.—In consequence of an accident of a rather serious nature occuring at Consett Iron Works at five o'clock on Saturday morning—viz., the breaking of the bed plates of the engine in No. 3 plate mill—a large number of hands were prevented from resuming work on Monday, and the mill will be laid off for one or two months. No 1 plate mill, however (which has been standing idle for some time), has been restarted.

CONCERT.—On the evening of Saturday last, a concert was given in the New Town Hall, Consett. The object was of a philanthropic nature, being for the benefit of Mr Robert Williams, of Blackhill, who has been out of employment for many months. There was not a very large attendance. The artistes consisted of a popular amateur vocal solo party from Middlesbrough, comprised as follows:—Miss Griffiths (Mêuna Glan Tees), soprano; Mr J. Griffiths and Mr Joseph Jones, tenors; Mr W. Phillips (leader) and Mr J. Roberts, baritones; and Mr David Davies, basso. These were also supplemented by Mr Chris. Stelling, pianist, and Mr Jon. Stephenson, solo flautist. The following programme was gone through:—Glee, "Winds gently whisper," Party; song, "The Wolf," Mr Davies; song, "The blind girl to her harp," Miss Griffiths; duet, "The army and navy," Messrs Janes and Roberts; song, "Death of Nelson," Mr Griffiths; song, "Man the lifeboat," Mr Roberts; duet, "Albion," Messrs Griffiths and Davies; song, "The pilgrim of love," Mr Jones; song, "Stonewall Jackson," Miss Griffiths; glee, "Fair Flora Decks," Party; picolo solo, Mr Jonathan Stephenson; trio, "Ye shepherds tell me," Messrs Jones, Phillips, and Davies; song, "The old brigade," Mr Roberts; duet, "Love and war," Messrs Griffiths and Davies; song, "The children's home," Miss Griffiths; song, "Mary of Argyle," Mr Griffiths; duet, "Brotherly love," Messrs Jones and Roberts; song, "The British lion," Mr Davies; song, "Oh! send me one flower from his grave," Mr Jones; glee, "Sleighing," Party. Considering that the artistes were amateurs, the pieces allotted to each were very well rendered. Miss Griffiths scored an *encore* in her last song, "The children's home;" as also did Messrs Griffiths and Davies in Cook's favourite duet, "Love and War," it being the best piece of the evening. Messrs Jones and Roberts were recalled for the duet, "Brotherly love," and Mr Jones was also heartily *encored* for his rendering of Parkhurst's song, "Oh! send me one flower from his grave." Mr Stephenson's picolo solo did every credit to himself, and it was re-demanded. The pieces were considerably enhanced by Mr Stelling's accompaniments, his efforts being all that could be desired. The programme was brought to a close by the company singing the National Anthem.

BLACKHILL.

HIGHGATE BAPTIST CIRCUIT. — On Sunday, special sermons in aid of the Baptist Home Missions were preached in the Highgate Chapel by Mr W. A. Hoe in the morning, and the Rev R. Herries, North Shields, in the evening.—At the Baptist Chapel, Rowley, the Rev E. W. Jenkins preached in the morning, and Mr Hoe at night.

BENFIELDSIDE STOCK AUCTION MART.—Messrs Nicholson and Murray sold on Monday 19 calving cows and heifers, from £10 2s 6d to £19 10s; 21 fat cattle, from £7 5s to £20 15s; 12 store cattle, £5 10s to £5 17s 6d; 4 calves, 16s to 37s 6d; 130 fat sheep, 26s to 48s 6d; 12 pigs, 24s to 45s. Hay, £2 17s to £3 18s per ton; straw, 2s per thrave. Hams, 5d to 6d per lb. There was a fair trade throughout, according to the dull times.

LITERARY AND THEOLOGICAL READING SOCIETY.—The above society has resumed its work, and we believe is likely to prove a success, both in point of numbers and in the wide interest of its subjects of thought, of reading, and of speech. The subject for Saturday evening is "Christ in his human Aspect," which will be introduced by Master Robson, Blackhill. Of course this will involve an after conversazione upon the varied opinions held and promulgated by theologians of the past centuries and of the present age, say from Ebion and Artemon, down to the "Ecce Homo" of Professor Seeley and the "Ecce Deus" of Dr Parker. The society is again under the chairmanship of Mr Jon. C. Wylie.

ST. MARY'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY.—We are glad to state that this society, some of the members of which are possessed of considerable histrionic ability, have been enabled to hand over, as the result of the entertainment recently given by them at Blackhill, the handsome sum of £10 5s to the Consett and District Relief Fund; and we are requested by the Committee to acknowledge in our columns their thanks to the generous donors as well as to those who so liberally supported them by their presence. They would likewise express their obligation to Mr R. Murray for his kindness in granting the use of the Agricultural Hall free of charge.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The choir held their annual gathering in the schoolroom on Thursday se'nnight, when a capital supper, provided by Mesdames Richardson and Macdonald, was done ample justice too by the choir and friends, numbering upwards of 80. The tables were presided over by Misses Macdonald, Richardson, Janet Hopper, M. E. Robinson, Cranston, Sayers, and Marshall. After supper, a handsome writing desk, with suitable inscription, was presented to Mr Bain, the leader; and a beautiful work-table to Miss Pescod, the organist. Mr A. Richardson, in a neat and telling speech, made the presentation, being supprted by Mr Hall, both speaking in high terms of the warm interest taken in the choir by Mr Bain and Miss Pescod, and their untiring zeal in doing all in their power to make the choir successful and prosperous. Mr Bain replied for himself and Miss Pescod. The Rev A. Baillie (pastor) presided over the gathering. A few hours were spent by the younger members in various games, when the proceedings were brought to a close, after a pleasant and harmonious evening.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

SHOTLEY SPA.—We understand that Messrs Wilson Bros., provision merchants and grocers, of Shotley Bridge, have taken on lease for a term of years this well-known place of resort. This enterprising firm had a few years ago the Shotley Spa, and spent a considerable sum in improvements, and in making the "Spa" better known in the district. Under their management "Shotley Spa" became a household word, and the most popular place for Sunday school and other pic-nics in the North of England. We have no doubt but that under the auspices of this enterprising firm the "Spa" will again become popular, and we think that their venture will prove remunerative.

FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The 36th annual general meeting of the above society was held in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Saturday evening, under the presidency of Mr C. Mosley. After the adoption of last minutes, the balance sheets were read and unanimously accepted. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Mr J. Booth, president; the whole of the former vice-presidents were re-elected, together with Messrs F. Priestman, J. Carr, M. Coupland, and J. A. K. Falconar; Mr J. Lax, treasurer; Mr W. Ramsay, secretary; Messrs J. Collinson and W. Wilson, auditors; and the whole of the retiring members of committee, supplemented with Messrs Whiting, R. Charlton, W. Nicholson, D. Omerod, J. R. Taylor, and J. Potts. Owing to the two successive financial failures of the rose show, it was decided to discontinue it in future. After other matters had been disposed of the meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

LEADGATE.

On Monday night, a successful popular concert took place in the Miners' Hall, Leadgate, in aid of the funds of that institution. Several talented ladies and gentlemen proffered their services.

IVESTON.

KILLED ON THE RAILWAY.—At noon on Friday last, Mr John Graham, coroner, held an inquiry at the New Inn, Iveston, into the circumstances attending the death of John Robinson, aged 15 years (son of Mr Robinson, landlord of the above inn), who was killed on the new railway now in course of construction near Greencroft Cottages, on Wednesday se'nnight, under circumstances already described.—After hearing the evidence of the engineman (Henry Whitby), the fireman (John Hart), and Dr Allen (who described the nature of the injuries received by the deceased), the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

WEST STANLEY.

On the 5th inst., Mr John Simpson, a gentleman well-known and much esteemed in this district, died at Elswick Colliery, at the age of 43 years. Mr Simpson was formerly engineer at West Stanley Colliery. His remains were interred in Beamish Churchyard on Saturday afternoon, a large company following the *cortege.*

CHURCH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY (*Beamish Branch*). A very successful and well-attended meeting of the above society was held on Monday evening Feb. 2nd. The chair was occupied by the Rev L. M. Chesters, vice-president, who, after the meeting had been suitably opened, quickly introduced the programme by calling upon the choir to sing "Only as a [illegible]." The melody was excellently rendered, the second verse being sung by Mr J. W. Kelly (tenor), and the third by Miss K. Masterman (soprano), the choir giving the chorus. Mr E. W. Robson read "Betty and the conjuror," after which Miss K. Masterman sang "Won't you buy my pretty flowers?" in a manner which gained well-merited applause. Mr J. Robson recited "The little town of Weinsburgh," which was *encored*, and he again appeared in the recitation, entitled "Pat and the priest." After this Mr J. Knox sang "Norah, my darling," which was so loudly applauded that he again favoured the audience with "Beautiful home." Mr G. Bruce read an interesting piece, entitled "The black side of drink," in which was pictured the miseries attending drunkenness. This piece was well appreciated by the audience. Miss J. Anderson next sang "Beautiful Zion" in a pleasing manner, and was applauded, after which Mr E. W. Robson recited "The soldier's funeral." This was followed by a song, entitled "Little sister's gone to sleep," which was well sung by Miss E. Bruce, aged eleven years, and the little Miss fairly carried the house. Mr Robt. Bell then read "Father is drunk," after which Miss M. A. York sang "Water for me." This brought the programme to a close, and the meeting closed by a hymn and prayer. There are enrolled on the books 191 members, which speaks well for the prosperity of the society.

BURNOPFIELD.

PRESENTATION TO CLERGYMAN.—A meeting of the parishioners was held in the Lintz School, on Monday night, for the purpose of presenting the Rev C. E. Couchman (curate) with a gold watch and medal on leaving this parish to enter on duties in the south. The Rev T. Stirrup (vicar) opened the meeting by speaking of the valuable services of Mr Couchman in the parish, and of the esteem in which he was held.—Mr G. Smith (churchwarden), was called upon to present the gold watch on behalf of the parishioners.—Mr Gordon was afterwards called on to present, on behalf of the Temperance Society, of which Mr Couchman was vice-president, a gold temperance medal, and hoped that he would form a society in the parish where he was going, and effect as much good thereby, and even more than what he had done there.—Mr Couchman expressed his sincere thanks for both gifts, and spoke of the universal kindness he had met with, and which had rendered his labours so very agreeable.—The proceedings closed by a hymn and prayer.

HAMSTEELS.

THE COLLIERY FATALITY.—On Monday afternoon, Mr Coroner Graham held an inquest at the house of Mr Richard Wall, the Hamsteels New Inn, touching the death of James Walton, a miner, who was killed on the 3rd inst. (as stated in last week's issue) by a fall of coal and band in the Taylor Pit, Hamsteels. The man lived twelve hours after the accident, being attended by Dr James Kirkland.—Verdict, "Accidentally killed."

TOW LAW.

The annual dinner of the Tow Law and Thornley Association for the Prosecution of Felons was held on Wednesday night.

On Thursday se'nnight, the annual Home Missionary meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, addressed by the Revs A. Rees, Manchester, Wm. Henderson, Wolsingham, &c. The chair was taken by Mr T. Fenwick.

On Saturday night, the Knitsley Primitive Methodist choir gave a sacred concert in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Tow Law, in aid of the Knitsley chapel funds.

SALVATION ARMY.—Last week was a special time with the Army at Tow Law, when Salvationists from the surrounding districts visited the place. On Saturday afternoon, there was a march, followed by a tea. Then there was a hosanna meeting, conducted by "Black Country Wonder" and "Happy George." There were several services on Sunday, all being numerously attended.

LECTURES.—On Wednesday night, the Rev H. P. Slade gave a lecture on "Astronomy: What is it?" in the Mechanics' Institute, being illustrated by 40 large views (given by means of oxhydrogen light) showing the wonders of the heavens. Dr Johnstone presided. The proceeds were in aid of the funds of the Presbyterian Church.—Last (Thursday) evening Mr Slade delivered the same lecture in St. George's Church, Darlington.—A lecture on "Garfield: From Peasant to Premier," was given by Mr E. Savage, in the New Connexion Chapel, on Saturday night. Chairman, Mr J. Vickers. Next day special services were held.—On Wednesday week, the Rev T. Guttery, Sunderland, preached and lectured in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, to large audiences. The lecture was on the subject of the late "General Gordon, the Soudan Hero." Mr Dixon presided.

GATESHEAD.

PRESENTATION TO A CASTLESIDE GENTLEMAN.—The other evening, the members of the choir of the Durham Road Baptist Church were entertained to tea in the Lecture Hall by Mr and Mrs Leybourne. After a bountiful repast, Mr Leybourne, the conductor (who belongs to Castleside), was presented with a baton by the choir. The Rev A. F. Riley said that although choirs were often a source of trouble to churches, it was satisfactory to know that their choir had been of great benefit to them. Perfect harmony and good feeling existed among them, owing the labours of their conductor. He hoped he would continue for many years to direct the choir and labour in other departments of the church. It was special privilege and honour to him to make this presentation, and to assure Mr Leybourne of their respect and admiration.—Mr Leybourne, in replying, stated he was glad to have their sympathy, and his thanks were most hearty for their nice present and the kind feeling which prompted it. He would always treasure that day as a most interesting period of his life.—The baton, which is of ivory mounted with gold, has the inscription—"Presented to Mr S. J. Leybourne by the members of the choir of the Durham Road Baptist Church, Gateshead." Games, diversified with songs, &c., whiled away a pleasant evening.

GREENCROFT.

THE DURHAM BEAGLES.—This pack met at Mr Balleney's, Little Greencroft, yesterday (Thursday). They were not long in finding a hare, and after running her two good "rings" by Esk Green and Greencroft, returning by Iveslcy, they killed her. A second hare was soon found and after two hours' run without a check, she shared the same fate. A third hare was shortly afterwards found, and the scent being good they ran her until darkness prevented further sport.

ENTERTAINMENT.—A magic lantern entertainment was given in the Preaching Room on Saturday night to an appreciative audience by Mr Geo. Armstrong, Catchgate. Some beautiful pieces were sung by Miss Ridley and Messrs G. Oliver and J. Wilkinson.—On the Saturday previous, the Band of Hope from Oxhill gave a temperance entertainment to a large and attentive assembly, the chair being occupied by Mr Wm. Reay. The proceeds are for the benefit of Miss Ridley, who has been labouring very successfully during the last fortnight at Greencroft.

WATERHOUSES.

TEMPERANCE.—In connection with the Hamilton and Hedley Hill Temperance Society, Mrs F. V. Douglas, of New York, has conducted a fortnights' temperance mission in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Waterhouses. The meetings have been largely attended. During the mission 300 persons signed the pledge and 100 abstainers have put on the blue ribbon.—At the annual meeting, the following officers were elected:—President, Rev M. P. Davison; Vice-presidents, Rev C. H. Barton, Rev R. B. D[illegible], Messrs J. Ranson, M. Johnson, and T. Pearson; treasurer, Mr H. Bowes; secretaries, Messrs T. Binns and T. Bowes.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.—An accident occurred at the Old Windsor Pit, Pontop Colliery, on Thursday se'nnight. Whilst some ballast waggons were being hauled out of a gulley of the coke ovens by the aid of an engine, one of the cotterils which fastens the "bell-shieves" on to the spindle broke, and the wire rope consequently swerved to one side of the curve. There is a level crossing near this point, and Jonathan Dixon, the man in charge of the same, was violently struck by the rope as it flew out of its proper groove, breaking his legs between the ankles and knee-joint. The man was immediately conveyed home, and Drs Benson and Fall were promptly in attendance, and re-set the fractured limb. Dixon was 70 years of age and in good spirits, and it is hoped that he will recover.—At the same moment, Christopher Graham, head-heap keeper, who was standing near Dixon, was likewise caught by the "spank" of the coil, and although no bones are broken, he is much bruised upon the legs and arms, and is at present unable to follow his employment in consequence of the severe shock he has received to the system.—At Annfield Plain last Saturday night, two men quarrelled and commenced to fight. During the encounter, both the combatants fell heavily upon the ground, one of them sustaining a broken leg.

WHITE-LE-HEAD.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—A grand entertainment was given on Saturday se'nnight, to a large and appreciative audience. Readings were given by Messrs J. J. Cuthbert and J. Rodham; solos by Messrs T. Crisp, W. McClenning, and Miss Hall; recitations by Miss Carrie Nicholson, and Miss Hall; short addresses by Mr J. Harrison and Miss Young. The meeting was presided over by the Rev E. Phillipson. On the motion of Mr J. Johnson, a hearty vote of thanks was given to all who had assisted in making this one of the best entertainments held in connection with this chapel.—Special sermons were preached on the Sunday, in the afternoon by Mr Wm. Harrison (Tantobie), and evening by Miss Young (York). The services are still being continued by Miss Young, who preaches every night to large congregations, and several souls have been converted. The services conducted by Miss Young will be continued for another week or two.

DIPTON.

Another of the series of "Pleasant Evening" entertainments in connection with St. John's Church, was given in the United Methodist Free Church School-room, on Saturday night, and proved a success.

NEW FIRE ENGINE.—A new hand fire engine having been purchased, in case of further outbreaks of fires in this locality, the apparatus was tested on Monday afternoon. A large bonfire, composed principally of tar barrels, &c., was lit in the streets of Dipton, and although the engine did not succeed in entirely extinguishing the fire, the flames were subdued to such an extent that the experiment was regarded as pretty satisfactory.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

An inmate of Chester-le-Street Workhouse of the name of Wm. Fenwick, aged 78 years, is said to be sole heir to a fortune of £175,000!

BEAMISH, PONTOP, AND CONSETT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—It has been resolved to hold the annual show of this society at Chester-le-Street on August 19th next. The report of the committee presented to the annual meeting of members recently show the society's affairs to be in a satisfactory condition.

HAMSTERLEY.

The magnificent bride-cake supplied for the wedding of Miss Surtees, of Hamsterley Hall, was made by Mr William Buszard, confectioner, Oxford Street, London.

WEARDALE.

Mr Radford has completed the audit of the accounts of the Weardale Union for the 26th year.

WOLSINGHAM.

ALLEGED DARING ROBBERY.—On Tuesday afternoon, whilst Dr Carr, barrister, who was walking home to Wolsingham from Bishop Auckland, was passing through Toronto, a lad plucked his silver-mounted Malacca cane from under his arm, and made off with it. The doctor gave chase, but failed to overtake the runaway, and then gave information to the police, who in the course of the evening found the stick—a valuable memento of friendship—in a field. A youth named John Pinkney (13) is in custody charged with stealing the cane.

THE NEW ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

CONSETT.

At the meeting of the Leadgate Local Board on Wednesday, the Chairman (Mr R. W. Shaw) stated that the deputation from that Board attended the meeting at Lanchester, as instructed at the last meeting; and were likewise present at the Boundary Commissioners' Court at Durham to advocate the designation of "Consett" being applied to the electoral division. The proceedings had been fully reported in the *Consett Guardian*; and the matter was now in abeyance. The question of the name was only of secondary importance; as if they were so fortunate as to secure a thoroughly good representative to send to Parliament, it was not of much consequence whether the Division was called "Lanchester" or "Consett."—Mr L. Nicholson: Lanchester of course.—The Chairman (continuing) said that several well-known gentlemen had been mentioned, but unfortunately they were all Liberals. He regretted that there was not a good old Tory in the district willing to come forward. (Laughter) There was Mr David Dale who would make a capital representative. (Applause).—Mr Hudson: Mr Dale will suit both parties. (Hear, hear).—The Chairman: It will therefore be a question for us "old stock" Tories to vote for the best man that comes forward in the Liberal interests. (Hear, hear).—The subject then dropped.

The *Newcastle Chronicle*, in a leaderette, remarks:—"Mr David Dale was proposed yesterday as a candidate for the Consett Division. As we have already stated, there are few men in the county of any class better fitted by nature and by training for filling a public post honourably and efficiently. Mr Trow, the ironworkers' secretary, has also been proposed as a candidate for the same division; and we speak not without knowledge when we say that he also is a man whose experience of social questions, exceptional intelligence, and capacity for political work would make him an excellent member of Parliament. There will likely be other candidates proposed between now and next year. What the public have to consider, in the meantime, is that the citizen's right to vote is not more sacred than the citizen's right to come forward as a candidate. Also, that the proposal of a candidate a year in advance must not be allowed to anticipate the privileges of the electoral period properly so called and the decision of the ballot-box."

Attention has been called to an extraordinary emanation from the Storey-Carnegie Syndicate press. In its "News in a Nutshell" is comprised the following:—"Mr David Dale, J.P., will contest the Darlington Division of the county of Durham in the Liberal interest, and Mr Edward Trow is to be invited to stand for the Conservatives." It would be exceedingly difficult for any writer to condense more egregious blunders into a smaller compass. The Conservatives are not such fools as to ask a Radical like Mr Trow to "stand for" them. If they did they would have their labour for their pains. Then, again, there is no Darlington Division in the county of Durham, and consequently Mr Dale will not contest it.

MEETING AT LANCHESTER.

Yesterday (Thursday) evening, a meeting of the residents of Lanchester and district took place at the Blue Bell Inn, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., to support the appellation of "Lanchester" being given to the Electoral Division. There was a fair attendance.

The CHAIRMAN, referring to the object for which they had assembled together, said that several meetings (so-called) had been already held, and a gentleman nominated as a candidate for their suffrages. His opinion was that the time for considering such a matter was most inopportune. His advice to those present was not to pledge themselves to support any individual, [illegible] Consett had declared in favour of the name of that town being given to the Electoral area, thus practically ignoring the claims of Benfieldside, Leadgate, Shotley Bridge, &c. The object of the present gathering was to consider the name of the division, and not to discuss or select any particular candidates. Mr Smith then read a petition, which it is intended to present to the House of Commons, advocating the title of Lanchester being given to the district.

It was then arranged to hold similar meetings in every township in the Union (including, in addition, Edmondbyers and Hunstanworth), within the next few days in furtherance of the scheme; and a committee, consisting of the Chairman, Messrs J. Bockham, T. Taylor Smith, T. Dunn, and W. Dixon, were appointed to communicate with the overseers in each parish for organising such meetings, and to carry out the necessary preliminary steps.

A representative meeting will again be held at Lanchester, when it is proposed to draw up a more voluminous petition.

The gentlemen present heartily agreed to co-operate with the committee, and a vote of thanks to Mr Smith terminated the proceedings.

MEETING OF LIBERALS AT CATCHGATE.

A meeting of Liberals was held at Catchgate on Monday, for the purpose of electing a committee and officers in connection with the North Durham Liberal Registration Association. Mr George Humble (Harperley) presided, and there was a good attendance.

After the election of a numerous and influential committee and officers, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz.:—

"That this meeting desires most sincerely to congratulate Her Majesty's Government on the passing of the Franchise Bill (whereby the electors in this district will be increased in the proportion of nearly ten to one), and assures the [illegible] of its hearty co-operation and support in passing the Redistribution of Seats Bill in the present session."

The reorganisation of the association to meet the altered circumstance of the Electoral divisions of the county was considered, and a deputation appointed to attend the general meeting at South Shields next Monday.

TEST ELECTION AT TANFIELD.

A similar meeting to the above was held at Tanfield on Monday se'nnight, presided over by Mr James Gilchrist. After the business of the meeting was transacted, the members, 50 in number, dined together at the house of Mr Ramshaw, Peacock Inn. After the dinner a test election took place to illustrate the principal of "Proportional representation" advocated by Mr Courtney, M.P., and Mr Albert Grey, M.P. A ballot was also taken on the name to be given to the local Electoral District, when a large majority were found to be in favour of "Lanchester" in preference to "Consett" or "West Durham." The proceedings were most harmonious throughout.

BLAYDON.

CONFERENCE AT PELTON.

A conference of representatives from the surrounding collieries has been held at Pelton, for the purpose of taking into consideration the feeling of the district concerning the selection of a candidate for the Blaydon Division. It was resolved to hold meetings at each of the collieries, in order to gain the general feeling of the district, and to have a voice in the selection of a candidate for the division.

A meeting was held on Tuesday in the Lecture Hall, Blaydon, to consider the representation of the division. Mr James Eadie presided. As a result of the public meeting lately held, and of communications from various parts of the district, Mr Crookes, secretary of the electoral committee, said he had fulfilled his instructions, and communicated with Mr Lloyd Jones, London, who replied that if he was nominated, and the conditions of the struggle are such as he could fairly comply with, he should most gladly stand and continue in the House the battle he had so long waged.—A resolution was moved and carried that steps be straightway taken to promote the candidature of Mr Jones, and that communications be opened to that end with representative bodies in other parts of the constituency. It was also decided to arrange for the holding of public meetings.

LABOUR REPRESENTATION IN DURHAM.

On Monday morning a largely-attended and influential meeting of members of the North and South Durham Liberal Associations, the Durham Franchise Association, and the Durham Miners' Federation Board was held at the County Hotel, Durham. Mr H. T. Morton (Fence Houses) presided, and amongst those present were Sir Henry Havelock-Allan, Colonel Scurfield, Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P., South Shields; Mr C. M. Palmer, M.P., North Durham; Mr W. Jenkins, Consett; Mr David Dale, Darlington; Mr James Joicey, Urpeth, &c. The following miners' representatives were also present:—Durham Miners' Association—Messrs J. Forman, president; W. Crawford, secretary; J. Wilson, treasurer; and W. H. Patterson, financial secretary, Durham; John Johnson, Andrew's House; D. Reed Medomsley; W. House, Bishop Auckland; W. Robinson, Hetton; Joseph Hogg, Hetton; and C. Simpson, Harraton. Durham Colliery Mechanics' Association—Messrs John Orr, Annfield Plain; L. Trotter Durham; and R. Allen, Sunderland. Durham Colliery Engineers' Association—Messrs W. H. Lambton, Hetton; T. Hindmarch, Ouston; and J. Routledge, Auckland Park. Durham Cokemen's Association—Messrs T. Hart, Bishop Auckland, and J. Bell Shildon.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said their meeting was called on the strength of two letters received from Mr Crawford as secretary to the Federation Board, one addressed to himself (the chairman) and the other to Col. Scurfield, requesting that a meeting of Liberal Associations should be summoned for the purpose of bringing before them the candidature of the three working men chosen by the Federation Board.

Mr W. CRAWFORD observed that it was well-known that the Federation Board had nominated three candidates, and that the constituencies selected for them to contest were the Houghton, Brandon, and Bishop Auckland divisions. The desire of the working men was to avoid a collision with the Liberal Associations, and to make some arrangement whereby the Liberal party might be keep intact.

Mr DAVID DALE spoke in favour of the course taken by the Miners' Federation Board.

Sir HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN, Mr STEVENSON, M.P., and Mr JOICEY also expressed their approval of the action of the Board, and were of opinion that three labour candidates for the county were not too many.

Mr C. M. PALMER, M.P., in a few words referred in terms of satisfaction to the course pursued by the Miners' Franchise Association.

Councillor LUCAS moved, and Mr W. CRAWFORD seconded, the following resolution:—

That it is highly desirable for all sections of the new electorate to arrange for the object of securing the return of Liberal members at the next election, and that this meeting is prepared to give support to the persons nominated by the Miners' Federation Board, providing their candidature is introduced by the Liberals in each division.

This was agreed to, as also was the following resolution, which was proposed by Mr J. JOICEY, and seconded by Mr W. H. PATTERSON:—

That this meeting requests the constituencies to form Liberal organisations, and that small committees from the South and North Durham Liberal Associations, the Federation Board, and the Miners' Franchise Association be appointed to aid such organisations.

These committees having been appointed, the proceedings terminated.

An ordinary Council meeting of the Durham Miners' Association was held in the Miners' Hall, Durham, on Saturday last—Mr John Forman presiding.—After the ordinary business had been gone through, a special programme, as to the confirmation or otherwise of the candidature of Messrs Crawford and Wilson, was brought on, when it was agreed that their candidature should be confirmed. The expenses will be paid through the Federation Board, as agreed at the political meeting held in the Town Hall, Durham.

The Boundary Commissioners for England have [illegible] the table the first day the House meets.

LADIES' COLUMN.

Though the day for the marriage of the Princess Beatrice has not yet been publicly announced, preparations for the great occasion are being made. It is not expected that Parliament will refuse to make the same grant to the Princess of £6,000 a year which each of her sisters enjoy. In fact, by the death of the Princess Alice one of these annuities lapsed, and the nation by bestowing it upon the Princess Beatrice will be nothing the poorer. A rumour that the Queen would wish an annuity also granted to Prince Henry of Battenberg must be merely a malicious surmise, one of those ill-natured suppositions which it gives some people pleasure to make. That a young man whose pay as an officer in the Prussian army is but £60 a year would gladly accept such an allowance as would make him independent of his wife, is only natural. But that so unwise a proposal should be made to Parliament is in the highest degree improbable. Some offence was taken in military circles at Prince Henry going to inspect the Seaforth Highlanders, of which the late Duke of Albany was honorary colonel, but, doubtless, it was done at the wish of a very exalted personage whose suggestions are commands. Now that the Queen has given her consent to her daughter's engagement she seems to be entering with a motherly interest into the details of the trousseau.

The presents bestowed by the Queen on the occasion of a Royal marriage are always selected with great care. It is easy for a rich person to choose a handsome present by giving an order to some tradesman, or filling up a cheque. The Queen never limits her souvenirs to one article or even to several articles of the same character. There is something charmingly homely in her choosing dresses, having the wedding veils worked in Devonshire, the poplin dresses woven in Ireland, and the milliners selected in London. Each daughter and daughter-in-law has had a Honiton veil, specially wrought for her marriage, and the Princess Louis of Battenberg wore her own mother's, which had been carefully laid aside by the Princess Alice as a cherished relic.

To our ultra conventional views, the Duke of Albany giving his bride an evening dress, was a little unusual. It is not etiquette for the English bridegroom to give wardrobe gifts, though in Spain the royal bridegroom presents all the trousseau; and being the country of rigid etiquette, the very number of the dresses and their style are laid down as a Medo-Persian edict. When the Archduchess, the mother of the present Queen of Spain, went to Worth to order her daughter's dresses, the great man milliner felt himself insulted by having the details decided for him. Accustomed as he has been for fifteen or sixteen years to lay down laws on dress for ladies on both Continents, he was hurt at the overbearing manner of the bride-elect's mother. The friction was too severe, and the Archduchess carried her order to Worth's great rival in the Rue de la Paix.

Already orders have been sent by her Majesty to the Dublin poplin weavers for some special patterns to be at once put into the looms, in readiness for the Princess Beatrice when the date of her marriage is fixed. The speciality of this material is its lastingness. Many of the new textiles are more showy, give more striking effects, but poplin wears until its owner grows weary of the dress, and wishes for something newer. The weft thread is wool, and the warp silk, which latter so coats the woollen thread that the material is the same on both sides. Having no cotton in it, and the wool having been previously thoroughly shrunken, poplin bears damp weather exceedingly well. To detect an imitation poplin is so very easy, and the owners of the factory exercise such vigilance in the market that it is not worth any English or French firm competing. The poplin trade came to Dublin nearly two hundred years ago. When Louis XIV. revoked the Edict of Nantes the Protestant silk weavers fled to the Low Countries and to England for refuge. One colony of Huguenots eventually found their way to Dublin, and there established themselves in various callings. There were silk weavers and linen weavers, modellers, carvers, engravers, musicians, &c., and as all this occurred before the union between England and Ireland, Dublin was a gay city, with resident gentry and encouragement for the arts. The selfishness of the foreigners in refusing to take apprentices from the generous natives who received them, was the death of all the high-class work when the first generation of immigrants passed away. Poplin alone remained a trade, as it was impossible to carry it on without native aid.

One special design in black corded poplin is always kept in stock for the Queen's personal wear. The cord, which runs crossways in sets of two together, is in good relief, and the texture is sufficiently substantial to fall in graceful folds. One of the patterns always woven for the royal brides is of white, with gold thread introduced in lines, dots, &c. That for the Princess Beatrice will be ivory white ground with a design in arabesques of gold. As the thread is really pure fine gold thread, the poplin lights up by artificial light, the only disadvantage being the enormous weight when the material is used for a court train. Since the gold brocaded poplins were invented, court trains have been growing in length and width, and have an increasing amount of trimming, in the form of quillings, pleatings, &c., and of heavy artificial flowers. Formerly a train was merely silk lined, and a thick silk cord as bordering all round the edge, so that it could easily be carried on the arm. Now a court train is four-and-a-half yards long, and wide in proportion.

Another poplin dress, ordered for the Princess, is cardinal colour in a thick poplin, which, made in black, is used for mantles, looking like very massive silk sheeting, with a soft surface like [illegible] velvet. Yet another dress ordered is to be of sky blue, all showered over with forget-me-nots.

Mrs. Langtry's play "The Princess George," at the Prince's Theatre, has not given satisfaction, neither the play itself—which, like most French adaptations, is not suited to English ideas—nor the acting, which is condemned by the dramatic critics. The great sensation has been the dresses, which were gorgeous masterpieces of work, on which neither time, taste, nor money had been spared. Twelve dresses at once is a large order for a lady to give a milliner whose charges are from £80 to £90; but Mrs. Langtry has found by experience what an advantage a magnificent dress gives her before an audience. America may be rich in natural productions, but her art is far behind Europe. Mrs Langtry found it impossible to get what she wanted in New York, and thinks nothing of crossing the Atlantic to make her selections. It is very doubtful if she will net the large sums in England which she has done in America. Rumour says that she has invested £17,000 in house property in New York. The whole twelve dresses are not to be completed immediately, but six have already arrived. Two are ball dresses, two reception, and two walking dresses, and it would be invidious to eulogise one of these great creations more than another.

One ball dress is of cream velvet broché, the ground being velvet and the flowers in very high relief in gold. The bodice and train are of very pale, nearly blush, pink velvet, and a scarf of the pink velvet is draped across the front. The lower edge of the scarf is cut out in points, very deep Vandycks, and the whole dress is edged wherever there is a point to fasten it to, with narrow pearl fringe. Huge bunches of pink roses join the front and the back draperies. The second ball dress is of white satin and pansy-coloured velvet. On the satin tablier large pansies are applied, done like the fruit and flowers on old altar hangings, by raising the pansies with wadding stuffing, so that they are in very high relief. The back drapery is of satin, lined with purple velvet, so far as to make revers at the sides. The bodice of velvet is a mass of violets and heartsease. Mrs. Langtry's morning dresses do not sound so magnificent, but they are extremely elegant. One is of green velvet, a skirt quite straight trimmed with a wide band of the feathers of a bird whose plumage is famous for its metallic brilliancy of striking, changing blue, green, and purple, like a peacock's neck. The green velvet bodice has a waistcoat of the same feathers. One reception dress is of greyish-greenish velvet familiarly known as "London smoke." It is made princess shape, but the skirt has open panels to show an under skirt of ivory white Indian gauze striped with silver. The bodice is braided in silver, and the design is continued down one side of the skirt, while a broad trimming of grey feathers edges the other. The other reception dress is made of pink satin and pink poplin, the skirt of the former, the bodice of the latter, also a front drapery which is edged with a fringe of gold sequins. Large ornaments of gimp in black and gold loop up the skirt, and gold epaulettes finish the shoulders.

AURORA.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

A MONKEY PET.

Monkeys are very amusing creatures, but are hardly to be recommended for general adoption in families as pets. Whatever the other members of the household might think, the ladies would not approve of a monkey's mischievous habits, nor of his strong objection to soap and water. The following interesting account of a monkey pet was recently sent to a Scotch paper.

Some time ago I was presented by a friend with a naturalised monkey. Jacko had a most pleasant and intelligent countenance, and from his amusing habits and pleasant ways he soon became a great favourite in the family. Like all of his kind, however, he was full of "monkey tricks," while his curiosity was insatiable. His disposition to pry into the mystery of things led him into many a scrape. He had for some time a strong desire to be useful, and was ever ready to assist in all household work, but his great talent was evidently for tailoring or dressmaking. He wielded the needle like an expert; [illegible] he used it he never wearied. He would pass the thread through its eye with dexterity, and push it in and out of his seam deftly. The result of his industry in this occupation, it is true, never came to much. [illegible] accounted for, however, from the fact that he was never allowed to choose his work or [illegible], and was forced to be content with any [illegible] he could pick up when some member of the family was engaged in sewing. A useful feat of his [illegible] was the habit of sitting on the [illegible] of the sewing machine when it was being [illegible] and when the needle required to be [illegible] the operator by most dexterously [illegible] the end of the thread as it was pushed through [illegible] and drawing it through the desired length. [illegible] not long been with us when he evinced [illegible] for myself, which he showed in many [illegible] and intelligent ways. But, alas! our friendship was destined to be broken up for a time. [illegible] in this way. One day it occurred to me that Jacko would be improved in appearance by a good [illegible], and so I tried the experiment. To make [illegible] more agreeable for him, I used nicely [illegible] water, but he manifested as great a dislike to the application of soap and water to his person as ever was shown by the naughtiest child. I endeavoured to do my spiriting with him gently, but [illegible] resist his frantic efforts to escape by the exercise of some force. The result was that he was greatly offended, and for many weeks he refused all advances on my part to come to terms with him, shunning me at all hands—till I concluded that in washing him I had committed what in monkey morality is the "unpardonable sin."

But soon I had the opportunity of heaping coals of fire upon his head by returning good for evil, and changing his hatred into love, and once more installed myself in his affectionate regard. He had a special liking for lucifer matches, so that a match box could never with safety be left within his reach. One day, however, left alone in the room for a short time, he possessed himself of a box of matches, and instead of using them in the proper way as he had often done (for he could light a match and watch it burning with great gusto), he took to eating off the phosphorous paste, and had nearly finished the box in this way ere he was discovered. Soon the poisonous matter took effect, and threw him into convulsions, and for a time poor Jacko was at death's door. For days he could not walk, his limbs were feeble and shook beneath him, and during this period all his actions were most human-like, especially the look of gratitude that shone in his eyes for deeds of kindness done to him. I applied means that counteracted the effects of the poison, nursed him carefully, and by-and-by had the satisfaction of seeing him fully restored to health, and the pleasure of having the friendly intercourse that existed between us ere that dreaded washing revived warmer than ever.

LUTHER'S LETTER TO HIS SON.

Martin Luther, the great leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, though so blunt and stern in denouncing superstitions and abuses, had beneath his rough manner a warm and loving heart, as one may see by the following beautiful letter which he wrote to his little son while the latter was away at school.

Grace and peace in Christ, my dear little son. I see with pleasure that thou learnest well and prayest diligently. Do so, my son, and continue. When I come home I will bring thee a pretty fairing.

I know a pretty merry garden, wherein there are many children. They have little golden coats, and they gather beautiful apples under the trees, and pears, cherries, plums, and wheat-plums; they sing, and jump, and are merry. They have beautiful little horses too, with gold bits and silver saddles. And I asked the man to whom the garden belongs, whose children they were. And he said, "They are the children that love to pray, and to learn, and are good." Then I said, "Dear man, I have a son, too; his name is Johnny Luther. May he not also come into this garden, and eat these beautiful apples and pears and ride these fine horses?" Then the man said, "If he loves to pray and learn and is good, he shall come into this garden, and Lippus and Jost too, and when they all come together they shall have fifes and trumpets, lutes, and all sorts of music, and they shall dance and shoot with little cross-bows."

And he shewed me a fine meadow there in the garden, made for dancing. There hung nothing but golden fifes, trumpets, and fine silver cross-bows. But it was early, and the children had not yet eaten, therefore I could not wait the dance, and I said to the man, "Ah, dear sir! I will immediately go and write all this to my little son Johnny, and tell him to pray diligently, and to learn well, and to be good, so that he may also come to this garden. But he has an aunt Lehne, he must bring her with him." Then the man said, "It shall be so; go and write him so."

Therefore, my dear little Johnny, learn and pray away, and tell Lippus and Jost too, that they must learn and pray; and then you shall come to the Garden together. Herewith I commend thee to Almighty God. And greet Aunt Lehne, and give her a kiss for my sake.—Thy dear Father.

Anno 1530.

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—Buried Proverbs.—Albeit this journey to Thibet terminated tolerably pleasantly, we are feeling so utterly thankful to again behold vegetation, and hear a chorus twitted by Southern songsters.

2.—In waste, not in blame,
In haste, not in gain.
In art, not in picture.
In dark, not in mixture.
In eat, not in lunch.
In push, not in punch.
In poor, not in rich.
In worker, not in ditch.
In air, not in wind.
In search, not in find.
And the last is in helper as well as in bother.
The *whole* is the name of a good English author.

3.—Irish Towns Enigmatically Expressed.—A fruit and a heap; an element and a passage; a conveyance and abject; an insect and an edge; an aperture, a vowel and hair.

4.—In the primeval forest wide,
Where wild beast most abound,
By human eye quite unespied,
My *first* may oft be found.
My *second* is a well known coin,
Its value is not great;
Now these together if you join,
Will shew a foreign State.

5.—I am a word of nine letters. My 4, 5, 6 is an article of domestic use; my 3, 2, 8, 9 is seen at night; my 1, 5, 3, 4 is used by soldiers; my 7, 9, 6 is a place of entertainment; and you are fond of one of my name.

6.—My *first* is what we often read,
My *second* on the ground we find,
My *whole* is of a person said
Who studies to improve his mind.

7.—My *first* is a term in measurement, my *second* leads upwards, and my *whole* is a noted watering place.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1. Disappointment. 2. Spring. 3. Don't halloo till you are out of the wood. 4. Bradwell. 5. Swan, condor, hawk, petrel, ostrich pelican.

6.	7.	8.
S	G	G
SEE	BET	FOG
SEINE	BATHE	FLOUR
SEISTAN,	GETTING	GOODMAN
ENTER	THIRD	GUMMY
EAR	END	RAG
N	G	N

"I don't believe in this learning German, Spanish, French, or any foreign language," said a Michigan man the other day. "Why, I lived among a lot of Germans and got along with them just as well as if I had known their language; but I didn't—not a word of it." "How did you contrive it?" "Why, you see, they understood mine."

Boggs says that the times are so dull that it is difficult for him to collect even his ideas.

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THE BLACK SHAFT;

or,

THE MINER'S DAUGHTER—A MYSTERY.

by

HENRY FRITH,

Author of "The Mystery of Moor Farm," "On the Wings of the Wind," "The Lock-keeper's Secret," &c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

TWO FRIENDS: THE LAYING OF A TRAIN.

One afternoon towards the end of June, 186—, two young girls were seated on the summit of one of the breezy Yorkshire cliffs in earnest conversation. Far from any fashionable resort they had permitted the wanton wind to play with their flowing hair, as their hats lay beside them on the grass.

Firm friends were these two young ladies. They had been schoolfellows, had subsequently stayed at each other's houses, and now it was again Kate Askenhurst's turn to visit Jessie Duncomb, at the "Wolds." Miss Askenhurst was the only child of Sir Edward Askenhurst, who lived in the neighbourhood of Manchester. He had lately had the degree of knighthood conferred on him for some public services he had been able to render his party.

The "Wolds" was a curious specimen of the country mansion: irregular and quaint in appearance, but comfortable and commodious. The rising ground near it comprised a good view of the farmed land towards Eskdale, and included Whitby, the North Sea, Robin Hood's Bay, in its sweep to the north-east. Turning to the right the eye could roam over the cliffs which trended lower towards the Great Flamborough Head beyond Scarborough. Behind lay the Moors, topped by the "beacons," wild and rugged.

But with the hills and the dales we have at present little to do. The sea-coast will claim our attention, at first, with the occupants of the "Wolds." The Duncombs were an old family, who lived respected in their native county, but as we do not intend in this tale to identify either places or persons, curious readers will not be able to trace the family on the exact spots in which the incidents took place. We leave them to guess.

Mr. Horace Duncomb was a hearty, loud-voiced squire, one of the kind supposed to exist chiefly, if not only, upon the melo-dramatic stage. He was tall, stout, red-faced, and choleric—a man who banged his stick about, and occasionally rapped out an oath when things did not go on to his satisfaction. But under all this veneer of irascibility he had a tender heart, and gentle hand. He never injured a fellow-creature, nor ill-used one of the lower animals, in his life. He rode, shot, fished, attended race-meetings, like a canny Yorkshireman as he was, and came home usually a winner of "the Cup," but he never exceeded the bounds of decorum at home or abroad.

He had in his home an orphaned nephew, the heir to a large adjacent property which had belonged to Philip Duncomb (the brother of Horace). The "Wolds" had been occupied by Horace ever since his marriage, rent free, and perfect accord had existed between the brothers. Philip died leaving Mervyn, his son, to his uncle's care, and Horace Duncomb had brought him up with his own children. The family mansion had been let for a term, but was at this time uninhabited. It was a spacious building, situated within full view of the North Sea, on a rising ground commanding an extensive prospect. We need not describe the mansion minutely. It was known by the family as the "Rookery," but the guide books called it "Ravenscroft," or Ravenscroft Hall.

What mysterious tales were handed down concerning the "Rookery!" What terrible romances; thrilling love tales; stories of hiding priests; unfortunate lovers; murders; secret chambers; underground passages connecting with the German Ocean; caves in which merchandize had been hidden in a panic, and never reclaimed! Haunted rooms, ghostly warnings, animated pictures, and "winking" portraits, had all been seen, heard, or "heard tell of" at the "Rookery."

More than this, the park was honey-combed with the mole-like burrowings of would-be miners. No one would have dared to run a railway through one particular portion of the property because the ground might tumble in. Even near where the two young ladies were sitting was a deep, long, unused shaft: a very Tophet of a pit into which if anyone penetrated he would never emerge alive. So "they" said!

This gruesome gate of this unknown region was called the Black Shaft!

Well it deserved its name, for a more repelling place never was edged with grass and field flowers, which had in time pushed their way through the surrounding shale and rubbish. A slight wooden railing protected the yawning mouth, which was ready to swallow up all the children of the neighbourhood, and near which no one, not even a pair of Yorkshire lovers, would venture after dark. The issue or outlet of the Black Shaft was reported to be many fathoms under the sea, but even the smugglers and the fishermen—not to mention the coast guard—knew nothing for certain concerning it.

But we have left the young ladies a long time alone. They will not miss us, however; for have they not been chattering over their new frocks and gew-gaws, and subjects which Providence has mercifully ordained shall never on earth cease to be of the greatest interest to the female mind, as it has always been from the primitive fig-leaf period?

"So you do not like Simon?" said Jessie Duncomb, when the frocks &c., had been finally arranged *in futuro*.

"I do not dislike your brother," replied Katie Askenhurst. "But he seems to me so unnecessarily 'goody.' I always object to 'goody' people."

"Papa is very good, I'm sure: Mervyn, my cousin, is good too—and you like them."

"I said 'goody,' my dear Jessie, not 'good,' and there is a *wise* as well as a *y* difference," replied the smart girl. "Your brother, Simon, is very attentive to me: perhaps that is one reason I do not care for him—at present."

"You said you liked a man to fetch and carry for you—to be always anticipating your needs, to find you flowers, and carry your cloak."

"Yes so I do. Your brother does all this, but your cousin does it better. I like it well done like my other 'helpings,'" replied Katie.

"Katie, you are too much given to joking. Simon, I am sure, worships the very ground you tread on!"

"Then he must devote himself to a considerable space of Mother Earth, for I can generally get over my seven miles a day—all the same *I* don't care for his worship. Let him keep his ground!"

"He thinks you so cure!" said her friend.

"Have you told him so, Jessie? If you have said anything to encourage him I will tell him I hate him, and then I will go home to Puddleton at once!" exclaimed Kate, angrily. Chap 1

The girl rose as she was speaking, and arranged her loosened locks and head-gear. As she stood, flushing somewhat indignantly, her arms held up while fixing her hair, the sea breeze blowing full against her, she displayed the beautiful curves of her form from ankle to throat. The dress shrouded the firm limbs; her not too-small waist was lithe and oval-shaped; her bosom heaved beneath the blue serge frock which it rounded in classic outline, and the sailor-hat surmounted a rather browned, but sunny face; grey eyes, well-marked brows; a rather low forehead and brown hair drawn simply back over the temples and twined in an unsophisticated knot behind the rather full organs at the back of the skull. A beautiful picture as she stood, a proud, defiant beauty; but one who would be "tender and true," as ever was lover of "Douglas," did she ever really love.

"My dearest Katie, I am sure I never said a word to Simon about your feelings. He may admire you, I suppose, without your feeling annoyed. Poor fellow! As for cousin Mervyn, I am quite sure you and he will never agree."

Miss Askenhurst glanced quickly down at her companion as she resumed her seat by her side, and said mischievously—

"Think not? Well, there, I differ from you. Mervyn—I mean Mr. Mervyn Duncomb—and I are quite allies. He pays me considerable attention. He has plenty of spirit too, and would resent an injury. I like *him* very much."

"I believe you are a confirmed flirt, Kate. You want to monopolise every man you see. You don't really care for any of them!"

"Except your cousin," interrupted Katie, maliciously. "I really *do* like *him*."

"Do you indeed? Well, then, I am afraid your regard is wasted," retorted Jessie; "Mervyn is not such——"

She stopped suddenly, and turning round began to pick the blades of grass, nervously.

"My dear Jessie, calm yourself. Why, child, do you suppose I want to marry your cousin? Bah! When I marry, if I *ever do*, I will choose someone who can do something, not a useless youth——"

"Katie, say no more, or we shall quarrel. Mervyn is as a brother to me, and I will not hear him abused."

"Nor praised either apparently. If I say I like him, you are annoyed. If I declare I will not marry him, you are offended. You may have him, my dear and welcome."

"Never," cried Jessie, passionately, "I will *never* marry Mervyn. There!"

"Don't be rash, Jessie. Remember Jeptha and his vow, which we heard that sermon about. You will marry him I daresay, and I will gladly be your bridesmaid!"

"Never, Katie—never. You like him—he likes you, you *say*. Take him!"

"Perhaps he won't be taken," replied Kate, coolly. "But he is worth a cast or two. Ah, here he comes. Now I will put on my choicest baits or 'casts,' or whatever you call them: and angle for my fish."

"How awfully cold-blooded!" exclaimed Jessie.

"*Fish* are, my dear," replied her exasperating friend laughing. "Oh, Jessie, fancy you calling him cold-blooded! Poor Fish!"

"I didn't! Katie, you are bent upon spoiling my temper, I see; but you will not succeed. You have no mercy I *know*, but I thought——"

"Well, what have I done? Chaffed you about your cousin Mervyn, that's all! Oh, transparent Jessie, you are angry. Never mind. I will not fish to-day. I will spare my rod and not spoil your sport. Well, Mr. Duncomb," she added, as Mervyn came up, "here we are all forlorn, waiting for some kind person to come and amuse us."

"You want to laugh at me perhaps," replied Mervyn Duncomb, the heir, "you are quite welcome, Miss Askenhurst."

"Miss Askenhurst! Didn't I tell you you might call me 'Katie'? Such old friends as we are need not be formal. I feel like a sister towards you—quite like an elder sister, I assure you. Don't I, Jessie?"

"I am sure I cannot undertake to judge of your feelings," replied Jessie. "Indeed I sometimes think you have none!"

"Hullo, Jessie, what's the matter?" exclaimed Mervyn. "Had a row, you two girls?"

"We were discussing fish," replied Kate, "and made the discovery that they were cold blooded. We got a little warm upon that as you came up, and Jessie was wrong, which has annoyed her. Now, Jessie, be cheerful: here comes 'Saint Simon,' and I am going to meet him!"

So saying she got up, and turned away down a path which led her in the direction of the Black Shaft.

"My dear Jessie, has that flippant girl been annoying you? I am so sorry!"

"Why need you be sorry?" replied Jessie. "She didn't mean any harm. It is only her manner. We *quite* understand each other."

"Well, *you* didn't appear quite happy just now, Jessie, at any rate. *I* don't understand Katie one bit. Look at her now, waving her handkerchief to Simon. She's a regular flirt."

"Yes, but you men will get taken in all the same. She plays you all alike, and when she has got you, struggling, on the hook, she thinks you are too small to keep, and so throws you contemptuously back again to die! Oh, you silly fishes!"

"We are not cold-blooded, Jessie, at any rate, nor are you, my sweet cousin, or you would not speak so bitterly. Let her go. Come for a stroll with me along the cliffs and have a chat about this new vein they have discovered."

"A new vein, Mervyn? On the 'Rookery' estate?"

"Yes. They *say* it can be worked right along to the Black Shaft, which may be opened again after all."

"Oh I *hate* that Black Shaft. It makes me shudder whenever I have to pass it by. Some horrible influence seems to draw me there at times, and I go and gaze down into it till I feel I must throw myself in. It is a dreadful place!"

"You are nervous, Jessie dear; you must not go alone. I will come with you next time. Katie has gone off with Simon, I see."

"Never mind Katie. She and Simon get on very well alone, I daresay. But when will you inspect this new vein?" asked Jessie.

"To-morrow or next day. Hosea Calton came up to the 'Wolds' just now, and told uncle something about it. We can drive over to the 'Rookery,' to-morrow and go down the pit the men have dug. They have been at this some time, as you know, and the old, old galleries have been met with again. But I don't believe in it much myself."

"You are a good deal at Calton's I think," said Jessie. But Mervyn made no answer to this hint.

Meanwhile Katie and Simon Duncomb had met and greeted each other.

"I am so delighted to meet you, Miss Askenhurst. Of all spicy girls in the world I would rather meet you! I would, by jingo!"

"Really!" she replied with a mocking curtsey. "You are too kind, Saint Simon; but I appreciate your compliment. It makes me feel less conceited—if less 'spicy'!"

"Why?" enquired Simon, fixing his bold dark eyes on her with a passionate look.

"Because I must have come down in the world to have such a speech as that addressed to me by such a goody young man as you," she answered demurely.

Simon bit his lip, but managed to smile immediately afterwards, and say—

"You are very hard on me, Miss Katie, but——"

"I have no sister, Mr. Duncomb!"

"No sister? I didn't mention any sister. What is the matter? What do you mean?"

"You called me 'Miss Katie.' I am Miss Askenhurst: do you understand?"

"I understand I love you," he burst out suddenly, in a fierce tone, "and I warn you not to play tricks with me, Miss Kate! You have plagued me enough already with your softness and your coldness alternately, so mind!"

Kate Askenhurst was quite taken aback by this outburst. Had the man been drinking? She looked round for Jessie and Mervyn, but they had disappeared. She summoned up her courage, however, and said—

"I am sure, Mr. Duncomb, I am very sorry if any unconsidered words of mine have caused you pain. I had no idea you cared in that way, and ——"

"Well I *do* care, Katie; yes, *Katie*, and I want to marry you. There! I shall have money in time; you have beauty and youth. I have religion and steadiness. We are nicely matched. So, dearest Katie, be my wife! You will, won't you?"

"Your wife!" exclaimed the girl in surprise. "Oh, no, no, I cannot—really."

"Don't you like me, then? Why did you let me embrace you last time we parted? Why did you write to me? Why did you tell me you were coming here, and hoped I would join you and Jessie? Eh?"

Katie was for the moment confused. She had done all this, but as the friend of his sister, never dreaming or rather not thinking of the consequences of the acts working on such a nature as Simon's. To her he was a passionate lover, and one who intended to have an answer—or his revenge—for all his "goodyness!" But she made no reply.

"You refuse to answer then? So you *have* been playing with me, have you? You love my cousin's namby-pamby face? Very well. Wait and see. But he is as good as engaged to Jessie! Ha, you start. I've hit the blot at last. Listen——"

"I will not—not another word, or I will scream for help," exclaimed Katie, in fear.

"Help indeed! Yonder is only the Black Shaft! Well don't be alarmed. Good-by. Your secret is safe with me. But you *shall* be my wife—I swear it!"

So saying, he darted away, and in a moment was out of sight.

CHAPTER II.

AT CROSS PURPOSES.—SIMON'S RESOLVE.

Kate Askenhurst watched the angry and jealous lover till he disappeared in the direction of the "Rookery," and then turned back to meet her friend and her cousin. Mervyn and Jessie had sauntered along the cliffs together. She was quite happy in his presence, for she had permitted herself to love his cousin while he had at first paid her considerable attentions. When two young people are constantly together in all the social freedom of brother or sister without being such near relatives, they are apt to fall in love. This was the case with Jessie and Mervyn Duncomb. Many love passages had passed between them, and in all probability the cousins would have been married had not a new light illumined Mervyn's heart.

This brilliant star came in the person of Kate Askenhurst, and when Jessie invited her charming school-friend to stay at the "Wolds" she signed the death warrant of her cousin's affection. Almost as soon as they met, Mervyn and Katie became fast friends, and poor little, good natured Jessie found herself frequently "one too many" in the walks and rambles around the "Wolds." What else could she expect? she told herself. She was slight, not tall; dark, and, if fiery at times, generally retiring in manner; shy in the company of strangers; affectionate and gushing to her trusted friends, quite unlike the proud, lively beauty, Kate Askenhurst.

Mervyn Duncomb was about the average young man—well made, well dressed in plain garments; fair, good-looking, rather impulsive, with considerable obstinacy; passionate in his affections, but inclined to be fickle in his attachments. Sensitive to a degree, but with sufficient sense to see the discriminate when the shafts of ridicule or insincerity were aimed directly at him or not. Generous and unsuspecting, he was an easy prey to any designing man or frivolous woman who wished to "sport" with him.

The reader will thus perceive that we have no heroes and heroines to deal with; none of the transcendental characters of sensational or romantic fiction will come into our story. We are endeavouring to portray every-day characters as we have met them, inconsistent they may appear; but who of us is not inconsistent? The men and women of this tale have lived amid surroundings not very far removed from those in the narrative, and their lives, though not perfect, have been strange; and the career of one at least equals the most sensational of fictions. As we have found them, so shall our characters be.

Jessie perceived with some heart-burning the defection of her admirer, and she bravely made up her mind to conquer the affection which she had permitted to nourish itself in her breast. But though she endeavoured, and generally successfully, to hide her feelings, Mervyn's neglect or his evident *brotherly* kindness, and no more, piqued the girl, and made her bitter at times. She was too noble-minded to stamp her friend and rival as a "flirt," but she thought she perceived that Katie was only amusing herself while undermining Mervyn's heart, and gaining possession of his affections.

"What on earth Kate can see in your brother Simon *I* cannot understand," said Mervyn, after a pause. "Why has she run off with him now?"

"I am sure I cannot tell," replied Jessie, carelessly. "But why should she *not* like him? There is nothing repulsive in his appearance or manner; he is my brother, Mervyn, and, of course, her friend."

"Well, I don't care, of course; why should I? but it looks as if she were flirting with him, and she can't intend to marry him."

"Why not, pray? Flirting, indeed! I must say, Mervyn, you men are the most inconsistent creatures in the world. So long as a girl will flirt with one of you men, she is perfection in your eyes; but if she be kind to any other man you abuse her at once as a flirt—a 'dangerous flirt,' perhaps."

"I never called *you* a flirt, anyhow, Jessie. You are at any rate consistent. Now, Katie——"

"Oh, please, don't let us discuss her any more. Have you no other subject of conversation when with one young lady than the perfections or imperfections of another?"

"All right, Jessie; then I will never mention her name again, nor speak to her, as you forbid it; and I'll tell her why——"

"Mervyn Duncomb, you are the very biggest donkey that ever lived on two legs!"

This was a strong remark to make, and Jessie felt it so; but human nature has its limits, and her patience had been sorely tried.

Mervyn was silent. He felt he was a "donkey," and he looked characteristically foolish. Jessie could hardly help laughing at him, vexed as she was; her pride was hurt. She loved her cousin, and here was he utterly indifferent to aught but Katie. The young people continued silent until Mervyn perceived Kate Askenhurst advancing towards them across the down.

"There she is," he said, "and alone. I wonder how she managed to get rid of 'Simple Simon?'"

"I wish you would not speak of my brother like that, Mervyn. If you dislike him it is no reason you should insult him."

"It seems to me, Jessie, that you want to have a row with me. Go on, then. The sooner I am out of this the better, evidently. I will speak to my uncle this evening, and go abroad for a while. Then I hope you and Simon and Kate Askenhurst will be happy together."

Jessie made no answer to this burst of petulance, and soon after Katie met them.

"Well, young people, have you enjoyed your *tête-à-tête*? You look bored, rather, I must say. Jessie, my dear——"

"Where is Simon?" interrupted her friend.

"Gone away home, I suppose. He had enough of me, I fancy. Your cavalier was more polite, and remained with you. Well, is it not time to return?"

Jessie assented. Mervyn made no answer. Katie perceived something was wrong, and chatted unceasingly in the endeavour to put her companions at their ease again. But vainly. Mervyn was cross. Jessie ill at ease. Katie herself, inwardly conscious of having been the cause, but how she could not determine. However, she knew she could soon bring Mervyn round if Jessie were away, and so she chatted on, forcing the others to answer till the "Wolds" had been regained.

"What is the matter, Mervyn?" she whispered. "Are you cross with *me*? What have *I* done?"

"I'm not cross at all," replied the young man.

"Then you look so," she replied; "I am glad I have not offended you, Mervyn for, I want to tell you something."

"What is it?" asked Mervyn, looking at her for the first time for an hour.

"Something *very* particular. As we are great friends I must tell *you first*. I have had an offer of marriage! What do you think of that?"

"An offer—of marriage! From Simon, I suppose! Did you take him? He is such a good young man, you know! Of course you accepted him?"

"*Of course!*" she repeated ironically. "Of course, as you say. He is such a good young man!"

Mervyn was in no mood to distinguish her fine irony with reference to his rival. He looked her steadily in the face, and then said:

"Well, of all the flirts I ever heard of you are the biggest. Thank God, I have learnt this in time. Good-bye, Miss Askenhurst. I hope you and Saint Simon will be happy. I intend to leave here to-morrow, so I am afraid I shall not be at the wedding."

"How dare you speak to me like that?" she exclaimed, flashing an angry glance at him. "Flirt, indeed! Well, at any rate, I flirt with my social equals. You prefer the lower classes. How is Bessie Calton? Faugh!"

This was a rude and unladylike rejoinder, and also an untrue insinuation.

"Bessie Calton! Really, Miss Askenhurst, your Imagination and anger carry you away. Bessie is a good girl in her station, but ——"

"Oh, of course, *we know you only go to see her father*, and if you meet her you only do so by accident! Flirt! Those who live in glass houses, Mr. Duncomb, need not throw stones. You are welcome to your miner's daughter. Poor thing; I pity her!"

The young lady was extremely angry, and in the consciousness of having flirted, she assumed more than she felt. As no man or woman will ever confess to deliberate flirting, so no one likes to be accused of it, and a woman especially will wax very indignant when reproached for her cruel conduct by her latest victim. This was Kate's case. She was a practised coquette, and had a knack of making every man she met—if he were worth the trial—believe she liked him very much. She had had some twinges of conscience, but very few, as her victims did not generally complain. But here was one who did. Here was a man who told her the truth, and she was angry; very indignant, and forgot herself in her anger. It must be confessed that Miss Askenhurst was not thoroughbred.

"Miss Askenhurst, you are quite in error. If your precious Simon told you this, he said what was not true."

"I prefer to believe 'my precious Simon.' He at any rate has better taste—in my opinion. A miner's daughter, indeed, though she is pretty I'm told! I congratulate you, Mr. Duncomb, on your conquest."

She swept him a mocking curtsey, and quitted the room haughtily. Katie knew that it was "war to the knife" with the heir. But Simon was not a bad catch, and if the worst came to the worst she could manage him. Moreover, Kate perceived that she could not trifle with Simon. She had refused him, but she knew she had permitted him slight favours, and that he was just the man to decline to be refused. Her scheme to lead Mervyn to propose to her had failed. She was disappointed at her want of success, and showed her anger.

The party at the "Wolds" was by no means a merry one that evening. Kate would not speak to Mervyn, except the merest common places. Mervyn was angry with Simon, and showed it. Jessie was annoyed at her cousin's departure, feeling she loved him dearly; while old Mr. Duncomb sat silent, wondering what was the matter.

Kate carried Simon away ostentatiously to pique Mervyn, who was again enraged when he perceived her hanging on his rival's arm, in a manner which disgusted Jessie, who had been brought up in a different school of manners—or had inherited a better tone. So the evening passed till Kate and Simon came in, and Mervyn, bidding Jessie good-night, went out to smoke in the avenue.

As ill-luck would have it, Simon also came out triumphant; but ignorant of how far Kate had provoked his cousin.

"Hullo, are you here?" he said. "Scarcely expected to see you, Mervyn."

"Perhaps you thought Kate would meet you here," remarked Mervyn. "She is making a nice fool of you. But, look here, why did you tell him I was 'spooning' Bessie Calton? That's a lie, and you know it is."

"I didn't tell her," retorted Simon. "You are there a great deal, you know."

"So are you," replied Mervyn; "but *you* go when the father is not at home. I don't."

"Rubbish," said Simon, with a nervous laugh. "You are dreaming. Who cares for Bessie Calton?"

"I believe you have turned her head with your nonsense, and I'll take care her father knows it. Kate will have you, all, to herself then—'Coquette'!"

"Mervyn, retract your remark. You have no business to speak of Miss Askenhurst thus."

"I speak of people as I find them. She is false and mean. Bessie is a good girl, if you have not poisoned her ears. Stand back, or I will tell you something more, you villain!"

"You coward! Take that!"

A heavy blow succeeded, and in a moment the cousins were engaged in fierce battle. They were not unequally matched, and the struggle continued for a few minutes with wavering fortune. At length Simon slipped in delivering a tremendous blow, which his adversary stopped, and retaliating with all his force on the nose and forehead, stretched Simon, bleeding, and half senseless, on the ground.

"You've had enough, you cur!" was the young man's remark, as he looked down. "Now tell lies to your dear Kate as much as you like!"

As Mervyn strode away, Simon rose and vowed revenge, with an oath.

"I'll pay you out for this, Master Mervyn, depend upon it; *my revenge will be full and complete, I swear!*"

(To be continued.)

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

ALL SETTLED.

Maud: "I think no young man should ask a lady to go out riding unless he is complete master of his horse."

Nicefellow: "Perfectly right. That's how so many accidents happen. I have made a special study of horses and can drive the most savage ones with safety."

Maud: "With one hand?"

Nicefellow: "Yes, or I can hold the reins between my teeth if necessary, and leave both arms free. By the way, Miss Maud, won't you take the first sleigh ride with me?"

Maud (enthusiastically): "Indeed I *will*."—*Philadelphia Call.*

NOT DONE IN OIL.

"And so you are comfortably fixed now," pleasantly remarked one lady to another.

"Oh, yes; we own our home, and are getting along very well," replied the other.

"How did your husband make his money?" was asked.

"Out of oil," was the reply.

"Oh, boring for it?"

"No, ma'am."

"Buying oil lands?"

"No, ma'am."

"Speculating?"

"Oh, no."

"How did he make his money out of it, then?"

"By keeping out of it."—*Rochester Post-Express.*

A NEW EXPLANATION.

At the dime museum. She: "O, look at that Indian with his feather head-dress."

He: "Yes, [illegible] feathers."

She: "Well, why does the Indian wear them that way?"

He: "To keep his wigwam."—*Somerville Journal.*

HE WAS IN A HURRY.

A heavy pounding on the floor above caused young Mr. Staylate to inquire of the girl on whom he was calling:

"Are your folks tacking down carpets this evening?"

"O, no," she replied. "It's only pa's putting on his heaviest boots, and——"

"Good evening," interrupted the youth, as he dashed out of the door like a circus clown through a hoop.—*New York Star.*

SWINDLING A CLERGYMAN.

"Yes," said Gus De Smith, "these saloons should be closed on Sunday. They do more to break down the churches than everything else put together."

"How's that?"

"Well, now, for instance, that saloon keeper on the corner near the church in which I worship swindles our poor pastor out of fifteen cents every Sunday. It's a sin and a shame."

"Yes, but how does he do it?"

"You see he keeps open on Sunday morning when I go to church, and as he has no confidence in church people I have to pay cash; so he gets away with the fifteen cents I've put in my pocket for the contribution-box. That saloon-keeper robs the church funds of that much every Sunday. He ought to be ridden out of town on a rail."

"I'll tell you how you can head him off. When you go to church take the street above. There is no saloon on that."

"Yes, but if there ain't any saloon on the street to church, it will hardly be worth while for me to go to church at all."—*American Paper.*

Mrs. Partington says that her minister preached about "the parody of the prodigal son."

The height of [illegible] may be defined to be a deaf man listening for the ticking of a sun-dial.

An Irishman who had on a very ragged coat was asked of what stuff it was made. "Bedad, I don't know; I think the most of it is made of fresh air."

A countryman on being asked what was the best way to cure a ham, replied that before answering that question he should want to know what ailed the ham.

An old bachelor, on seeing the words "families supplied" over the door of an oyster saloon, stepped in and said he would like to take a wife and two children.

"How fresh you look this evening," said a young man to his best girl. She quickly put her hand up to her face and blushed through the paint as she replied, "I declare! I thought I had given it time to dry."

"And so you enjoyed your tour of Europe?" "Oh, indescribably." "Did you see the aqueducts in Rome?" "Yes, and they swam beautifully." "Swam! What swam?" "The aqua-ducks, of course."

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TWO SUMMER STORIES.

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

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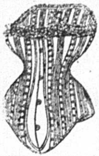

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IT IS A COMMON ERROR to think that any kind of Honey will make a good cough mixture, and we regret to say most chemists employ Honey as a basis for such medicines, without the least discrimination as to its source. It would be just as rational to expect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

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

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

The LORD MAYOR of LONDON ORDERS IT.
MANSION HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.,
September, 28, 1883.

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

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

WHAT THE CLERGY SAY OF IT:—
ELY, CAMBS., *May*, 1883.

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

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

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

Your Honey is delicious. ELLEN TERRY.

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

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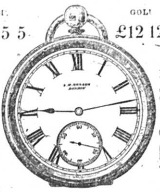

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Christmas Cards, in Packets containing about 12 and 24 choice Chromo, Christmas, and New Year's Cards, only 6d. and 1s. each (by Post, 2 stamps extra), worth three times the amount charged.
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Books Bound, Strong, Neat, and Cheap.

ALLAN,
BOOKSELLER, &c.,
DEAN STREET, COLLINGWOOD STREET
[illegible]
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THIS DAY'S NEWS.

"GUARDIAN" OFFICE, FRIDAY, 4 P.M.

CROWN SOLICITOR FOR IRELAND.

[CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.]

Mr George Bolton, the Crown Solicitor for Ireland, has retired on a pension, and is succeeded by Mr Arthur Lane Joynt, the Treasury Solicitor.

THE ULSTER REFORM CLUB.

The Chief-Secretary for Ireland will visit the Ulster Reform Club, Belfast, to-morrow (Saturday).

THE IRISH PARTY.

The Irish Parliamentary Party will hold their meeting before the assembly of Parliament in London instead of in Dublin.

OPENING OF THE MERSEY TUNNEL.

The Mayors of Liverpool and Birkenhead met to-day (Friday) in the centre of the Mersey Tunnel exchanged congratulations.

GREAT FIRE AT A LUNATIC ASYLUM

FORTY LIVES PERISHED.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY.

A fire broke out in the Philadelphia Lunatic Asylum last night. The patients were unable to escape, and the scene was a terrible one. Nineteen dead bodies have already been recovered. It is feared that forty inmates have perished.

THE ADMISSION OF STRANGERS TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

The Central News learns that new regulations restricting the entry of strangers to the precints of the Houses of Parliament are of the most stringent character. No member is now allowed to issue admission tickets, the Speaker only granting such orders for the House of Commons. Turnstiles are to be erected at the various approaches, and the Member's Lobby is to be strictly reserved for Members only.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE SOUDAN.

COLFIRMATION OF GORDON'S DEATH.

The following despatch from Gen. Wolseley to the Secretary of State was issued at three o'clock this (Friday) morning:—

KORTI, THURSDAY, 10·15 P.M.

Following received from Gen. Brakenbury:—

"KIRBEKAN, THURSDAY.

"The following is a translation of a document found to-day by a private soldier of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in a donkey's saddle-bag about 400 yards behind the position we captured yesterday:

'A copy of a letter received from the Governor-General of Berber to the Governor of the section. In the name of God, etc. From Mohammed Khan Abdullah Khoy Fab, Emir General of Berber to his friend Abdul Magul Abi El Lekalek, and all his men. I inform you that to-day, after the mid-day prayer, we received a letter from the faithful Khalifa Abdullah Eben Mohammed, in which he tells us that Khartoum was taken on Monday, the ninth Rabi, 1382, on the side of El Haoui in the following manner:

'The Mahdi prayed his dervishes and troops to advance against the fortification, and they entered Khartoum. In a quarter of an hour they killed the traitor Gordon, and captured the steamers and boats. God has made him glorious. Be grateful and thank and praise God for his unspeakable mercy. I announce it to you. Tell your troops.

"It is dated the thirteenth Rabi, &c. On it is written 'received Friday twentieth Rabi."

Shall continue my advance to-morrow.

The ninth Rabi is the 26th January.

The following telegram from Lord Wolseley was received at the War Office:—

KORTI, THURSDAY, 10·40 p.m.

First convoy of wounded just arrived; nine officers and 34 non-commissioned officers and men. I have visited all of them, and find them in the best spirits and looking very healthy, the desert air having done them much good. All anxious to be well again and to have another fight with the enemy.

No further details have been received regarding the splendid British victory at the battle of Kerbekan on the 10th inst, during which engagement Gen. Earle and Lieut.-Cols. Eyre and Coveny were amongst those killed.

WAR PREPARATIONS IN ENGLAND.

A Central News telegram to-day (Friday) states that Captain Gilborne, of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, will start for the Soudan on the 20th inst.

The Duke of Cambridge will visit Aldershot to-morrow (Saturday), and will inspect the troops under orders for the Soudan.

The departure of the 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade for Gibralta has been postponed till the 26th inst. The Commissariat and Transport Corps have not received all their reinforcements.

Captain Brownlow, the Government Inspector of Shipping, this (Friday) morning superintended the fitting-out of all the transports in the Royal Albert Docks.

The Duke of Devonshire, with 25 officers 500 men, sails for Alexandria next Thursday.

Lord Northbrook visited the War Office this (Friday) morning, and remained for some time in consultation respecting the transport of troops to Suakim. The Guards will not leave probably until the 24th inst.

A Reuter's telegram from Sydney says:—The New South Wales Government has offered to the Imperial Government to despatch a force forthwith to Suakim so as to reach there within a month.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE, Friday.—Consols one sixteenth lower. Wheat flat.

A SUNDERLAND BARQUE IN COLLISION.

The Press Association's Queenstown correspondent telegraphs that the tug *Lord Bandon* had just returned this (Friday) morning, after safely mooring in the harbour the disabled barque *Moorhill*, of Sunderland, bound from Galveston to Liverpool, which was in collision with the Inman steamer *City of Montreal* on Thursday morning west of Cape Clear. As the *Moorhill* was badly damaged, the captain of the *City of Montreal* deemed it prudent to return with her to Cork harbour. The vessel sustained no damage, and proceeded for New York after handing over the barque to the tug.

DRUNK AT CONSETT.

To-day (Friday), at the Shotley Bridge Courthouse, before Mr Jas. Annandale, J.P., *Eli Boswell* (22), a fish-hawker, of Green's lodging-house, Consett, was brought up by P.C. Newton on a charge of drunkenness, the prisoner having, along with other two men who got away, been creating a loud disturbance in the streets on the preceding night.—Fined 5s and costs.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.—SIGNS OF THE TIMES TO COME.

On the last Saturday evening in January, there was an election of a Committee of the Reading and Recreation Rooms at Consett for the ensuing year, when, out of 26 tradesmen, agents, and others nominated, three working men headed the poll.

LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting, held at the Reading Room, Leadgate, on Wednesday afternoon, was presided over by Mr R. W. Shaw, the other members present being Messrs. W. H. Hedley, W. Brown, G. Nicholson, W. Keenleyside, E. Todd, J. J. Hedley, T. Lammonby, J. H. Hudson, L. Nicholson, M. Robson, and the Clerk (Mr M. Coupland).

THE DISPUTED BUILDING SITES IN ST. IVES ROAD.

Relative to this subject, the CHAIRMAN read the subjoined letter:—

Leadgate, February 10th, 1885

GENTLEMEN,—Since I received your reply to my letter I have looked into the Public Health Act, and find it read as follows:—"When any house or buildings situated in any street in an urban district, or the front thereof, has been taken down in order to be re-built or altered, the Urban Authority may prescribe the line on which any house or building, or the front thereof, is to be built or re-built in the same situation, shall be erected in accordance therewith."

I understand this to mean *any house* to be *built*, and if this be so, I think I am not (according to the latter part of the clause 155) asking too much when I apply for reasonable compensation. In conclusion I would ask what is your intention with regard to the piece of land cut off my building site—is it to increase the width of the street, or to be retained by me as frontage to my building? Awaiting your reply.—I remain, yours respectfully,

JAS. CLEGG

The majority of the members were of opinion that the Board was only acting within its power in compelling Mr Clegg to set back his house to a certain line of frontage; and that the fault lay with Mr Foreman in selling his ground to Mr Clegg without previously depositing a block plan with the Board.

The Clerk pointed out that the Board had not received any plan from Mr Clegg.

Mr GEO. NICHOLSON stated that Mr Foreman agreed to carry out the wishes of the Board; and now that he found that he had 35 square yards of land that was of no earthly use to him in consequence of the arrangement, the point at issue was whether the Board ought not to compensate that gentleman for his loss. He admitted that the Board were justified in compelling the houses to be set back so as to have a uniform line of frontage. The Board had had no dealings with Mr Clegg.

Mr HUDSON, having read the section of the Public Health Act referred to, submitted that the Board ought to arrange between the parties, and held that they were liable to compensate both Mr Foreman and Mr Clegg.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the clause in question meant only existing buildings which had to be pulled down or altered in order to have a direct line of frontage.

After a long discussion, the CHAIRMAN moved, and Mr KEENLEYSIDE seconded, that the Clerk be instructed to reply to Mr Clegg to the effect that the Board did not hold itself responsible.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the month of January, your road workmen have been engaged in the following work, and accounts will be presented to you for the same:—

Durham Main Road.—About 30 tons of broken limestone laid on, being remaining portion intended to be completed this season; some back gutters cleaned out during frosty weather; part levelling done, as well as ashes carted and laid on the footpath from East Castlehouse to Iveston Colliery; also scrapings and pavings carted off.

Other Roads.—Annfield Lane: Eight yards of slag carted and laid on, and levelling done; Hedwell Hill Road: Ten yards of slag carted and distributed on the road, and ten yards of small slag and ashes covered over the footpath, also part levelling and dressing-up; Broom Lane: Sixty stones carted on, and gutters cleaned out. Attention given to the rest of your roads and lanes in wet weather.

Your roads and footpaths are in a soft and spongy state after the frost we have had; but on the whole they are strong with metal.

Annexed are the monthly pay bills:—

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Durham Main Roads:						
Manual labour	4	15	4			
Team do.	2	7	3			
				7	2	7
Other Roads:						
Manual labour	6	18	4			
Team labour	2	8	11			
				9	7	3
Total				£16	9	10

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

THOMAS LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, Feb 11th, 1885.

The CHAIRMAN considered the report most satisfactory, as the roads in the district were in better condition than those beyond their jurisdiction, where they were much damaged by the recurrance of pitfalls.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—Since your last meeting I have inspected your district on several occasions, and find it in a good sanitary state, considering the wet, stormy weather. The ashpits and privies are well cleaned out.

A plan will be laid before you from Mr M. Moyle for a shelter-porch at the back door of his dwelling-house in Durham Road. I have given a building certificate to Mr M. Pickering for his house in Durham Road as being fit for habitation.

Gas burnt in January, 203 hours. I expect your Sanitary Committee will report on the sewerage gutters, as to laying the large sanitary pipes, and other work near Watling Street. My opinion is to lay the pipes in the gutters, and make another settling pond in the same field as the pipes are put in.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

THOS. LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, Feb. 11th, 1885.

Both reports were received and adopted.

FINANCIAL.

The Clerk reported that the Board's treasurer had received from the Treasury Government Grant £24 15s 7d, being half cost of maintenance of County Roads.

The collector had gathered nearly £60 on account of the General District Rate, making the balance in hand to amount to £288 18s 1d, from which the cheques payable for the past month's expenses, representing £73 odd, will have to be deducted.

WATLING STREET SEWER.

Mr BROWN said the Committee inspected the locality, and considered it would effect a great improvement to lay these large pipes to convey the sewerage away from the road; and it was likewise decided, as the Surveyor desired to show his engineering skill, to insert in addition a little slag wall at one end. Therefore, he moved that the Surveyor be authorised to proceed with the work.

Mr HUDSON seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

The Surveyor stated, in answer to the members, that he might have to employ an additional man to assist in carrying out the work. He proposed to put another settling pond in Mr White's field, as that gentleman agreed to this, and desired to have it done.

Mr G. NICHOLSON though it would be well to obtain Mr White's consent in writing.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Appended is the quarterly report presented by the medical officer (Dr George Renton):—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the quarter ending December 31st, 1884, there were registered in your district eleven deaths and forty births. Allowing for the natural increase in the population, this return gives us the remarkably low death-rate of 9·4 per thousand per annum of the population—a decrease of twenty as compared with the preceding quarter. Out of the total number of deaths 6 were of persons of 60 years and upwards; whilst only one was due to any of the zymotic diseases. (Hear, hear; and a Member: There is no necessity to visit Malven as a health resort.)

At the same time that I am able to present this favourable report as to the mortality of the district, I am also in a position to state that the number of cases of preventible diseases has seldom, within my recollection, been so low; and also that the sanitary condition and general health of the district have left little to be desired. (Applause.)

Of the various forms of zymotic disease, the following only have been noticed, viz., scarlatina, enteric fever, measles, and whooping cough.

Scarlatina.—Of this disease 3 cases only have come under observation—one of them proving fatal. The marked decrease in the number of cases is noteworthy, and is a sufficient guarantee that the measures adopted by your Board have had the desired effect.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases only have been recorded, both in the same premises—no deaths.

Three cases of *Measles* and a limited number of *Whooping Cough* complete the record.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEO. RENTON, M.D., Medical Officer of Health.

Leadgate, 10th February, 1885.

The CHAIRMAN observed that to his own recollection this was one of the best and most satisfactory reports ever read since he had had the honour of being a member of that Board, and he thought they might congratulate themselves upon the highly efficient sanitary state of their district. He considered they might take some credit upon themselves.

Mr LAMMONBY: The Sanitary Committee deserve to be complimented as well.

PLANS.

On the motion of Mr NICHOLSON, seconded by Mr BROWN, a plan for a shelter porch was passed for Mr M. Moyle, with instructions to be endorsed thereon, that the erection was to be utilised for no other purpose.

Another plan, which was incomplete, was relegated to the Building Committee to approve of, as soon as it meets with the requirements of the byelaws.

THE FLAGS IN FRONT STREET.

Mr G. NICHOLSON drew the attention of the Board to the dilapidated and dangerous condition of the flags in Front Street, and suggested that the Surveyor should be directed to obtain a truck load of flags, and substitute them for the broken ones, paying particular attention to the water-spouts spreading across the footpath, over which pedestrians were apt to stumble.

The Surveyor promised to attend to the matter, but suggested that the work should be deferred till the proper season arrived.

Mr NICHOLSON consented, and the Board rose.

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

An adjourned meeting of this body took place on Wednesday night, at the Public Buildings, Parliament Street, Consett, under the presidency of the Rev F. Steggall. There were present—Messrs W. Jenkins, J.P., John Calvert, T. Siddell, W. R. Taylor, J. W. Davison, W. Shell, W. Aynsley, J. Collinson, T. Dunne, H. Carss, J. Palliser, and the Clerk (Mr T. W. Welford).

LEADGATE ROAD: CROOKHALL BANK.

Mr JENKINS said, in reference to this matter, it would be most inopportune for the Consett Iron Company, on account of the expense, to make any alterations at present; but he hoped to give some definite particulars next month.

Matter allowed to stand over.

THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTOR.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board, sanctioning the re-appointment of Mr Rippon as Inspector of Nuisances at a salary of £40 per annum; and the Imperial Authorities further desired to be informed whenever it might be their intention to make any change in the appointment of the duties of the Inspector.

MR CUTHBERTSON'S PROPERTY.

In relation to this property (reported upon by the Medical Officer last month) the Surveyor said that the ashpits and privies had been thoroughly white-washed out, and were now in a satisfactory state; but he would suggest that the large yard, which was used by eight separate tenants, should be cemented.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr CALVERT, that the subject be retained on the minutes until such a time as the weather will permit Mr Cuthbertson to cement the yard.

NEW CROSSINGS.

The Surveyor said he had put in three freestone crossings in Medomsley Road, and one in Middle Street near the Town Hall, Mr SHELL observing that they were good ones.

JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD: A PROTEST.

A precept was read from the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board, demanding the payment of £16 10s 10d, as the Local Board's apportionment towards the general funds.

Mr CARSS enquired how the expenditure had been incurred?

Mr JENKINS observed that he had the honour to be an *ex officio* member of the Hospital Board, acting in the capacity of Chairman of that Board, but he was sorry he had been unable to attend the meetings of Hospital Committee, as they met at a very inconvenient time for him to be present. Perhaps Mr Collinson, his colleague, could enlighten the members upon that point?

Mr COLLINSON said the Board was originally constituted for the purpose of erecting three hospitals in different parts of the Union, at places already fixed upon, Consett being one of the first selected to try the experiment. The only action of the Hospital Committee in regard to this matter up to the present had been to purchase a piece of ground near the Villa Real, and the Consett Board had already contributed its quota towards the cost thereof. It appears, however, that an epedemic had broken out in the eastern division of the Union, and the Committee had taken two or three houses, and furnished them as temporary cottage hospitals, with a view to allaying the epidemic, and this was how the expenditure had been involved. He (Mr Collinson) might state that he was not at all satisfied with the present aspect of affairs—(Mr Carss: Hear, hear)—and although he had no desire to find fault with the members of that Committee, he thought that, as the question of building a hospital had been delayed from time to time, some pressure ought to be brought to bear upon the Committee urging them either to carry out their original scheme, or to dissolve forthwith. Then, if the Consett Board thought it desirable and necessary to build an infectious hospital, or to conduct cottage hospitals, they could do so themselves.

Mr DUNNE remarked that it was a fact, when the Government Inspector and Medical Officer enquired into the circumstances, it was specified that as Consett was the most populous district, a hospital should be first erected in this locality.

Mr JENKINS, after expressing his obligations to Mr Collinson for his information, explained that at the outset the Local Boards co-operated with the Guardians, and resolved themselves into a Joint Hospital Committee, with a view of dealing more effectually with this matter than if each Board took it upon themselves to work single-handed. He did not think it would be wise to break up this Committee, but to urge for the representatives of that Board to press the Hospital Board to continue their work. There was a population of 20,000 or 30,000 people in the immediate locality; and there being no provision in case a raging epidemic appeared in that district, it was their duty to insist upon the Hospital Committee carrying out their original designs.

Mr CALVERT: Shall we pay this bill?

Mr JENKINS: Yes; we must do so. If we cannot act in harmony with the Guardians, we must endeavour to combine with the other two Local Boards and take the matter into our own hands. At present, we are paying money for certain purposes and receiving no redress.

Mr CALVERT: I should advocate that we withdraw from the Hospital Board altogether.

Mr JENKINS: Personally, I should like to see the scheme carried out in its entirety; but if there is no intention on the part of the Lanchester Guardians to pursue the matter further, then the sooner we dissever our connection with that Committee the better.

Mr SIDDELL: There is no prospect of a hospital being built.

Mr DUNNE: If there is no such prospect, why should we be called upon to pay this money?

Mr COLLINSON: At the last meeting of the Committee, the members refused to move a step further, although they would not have committed themselves to any extra expense, therefore the question was practically shelved.

Mr TAYLOR thought it would be best for the Consett Board to take the matter into its own hands.

Mr DUNNE said if they desired to withdraw now, he questioned whether they could legally do so.

Mr JENKINS: Oh, yes, I think we can.

Mr SHELL: How much money have we paid altogether?

The Clerk: About £40 in all.

Mr SHELL (warmly): For nothing whatever. We simply get an account, without any particulars therein, and have to pay it.

The Clerk: On the last occasion, I wrote for a bill of particulars, and it was refused point blank.

Mr SIDDELL: We had better have some particulars. There has been £150 spent just now, and according to my information, only two or three patients have entered the cottage hospitals. Now these are shut up, and the furniture is to be conveyed to Lanchester, and packed into a room there. What use will it be six months after? As far as the Guardians are concerned, I know there will be a strong attempt made at the next meeting, a fortnight hence, to dissolve the Committee altogether.

Mr JENKINS was of opinion that if the Board gave proper notice they could withdraw from the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: It cannot be a Joint Hospital Committee, when there is no hospital existing.

Mr JENKINS: We are perfectly justified in withdrawing, inasmuch as we are paying our money and not reaping any benefits. We are providing money for other districts that have no means of protecting themselves from epidemics.

Mr DUNNE held that if the Hospital Committee did not intend to carry out the enterprise the Board had no right to pay this money.

Mr JENKINS: This Board, you must remember, is part and parcel of the Hospital Committee.

Mr SIDDELL: Was there a special meeting of the Hospital Committee called in regard to incurring this expense?

Mr COLLINSON: No; it was considered at an ordinary meeting.

Mr JENKINS enquired whether it would be advisable to urge that the Hospital Board be dissolved, or to await the course of events at the next meeting of the Committee.

After a long discussion, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr JENKINS, seconded by Mr PALLISER, that the account sent in by the Hospital Committee be paid; and that the Board wait the result of the meeting to morrow fortnight, before taking further action.

Mr COLLINSON would like an expression of feeling on the part of the members, as to whether the majority of the Board were willing to press the Hospital Committee to carry out their original scheme, or whether they should advocate the dissolution of the Board pure and simple.

Mr JENKINS (who promised to accompany Mr Collinson to Lanchester next fortnight) also desired the Board's opinion on the point.

In the course of the subsequent discussion, Messrs DUNNE, PALLISER, and CARSS were in favour of allowing the Board's representatives to act as they thought proper, seeing that they had ascertained their views; but the rest of the members strongly pressed for the dissolution of the Hospital Committee.

Mr JENKINS enquired if there was any possibility of getting the Leadgate and Benfieldside Local Boards to co-operate with them in the erection of an infectious hospital?

Mr CARSS said there would be a greater probability now than ever there was, since the Joint Hospital Board did not feel inclined to fulfil its promises.

A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

Mr George Davison wrote, asking the permission of the Board to use a shop in Front Street as a slaughter-house, the place having formerly been utilised for that purpose several years ago.

The members thought it undesirable and objectionable to have a shop converted into a slaughter-house; and the Surveyor was instructed to inspect the premises and report thereon; and also obtain the Medical Officer's opinion on the subject.

CONSETT COUNTY COURT OFFICES.

On the application of Mr W. Fuller, of Leeds, acting on behalf of the Board of Works, it was unanimously agreed, on the proposal of Mr SIDDELL, seconded by Mr DUNNE, to allow the County Court Authorities to use the Local Board's Room as temporary offices for a period of three months, after the lapse of present term in April next; one month's notice to quit to be given after that date.

STREET CROSSINGS.

A letter from Supt. Oliver was read, drawing the attention of the Board to the vast amount of traffic between Consett and Blackhill *via* the Police Station, and suggesting that crossings should be put in at certain points in Bertha Street; this arrangement being rendered necessary from the fact that prisoners were conveyed to and from the station along that street.

Mr SHELL moved, and Mr DUNNE seconded, that the recommendation of the Police Superintendent should be adopted.

Agreed to.

Another letter, signed by Messrs McNally and McGurk, was also read, urging the necessity for a crossing being put in between the Bath Hotel and the Victoria Hotel. This was one of the most frequently-used thoroughfares in the town, five streets radiating from that point in different directions. The writers also suggested that a Bray's lamp should be fixed at the corner adjoining the land belonging the Co-operative Store.

It was decided, on the proposition of Mr AYNSLEY, to insert the crossing; but the question of erecting a Bray's patent lamp was referred to the Lighting Committee.

A STREET NUISANCE.

Mr DAVISON complained of the groups of young men being allowed to stand on the footpaths at three or four street corners, and indulging in offensive and personal remarks to pedestrians, who were compelled to move off the footpath in order to get past the crowds. He would like to know whether it was the duty of the police or their Inspector to interfere in this matter? He noticed that a letter appeared in the *Guardian* a fortnight ago calling attention to this objectionable practice.

Mr CARSS held that both the Board and the police were responsible for obstructions on the streets.

Mr SHELL concurred with Mr DAVISON, and the latter gentleman further stated that when Mr Gledstone was Surveyor, it was usual for that official to lay his stick across the shoulders of street loungers. (Laughter).

Mr CALVERT had seen Mr Dawson, their late Inspector, push men off the footpath right on to the middle of the road.

The Clerk was directed to send an official message to Supt. Oliver calling his attention to the nuisance.

PROPOSED LOCAL BOARD CENSUS.

Mr DUNNE suggested that a census of the Local Board district be taken. He had consulted with Dr W. Renton, who expressed an opinion that there was a population of more than 9,000 people in Consett, and such a census would be of invaluable assistance to that gentleman.

Several members failed to see the advantage and utility of such a census at the present time, on account of the expense.

Mr DUNNE moved, and Mr JENKINS seconded, that the census should be taken; but the proposition was lost, Mr Dunne remarking that he would much rather the Board had given a direct negative when he first broached the subject, instead of leading the Medical Officer to understand that the question would be favourably received.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Subjoined is the Surveyor's (Mr Rippon) monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of Consett Local Board.

GENTLEMEN—During the past month, the roads in your district have required constant attention. Since the thaw set in nearly the whole have been scraped and the mud removed.

Portions of the following have been covered with road metal, viz.—Tunnill Road, Consett Hill Road, Castleside Road, Delves Lane, and Front Street

Mr Allison has finished his contract for kerbing and channelling on Medomsley Road.

Your workmen are at present engaged putting down the crossings on Medomsley Road and Middle Street, as ordered by you.

The new main sewer at the top of Delves Lane was finished in the early part of last month. I observe it will now require a few loads of earth put into the pipe trench and properly rammed down in order to make the ground firm and consolidated. This shall be done at once.

I have had the sewerage manure taken out of three of your settling ponds.

I have inspected your district, and found the ashpits almost empty, a number of farmers having been carting manure nearly the whole of the past month.

I have received and paid to treasurer the following amounts:—

	£	s.	d
General District Rate	49	12	10
Street Works and Improvements	7	8	6
Market Tolls	1	17	6

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM RIPPON.

Consett, Feb. 4th, 1885.

ASPHALTE FOOTPATHS.

Mr DUNNE complained that the footpath along Pasture Drift Road was not in a satisfactory condition, and he had considered whether it would be advisable for the Board either to cement, flag, or asphalte it. He suggested that the cheapest way would be to asphalte the footpath—doing a third portion of the same in instalments every year until completed.

Mr SIDDELL said that the footpath in Brickflats Lane ought to be asphalted as well; and Mr DUNNE offered no objection to this also.

At length, it was agreed to postpone consideration of the subject until next meeting.

SATURDAY NIGHT IN CONSETT: THE COVERED MARKET QUESTION.

A memorial, signed by several tradesmen in the town, was submitted to the Board, requesting a further distinction between the ratepayers and non-residents in the rates of toll for permission to stand in Middle Street on Saturday evenings.

The Surveyor said the charges fixed by the Board were 3d for ratepayers and 1s each for tradesmen coming from the outlying districts.

Mr SIDDELL: The prices are high enough.

Mr AYNSLEY explained that the butchers from Annfield Plain, Dipton, &c., could come to Consett with a couple of beasts of an inferior quality, stand in the streets for the sum of 1s, and dispose of more meat in a few hours than a tradesmen could who kept his shop open all the week, and was called upon to pay heavy rates and taxes. He contended that this system was unfair and unjust, and he urged that the charge for outsiders should be raised to 2s 6d; the other price to remain as heretofore.

Mr SHELL: Do the public benefit by this?

Mr PALLISER. Of course they do.

Mr TAYLOR thought this was a most opportune time to broach the Covered Market Scheme.

Mr SIDDELL was glad to hear that things were so prosperous in Consett. He had learnt, on reliable authority, that a vendor of sweets from Houghton-le-Spring had taken more than £7 on a single night. (Laughter).

Mr JENKINS observed that there was a great demand for the cottages at the end of the rows fronting Middle Street, and if the Board did not act speedily, the houses would be sold by the Consett Company on the most advantageous terms. He thought the ratepayers should be allowed another opportunity of expressing their opinions on the subject of a covered market.

Mr PALLISER said that these gable ends were an eyesore in Middle Street, and suggested that they should be demolished, and a better class of dwellings erected there.

Mr TAYLOR: This site is decidedly the best one for a Market in this town.

The CHAIRMAN: We are quite in earnest regarding the Market question, and are only waiting till the spring, when the matter will again be discussed, and I hope that, with the assistance of the Consett Iron Company, we shall carry the scheme through.

Mr SIDDELL hinted that the Board should take time by the forelock, and not allow the Company to dispose of these houses before stirring in the matter.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the appearance of Middle Street was one of the objections raised at before the Boundary Commissioner against the name of Consett being applied to the electoral division. He hoped that when Mr Dale was elected their new member, one of his first actions would be to get this eye-sore remedied.

After a desultory conversation, Mr AYNSLEY moved that the price charged to outsiders for standing in the streets should be 2s 6d per night.

Mr DUNNE seconded.

Mr SIDDELL (to the Surveyor): How much do you charge the quack doctors? (Laughter.)

The Surveyor: One shilling.

Mr SIDDELL: Then I move that you make them pay 3s. (Renewed laughter.) We shall want these tradesmen to use the covered market some day, and if we raise the toll for butchers, &c., we shall drive them to Lanchester—Mr Carss' favourite place. (Laughter.)

Mr COLLINSON also complained of the crowd thronging the streets, and the noise made by the stall-holders on Saturday nights.

The resolution was put to the meeting, when four voted for and six against it—two members being neutral.

Mr AYNSLEY declared that the motion was not lost, as he inferred that those gentlemen who had not voted against the proposition must be in favour of it.

The CHAIRMAN and other members disagreed with Mr Aynsley; but pointed out that the proper course was for members who did not intend to vote to leave the room.

Mr PALLISER maintained that he was justified in remaining neutral if he so desired.

Mr SIDDELL (with vehemence): I contend that any person who is elected to watch the interests of the ratepayers is not fit to sit on this Board unless he has the courage of his convictions, and is prepared to vote either one way or other on all questions of importance. (Laughter.)

Mr JENKINS (who was also neutral): I quite feel the force of your remarks, Mr Siddell. You don't believe in those half-hearted people. (Loud laughter.)

The other business was unimportant.

CONCERT AT WEST STANLEY.

On Monday evening, the second annual concert promoted by the West Stanley Cricket Club was held in the Catholic School-room (by permission of Father Keenan) and was in every respect a decided success. The artistes were Miss Cecelia Armitage (Town Hall and Art Gallery Concerts, Newcastle); Messrs Leatham, Whitehead, and Nutton (Durham Cathedral); and Messrs J. G. Mann and Henry Chaytor (West Stanley). Miss Armitage, who last year sang so splendidly, and established herself as a favourite, again fully maintained her reputation—first in the beautiful waltz—"Beauty sleep," displaying rare quality and compass of voice, combined with artistic skill; and afterwards in "The cricket on the hearth." In response to a loud *encore*, she gave "The miller and the maid," in a pleasing manner. First honours were secured by Miss Armitage and Mr Mann for their rendering of the duet, "The crookit bawbee," which, in response to a loud re-demand, was partly repeated. In justice to Mr Mann, we may explain that there are two editions of this duet, one of which contains two verses more than the other. This error was found out when too late, and was the cause of a mishap in the fourth verse. The quartettes, "The village blacksmith" and "Beware," were all that could be desired in the hands of Messrs Leatham, Whitehead, Mann, and Nutton; as also were the trios by the Durham Cathedral representatives, "My sweet Dora Bella" and "The village schoolmaster," the latter causing great laughter, and had to be repeated. The "Gendarmes" duet by Messrs Whitehead and Nutton shared the same fate; whilst the "Sol-fa" duet by Miss Armitage and Mr Nutton was loudly applauded. Mr Nutton's fine bass voice was heard to advantage in the song, "The wolf," whilst in "The merry little fat grey man," he displayed such humorous ability that in response to the well-deserved applause he gave "The jolly miller." Mr Whitehead sang "The jovial beggar," after which he sweetly gave the beautiful song, "Thou art so near and yet so far," for which he was deservedly re-called, and he sang, with fine effect, "The death of Nelson." Mr Whitehead sang "As I'd nothing else to do," and as an *encore*, "Kitty Tyrrell." Mr Leatham's splendid alto voice was perfect in his songs, "Queen of my soul," "The bird on the tree," and being *encored*, he sang "Napolitine." Mr Mann fully sustained his reputation by the able and pleasing manner in which he rendered "Tom Bowling," and especially in "The pilgrim of love." Mr Chaytor was heartily applauded for his piano overture, "Gampa," but he scored a success in the "Scotch airs" on the harmonium, for which he was warmly *encored*. In response, he played a polka, displaying in all the pieces some capital manipulation. Some of the accompaniments were most difficult. The platform was tastefully decorated by plants kindly lent by Mr J. Chaytor.

HUNTING FIXTURES.—Braes of Derwent: Sat., Feb. 14, The Spen; Wed., 18, Blaydon Burn, at 10 30.—North Durham: Monday, Feb. 6, Stanley; Wed., 18, Cocken Hall; Friday, 20, Maiden Law, at 10·45.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS' RENT AUDIT.—The Ecclesiastical Commissioners held their half-yearly rent audit at St. John's Chapel, on [illegible]day, Mr William Minter presiding. The settlements were fairly up to the average. Nothing could be ascertained as to the course likely to be taken as to the Mining Company's request for a reduction of royalty dues.

THE MISSION AT BLACKHILL.

The most remarkable religious awakenings ever held in this district has just culminated, the revival having been brought to a successful close at the beginning of the present week. During the few months the lady evangelists have ministered so earnestly in this district—at Consett, Blackhill, Westwood, and Shotley Bridge—it is estimated that about 1,500 adults and children have been brought to a knowledge of their sins, and have been induced to lead a pure and holy life. On Saturday and Sunday, mission services were held in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside, and each evening the building was packed to its utmost limits. On Monday night, a fruit banquet and farewell prayer meeting took place, and on this occasion the spacious Hall was again densely thronged, although a charge of 6d admission was made to go towards defraying the cost of the purchase of new instruments for the Mission Band. Roughly speaking, it is computed that no less than 1,600 persons were congregated within the building, upstairs and upon the ground floor.

The first speaker was the Rev E. W. JENKINS, pastor of Highgate Baptist Church, who delivered an appropriate and earnest address, describing the deep interest he had evinced in the mission, and the consolation and comfort he had derived from attending the meetings; also speaking of gratification and pleasure afforded to him at seeing so many poor wandering spirits rescued from the path of destruction and brought to the foot of the cross.

Mrs WATSON (who was hastily summoned by telegraph to attend the gathering) informed those assembled that she had suddenly left her husband, her home, and social comforts, in order to assist Miss Wilson and her daughter in their noble work; therefore they might assume that Blackhill had a warm corner in her heart. (Applause.)

Miss WILSON and Miss WATSON then specially addressed the new converts, the first-named lady basing her discourse on Mal. iii chapter, in which she gave wise counsel and further encouragement to the converts.

The last speaker was Mr J. PALLISER, and it was chiefly through the instrumentality of this gentleman that the missioners were induced to visit Blackhill. He adverted to the remarkable way in which a Mission band had been organised amongst the new converts; and of how they had procured a set of first-class instruments, which, owing to the numerous attendance there that evening, were now paid for. Miss Watson contributed £5 and Miss Wilson £1 towards the funds, and subsequently another cheque of £3 had been forthcoming from Mrs Watson. Mrs Watson had also promised to bear the expense of a big drum. (Applause.) After dwelling on the success of the mission, Mr Palliser concluded by announcing that it was their intention to hold meetings in that Hall every Sunday night, after the conclusion of the services in the various places of worship.

The speeches were interspersed with selections of music; and rounds of fruit were distributed at intervals. The meeting was also addressed by many persons who had received so much good at the hands of the evengalists; all contrasting the emotional feelings experienced by them since their conversion with the worldly excitement they were previously labouring under, which might still have left them in the depths of sin and misery. As the assemblage dispersed, regret was expressed that, with a single exception, none of the neighbouring clergy and ministers of the various churches had graced the meeting with their presence, although they had been separately invited by letter. Later on in the proceedings, however, a note was read from the Rev F. Steggall (vicar of Consett) regretting his inability to be present owing to other engagements—he having only received the invitation two hours previously—and wishing the undertaking every succes. A prayer meeting followed, and was not brought to a close until almost midnight, when thirteen or fourteen persons had knelt at the penitent form.

On Tuesday forenoon, when a carriage arrived in Cort Street to convey the lady evangelists to the residence of Mr Charles Wilson, Shotley Park, it was immediately surrounded by a large crowd of people, and everywhere could be seen manifestations of sorrow that the mission had closed; but it is expected that these ladies will pay another visit to Blackhill sometime during the summer. We understand that Misses Wilson and Watson will next conduct a mission at Brampton, Cumberland.

On Tuesday night, a special service for recognising and receiving the newly-converted was held in the Highgate Baptist Church, and on Wednesday evening, a similar gathering took place in Shotley Bridge Wesleyan Chapel.

"My son," asked a proud father, after the usual greeting upon the young man's return from college, "have you a microscope among your traps?" "A microscope, dad?" replied the astonished youth. "Yes, my son; you have been in college, you know, for years, and I thought if you had a microscope handy I should like to see how much you have learned."

Jones was a good fellow, but he was always in debt—"owed everybody," as the saying was. But at last he paid the debt of nature, and was laid away beneath a tombstone bearing the inscription:—

"A man he was to all the country dear."

The creditors always insisted that the marble cutter had made a mistake. The inscription should have read:—

"A man he was
To all the country—Dr."

In the House of Peers, during the examination of the magistrates of Edinburgh, touching the particulars of the Porteous mob, in 1736, the Duke of Newcastle having asked the provost to tell with what kind of shot the town guard, commanded by Porteous, had loaded their muskets, received the unexpected reply, "Ou, just sic as ane shoots dukes and fools wi'!" The answer was considered as a contempt of the House of Lords, and the poor provost would have suffered from misconception of his patois, had not the Duke of Argyle (who must have been exceedingly amused) explained that the worthy chief magistrate's expression, when rendered into English, meant to describe the shot used for *ducks and waterfowl*.

Nearly every newspaper we pick up nowadays contains some new horror. In a paper before us is a poem, the author of which says in the first line: "I will not die."

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed Miss Flight, "how dizzy I am! My head spins round like a top." "A very happy simile," remarked Fogg, "for everybody's head, you know, is atop."

A story is told of a shrewish Scotchwoman who tried to wean her husband from the public-house, by employing her brother to act the part of a ghost, and frighten John on his way home. "Who are you?" said the guidman, as the apparition rose before him from behind a bush. "I am Auld Nick," was the reply. "Come awa', man," said John, nothing daunted. "Gie's a shake o' your hand. I am married tae a sister o' yours."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

TOW LAW.—Station House, 8th inst., the wife of Mr John Dodd, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

PRUDHOE.—Parish Church, 11th inst., by the Rev J. Maughan, Matthew Adamson, The Leazes, Branopfield, to Margaret, second daughter of Robt. Dixon, Broad Oak.

NORTON, Malton.—St. Nicholas's, 9th inst., by license, Henry Hornsby, colliery manager, Clifford House, Hamsteels, to Annie, eldest daughter of John Kennedy, Norton.

NEWCASTLE.—Bath Lane Church, 12th inst., by Dr. Rutherford, Charles, eldest son of the late Charles Phillips, of Carlisle, to Hannah Maria, eldest daughter of Anthony Mole, formerly of Blackhill.

DEATHS.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—Snow's Green (at the residence of his son), 8th inst., aged 83, William Ramsey.

ESH WINNING.—11th inst., Ann, widow of Richard Richardson, farm labourer, aged 83.

BLAYDON.—Turret Place, 9th inst., Patrick McElvogue.

NEWCASTLE.—1, Leazes Crescent, 11th inst., aged 68, John Howie, secretary of the Newcastle Auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance.

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