COAL & STONE MACHINES
BOSTON'S COAL BORING MACHINES, all Steel, from 25s. to 35s.
BOSTON'S RATCHET STONE BORING MACHINES, with 3 Drills complete, 35s.
THOS. BOSTON,
Wholesale Ironmonger & Tool Manufacturer,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
T. Boston received the highest award Silver Medal North-East Coast Exhibition, 1882. Highest Award Bronze Medal Newcastle Exhibition, 1887. 5 b

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

£100 THE PROPRIETOR of this Paper has INSURED in "THE GENERAL ACCIDENT AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED," FOR £100, EVERY PERSON WHO PURCHASES THIS PAPER, AS PER COUPON ON PAGE 3.

No. 1,540. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, February 14th, 1890. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

MONEY.
M. L. ROSENBERG, Cross House Chambers, 54 Westgate Road, Newcastle, ADVANCES MONEY on Household Furniture, First or Second Mortgages on Property, Interests under Wills, Life Policies, Ordinary and Preference Building Society Shares, and on Goods deposited, &c., at reasonable interest and on easy terms of repayment as arranged. —Apply personally or by letter. Established 1860

Wanted.

SERVANTS WANTED, at Mrs Whelan's Registry Office, Newmarket Street, Consett.

WANTED, a DAY GIRL.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office. 746b

WANTED, a PLOUGHMAN.—Apply to J. Green, Satley Farm, Tow Law. 744b

WANTED, immediately, a Good GENERAL SERVANT, about 20 years of age.—Apply, Mrs S. Brodie, 5, East Parade, Consett.

WANTED, a Youth as an APPRENTICE to the Tailoring.—A. E. Turner, Albion House, Blackhill. 741b

WANTED, a GIRL TO GIVE LESSONS; age not below 17.—Apply, Singer Company, Consett, on Monday night, 17th inst., at 7-15 p.m.

GROCERY. — WANTED, a Strong, Active YOUTH.—Apply, Joseph Postle, Grocer and Provision Merchant, Newmarket Street, Consett

WANTED, Apprentices to the DRESSMAKING. — Apply, 13, Cort Street, Blackhill.

LADIES requiring good Housemaids or Generals, can be well supplied at Mrs. Proud's Registar Office, Shotley Bridge. 721b

AGENTS WANTED to push first-class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission.—Box 31, Post Office, Liverpool. 567b

THE AGENCY that Pays Best.—PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON. — Bonds issued exceed £5,000,000.—Weekly Ballots; Government Security.—Apply, J. Turner, 38, North Road, Durham. 544b

COCKBURN'S REGISTRY OFFICE. FOR SERVANTS, (Established in 1877) 13, Front Street, Consett. A call invited, when best attention will be given. 340w

SCOTT'S REGISTRY, 122, Northumberland Street. — Managers, Matrons, Housekeepers, Companions, Governesses, Ladies' Maids, Sewingmaids, Nurses, Cooks, Housemaids, Kitchenmaid, Parlourmaids, Chambermaid, Barmaids, Dairymaids, Laundrymaids, Butlers, Footmen, Grooms, Gardeners, Coachmen, General Servants, WANTED and DISENGAGED. Stamp for replies. 285a

Under Distinguished Patronage.
MISS ANDERSON, Register Office for MALE and FEMALE SERVANTS, and GOVERNESSES, 9, Ridley Place, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 263w

WANTED it thoroughly known at Consett and the District, that High-class PORTRAITS, artistically finished, MAY BE HAD at very Reasonable Prices at VENICE DUNN'S, PHOTOGRAPHER 15, Medomsley Road, Consett.

MRS WHELAN'S REGISTRY OFFICE FOR SERVANTS.—Newmarket Street, Consett. MISTRESSES supplied with SERVANTS of every kind, on the shortest notice, and all information obtained
SERVANTS of all classes suited with situations promptly and without any trouble. Communications by letter or otherwise carefully attended to. 514a

LOWEST FARES to all parts of the World.—America, £3 10s.; Canada, £4; South Africa, £12 12s.; Australia, £14 14s.; New Zealand, £16 16s.; Buenos Ayres, £7 15s. Practical advice given to intending Emigrants. Enquiries by post promptly answered. Maps, Pamphlets, &c., free. — The Newcastle Emigration Co., 3, Grainger Street West (Corner of Bigg Market), Newcastle. 737b

BENSON'S WATCH CLUBS.—PAY CLERKS, FOREMEN, TIME-KEEPERS and others, wanted to start Watch Clubs for the supply of good, sound, and reliable Timekeepers. LEVER WATCHES from £2 10s cannot be surpassed for durability and strength. Terms liberal. Particulars post free. J. W. Benson, Originator of the Club System (40 years ago), 62 and 64, Ludgate Hill, E.C.

NOTICE.

W. E. TURNER,

CASH CLOTHIER, TAILOR, HATTER, GLOVER, AND MEN'S MERCER,
Will Enroll Members into His WEEKLY CLUB FOR SUITS,
OVERCOATS,
TROUSERS,
OR ANY OTHER ARTICLE THE MEMBERS MAY DESIRE.

TURNER'S FELT HATS FOR QUALITY & CHEAPNESS, CANNOT BE EQUALLED.

LONDON HOUSE,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

To Let.

FURNISHED APARTMENT TO LET.—Mrs Ridley, Jessamine Cottage, Benfieldside Edge Road. 743b

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a COW, time up March 3rd.—Apply, Thomas Evans, Annfield Plain. 740b

FOR SALE, WHITECHAPEL DOG CART, and Several Sets of HARNESS.—Apply to J. Brodie, Shotley Bridge. 573b

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

FOR SALE, that Desirable FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, with Washhouse and every other Convenience attached, No. 7, Ridley Street, Blackhill.—Apply to J. J. Allan, 9, Thomas Street, Blackhill. 742b

FOR SALE HORSE CLOTHING, STABLE SHEETS, CLIPPING MACHINES, WATERPROOF GIG APRONS, CART COVERS &c. — The Cheapest Cash Saddlery Warehouse in the North, Thos. Owen, 67, Side, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 901a

FOOTBALLS.—EDGELL and CO. are SELLING out their whole Stock of FOOTBALLS at very great reductions, to ensure a speedy clearance. The best Balls in the trade, should be seen early for bargains. HORSE CLIPPERS.—Cheapest and best in town, including CLARK'S PATENT, from 3s 6d per pair.—J. J. EDGELL and Co., 10 Newgate Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 413b

PRESENTATION BIBLES.

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET,
AND
8 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET CONSETT

Business Announcements.

JOHN BRODIE,

MERCHANT TAILOR,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

R. WILSON & CO.,

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

JAMES PALLISER,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TEA MERCHANT.
THE NOTED GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER.
FOUNDRY ROW, BLACKHILL. 406b

EDWARD BRADY.

CHIMNEY SWEEP,
22, HARVEY STREET, CONSETT.
ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

EDUCATIONAL.
JON. C. WYLIE, PRIVATE TEACHER IN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS.
☞ Pupils attended at their own Homes.
Evening School, from 6d. to 1s. per week. Commence on Monday, 18th October. 854w

SWEEP! SWEEP! SWEEP!
WITH PATENT APPARATUS no dust can escape; no forks to damage the jambs. Address—WILLIAM BUTCHER, Messenger Street, Shotley Bridge. Reasonable Charges.

WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER & VALUER, Land, House, Insurance, and Emigration Agent, Share Broker, &c. Intending Emigrants can be Booked in the finest Ships to America and all our Colonies. Valuations and Auction Sales of Agricultural Stock, Contractors' Plant, Household Furniture, &c., will be conducted with ability and care on Reasonable Terms and prompt payments by
WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER, BLACKHILL.

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

MUSICAL TUITION.
SILVER MEDALLIST OF THE MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, LONDON, FOR PIANOFORTE PLAYING.
GEORGE DRYDEN (late pupil of Mr. Hemy) Organist of Medomsley Church, having obtained First-class Honours in Pianoforte Playing, also Certificates in Theory and Harmony, at the Examinations (before Dr. E. M. Lott) in connection with the Musical International College, London, is prepared to give LESSONS on the ORGAN, PIANOFORTE, HARMONIUM, and in THEORY. Special Preparation for Examinations.
Terms on Application.
Address:—No. 1, EAST PARADE, CONSETT.

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY.
First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.
Accommodation for Passengers equal to any European Line.
Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad.
The Shortest and Best Route to the West.
Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE & CO., 19 and 22, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, via Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; W. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law; J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; JAMES POTTS & SON, 26, Sandhill, Newcastle-on-Tyne 217z

AT HOME AND ABROAD
ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS
Insured against by the
RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,
64, CORNHILL, LONDON.
Hon. Evelyn Ashley . . . Chairman.
ANNUAL INCOME £248,000.
COMPENSATION ALREADY PAID, £2,600,000.
Moderate Premiums—Favourable Conditions—New Concessions.
Prompt and Liberal Settlement of Claims.
West End Office:—8, GRAND HOTEL BUILDINGS, W.C.
Head Office:—64, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.
Agents:—Mr. JOHN HARKER, Station Master, Blackhill; and Mr. G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate.

£1 TO £10
MR. GEO. RICHARDSON, DENTAL SURGEON, 6, BLACKETT STREET, begs to call special attention to the Prices of his PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH, 2s 6d, 5s, 7s per Tooth, £1 to £10 per Set, being lower than what is usually charged for inferior workmanship and common material. EVERY TOOTH GUARANTEED. PLEASE NOTE THE ONLY ADDRESS. Country Patients calling in the Morning may be fitted with Sets or Parts in time to return same day. RAIL FARE ALLOWED.

SPECIAL FAST TRAINS.
THESE are daily run from and to all Towns, and no Passenger should be without an ANNUAL POLICY against Railway Accidents in
THE GENERAL ACCIDENT & EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.
CAPITAL, £100,000.
Chief Offices: Victoria Buildings, Perth; 4, Abchurch Yard, London, E.C.
Manager, . . F. Norie Miller.
The small Annual Premium of 5s. will Assure
£500 in case of Death;
£500 for Permanent Total Disablement;
£250 for Permanent Partial Disablement;
£1 10s per week for Temporary Total Disablement.
A Parliamentary return just issued gives the total number of Persons killed and injured on the Railways in the United Kingdom during 1888 as 905 KILLED and 3,826 INJURED.
Do not delay until you are Injured, but send Post Card for Prospectus, with full particulars, to above address, or to
P. J. JACKSON, Resident Secretary,
15, & 17, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE
AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWART AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA the Finest Tea in the World. Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.
WILLIAM STEWART & SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & 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.

1890.
GEORGE RICHARDSON,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRAPER,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.
IS now showing a STOCK of FANCY LACE and CASHMERE APRONS, LACE COLLARETTS, and FRONTLETTS, FUR BOAS, and COLLARETTS.
GLOVES in reliable makes in Kid, Silk, Cashmere, and Astrachan.
FANCY WOOL WRAPS AND LADIES' WARM CLOAKS AND JACKETS, SUITABLE FOR PRESENTS.
In the GENERAL DRAPERY, Blankets, Eider Down Quilts, White and Coloured Flannels and Shirting, of exceptional value.
The DRESS and CLOTH DEPARTMENTS are now replete with Goods, suitable for the present Season. Dressmaking and Tailoring on the Premises, under competent management.

1889. CHRISTMAS. 1890.
ROBERT WILLEY,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
"CONSETT TEA HOUSE," MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
BEGS to thank his numerous Friends and Customers for their kind patronage in the past, and wishes to call their special attention to his Large and Carefully-selected
STOCK OF GOODS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON.
SNOW, WHITE, PHŒNIX, PEARL, AND OTHER FLOURS, BEST MAKERS.
TEAS, COFFEES, COCOAS—Excellent Qualities. A Large Consignment of NEW CURRANTS.
VALENTIA AND SULTANA RAISINS, ALMONDS, FIGS, MUSCATELS, &c.
BACONS, HAMS, TINNED MEATS, TONGUES, &c.
CHEESE, arriving daily, comprising AMERICAN, DERBY, GLO'STER, GOUDA, EDAM, STILTON WENSLEYDALE, ROCHEFORT.
Pickles, Sauces, Jams, &c., &c., all kinds.
A Large Assortment of FRUIT, SEED, ALMOND, MADEIRA, SULTANA, and other CAKES too numerous to mention, from best makers only.
BISCUITS OF ENDLESS VARIETY KEPT IN STOCK.
Bottler of Bass and Co.'s Pale Ale, and Guinness's Dublin Stout. Mild and Bitter Ales on Draught
ORDERS BY POST ATTENDED TO AT ONCE.
GOODS DELIVERED TO ANY PART OF THE DISTRICT ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

SPECIAL FOR THIS WEEK.
W. HUTCHINSON & CO.,
DRAPERS,
4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.
WANT 500 SUBSCRIBERS TO THEIR BLANKET CLUB.
FOR PARTICULARS APPLY.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH
AT HALF THE PRICE USUALLY CHARGED.
THE NORTH OF ENGLAND DENTAL CO.
ATTENDANCE EVERY SATURDAY, FROM ONE TO SIX P.M.
CONSULTATIONS FREE,
13, FRONT STREET,
(OVER J. COCKBURN'S, STATIONER),
CONSETT.

TRY
JOHN HUME & SON'S
CELEBRATED
"GERM MEAL."
South Acomb, Stocksfield-on-Tyne,
June 7th, 1887.
Messrs. John Hume & Son,
Gentlemen,
You may recollect that some time ago I purchased several tons of your Germ Meal, and as I keep an accurate account of the food used by our cows, its cost, quantity used, and the amount of milk produced per week, it may interest you to know the result.
During the week preceding the use of the Germ Meal, the cows had maize meal at the rate of 7¾ lbs. per day, and before that they had the same quantity of barley meal A slightly less weight, 7½ lbs. of Germ Meal was given to each cow per day, with as you will see, the most satisfactory results.—The increase in the milk produced was slightly over 5 per cent., which with the lessened cost of your meal, showed a saving by its use of close upon 20 per cent. The increase in the return of milk for the week on which Germ Meal was used, over that on which maize meal was used, reached 16½ gallons; and as the latter cost 24s. per qr. of 34 stones, as against 20s. 6½d. for the same weight of your Germ Meal, the advantage derived from its use has been strikingly demonstrated in my experience.
I am, yours faithfully,
W. TROTTER.

☞ TO FARMERS.
GEORGE HOBSON,
MILLER, CORN MERCHANT, SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,
HEREBY GIVES NOTICE THAT HIS
44th ANNUAL DINNER AND SEED PAY
WILL BE HELD
AT CATCHGATE, ON WEDNESDAY, 26th OF THIS MONTH.
ALL CUSTOMERS, AND INTENDING CUSTOMERS, KINDLY INVITED.
PAY AT ONE O'CLOCK; DINNER AT 2-30. 745b

Business Announcements

BONUS YEAR, 1889.
SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
ESTABLISHED 1824.
CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £6,000,000.
INVESTED FUNDS - - - - - - - £3,500,000.
In 1885 a Bonus was added to Policies under the Company's Early Bonus Scheme at the rate of £2 per cent. on the Sum Assured for each year in respect of which each Policy was entitled to rank.
NO. OF ENGLAND BRANCH—21, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE,
J. M. W. CRAY, Res. Sect.
AGENT FOR CONSETT—
W. RAMSAY, 2, St. Aidan's Street, BLACKHILL.

W. T. SMITH,
AMERICAN DENTAL SURGEON,
OF 19, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the inhabitants of Consett and surrounding District that he still visits as usual at MR F. JONES'S, No 1, MOUNT PLEASANT, every Monday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., where he will be pleased to receive as many of his patients as can make it convenient.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted with all the latest American inventions and improvements. They are retained in the mouth by suction (an American invention) without the aid of Springs, Wires, or Clasps of any description, which so often destroy the remaining natural teeth. The mouth is prepared to receive the Artificial Teeth on the American principle, absolutely different from the English, and no cause is permitted to remain which can in any way produce Neuralgia or affect the eye and ear. As diseased teeth and roots are the principal causes of the various ailments of these most valuable organs, the presence of decaying matter in the mouth, as well as the absence of teeth, is more than half the cause of all the diseases that humanity is afflicted with. In America no Surgeon pretends to treat the eye or the ear without first having the patient's teeth examined by a Dental Surgeon, and if any found decayed they are either stopped or extracted as found necessary In almost every instance, where patients have very badly-decayed teeth, they suffer severely from Dyspepsia. When the mouth is thoroughly cleared of the poisonous matter (preparatory for an Artificial Set) many have been thoroughly cured of Dyspepsia and many other diseases even before receiving the Artificia Set. It is therefore easy to understand that the system of leaving all the roots in and placing an Artificial Set over them is very erroneous and injurious to the health. No one should permit the Self-styled Dentist to operate upon them that would give such advice, as that is sufficient evidence that he is not properly qualified for a Dental Surgeon, as the pain of cutting them off is far greater than extraction, as they can be taken out without the least pain by a new system, and without the loss of consciousness.

FOR SALE
50 TONS OF BRAN, AT £4 10s. PER TON.

ALL FLOURS, MEALS, OATMEALS, BOXINGS,
INDIAN MEAL, HORSE CORN, SCOTCH OATS, MAIZE,
AND
50 TONS OF POTATOES, EQUALLY CHEAP.

W. AYNSLEY,
CONSETT, LEADGATE, AND WEST STANLEY.

KNITTING
ALL descriptions of Hosiery Knit to order at 66, Derwent Street, Blackhill. 745

8, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
NOTICE TO THE INHABITANTS OF CONSETT AND DISTRICT.
TEETH. COMPLETE SET, £11s.
SINGLE TOOTH, 2s. 6d. GUARANTEED FOR FIVE YEARS.
TEETH STOPPED AND SCALED.
Teeth fixed by Atmospheric Suction. No old teeth or stumps need be removed. Any set made by the London and Counties Dental Supply Co. and not giving absolute satisfaction in every detail, will be immediately corrected, or an entire new set made free of charge. Teeth scaled, filled and extracted upon all improved and advertised principles at moderate charges. Teeth also made and mounted on a siver dental alloy, platina, and gold, mineral and sectional gum work. One visit required from country patients.
LONDON AND COUNTIES DENTAL SUPPLY COMPANY.
From ISACC CAMERON, Addison Colliery near Blaydon-on-Tyne.
"To The London and Counties Dental Supply Company.
105, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
"Gentlemen,—I write to say the set of teeth you made me are a complete success. I am bandmaster, and felt the loss of my teeth very much in playing an instrument, but am now happy to say I can play the flute and other instruments equally as well as I formerlly did with my own teeth. I recommend all who want teeth to place themselves under your care. I am willing to show teeth you made me to any one requiring some."—
From HENRY SMITH, Gallowgate Tannery, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
To Mr Harris,
"Of The London and Counties Dental Supply Co.
"Dear Sir,—I write you this note to acquaint you that the teeth you made me THREE years ago are still good, and give the greatest satisfaction. I have recommended you to all I have come across who wanted teeth. I am a different man altogether now to what I was before I came to you. My sufferings from indigestion are now at an end. I wish you all the success you deserve.—July 1st, 1889.
"N.B.—You can use this letter in any way you think proper."
From J. W. LORRIMAN, Seaton Delavel.
"Dear Sir,—I hereby certify that we are satisfied with the teeth."—6th July, 1889.
From Mr. J. CARTER, Monkwearmouth Brass Band.
"The Dental Supply Co., having supplied me with a complete set of their £1 1s sets of teeth, I can with pleasure recommend the same to musicians who have lost their teeth. I can now play my instrument, and with the greatest ease."
From Mrs HARDY, 1, Bridge House, Grange town, near Sunderland.
"To Mr Harris,
"Manager of the London and Counties Dental Supply Co.,
"105, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
"Gentlemen,—I hereby inform you that the teeth you made for me about twelve months ago are giving me every satisfaction. I recommend all my friends to you."—August 14th, 1889.
HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS ON APPLICATION.
THE LONDON & COUNTIES DENTAL SUPPLY CO.,
OF 105, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, NEWCASTLE, and other Towns,
Attend every FRIDAY from 2 to 5 p.m.,
AT
No. 8, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

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

JOHNSON HEDLEY,
MANUFACTURING and WHOLESALE CONFECTIONER, DRYSALTER, &c.,
NORTHUMBERLAND CONFECTIONERY WORKS, ERICK STREET,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.
Superior Jams and Marmalades.
Biscuits of all kinds. 594

Standard Work, 6d.; by Post 7 Stamps.
DR. ELLIS'S Popular Lecture "The Ear and Throat." "A thorough and succinct account of the causes of noises in the head and deafness," &c. —"Chronicle."—London: Walter Scott, 14, Paternoster Square; Franklin, 42, Mosley Street; or from the Author, 100, Ryehill, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

INMAN LINE ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS
Inman & International Steamship Co., Ltd.
LIVERPOOL to NEW YORK, Every Wednesday.
Calling at Queenstown every Thursday.
Apply to Richardson, Spence, and Co., 22, Water Street, Liverpool; Adam Brodie, Auctioneer, Town Hall, Consett; Edward Sloane, Post Office, Blackhill; Alfred Phillipson, Emigration Agent, Dipton; John Tulip, Grocer, Cornsay Colliery William Gray, 5, North Road Durham; William Wilson, Cocoa Room, Chester-le-Street; George Leadbitter, Accountant, Catchgate; W. J. Johnson, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne. 95z

"A MINISTERING ANGEL."
Nothing is more common than to hear people say they are Bilious, and that their Liver is out of order. When your liver ceases to discharge its proper functions the whole system goes wrong. Your appetite is bad; you have a bitter taste in the mouth and your tongue is covered with a thick fur. You are oppressed with a feeling of weight or fulness in the chest or stomach and a rumbling noise in the bowels. You are troubled with water-brash, heartburn, flatulence or wind, acidity, headache, giddiness, pains in the knuckles, pains in the shoulder, aching pains in the limbs and lassitude coming on about an hour after meals, with a tendency to drowsiness. These are all symptoms of a disordered Liver, and may result in total prostration.
IS THERE NO CURE?
Happily there is. No one need suffer from such distressing ailments if they will but have recourse to the Sovereign Remedy TODD'S PILLS, which have absolutely no equal in restoring a disordered Liver, and are altogether unrivalled as a
SAFE, SURE, AND SPEEDY
means of curing a bad stomach. The first dose gives immediate relief Manufactured only by JOE TODD, Chemist, Carlisle. Sold everywhere by Chemists and Patent Medicine Dealers in boxes 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. Agent:—
THE
CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

CONSETT COUNTY COURT.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 5th.—Before His Honour E. J. MEYNELL (Judge).

APPLICATION FOR A NEW TRIAL.

RAW v HAMILTON AND WIFE.—Mr J. McCartan Consett) preferred a request to His Honour for a new trial in the suit of Wm. Raw, auctioneer, Blackhill, against David Hamilton, under foreman at the Consett Iron Works, and his wife, living in Ridley Street, Blackhill, the action having been investigated at last Court. Plaintiff, it will be remembered, sued the defendants at the previous Court for £5 5s for advertising and expenses and as commission for offering for sale two dwelling-houses belonging to Mrs Hamilton, and situate at Nos. 10 and 11, Ridley Street, Blackhill, on July 8th, 1889. The property was not sold, Mr J. Palliser, Blackhill, offering £210, the reserve price being £450. Subsequently, while Mr Raw was offering the houses for sale by private contract, Mr Palliser bought them for £200. His Honour therefore allowed plaintiff £3 cost of advertising, and 15s commission, the verdict being against both defendants.—Mr McCartan now stated that the judge asked him to quote some authority in a case where a person had offered property by auction, and it was not sold, but was subsequently disposed of by private contract, plaintiff having interviews with the buyer, although he did not actually sell the property, and upon these facts was entitled to his commission. He submitted that the judgment delivered in the case of Green v. Bartlett legally entitled his client to his commission.—His Honour: That is a case I have very often had to refer to, and my report upon it is underscored in various places. This case has been frequently quoted by solicitors on both sides.—Mr McCartan pointed out that four of Her Majesty's Judges had laid down that under circumstances precisely similar to the present case, plaintiff was justified in claiming his commission, although he did not actually sell the property. He was, however, the means of disposing of the property, and it was held that the auction was the means of bringing the vendor and purchaser together.—His Honour: The case cited clearly establishes what other cases have established—that the person who claims the commission must prove that it was through his instrumentality that the parties were brought together and the sale was effected. Mr Raw held an auction, and the property was not sold, and the person who subsequently bought the houses was the highest bidder at the auction. Mr Raw afterwards advertises the property for sale by private contract, and the person who offered the highest bid at the auction sale goes to the vendors and purchases the houses from them. The case of Green v. Bartlett was very like this one, only the latter did not go so far as the former. Defendant in the action was the highest bidder. In the case of Green v Bartlett, there was a written agreement to sell by auction, and afterwards to offer by private contract. In that respect the two cases are much the same. It was proved, however, that in the action of Green v Bartlett the sale was advertised in the *Times* newspaper, and also shown that the purchaser had seen the advertisement, and went to the sale and bade for the property. There was no evidence whatever that the purchaser ever saw the advertisement of the present sale in the *Consett Guardian*, or whether he came to the sale or not. It was possible that some other party may have informed him of the sale, or acted on his behalf. It is for the plaintiff to prove his case, and adduce evidence as to what brought the purchaser to the auction. Supposing that defendants had placed the property into the hands of other persons, as well as the auctioneer, to sell privately, that did not prevent the other parties from disposing of the property. I hear a great many cases of this kind, particularly in large towns, such as Shields and Sunderland. If there is any dispute about the matter, the purchaser is called, and states how it was that he attended the auction.—Mr McCartan: I am in a position to prove that now.—His Honour: But you should have proved your case before. There was no evidence as to what brought the purchaser to the auction. I cannot grant you a new trial on that point; it is a most dangerous ground upon which to grant a fresh trial. If it really turns upon some evidence that is wanted, it is simply putting a premium on manufacturing evidence. The purchaser Bartlett said he saw the advertisement of the sale, and consequently attended the auction, therefore plaintiff was entitled to his commission. What I decided in this suit was that there was not sufficient evidence to prove how the relationship of buyer and seller was brought about. There was no evidence, except the purchaser was the highest bidder at the sale.—Mr McCartan: But Mr Raw subsequently negotiated with Mr Palliser for the purchase of the property.—His Honour: I had no evidence whatever about that.—Mr McCartan: Yes. It was mentioned at the last court. You even allowed the cost of advertising the sale by private treaty.—His Honour: Yes, I allowed the expenses the auctioneer had been put to, because he was afterwards authorised to advertise the houses for sale by private contract. I am afraid that I allowed plaintiff too much commission. I can't grant a new trial.

A SERVANT AND HER WAGES.

MAUGHAN v NICHOL.—Sarah Maughan, a domestic servant, of Fairlem, Riding Mill, preferred an action against Robert Nichol, a farm hind of Conkley, near Riding Mill, to recover the sum of £4 2s as wages. Mr John G. Murray (Consett) represented plaintiff, while Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) defended.—Plaintiff's statement was to the effect that in Dec., 1883, defendant's wife had taken ill, and he (Nichol) asked her to leave her brother-in-law's place, and act as his housekeeper, her wages being stipulated at 7s a week. Mrs Nichol died on 21st March following, and plaintiff remained in defendant's service till the 13th May. Maughan stated that she received 18s from Mrs Nichol previous to her death; £1 6s 6d was paid to plaintiff by defendant's brother-in-law (Wm. Nichol). Miss Dodds also stayed at Nichol's for a day or two on several occasions, and other two payments were made by her.—By Mr Welford: She had repeatedly applied to defendant for the money owing, and he had promised to pay her as soon as he could. During the 22 weeks she was in charge of defendant's establishment, she was never away from the house a single night. She wrote to defendant's neice (Miss Bell) for the money, not knowing where the defendant was at that period. There was not a professional nurse brought from Chester-le-Street to attend to Mrs Nichol during the illness.—Elizabeth Dodds also gave evidence, after which Mr Welford called defendant, who said he was a hind at Conkley, and was earning 17s per week. When his wife took bad, he sought plaintiff, but nothing was said at that time about the payment of any wage. Three days after Maughan's arrival, his wife's sister came. Up to the time of his wife's death, one of the sisters was almost constantly in attendance. He saw plaintiff at Shotley Bridge, and he asked her to stay till some of his sisters came. A nurse was procured from Chester-le-Street, and she stayed ten days.—In answer to Mr Murray, defendant admitted that plaintiff looked after two children after his wife died. Did not subsequently re-engage her at Shotley hirings. He offered that morning to pay plaintiff £4 in settlement of the case, at the rate of 6s a week; but this was on condition that his solicitor was agreeable. (Laughter).—Judgment for plaintiff for £4 2s, in 10s monthly instalments.

CLAIM FOR THE VALUE OF A BEAST

BELL v STONER.—Wm. Bell, of Untbank Farm, Riding Mill, claimed £4 6s 6d from Hy. Stoner, of Consett, formerly a butcher carrying on business at Leadgate.—Mr Murray acted for plaintiff, who explained that in January 1888, he met Stoner at Benfieldside Auction Mart, and defendant told him that he wanted a beast—a nice little bullock or heifer. He got Stoner a beast at Millshields, the price being £3 12s 6d. Later on, defendant requested him to procure for him another beast, and he accordingly bought him one at Newcastle Market for £6 9s. Defendant paid him £5 15s, leaving a balance of £4 6s 6d due to him.—Defendant declared that it was three years since he was sold up as a butcher. He received the first beast for £3 12s 6d. As regards the cow, which plaintiff purchased for him, Bell afterwards sold it to a man called Hardy, for £7, and as they had to go in shares, plaintiff was owing him about £4. He paid Bell £3 5s at the mart, and did not owe him anything as he had never received any bills from the plaintiff.—Verdict for Bell for £4 6s 6d, at 5s per month.—Defendant said he could not pay the money, as he was a very poor man, assisting his father-in-law.

A CLAIM AND COUNTER-CLAIM.

BELL v PROUD.—Plaintiff in the last case also brought an action against John Proud, Kilnpit Hill, farmer and grocer, for £6 2s for butter, eggs, &c., supplied. Proud entered a counter-claim for £5 3s 3d for groceries sold and delivered. Mr Murray attended on behalf of plaintiff, while Mr C. E. Barnes (Durham) defended.—Mr Barnes did not dispute the debt; but with respect to the first item of £1 7s, contracted Jan. 16th, 1883, the Statute of Limitation was pleaded.—After hearing evidence on both sides, His Honour decided that plaintiff was owing defendant 8s 3d.

ALLEGED BREACH OF WARRANTY.

NICHOLSON v. ROBSON.—In this case Benjamin Nicholson, miner and cowkeeper, of White-le-Head, sued Andrew Robson, farmer, of Whittonstall, for the sum of £10, for breach of warranty in a cow transaction, being deducted from the amount paid for the cow, and £3 for loss of milk, &c. Mr C. E. Barnes appeared for plaintiff, and Mr T. W. Welford represented defendant.—Plaintiff, instead of taking the oath, claimed to affirm.—His Honour: Why?—Plaintiff: Because I'm of "no religious belief."—Nicholson was allowed to affirm.—Plaintiff stated that he bought a cow from defendant in October last, for which he paid £18. Robson informed him that the cow was only three weeks calved, and yielded from six to seven quarts of milk a meal. Plaintiff bought the cow on these conditions, and said that if it gave six quarts of milk at a meal it would suit him well enough. Witness took the cow home and milked it, but it did not give more than three quarts, and by making enquiries he ascertained that the cow had been calved fully five months. He had the cow in his possession still, and it had never given more than three quarts of milk at a time. Plaintiff, about a month afterwards, wrote a letter to Robson to the effect that the cow had not come up to his expectations, and that he had found out it had been calved five months instead of three weeks, as stated by the defendant at the time of purchase. He also said in the letter that unless Robson sent him £7 within seven days he would put him in the County Court, as he had got a man to value the cow and found it was not worth more than £11. Witness met defendant some time afterwards in Moffatt's public-house, at Shotley Bridge, when the letter was referred to. Robson pulled a piece of paper from his pocket, and laying it upon the table, he offered to bet Nicholson £50 to £10 that he could not prove that the cow was five months calved. Witness said he had not £10 in his pocket, and could not accept the bet. (Laughter).—Mr Barnes explained that the case would have been investigated earlier, only through some negligence it had been once adjourned and once struck out.—In cross-examination, Mr Welford elicited from plaintiff the fact that he never complained about the cow till he had seen Mr Browell at Broomhill, and this party advised him that he had paid too much for the cow. Defendant told him that he had just purchased the animal, and it was still at Broomhill. He did not say, however, that he had bought her as having calved three weeks previously, and that he could not guarantee that this was accurate. Mr Atkinson was present when the contract was made, but did not hear what transpired.—Witnesses were called to prove that the cow calved in May, and that defendant was visiting the fair, and knew this to be the fact; also that the full value of the beast was not more than from £9 to £11.—Defendant swore that when he purchased the cow it was represented to him to have been only three weeks calved, and that it gave seven quarts of milk a meal. He distinctly told Nicholson this, and said he could not warrant it, but that the plaintiff would just have to take the animal on that understanding. Plaintiff had the beast for a week on trial, and she apparently afforded him every satisfaction. He never made any complaint till some person named Browell persuaded him that he had paid far too much for the cow. He (Robson) would willingly give £13 for the beast at present even if she was yielding no milk at all. He did not consider that he was bound to answer Nicholson's letter demanding him to refund the sum of £7.—His Honour said there was no corroboration as regards the bargain between the parties. It was a question of oath against oath, and the evidence seemed to be pretty fairly balanced. Judgment for defendant, with costs.

CONSERVATIVE MEETINGS IN NORTH-WEST DURHAM.

BURNHOPE COLLIERY.

On Wednesday se'nnight, Mr F. W. Deacon, of Manchester, addressed the electors of Burnhope upon the political situation. Councillor J. T. Forster presided. He was supported by Messrs J. Gibson, J. H. Eccles, H. L. Burgess, R. Parmella, and others.

In introducing the lecturer, the CHAIRMAN pointed out the great necessity there was for a close study of current politics, and then the comparison of the same with the promises made by those in office. By this means it became possible to form an estimate of the representatives of the people much more than by their addresses during election times. Promises were all right in their way, but the fulfilment was the main thing to be considered. Mr Deacon had lectured there before, and needed no special introduction, as most, if not all present, were now acquainted with him. (Loud applause.)

The LECTURER received a hearty greeting, and dealt with the politics of the day in an able manner, especially dealing with the successes in Burmah and Africa, and their ultimate good to the British workman; also the Ashbourne Act, Eight Hours' Question, and the Federation of the British Empire. He also contrasted the doings of the late Gladstonian Government with the work done by the present Administration, and certainly no one present would do otherwise than admit that the Unionist results were magnificent successes, while their opponents' records were little better than magnificent failures. Mr Deacon, in concluding, explained in a clear and forcible style the benefits gained by the working classes when a stable government was at the head of affairs, and felt assured that those whom he had the honour to address would read and think for themselves, and not be hoodwinked by talk and "talk alone." The lecturer, who had been frequently cheered, resumed his seat, after speaking more than an hour.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said the present state of trade was to a great extent the outcome of a firm Cabinet. Investors were never willing to risk their capital without security. He was sure that they never had had a Government equal to the present one, and trusted that those present would, whenever the general election might come, carefully consider the work done by those in office, which the lecturer had put before them in the plainest manner possible, and record their vote for those who brought peace and prosperity to their homes as individuals, and the nation at large. He now called upon them to give Mr Deacon a hearty vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

The LECTURER, in returning thanks, spoke in eulogistic terms of the amiable chairman, and proposed that they accord him their very best thanks for presiding on that occasion.

Mr H. W. BURGESS seconded the proposition, which was carried with the greatest enthusiasm.

The proceedings then concluded.

MALTON COLLIERY.

On the previous night, Mr Deacon delivered a political address in the reading-room at Malton Colliery, near Lanchester, and there was a fair attendance. Mr G. Shipley presided, and was supported by Mr J. J. Thompson, Mr S. James, and others.—The speaker, in dealing with the Irish question, said the latest development of that question, according to Mr Parnell, was that they required a separate Parliament in that country, in order "that they might develop their own resources with their own money." This was in itself a ridiculous assumption. For years the Irish members had been practising a system of political mendacity, and begging at the doors of Parliament, and judging from past experiences it was much more probable they wanted a Parliament—in order to obtain funds for agitation out of the taxpayers of that country.—Votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close.

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, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Afternoon Chocolate Essence. 926

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

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

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

"ROUGH ON RATS."—Ask Chemists, Grocers, or Oilmen for "Rough on Rats." It clears out rats, mice, beetles, fleas, bed-bugs, roaches, ants, insects, ground moles, &c. 3d and 1s. boxes.

ACCIDENT ON THE RAILWAY AT BLAYDON.

About 2·30 on Sunday morning, P.C. Gregory, on duty at Blaydon Station, heard moans on the line near the platform. Proceeding to the spot, he found a man lying between the rails on the main line. He was much cut about the head, and had lost a lot of blood. The officer quickly secured an engine, and had him conveyed to the Newcastle Infirmary. He was unconscious, and unable to give his name. It is supposed that he had strayed on to the line and got knocked down by a train of empty carriages which had been running an excursion from Haydon Bridge to Newcastle.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held on Thursday se'nnight under the chairmanship of Mr George G. Taylor-Smith, J.P. Present: Revs J. P. De Pledge, J.P., P. C. Fortin, and W. Cockin, Messrs J. Wilkinson, W. Logan, T. Siddell, Geo. Hobson, T. Taylor-Smith, N. Clark, J. Collinson, C. D. W. Balleny, W. Gray, T. J. Muse, T. Pringle, T. Nichol, R. Murray, R. Robson, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

INMATES OF THE HOUSE.

Week ending Jan. 29th	166
Corresponding week of last year	167
Week ending Feb. 5th	164
Corresponding week of last year	167
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	19
Corresponding fortnight of last year	9

STIMULANTS FOR OUT-DOOR PAUPERS.

BAD WHISKEY AND BRANDY.

Mr J. Moon, relieving officer, Blackhill, reported that he had supplied a pauper with 4s worth of brandy since the last meeting, the stimulant having been ordered by the doctor. Mr Moon added that he did not give the applicants the money with which to procure the spirits, but always left the certificate at the nearest public-house, where the pauper could obtain the stimulant, which the doctor ordered.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE said he had been much struck with the remark of Mr J. Moon, viz., that when the parish doctor ordered brandy or whiskey for any of his out-door patients he went to the nearest public-house for the spirits. Now, it was a notorious fact that in many public-houses liquor of a very inferior quality, not to say pernicious, was supplied to the public. He thought an important body like the Guardians ought to have a certain quantity of good spirit in reserve, which might be given to the assistant-overseers or relieving officers, and supplied to paupers as occasion required, for it was of very great importance that when sick people were ordered to drink stimulants by the doctor that the best material which could be procured should be taken by them. He thought it was a matter which the Board ought to take into consideration, and not leave it to the mercy of any person, for they did not know what inferior quality might be given to the afflicted people, or to what extent the spirit might be adulterated; whereas if they kept a reserve stock of the best material to be supplied to paupers as occasion required, patients would be benefitted thereby. He therefore suggested that the Guardians should order a certain quantity of the best spirits, to be meted out to their relieving officers, who in turn could distribute the same amongst the patients according to the instructions of the doctor.

Mr G. HOBSON said that that would be reverting back to the old system. A few years ago a certain amount of spirit, supplied by the Board, was kept at his house, as well as the residences of other Guardians, and it was given to out-door patients who produced a medical certificate, the Guardians keeping the quantities meted out posted up in a book. Of course, some of the other Guardians were similarly supplied.

Father FORTIN: I suppose the spirits would be supplied by the Guardians?

Mr HOBSON: Yes; but the custom has been discontinued of late years. I don't know for what reason.

Mr SIDDELL: I am very glad to hear it was discontinued. If brandy has to be given at all, I think it should only come through the doctor.

The Clerk said that until within the last two or three years, Mr Moon always kept a supply of whiskey in his own house for the purpose mentioned by Mr Hobson, and he could have had another supply at any time by simply asking for it. Brandy was seldom ordered by the doctors, but if Mr Moon kept a few bottles both of whiskey and brandy it would settle the difficulty at once.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE proposed that Mr Moon be authorised to obtain two gallons of whisky and a bottle of brandy.

Mr SIDDELL (jocularly): Oh! I would go in for two gallons of whisky and a gallon of brandy. A bottle of brandy is no good. (Laughter.)

Mr WILKINSON seconded the proposition.

Mr T. TAYLOR-SMITH humourously remarked that the Guardians should ask for tenders, and have samples of the spirits sent to them for testing. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr SIDDELL: Oh, the Guardians can find their own liquor. I move as an amendment that neither whiskey or brandy be ordered.

Mr T. TAYLOR-SMITH: Why should the paupers in Consett and district have privileges which are denied the poor folks in the Lanchester district?

The Clerk: Because Dr Wilson never orders spirits as stimulants, while Dr Bolton often does.

Mr T. TAYLOR-SMITH: Then Dr Bolton should be told not to order spirits in future.

The CHAIRMAN then put the motion, which was carried, Mr Siddell only opposing it.

Mr HOBSON: You are the only one, Mr Siddell, who voted against the motion. (Laughter.)

Mr SIDDELL: I know; and I am not ashamed of it either. (More laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN informed Mr Moon of the decision come to by the Guardians, and jocularly advised him to be sure and sign the pledge.

Mr Moon was understood to say that he had been teetotal for 10 years.

A GUARDIAN: We must trust our officers.

Mr T. TAYLOR-SMITH (jocosely): Where do you live, Mr Moon?

Mr Moon: At Blackhill.

Mr TAYLOR-SMITH: I shall be paying you a visit some of these days. (Roars of laughter.)

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT.

The Clerk mentioned that, as the resolution with regard to this matter had not been published in the newspapers, they would have to extend the time for this Act coming into operation in the rural district of the Union from the 1st to the 15th March.

THE SEWERAGE FIELD AT DIPTON.

Out of several tenders, the sewerage field at Dipton was let to Mr Emerson Wilkinson, butcher.

INSPECTOR OF DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS: MR ROUNTHWAITE'S DUTIES AND SALARY.

Mr LOGAN, in accordance with notice of motion proposed that Mr J. W. Rounthwaite, inspector of nuisances, be appointed inspector under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Workshops Act, at a salary of £25 per annum. Mr Rounthwaite, he said, had a great deal of work to do at present, and had discharged his duties in the past with every satisfaction, and he expected that the bulk of this £25 would be spent on the hire of a conveyance, so as to enable him to travel over the district with greater facility.

Councillor MURRAY seconded, and Mr J. WILKINSON supported the proposition.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE: What is his present salary?

The Clerk: £200 a year.

Mr SIDDELL and Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE stated that Mr Rounthwaite was doing a lot of private practice.

Mr LOGAN: I don't think so much.

Father FORTIN: How much of Mr Rounthwaite's time do we get?

Mr LOGAN: As much as we require.

Father FORTIN said that if they gave Mr Rounthwaite an additional £25 he ought to give up his private practice, and devote his whole time to the duties of the Authority.

Mr HOBSON: It will be a great deal more satisfactory.

Father Fortin: There is a great deal of dissatisfaction among the ratepayers, and there was an impression that Mr Rounthwaite was performing a great deal of outside work. The inspector was in receipt of £200 a year already, which he reckoned a fairly good salary.

Mr SIDDELL concurred with the remarks made by Mr Fortin.

Mr T. TAYLOR-SMITH said that at the time for reappointing their inspector did not occur until June, he deemed it advisable that they should not ask Mr Rounthwaite to come to any decision with respect to giving up his private practice until that month came round.

Rev W. COCKIN thought it was not unreasonable to make such a condition that their inspector's salary should be raised only on that understanding.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE said the question might be allowed to stand over until June.

Mr LOGAN explained that the Cowsheds and Dairies Act was already in operation thoughout the country, and they might as well have Mr Rounthwaite appointed at once. But if it would meet with the views of the Guardians he would readily amend his former proposition to the effect that Mr Rounthwaite should be appointed at once as inspector of cowsheds and dairies, and that he be paid additionally at an annual remuneration of £25 until June 30th, when his term of office would expire, and it would be necessary to re-appoint him, when the question of giving up his private practice could then be brought forward.

After discussion, it was agreed to appoint Mr Rounthwaite as inspector for dairies and cowsheds, his salary to be £25 a year added to his salary as inspector of nuisances, subject to a readjustment of his salary and duties in June next.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—Mrs O'Neil, of Hill Top, Dipton, has neither drained her property nor put her outbuildings into sanitary condition, as required by notices. The last notice expired on the 13th of November.

The following new buildings are completed, and habitation certificates are required for the same, viz.:—

One house at West Kyo (No. 3, New Row), for James Newell.

One house at West Kyo (No. 4, New Row), for James Baxter.

Additions to the school at Ebchester for the managers.

Monthly Summary:—

Nuisances notices served	12
Letters written with regard to nuisances, &c.	43
Habitation certificates issued	8
Plans received and examined	4
Plan approval notices sent out	11
Villages and hamlets inspected	18
Visits to new buildings in progress	32

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
J. W. ROUNTHWAITE.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Recommended that the following plans be passed or received, subject to amendments:—

32 houses at East Stanley, for James Joicey and Co.—approved.

Two houses at Tantobie, for Joseph Ramshaw—adjourned.

Byre to a house at West Kyo, for S. Siddle—received.

Two houses at Havanna, for George Forster—approved.

Byre at Long Close Gate, for G. Cawthorne—received.

Hay and cart shed, &c., to house at Langley Park, for R. W. Wiggen—approved.

15 houses at Burnopfield, for Burnopfield Co-operative Society—disapproved.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The Medical Officers submitted the following reports:—

Lanchester District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

Mr CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—The following are the only cases of "catching" disease which have come to my knowledge since my last report:—10 c[...] of measles at Quebec, 5 at Hamsteels Colliery, [...] Cornsay Colliery, and 2 cases of typhoid fever at Hedleyhope.—Yours, &c.

JOHN WILSON.

Lanchester, Feb. 6th, 1890.

Ebchester District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to report three cases of scarlet fever at Templetown, Consett; one case of whooping cough at Hamsterley Colliery; also an epidemic of influenza all over the western district of the Lanchester Union. At the present, Allendale Cottages is free from zymotic disease.—Yours, &c.

W. T. BOLTON.

Ebchester Hill, Feb. 5th, 1890.

Eastern District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—The epidemic of influenza is still prevalent over the entire district, and I believe that nearly one-half of the inhabitants have been attacked. No fatality has followed its course so far. The month's mortality was excessive; 42 deaths were registered, equivalent to an annual ratio of 29·5 per 1,000. Not one of the deaths, however, was due to infectious disease. The sanitary condition of Collierley Dykes is very unsatisfactory, but your inspector will specify the additions and improvements that are needed.—Yours, &c.

T. BENSON, Medical Officer.

February 4th, 1890.

The Medical officers' yearly reports were presented, and were ordered to be printed and circulated amongst the Guardians.

DESTROYING INFECTIOUS BEDDING.

An application was made by some poor folks residing in the Cornsay Colliery neighbourhood, for recompense for some bedding, which had been used by a party suffering from typhoid fever, being burnt by order of the police.

The Inspector, in reply to the members, explained that neither himself nor the doctor gave instructions for the bedding to be destroyed, but this was a case where it was very proper and necessary that the bedding should be burnt at once.

Mr LOGAN said it was very important that prompt measures should be taken for the destruction of infectious clothing. In Dr Wilson's annual report, he noticed that out of 19 cases of typhoid fever in his district, nine had proved fatal.

The Authority agreed to compensate the parties, and afterwards adjourned.

SUICIDE AT PRUDHOE.

On Monday, a deliberate case of suicide occurred at Prudhoe. It appears that a man named George Hodgson arose early in the morning, and, in the presence of his son, cut his throat in such a manner that death ensued in a short time. Deceased was 47 years of age, and had for many years been employed as a blacksmith under the Prudhoe Colliery owners. He lived at Low Prudhoe, and was well known.—On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the Boat House Inn, Low Prudhoe, before Mr W. B Elsdon, deputy-coroner, touching the death of Hodgson. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while in a state of insanity.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—There were forward at this mart, on Monday, 10 fat cattle, 50 fat sheep, 4 cows, 10 pigs, a quantity of poultry, hay, potatoes, harness, &c. Fat cattle, to £20; sheep, to 61s; hoggs, to 69s, top, Mr Wm. Dixon, Hollands; pigs, to 51s; hay, 56s per ton; potatoes, 48s per ton. There was a good company present, and a brisk sale at satisfactory prices. Beef, 8s per stone; mutton, 9d to 10d per lb.; tups and ewes, 7d to 9d.

TOW LAW.—There were forward, on Monday, 89 cows, calved and to calve. Calved cows made up to £25; cows to calve up to £24; 3 fat cattle, to £19; 30 store cattle up to £13 10s; 10 calves, to 61s; 96 fat sheep and hoggs; fat Leicester sheep, to 68s, top, Mr Button, Wooley Farm; fat halfbred hoggs, to 52s 6d, top, Mr F. Sanderson, Littwhite; fat mule shearlings, to 45s 6d, top, Rev A. D. Shafto, Brancepeth; fat mule hoggs, to 48s, top, Mr Thompson, Edgeknowle; fat black-faced wethers, 50s 6d, top, Mr J. Dowson, West Newlands.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr James Turnbull held his usual fortnightly sale on Monday, and had forward 25 fat cattle, 10 in-calving and new-calved cows, 2 veal calves, 78 fat sheep, 2 bacon pigs, 5 pork pigs, 12 young pigs, horses, harness, sheets, &c. There was a good attendance of butchers, dealers, and farmers present, and trade for all classes of stock was very brisk throughout. Fat bullocks, from £16 to £23 17s 6d, top, Mr Bradford, Vigo; fat heifers, from £14 10s to £23, top, the Earl of Durham; in-calving cows, to £19; new-calved cows, to £14 10s; fat hoggs, from 44s to 58s 6d, top, Mr G. E. Forster, North Biddick Farm; shearlings, to 62s, top, Mr G. E. Forster; fat ewes, to 59s 6d, top, Mr G. E. Foster; bacon pigs, to £6 10s; pork pigs, to 60s; young pigs, to 26s.

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

DON'T DIE IN THE HOUSE.—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed-bugs, flies, ants, moles, chipmunks, gophers. 7½d. and 1s. boxes at Chemists.

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

"HOW TO DEBATE."—This is a handy little work containing the rules of debate, hints on public speaking, and other useful information for members of debating societies. The work, which is published at the small price of fourpence, may be had at Robt. Jackson's bookseller, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC JOTTINGS.

[BY THE "OLD CROW."]

Although I have not been favoured with a programme in connection with the Consett and District Cricket Club's concert fixed for Wednesday evening next, and am as a consequence somewhat in the dark as to what Mr Liston—an old favourite now with Consett audiences—proposes to do on the occasion, I may perhaps be allowed to remind my readers that this gentleman, having recently added considerably to his list of "specialities" will be pretty sure to provide something new, and quite distinct from his last programme, so that there need be no fear of any appearance of repetition. I have so often spoken of the versatility of Mr Liston, and of his power as an entertainer of a high order that nothing further requires to be said, except that he would appear not to have lost any of his old attractiveness. I shall be glad to see the concert chronicled as a successful one perhaps not so much on Mr Liston's account, as on account of the object the promoters have in view. There is little fear, I think of success not being attained for the very good and simple reason that hitherto Mr Liston has never failed to draw big houses at Consett.

—o—

Sacred concerts are getting more and more popular. I mean sacred concerts given on Sunday evenings. One of the earliest who ventured openly to advertise and practice this idea—(an idea which, in the minds of some may be better described as an innovation, although I, for one fail to see the justice of the term in this connection)—was Mr Arthur Brogden, of Swiss Choir notoriety. Within the past few years he has had many followers, and they are growing larger and larger. I hope their growth,—as I firmly believe it will—may be before long by leaps and bounds, because as the movement extends, with it will be conveyed an influence for good. For ages we have been accustomed to sing hymns and psalms, and anthems in our churches and chapels in which—as is quite a recognised truism,— only a very small minority of us assemble, and in these places of worship they are admittedly great in influence. If that is so then, I would like to know what is to hinder their influence for good if sung in the Consett Town Hall or other public building to which, by a strange perversity, shall I say, a big majority can be lured!

—o—

Mr Valentine Smith, who with his company has just concluded a most successful fortnight in Grand Opera at the Town Hall, Newcastle, gave on Sunday evening, in conjunction with three or four members of his company a sacred concert of a [...] of the not to be easily forgotten. The building in [...] was held was the People's Palace, a structure capable of seating some 3,000 people. The concert was to start at 8·15, and by eight o'clock there was not standing room in any part of the building. This speaks volumes for the popularity of the idea As one of the vast crowd of people I can only say that I have rarely enjoyed anything more thoroughly, nor need I hesitate to admit that I do not remember to have benefitted more largely at any time. It was, it may be allowed, my duty to be present; but even if it had not been so I should have striven hard to get. The programme embraced selection from Mozart, Handel, Mendelssohn, Rossini, Blumenthal, Gounod, Costa, Randel, Bennett, Cowen and Sullivan. Let any one who has a love for Oratoria and great composers generally just think of it.

—o—

To-morrow (Saturday) night, will see the last of the *Babes in the Wood* at the Tyne, a pantomine which will live in the memory as one of the finest ever produced in the city. If ever there was work that could stand another month's running, that work is Mr Harris's latest and most successful production. Efforts have I understand been made to arrange for a longer run, but in vain by reason of the fact that the company booked for appearance on Monday night next, cannot put off their date. It is a pity for many reasons, and the pity is not the least for those of the public who have not availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing the pantomine hitherto, and who may have no chance of seeing it to-morrow evening. In my first article on the *Babes in the Wood*, I ventured to predict that it would create a big sensation. It has done this, but it has done far more. It has proved financially—in spite of the extraordinary expenses attending its production—by far the most succesful of the three pantomines with which Mr Harris has favoured his patrons. Its great success will probably produce still bigger things in the future from the generous lessee of the theatre although it would be indeed difficult to conceive in what way the beauties of the pantomine under notice could be exceeded. The Palace of Games, The Village Green, The Nursery, The Forest with Panoramic Woodland Scenery The Paradise of Birds, and the transformation scene, Hail, Smiling Morn, will be long remembered with delight as gems in their own particular way. The music, so bright and charming, and so capitally arranged; the dresses and appointments generally so elaborate; the ballets so captivating, and the company, embracing Miss Vesta Tilley, and a long list of competent artistes working so well together from start to finish; all these must surely come back to us in memory from time to time for many years to come, and they will vie each with the other for the happiest position in our recollections.

BLACKHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

LECTURE BY THE REV D. TASKER.

On Monday night, Rev D. Tasker, of North Shields, delivered his interesting lecture on "Egypt, the Nile, and the Pyramids—a visit to the East in 1889," before a large audience in the above Church. The lecture was illustrated by lime-light views. Mr R. G. Barclay, Shotley Bridge, acted as chairman, and in a few appropriate remarks introduced the lecturer.

The LECTURER, in the course of his remarks said that Egypt, next to Palestine, was the most interesting country in the world, and as we had so much political intercourse with Egypt it was necessary that all Englishmen should know something about this country. (Applause.) He left Blyth in the steamship *Gilsland*, on July 20th, and during the voyage they fell in with the

MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON

off the Rock of Gibraltar, and on Wednesday, August 5th, came in sight of Alexandria, and before them lay the land of the ancient Pharaohs. Egypt owed it prosperity to the River Nile and its Delta. It contained 20,000 cities in its most prosperous times, and in the ancient world had been one of the most famous of countries. The history of this remarkable land could be traced far into the past, its first

KING REIGNING 5,000 YEARS B.C.,

and the Pyramids were built about 4,000 years B.C. It had been conquered by different nations and at the end of the last century was invaded by Napoleon, who was expelled by the English. Near Alexandria stood the lighthouse Pharos, built 250 B.C. The country between Alexandria and Cairo was a dead level. Their great river the Nile was believed by the natives to have its beginning in Paradise. It began to rise in July, and the Egyptians spent most of the first night of its rising on the river's banks. Unlike any other river in the world, for the last 1,500 miles of its course the Nile flowed without receiving a single tributary. Its rise was caused by the

MELTING OF SNOWS

on the mountains of Abyssinia. At Cairo, its rise was 25 feet. If it only rose about 18 feet it meant famine, while a rise of 27 feet caused disaster to both houses and inhabitants. The river was used for irrigating the land, and was the blessing of the land. The soil yielded three crops every year, and thus those farmers were better off than English ones. The land was formerly parcelled out in small pieces, but was now falling into the hands of large proprietors, and there was a

LAND QUESTION

to be settled in Egypt as well as in England. (Applause.) The towns were all of the usual oriental description with their crooked, narrow streets and their open bazaars. The State religion was Mahometanism, which arose in the seventh century. Polygamy was allowed amongst Mahometans, though the present Khedive had only one wife. There were 60 or 70 Pyramids in Egypt, and one of the chief features on the banks of the Nile was the Sphinx—a she-monster symbolising strength and beauty. They had visited the great pyramids, and from the top of one of them had got a splendid view of the Sahara, the Nile, and the city of Cairo. These had stood for several thousand years, and were even yet the great sights in a visit to that land. (Applause.)

Votes of thanks concluded the evening's entertainment.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL JOTTINGS.

The present condition of Rev G. P. Wilkinson, of Harperley Park, is very grave.

—:o:—

Lord Scarbrough has consented to become president of the Lumley and District Conservative Association.

—:o:—

Mr John Henry Burn, a son of Mr J. H. Burn, of Cullercoats (owner of the West Stanley Collieries), has been called to the bar.

—:o:—

Mr and Mrs James Joicey and family left Longhirst Hall, on Monday morning, for their town residence, 58, Cadogan Square, S.W.

—:o:—

Mr William E. Darney, Stanley, R.S.O., pupil of Mr Robert Wilson, Sandford Academy, Newcastle, has successfully passed the Preliminary Pharmaceutical Examination, held in Newcastle, on the 14th ult.

—:o:—

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major George Richards Chaloner, Royal Artillery, and Eleanor Maude, sixth daughter of the late Mr H. W. Watson, J.P., of Burnopfield House.

—:o:—

Half-a-century is a long time, and yet it must be nearly fifty years since Mr Burlison painted a picture which we saw at Colepike Hall a few years ago. It was a portrait of Squire Taylor-Smith, who had but then recently added the latter name to his patronymic. The number of Mr Burlison's canvasses must be legion since then, and just as they have mellowed with age, so has Mr Burlison's hand lost none of its skill. The city of Durham has been limned by him from so many points that the reproduction of the Castle and Keep and Old Abbey Tower must be to him but a mechanical process. A large painting that has just left his easel, however, presents an entirely new picture of the Dunelmian capital and its classic surroundings. It is taken from a point immediately behind Mr Johnson's mansion at Aykleyheads, whence, over an undulating foreground, a clear view is obtained of Durham's massy fane, with the city itself lying cosily in a deeper hollow to the left. It is altogether a charming piece of landscape painting, and has attracted a large number of people to Messrs Rushworth's Art Gallery, where it is on view.—*Newcastle Journal.*

CONSETT POLLING LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Consett Polling District Liberal Association was held in the New Town Hall Buildings, [...], on Thursday night week. The chair was occupied by Mr C. P. Douglas, vice-president. There was a small attendance, only seven or eight persons entering an appearance.—At the outset a good discussion arose with reference to the financial position of the association, Messrs James Palliser (Blackhill) and T. Carr (Consett) being desirous of ascertaining the precise relation of that organisation with the Central Liberal Association.—Mr Adam Brodie, secretary *pro tem*, stated that he had taken it upon himself to convene that meeting because their present secretary (Mr Wilson Clayton) said it was no use his summoning a meeting, as none of the members would attend, and he intended to resign. The treasurer (Mr W. Dodds) was not present, nor had he sent a financial statement. Mr Dodds had a small sum in hand, but the amount was already condemned for printing and expenses. The association was owing about £30—three years' contributions to the funds of the Divisional Liberal Association. Messrs Palliser and Carr stated that they were under the impression that only a single year's subscription was due to the Central Association. Mr Brodie explained that the other polling centres in North-West Durham were in the same position, some not having paid anything since the formation of the organisation. Even if funds were not forthcoming to carry on the [...] association it would not be allowed to collapse, for he had received letters from several influential Radicals—including Sir Arnold Morley and Sir Jos. W. Pease—intimating that the divisional organisation should not collapse for want of ways and means, and if the necessary funds were not forthcoming from the Liberals of the Division, they would undertake that the money should be provided.—The Chairman considered it a shame that the secretary should have to go begging to outsiders for keeping the central association in operation when they had 6,000 Liberal electors in the Parliamentary area. It was not the value of their subscription that they looked at, but it the Liberals only paid a trifle, it would indicate that they were taking an interest in the affairs of the Association.—The meeting strongly denounced the apathy of the Liberals of the town in neglecting to attend the meetings, and failing to contribute towards the funds of the cause.—Messrs Palliser and Carr said they were willing to contribute their quota towards the expenses, but it was considered unfair that two or three gentlemen should be compelled to carry on the association which was for the benefit of the Liberals generally. They expressed their determination to face their financial difficulties with a bold front, and make a strong effort to wipe off all liabilities.—Mr Brodie said that if all the polling districts had paid their calls regularly the Divisional Association would have had a [...] in hand. If each Liberal in the division only subscribed 1d per year it would keep the association in operation. However, they were in no worse position in North-west Durham than in other divisions, where the central associations were maintained by a few wealthy Liberals.—After further conversation, it was agreed not to re-elect the officers, but to adjourn the meeting to some future date.—Mr Brodie explained that, according to the rules, the officers for last year would remain in office for another twelve months, and would be responsible for the liabilities.—The meeting then terminated.

A sheep belonging to Rev J. St. [...], rector of Whittonstall, dropped a fine lamb on Friday.

STELLA CATHOLIC REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.—The monthly meeting of the members was held on Monday night, in the Catholic Schools, Stella, the president (Mr O'Neil) being in the chair. There was a large attendance.—The chairman stated that, in consequence of a resolution passed at [...] meeting with reference to obtaining the consent of Rev Canon Wrennall to discuss questi[...] meetings of the association relative to the schools, a deputation had waited upon Canon Wrennall, and explained the opinion of the meeting assembled a few weeks previous, and he (the chairman) was glad to say the result was satisfactory. There were one or two reasons why such questions should be discussed at their meetings. First, [...] necessity, and it was not the wish or desire of the parishoners of Stella and district to burden a tax upon his (the canon's) shoulders which he was not prepared to pay and was not responsible for. During the last 10 years Canon Wrennall has been out of pocket as far as £40 and £50 a year in order to keep up the regularity and efficiency of the schools. As parishoners, it was their duty to look to these facts, and to the education of the children.—Mr Carling proposed, and Mr Cle[...] seconded a resolution to the effect that each parishioner subscribe a certain amount quarterly in addition to the diocesan fund in aid of the schools of the parish. A lengthy discussion took place, and ultimately it was agreed to adjourn the meeting for a fortnight, when the question would be brought up again and settled at a full meeting.—Addresses were also delivered by Mr Carling, Mr Cuthbertson, Mr [...], and Father Cusack, and votes of thanks to the chairman and Father Cusack concluded the meeting.

...or's report.
...Mr Longstaff submitted
...d Members of the Leadgate
...al Board.
... your last meeting, I have
... your district. For the most
..., and other manures are well
... places, however, they have
... in rather longer than they
... I expect they will all be
...lan from Mr R. Robson will
... small alteration to his back
... Todd for additions to his
...burnt in January, 180 hours.
...on oil-lamps have burnt well
... that on a few windy nights
... and part glass broken con-
... living in a room with about
...place is very dilapidated, and
...nsider they ought to be removed
... possible.
...ctor's report.
... paid to the treasurer the sum
... of general district rate. Some
... to be collected yet. Your
...ill greatly oblige,—Yours,
... Thomas s. Longstaff.
... 12th, 1890.
...ived and approved of.
...at Mrs Proudfoot's house was
...estate, that inspector Edwards,
...ciety for the Protection of
... the place on Tuesday night.
...stench. He (Mr Longstaff)
... Monday, and could not with-
...
...gue of ants.
...drew attention to the fact that
...mplained to him that their
... swarming with insects, and
... them any longer. From the
...ned to be a species of ant, and
... whole premises.
...il (vicar of Leadgate) said he
...nces, and if the evil was not
...d be a plague all through Lead-
...
...d, after a short debate, to the
...on of the Consett Iron Co. (who
... property) should be directed to
... they should call in an expert
... the nuisance abated.
... contracts.
... advertise for tenders for the
... scavenging work.
... adjourned.

...AN INNKEEPER AT ...TER-LE-STREET.

...ENTFUL CAREER.

...th, landlord of the Butchers ...e, Chester-le-Street, died at his ...esday. Mr Smith enlisted into ... Regiment of Foot, at the age ...n the East Indies for 14 years. ...the Indian Mutiny of 1857 and ...ent at the siege of Delhi, where ...ounded. He also took part in ...now, under Sir Colin Campbell ...Clide), and was present at the ..., after which he was elevated to ...eant. Mr Smith received war ...—one for Delhi and another for ...ow, together with a medal for ... good conduct. He was awarded ...and a pension of 2s per diem on ...his 21 years of service. After ...Smith joined the reserve forces, ... Lancashire Militia as staff-...years, and was then discharged at .... He subsequently came to ... and settled down as landlord of ...ne, where prior to his death he ...ness for 15 years. Mr Smith, ... of age, leaves a widow and grown-...

...LIAN DRESS CONCERT ...AT STANHOPE.

...evening, an interesting concert ...ss Temperley's select class of girls ... Methodist school-room, Stanhope. ...u, in the unavoidable absence of ...ccupied the chair. The girls, ...er, appeared in unique Italian cos-...rogramme was highly interesting, ...and platform decorations lending ...roceedings. A humorous dialogue ...ht girls, entitled, "Our coming ...greatly amused the audience. The ...es were exceedingly well rendered. ...a very little girl, Ireshopeburn, in ..., pleased the audience immensely ... piece, entitled "Bird Waltz," on ...pital style. The singing of Miss ... pleased well, and the proceedings ... Miss Temperley singing very ...mn winds." A hearty vote of ...corded Miss Temperley by the ...alf of the trustees, for the evening's ...and for bringing her troupe of ... efficiency and perfection. The ...e troupe of girls:—Misses Colling-... Spark, Ashbridge, Hetherington, ...Priestman, Bainbridge, Watson, ... Bell, and Stephenson. The ...it ne, Ashbridge, Vickers, and ... nice players on the piano. Sub-...gramme:—Glee, "To the tap of ...oir; duet (piano), "Home sweet ...e Ashbridge and Featherstone; ...e doctor's right," Miss E. Spark; ...ords of mother," Miss Bainbridge; ...eigh ride," choir; duet (piano), ...Misses Templerley and Vickers; ...ewcastle apothecary," Miss Hether-...piano), Misses Temperley and Wat-...o), "Echoes from Green Isle," Miss ...gue by eight girls, "Our coming ... (piano) "Convent bells," Misses ...d Collingwood; trio, "Canadian ...sses Priestman, Raine, and Vickers; ... Gipsies," choir; solo (piano), ... Miss Watson; song, "Auld Robin ...Raine; recitation, "Lady Clare," ... song, "I wish I were a fairy ... Vickers; song, "Autumn winds," ...y; "National Anthem." The con-...5 2s 0d.

... CONCERT AT CORNSAY.

...evening, a concert was given by the ...cholars connected with the British ...ay Colliery, assisted by the Orches-...d, under the leadership of Mr W. ... Scott officiated at the piano in a ...e manner. The proceedings being ...ly nature, were again a source of ...on to the public. The children ...nselves in a most efficient manner, ...h credit upon the teachers and ...e schools. The programme was an ...rture, band; chorus, "Come, oh ...scholars; song, "I'm the very worst ...; chorus, "Merry sings the lark," ...ie song, T. Hardy; song (reply to ... M. Johnson; glee, "The forest fes-...ope, Miss Lowden, Messrs Scott and ... chorus, "Hear the happy sound," ...g, Mr Strawbridge; song, "Won't ... pretty flowers?" N. Raine; song, ...rs Hope; song, Miss Lowden; vocal ... amen," scholars. Part 2—Chorus, ...annia," scholars; overture, band; ... "Little sailors," scholars; song, Mr ... solo and chorus, "Come where my ...ling," Mrs Hope and four boys; ... Hardy; song, "Little milkmaids," ...tz, "See-saw," band; song, "Little ...ight boys; song, "The blind girl," ...uet, "Convent bells," M. Johnson ...; glee, "Good-night to the day," ...ss Lowden, Messrs Scott and Straw-... spacious school-room was literally ... the entertainment.

...Methodist Society.—The members ... choirs of Pelton Fell and Beamish ...llent rendition of a service of song in ...n Chapel, Beamish. There was a ...y present. Mr Kellot presided at ...hile Mr Maddison conducted. At the ...and coffee supper was provided, and ... of by a number of people.

CONSETT COUNTY COURT.

Wednesday, Feb. 5th.—Before His Honour E. J. Meynell (Judge).

APPLICATION FOR A NEW TRIAL.

Raw v Hamilton and Wife.—Mr J. McCartan (Consett) preferred a request to His Honour for a new trial in the suit of Wm. Raw, auctioneer, Blackhill, against David Hamilton, under foreman at the Consett Iron Works, and his wife, living in Ridley Street, Blackhill, the action having been investigated at last Court. Plaintiff, it will be remembered, sued the defendants at the previous Court for £5 5s for advertising and expenses and as commission for offering for sale two dwelling-houses belonging to Mrs Hamilton, and situate at Nos. 10 and 11, Ridley Street, Blackhill, on July 8th, 1889. The property was not sold. Mr J. Palliser, Blackhill, offering £210 the reserve price being £450. Subsequently, while Mr Raw was offering the houses for sale by private contract, Mr Palliser bought them for £200. His Honour therefore allowed plaintiff £3 cost of advertising, and 15s commission, the verdict being against both defendants.—Mr McCartan now stated that the judge asked him to quote some authority in a case where a person had offered property by auction, and it was not sold, but was subsequently disposed of by private contract, plaintiff having interviews with the buyer, although he did not actually sell the property, and upon these facts was entitled to his commission. He submitted that the judgment delivered in the case of Green v. Bartlett legally entitled his client to his commission.—His Honour: That is a case I have very often had to refer to, and my report upon it is underscored in various places. This case has been frequently quoted by solicitors on both sides.—Mr McCartan pointed out that four of Her Majesty's Judges had laid down that under circumstances precisely similar to the present case, plaintiff was justified in claiming his commission, although he did not actually sell the property. He was, however, the means of disposing of the property, and it was held that the auction was the means of bringing the vendor and purchaser together.—His Honour: The case cited clearly establishes what other cases have established—that the person who claims the commission must prove that it was through his instrumentality that the parties were brought together and the sale was effected. Mr Raw held an auction, and the property was not sold, and the person who subsequently bought the houses was the highest bidder at the auction. Mr Raw afterwards advertises the property for sale by private contract, and the person who offered the highest bid at the auction sale goes to the vendors and purchases the houses from them. The case of Green v. Bartlett was very like this one, only the latter did not go so far as the former. Defendant in the action was the highest bidder. In the case of Green v Bartlett, there was a written agreement to sell by auction, and afterwards to offer by private contract. In that respect the two cases are much the same. It was proved, however, that in the action of Green v Bartlett the sale was advertised in the *Times* newspaper, and also shown that the purchaser had seen the advertisement, and went to the sale and bade for the property. There was no evidence whatever that the purchaser ever saw the advertisement of the present sale in the *Consett Guardian*, or whether he came to the sale or not. It was possible that some other party may have informed him of the sale, or acted on his behalf. It is for the plaintiff to prove his case, and adduce evidence as to what brought the purchaser to the auction. Supposing that defendants had placed the property into the hands of other persons, as well as the auctioneer, to sell privately, that did not prevent the other parties from disposing of the property. I hear a great many cases of this kind, particularly in large towns, such as Shields and Sunderland. If there is any dispute about the matter, the purchaser is called, and states how it was that he attended the auction.—Mr McCartan: I am in a position to prove that now.—His Honour: But you should have proved your case before. There was no evidence as to what brought the purchaser to the auction. I cannot grant you a new trial on that point; it is a most dangerous ground upon which to grant a fresh trial. If it really turns upon some evidence that is wanted, it is simply putting a premium on manufacturing evidence. The purchaser Bartlett said he saw the advertisement of the sale, and consequently attended the auction, therefore plaintiff was entitled to his commission. What I decided in this suit was that there was not sufficient evidence to prove how the relationship of buyer and seller was brought about. There was no evidence, except the purchaser was the highest bidder at the sale.—Mr McCartan: But Mr Raw subsequently negotiated with Mr Palliser for the purchase of the property.—His Honour: I had no evidence whatever about that.—Mr McCartan: Yes. It was mentioned at the last court. You even allowed the cost of advertising the sale by private treaty.—His Honour: Yes, I allowed the expenses the auctioneer had been put to, because he was afterwards authorised to advertise the houses for sale by private contract. I am afraid that I allowed plaintiff too much commission. I can't grant a new trial.

A SERVANT AND HER WAGES.

Maughan v Nichol.—Sarah Maughan, a domestic servant, of Fairlom, Riding Mill, preferred an action against Robert Nichol, a farm hind of Conkley, near Riding Mill, to recover the sum of £4 2s as wages. Mr John G. Murray (Consett) represented plaintiff, while Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) defended.—Plaintiff's statement was to the effect that in Dec., 1883, defendant's wife had taken ill, and he (Nichol) asked her to leave her brother-in-law's place, and act as his housekeeper, her wages being stipulated at 7s a week. Mrs Nichol died on 21st March following, and plaintiff remained in defendant's service till the 13th May. Maughan stated that she received 18s from Mrs Nichol previous to her death; £1 6s 6d was paid to plaintiff by defendant's brother-in-law (Wm. Nichol). Miss Dodds also stayed at Nichol's for a day or two on several occasions, and other two payments were made by her.—By Mr Welford: She had repeatedly applied to defendant for the money owing, and he had promised to pay her as soon as he could. During the 22 weeks she was in charge of defendant's establishment, she was never away from the house a single night. She wrote to defendant's neice (Miss Bell) for the money, not knowing where the defendant was at that period. There was not a professional nurse brought from Chester-le-Street to attend to Mrs Nichol during the illness.—Elizabeth Dodds also gave evidence, after which Mr Welford called defendant, who said he was a hind at Conkley, and was earning 17s per week. When his wife took bad, he sought plaintiff, but nothing was said at that time about the payment of any wage. Three days after Maughan's arrival, his wife's sister came. Up to the time of his wife's death, one of the sisters was almost constantly in attendance. He saw plaintiff at Shotley Bridge, and he asked her to stay till some of his sisters came. A nurse was procured from Chester-le-Street, and she stayed ten days.—In answer to Mr Murray, defendant admitted that plaintiff looked after two children after his wife died. Did not subsequently re-engage her at Shotley hirings. He offered that morning to pay plaintiff £4 in settlement of the case, at the rate of 6s a week; but this was on condition that his solicitor was agreeable. (Laughter).—Judgment for plaintiff for £4 2s, in 10s monthly instalments.

CLAIM FOR THE VALUE OF A BEAST.

Bell v Stoner.—Wm. Bell, of Untbank Farm, Riding Mill, claimed £4 6s 6d from Hy. Stoner, of Consett, formerly a butcher carrying on business at Leadgate.—Mr Murray acted for plaintiff, who explained that in January 1888, he met Stoner at Benfieldside Auction Mart, and defendant told him that he wanted a beast—a nice little bullock or heifer. He got Stoner a beast at Millshields, the price being £3 12s 6d. Later on, defendant requested him to procure for him another beast, and he accordingly bought him one at Newcastle Market for £6 9s. Defendant paid him £5 15s, leaving a balance of £4 6s 6d due to him.—Defendant declared that it was three years since he was sold up as a butcher. He received the first beast for £3 12s 6d. As regards the cow, which plaintiff purchased for him, Bell afterwards sold it to a man called Hardy, for £7, and as they had to go in shares, plaintiff was owing him about £4. He paid Bell £3 5s at the mart, and did not owe him anything as he had never received any bills from the plaintiff.—Verdict for Bell for £4 6s 6d, at 5s per month.—Defendant said he could not pay the money, as he was a very poor man, assisting his father-in-law.

A CLAIM AND COUNTER-CLAIM.

Bell v Proud.—Plaintiff in the last case also brought an action against John Proud, Kilnpit Hill, farmer and grower, for £6 2s, for butter, eggs, &c., supplied. Proud entered a counter-claim for £5 3s 3d for groceries sold and delivered. Mr Murray attended on behalf of plaintiff, while Mr C. E. Barnes (Durham) defended.—Mr Barnes did not dispute the debt; but with respect to the first item of £1 7s, contracted Jan. 16th, 1882, the Statute of Limitation was pleaded.—After hearing evidence on both sides, His Honour decided that plaintiff was owing defendant 8s 3d.

ALLEGED BREACH OF WARRANTY.

Nicholson v. Robson.—In this case Benjamin Nicholson, miner and cowkeeper, of White-le-Head, sued Andrew Robson, farmer, of Whittonstall, for the sum of £10, for breach of warranty in a cow transaction, being deducted from the amount paid for the cow, and £3 for loss of milk, &c. Mr C. E. Barnes appeared for plaintiff, and Mr T. W. Welford represented defendant.—Plaintiff, instead of taking the oath, claimed to affirm.—His Honour: Why?—Plaintiff: Because I'm of "no religious belief."—Nicholson was allowed to affirm.—Plaintiff stated that he bought a cow from defendant in October last, for which he paid £18. Robson informed him that the cow was only three weeks calved, and yielded from six to seven quarts of milk a meal. Plaintiff bought the cow on these conditions, and said that if it gave six quarts of milk at a meal it would suit him well enough. Witness took the cow home and milked it, but it did not give more than three quarts, and by making enquiries he ascertained that the cow had been calved fully five months. He had the cow in his possession still, and it had never given more than three quarts of milk at a time. Plaintiff, about a month afterwards, wrote a letter to Robson to the effect that the cow had not come up to his expectations, and that he had found out it had been calved five months instead of three weeks, as stated by the defendant at the time of purchase. He also said in the letter that unless Robson sent him £7 within seven days he would put him in the County Court, as he had got a man to value the cow and found it was not worth more than £11. Witness met defendant some time afterwards in Moffatt's public house, at Shotley Bridge, when the letter was referred to. Robson pulled a piece of paper from his pocket, and laying it upon the table, he offered to bet Nicholson £50 to £10 that he could not prove that the cow was five months calved. Witness said he had not £10 in his pocket, and could not accept the bet. (Laughter).—Mr Barnes explained that the case would have been investigated earlier, only through some negligence it had been once adjourned and once struck out.—In cross-examination, Mr Welford elicited from plaintiff the fact that he never complained about the cow till he had seen Mr Browell at Broomhill, and this party advised him that he had paid too much for the cow. Defendant told him that he had just purchased the animal, and it was still at Broomhill. He did not say, however, that he had bought her as having calved three weeks previously, and that he could not guarantee that this was accurate. Mr Atkinson was present when the contract was made, but did not hear what transpired.—Witnesses were called to prove that the cow calved in May, and that defendant was visiting the fair, and knew this to be the fact; also that the full value of the beast was not more than from £9 to £11.—Defendant swore that when he purchased the cow it was represented to him to have been only three weeks calved, and that it gave seven quarts of milk a meal. He distinctly told Nicholson this, and said he could not warrant it, but that the plaintiff would just have to take the animal on that understanding. Plaintiff had the beast for a week on trial, and she apparently afforded him every satisfaction. He never made any complaint till some person named Browell persuaded him that he had paid far too much for the cow. He (Robson) would willingly give £13 for the beast at present even if she was yielding no milk at all. He did not consider that he was bound to answer Nicholson's letter demanding him to refund the sum of £7.—His Honour said there was no corroboration as regards the bargain between the parties. It was a question of oath against oath, and the evidence seemed to be pretty fairly balanced. Judgment for defendant, with costs.

CONSERVATIVE MEETINGS IN NORTH-WEST DURHAM.

BURNHOPE COLLIERY.

On Wednesday se'nnight, Mr F. W. Deacon, of Manchester, addressed the electors of Burnhope upon the political situation. Councillor J. T. Forster presided. He was supported by Messrs J. Gibson, J. H. Eccles, H. L. Burgess, R. Parmella, and others.

In introducing the lecturer, the Chairman pointed out the great necessity there was for a close study of current politics, and then the comparison of the same with the promises made by those in office. By this means it became possible to form an estimate of the representatives of the people much more than by their addresses during election times. Promises were all right in their way, but the fulfilment was the main thing to be considered. Mr Deacon had lectured there before, and needed no special introduction, as most, if not all present, were now acquainted with him. (Loud applause.)

The Lecturer received a hearty greeting, and dealt with the politics of the day in an able manner, especially dealing with the successes in Burmah and Africa, and their ultimate good to the British workman; also the Ashbourne Act, Eight Hours' Question, and the Federation of the British Empire. He also contrasted the doings of the late Gladstonian Government with the work done by the present Administration, and certainly no one present would do otherwise than admit that the Unionist results were magnificent successes, while their opponents records were little better than magnificent failures. Mr Deacon, in concluding, explained in a clear and forcible style the benefits gained by the working classes when a stable government was at the head of affairs, and felt assured that those whom he had the honour to address would read and think for themselves, and not be hoodwinked by talk and "talk alone." The lecturer, who had been frequently cheered, resumed his seat, after speaking more than an hour.

The Chairman, in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said the present state of trade was to a great extent the outcome of a firm Cabinet. Investors were never willing to risk their capital without security. He was sure that they never had had a Government equal to the present one, and trusted that these present would, whenever the general election might come, carefully consider the work done by those in office, which the lecturer had put before them in the plainest manner possible, and record their vote for those who brought peace and prosperity to their homes as individuals, and the nation at large. He now called upon them to give Mr Deacon a hearty vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

The Lecturer, in returning thanks, spoke in eulogistic terms of the amiable chairman, and proposed that they accord him their very best thanks for presiding on that occasion.

Mr H. W. Burgess seconded the proposition, which was carried with the greatest enthusiasm.

The proceedings then concluded.

MALTON COLLIERY.

On the previous night, Mr Deacon delivered a political address in the reading-room at Malton Colliery, near Lanchester, and there was a fair attendance. Mr G. Shipley presided, and was supported by Mr J. J. Thompson, Mr S. James, and others.—The speaker, in dealing with the Irish question, said the latest development of that question, according to Mr Parnell, was that they required a separate Parliament in that country, in order that they might develop their own resources with their own money. This was in itself a ridiculous assumption. For years the Irish members had been practising a system of political mendacity, and begging at the doors of Parliament, and judging from past experiences it was much more probable they wanted a Parliament—in order to obtain funds for agitation out of the taxpayers of that country.—Votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close.

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, by Grocers, labelled—"James Epps & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Afternoon Chocolate Essence.

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

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

Skinny Men.—"Wells' Health Renewer."—Greatest remedy on earth for dyspepsia, nervousness, indigestion, impotence of mind, body, or vital functions, mental or physical decline. At Chemists.

"Rough on Rats."—Ja. Chemists, Grocers, or Oilmen for "Rough on Rats." It clears out rats, mice, beetles, fleas, bed-bugs, ants, insects, ground moles &c. 5d and 1s. boxes.

ACCIDENT ON THE RAILWAY AT BLAYDON.

About 2:30 on Sunday morning, P.C. Gregory, on duty at Blaydon Station, heard moans on the line near the platform. Proceeding to the spot, he found a man lying between the rails on the main line. He was much cut about the head, and had lost a lot of blood. The officer quickly secured an engine, and had him conveyed to the Newcastle Infirmary. He was unconscious, and unable to give his name. It is supposed that he had strayed on to the line and got knocked down by a train of empty carriages which had been running an excursion from Haydon Bridge to Newcastle.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held on Thursday se'nnight under the chairmanship of Mr George G. Taylor-Smith, J.P. Present: Rev. J. P. De Pledge, J.P., P. C. Fortin, and W. Cockin, Messrs J. Wilkinson, W. Logan, T. Siddell, Geo. Hobson, T. Taylor-Smith, N. Clark, J. Collinson, C. D. W. Balleny, W. Gray, T. J. Muse, T. Pringle, T. Nichol, R. Murray, R. Robson, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

INMATES OF THE HOUSE.

Week ending Jan. 29th	166
Corresponding week of last year	167
Week ending Feb. 5th	164
Corresponding week of last year	167
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	19
Corresponding fortnight of last year	9

STIMULANTS FOR OUT-DOOR PAUPERS:

BAD WHISKEY AND BRANDY.

Mr J. Moon, relieving officer, Blackhill, reported that he had supplied a pauper with 4s worth of brandy since the last meeting, the stimulant having been ordered by the doctor. Mr Moon added that he did not give the applicants the money with which to procure the spirits, but always left the certificate at the nearest public-house, where the pauper could obtain the stimulant, which the doctor ordered.

Rev J. P. De Pledge said he had been much struck with the remark of Mr J. Moon, viz., that when the parish doctor ordered brandy or whiskey for any of his out-door patients he went to the nearest public-house for the spirits. Now, it was a notorious fact that in many public-houses liquor of a very inferior quality, not to say pernicious, was supplied to the public. He thought an important body like the Guardians ought to have a certain quantity of good spirit in reserve, which might be given to the assistant-overseers or relieving officers, and supplied to paupers as occasion required, for it was of very great importance that when sick people were ordered to drink stimulants by the doctor that the best material which could be procured should be taken by them. He thought it was a matter which the Board ought to take into consideration, and not leave it to the mercy of any person, for they did not know what inferior quality might be given to the afflicted people, or to what extent the spirit might be adulterated; whereas if they kept a reserve stock of the best material to be supplied to paupers as occasion required, patients would be benefitted thereby. He therefore suggested that the Guardians should order a certain quantity of the best spirits, to be meted out to their relieving officers, who in turn could distribute the same amongst the patients according to the instructions of the doctor.

Mr G. Hobson said that that would be reverting back to the old system. A few years ago a certain amount of spirit, supplied by the Board, was kept at his house, as well as the residences of other Guardians, and it was given to out-door patients who produced a medical certificate, the Guardians keeping the quantities meted out posted up in a book. Of course, some of the other Guardians were similarly supplied.

Father Fortin: I suppose the spirits would be supplied by the Guardians?

Mr Hobson: Yes; but the custom has been discontinued of late years. I don't know for what reason.

Mr Siddell: I am very glad to hear it was discontinued. If brandy has to be given at all, I think it should only come through the doctor.

The Clerk said that until within the last two or three years, Mr Moon always kept a supply of whiskey in his own house for the purpose mentioned by Mr Hobson, and he could have had another supply at any time by simply asking for it. Brandy was seldom ordered by the doctors, but if Mr Moon kept a few bottles both of whiskey and brandy it would settle the difficulty at once.

Rev J. P. De Pledge proposed that Mr Moon be authorised to obtain two gallons of whisky and a bottle of brandy.

Mr Siddell (jocularly): Oh! I would go in for two gallons of whisky and a gallon of brandy. A bottle of brandy is no good. (Laughter.)

Mr Wilkinson seconded the proposition.

Mr T. Taylor-Smith humorously remarked that the Guardians should ask for tenders, and have samples of the spirits sent to them for testing. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr Siddell: Oh, the Guardians can find their own liquor. I move as an amendment that neither whiskey or brandy be ordered.

Mr T. Taylor-Smith: Why should the paupers in Consett and district have privileges which are denied the poor folks in the Lanchester district?

The Clerk: Because Dr Wilson never orders spirits as stimulants, while Dr Bolton often does.

Mr T. Taylor-Smith: Then Dr Bolton should be told not to order spirits in future.

The Chairman then put the motion, which was carried, Mr Siddell only opposing it.

Mr Hobson: You are the only one, Mr Siddell, who voted against the motion. (Laughter.)

Mr Siddell: I know; and I am not ashamed of it either. (More laughter.)

The Chairman informed Mr Moon of the decision come to by the Guardians, and jocularly advised him to be sure and sign the pledge.

Mr Moon was understood to say that he had been teetotal for 10 years.

A Guardian: We must trust our officers.

Mr T. Taylor-Smith (jocosely): Where do you live, Mr Moon?

Mr Moon: At Blackhill.

Mr T. Taylor-Smith: I shall be paying you a visit some of these days. (Roars of laughter.)

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT.

The Clerk mentioned that, as the resolution with regard to this matter had not been published in the newspapers, they would have to extend the time for this Act coming into operation in the rural district of the Union from the 1st to the 15th March.

THE SEWERAGE FIELD AT DIPTON.

Out of several tenders, the sewerage field at Dipton was let to Mr Emerson Wilkinson, butcher.

INSPECTOR OF DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS: MR ROUNTHWAITE'S DUTIES AND SALARY.

Mr Logan, in accordance with notice of motion proposed that Mr J. W. Rounthwaite, inspector of nuisances, be appointed inspector under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Workshops Act, at a salary of £25 per annum. Mr Rounthwaite, he said, had a great deal of work to do at present, and had discharged his duties in the past with every satisfaction, and he expected that the bulk of this £25 would be spent on the hire of a conveyance, so as to enable him to travel over the district with greater facility.

Councillor Murray seconded, and Mr J. Wilkinson supported the proposition.

Rev J. P. De Pledge: What is his present salary?

The Clerk: £200 a year.

Mr Siddell and Rev J. P. De Pledge stated that Mr Rounthwaite was doing a lot of private practice.

Mr Logan: I don't think so much.

Father Fortin: How much of Mr Rounthwaite's time do we get?

Mr Logan: As much as we require.

Father Fortin said that if they gave Mr Rounthwaite an additional £25 he ought to give up his private practice, and devote his whole time to the duties of the Authority.

Mr Hobson: It will be a great deal more satisfactory.

Father Fortin: There is a great deal of dissatisfaction among the ratepayers, and there was an impression that Mr Rounthwaite was performing a great deal of outside work. The inspector was in receipt of £200 a year already, which he reckoned a fairly good salary.

Mr Siddell concurred with the remarks made by Mr Fortin.

Mr T. Taylor-Smith said that at the time for re-appointing their inspector did not occur until June, he deemed it advisable that they should not ask Mr Rounthwaite to come to any decision with respect to giving up his private practice until that month came round.

Rev W. Cockin thought it was not unreasonable to make such a condition that their inspector's salary should be raised only on that understanding.

Rev J. P. De Pledge said the question might be allowed to stand over until June.

Mr Logan explained that the Cowsheds and Dairies Act was already in operation throughout the country, and they might as well have Mr Rounthwaite appointed at once. But if it would meet with the views of the Guardians he would readily amend his former proposition to the effect that Mr Rounthwaite should be appointed at once as inspector of cowsheds and dairies, and that he be paid additionally an annual remuneration of £25 until June 30th, when his term of office would expire, and it would be necessary to re-appoint him, when the question of giving up his private practice could then be brought forward.

After discussion, it was agreed to appoint Mr Rounthwaite as inspector for dairies and cowsheds, his salary to be £25 a year added to his salary as inspector of nuisances, subject to a readjustment of his salary and duties in June next.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,—Mrs O'Neil, of Hill Top, Dipton, has neither drained her property nor put her outbuildings into sanitary condition, as required by notices. The last notice expired on the 13th of November.

The following new buildings are completed, and habitation certificates are required for the same, viz:—

One house at West Kyo (No. 3, New Row), for James Newell.

One house at West Kyo (No. 4, New Row), for James Baxter.

Additions to the school at Ebchester for the managers.

Monthly Summary:

Nuisances notices served	12
Letters written with regard to nuisances, &c.	43
Habitation certificates issued	8
Plans received and examined	4
Plan approval notices sent out	11
Villages and hamlets inspected	18
Visits to new buildings in progress	22

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. W. Rounthwaite.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Recommended that the following plans be passed or received, subject to amendments:—

32 houses at East Stanley, for James Joicey and Co.—approved.

Two houses at Tantobie, for Joseph Ramshaw—adjourned.

Byre to a house at West Kyo, for S. Siddle—received.

Two houses at Havanna, for George Forster—approved.

Byre at Long Close Gate, for G. Cawthorne—received.

Hay and cart shed, &c., to house at Langley Park, for R. W. Wiggen—approved.

15 houses at Burnopfield, for Burnopfield Co-operative Society—disapproved.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The Medical Officers submitted the following reports:—

Lanchester District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,—The following are the only cases of "catching" disease which have come to my knowledge since my last report:—10 c... of measles at Quebec, 5 at Hamsteels Colliery, 1 ... Cornsay Colliery, and 2 cases of typhoid fever at Hedleyhope.—Yours, &c.

John Wilson.

Lanchester, Feb. 5th, 1890.

Ebchester District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,—I have to report three cases of scarlet fever at Templetown, Consett; one case of whooping cough at Hamsterley Colliery; also an epidemic of influenza all over the western district of the Lanchester Union. At the present, Allendale Cottages is free from zymotic disease.—Yours, &c.

W. T. Bolton.

Ebchester Hill, Feb. 5th, 1890.

Eastern District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,—The epidemic of influenza is still prevalent over the entire district, and I believe that nearly one-half of the inhabitants have been attacked. No fatality has followed its course so far. The month's mortality was excessive; 12 deaths were registered, equivalent to an annual ratio of 29.5 per 1,000. Not one of the deaths, however, was due to infectious disease. The sanitary condition of Collierley Dykes is very unsatisfactory, but your inspector will specify the additions and improvements that are needed.—Yours, &c.

T. Benson, Medical Officer.

February 4th, 1890.

The Medical officers' yearly reports were presented, and were ordered to be printed and circulated amongst the Guardians.

DESTROYING INFECTIOUS BEDDING.

An application was made by some poor folks residing in the Cornsay Colliery neighbourhood, for recompense for some bedding, which had been used by a party suffering from typhoid fever, being burnt by order of the police.

The Inspector, in reply to the members, explained that neither himself nor the doctor gave instructions for the bedding to be destroyed, but this was a case where it was very proper and necessary that the bedding should be burnt at once.

Mr Logan said it was very important that prompt measures should be taken for the destruction of infectious clothing. In Dr Wilson's annual report, he noticed that out of 10 cases of typhoid fever in his district, nine had proved fatal.

The Authority agreed to compensate the parties, and afterwards adjourned.

SUICIDE AT PRUDHOE.

On Monday, a deliberate case of suicide occurred at Prudhoe. It appears that a man named George Hodgson arose early in the morning, and, in the presence of his son, cut his throat in such a manner that death ensued in a short time. Deceased was 47 years of age, and had for many years been employed as a blacksmith under the Prudhoe Colliery owners. He lived at Low Prudhoe, and was well known.—On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the Boat House Inn, Low Prudhoe, before Mr W. B. Elsdon, deputy-coroner, touching the death of Hodgson. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while in a state of insanity.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

Benfieldside.—There were forward at this mart, on Monday, 10 fat cattle, 50 fat sheep, 4 cows, 10 pigs, a quantity of poultry, hay, potatoes, harness, &c. Fat cattle, to £20; sheep, to 61s; hoggs, to 69s, top, Mr Wm. Dixon, Hollands; pigs, to 51s; hay, 56s per ton; potatoes, 18s per ton. There was a good company present, and a brisk sale at satisfactory prices. Beef, 8s per stone; mutton, 9d to 10d per lb.; tups and ewes, 7d to 9d.

Tow Law.—There were forward, on Monday, 80 cows, calved and to calve. Calved cows made up to £25; cows to calve up to £24; 3 fat cattle, to £19; 30 store cattle up to £13 10s; 10 calves, to 61s; 96 fat sheep and hoggs; fat Leicester sheep, to 68s, top, Mr Button, Wooley Farm; fat halfbred hoggs, to 52s 6d, top, Mr F. Sanderson, Littlewhite; fat mule shearlings, to 45s 6d, top, Rev A. D. Shafto, Brancepeth; fat mule hoggs, to 48s, top, Mr Thompson, Edgeknowle; fat black-faced wethers, 50s 6d, top, Mr J. Dowson, West Newlands.

Chester-le-Street.—Mr James Turnbull held his annual fortnightly sale on Monday, and had forward 25 fat cattle, 10 in-calving and new-calved cows, 2 veal calves, 75 fat sheep, 2 bacon pigs, 5 pork pigs, 12 young pigs, horses, harness, sheets, &c. There was a good attendance of butchers, dealers, and farmers present, and trade for all classes of stock was very brisk throughout. Fat bullocks, from £16 to £23 17s 6d, top, Mr Bradford, Vigo; fat heifers, from £14 10s to £23, top, the Earl of Durham; in-calving cows, to £19; new-calved cows, to £14 10s; fat hoggs, from 45s to 58s 6d, top, Mr G. E. Forster, North Biddick Farm; shearlings, to 62s, top, Mr G. E. Forster; fat ewes, to 59s 6d, top, Mr G. E. Foster; bacon pigs, to £6 5s; pork pigs, to 60s; young pigs, to 26s.

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

Don't Die in the House.—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed-bugs, flies, ants, moles, chipmunks, gophers. 5d., and 1s. boxes at Chemists.

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

"How to Debate."—This is a handy little work containing the rules of debate, hints on public speaking, and other useful information for members of debating societies. The work, which is published at the small price of fourpence, may be had at Robt. Jackson's bookseller, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC JOTTINGS.

[By the "Old Crow."]

Although I have not been favoured with a programme in connection with the Consett and District Cricket Club's concert fixed for Wednesday evening next, and am as a consequence somewhat in the dark as to what Mr Liston—an old favourite now with Consett audiences—proposes to do on the occasion, I may perhaps be allowed to remind my readers that this gentleman, having recently added considerably to his list of "specialities" will be pretty sure to provide something new, and quite distinct from his last programme, so that there need be no fear of any appearance of repetition. I have so often spoken of the versatility of Mr Liston, and of his power as an entertainer of a high order that nothing further requires to be said, except that he would appear not to have lost any of his old attractiveness. I shall be glad to see the concert chronicled as a successful one perhaps not so much on Mr Liston's account, as on account of the object the promoters have in view. There is little fear, I think of success not being attained for the very good and simple reason that hitherto Mr Liston has never failed to draw big houses at Consett.

Sacred concerts are getting more and more popular. I mean sacred concerts given on Sunday evenings. One of the earliest who ventured openly to advertise and practice this idea—(an idea which, in the minds of some may be better described as an innovation, although I, for one fail to see the justice of the term in this connection)—was Mr Arthur Brogden, of Swiss Choir notoriety. Within the past few years he has had many followers, and they are growing larger and larger. I hope their growth,—as I firmly believe it will—may be before long by leaps and bounds, because as that movement extends, with it will be conveyed an influence for good. For ages we have been accustomed to sing hymns and psalms, and anthems in our churches and chapels in which—as is quite a recognised truism,—only a very small minority of us assemble, and in these places of worship they are admittedly great in influence. If that is so then, I would like to know what is to hinder their influence for good if sung in the Consett Town Hall or other public building to which, by a strange perversity, shall I say, a big majority can be lured!

Mr Valentine Smith, who with his company has just concluded a most successful fortnight in Grand Opera at the Town Hall, Newcastle, gave on Sunday evening, in conjunction with three or four members of his company a sacred concert of a ... of the not to be easily forgotten. The building in ... was held was the People's Palace, a structure capable of seating some 3,000 people. The concert was to start at 8.15, and by eight o'clock there was not standing room in any part of the building. This speaks volumes for the popularity of the idea. As one of the vast crowd of people I can only say that I have rarely enjoyed anything more thoroughly, nor need I hesitate to admit that I do not remember to have benefitted more largely at any time. It was, it may be allowed, my duty to be present; but even if it had not been so I should have striven hard to get. The programme embraced selections from Mozart, Handel, Mendelssohn, Rossini, Blumenthal, Gounod, Costa, Randel, Bennett, Cowen and Sullivan. Let any one who has a love for Oratorio and great composers generally just think of it.

—o—

To-morrow (Saturday) night, will see the last of the *Babes in the Wood* at the Tyne, a pantomime which will live in the memory as one of the finest ever produced in the city. If ever there was work that could stand another month's running, that work is Mr Harris's latest and most successful production. Efforts have I understand been made to arrange for a longer run, but in vain by reason of the fact that the company booked for appearance on Monday night next, cannot put off their date. It is a pity for many reasons, and the pity is not the least for those of the public who have not availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing the pantomime hitherto, and who may have no chance of seeing it to-morrow evening. In my first article on the *Babes in the Wood*, I ventured to predict that it would create a big sensation. It has done this, but it has done far more. It has proved financially—in spite of the extraordinary expenses attending its production—by far the most successful of the three pantomimes with which Mr Harris has favoured his patrons. Its great success will probably produce still bigger things in the future from the generous hand of the theatre although it would be indeed difficult to conceive in what way the beauties of the pantomime under notice could be exceeded. The Palace of Games, The Vintage Green, The Nursery, The Forest with Panoramic Woodland Scenery The Paradise of Birds, and the transformation scene, Hail, Smiling Morn, will be long remembered with delight as gems in their own particular way. The songs, so bright and charming, and so capitally arranged; the dresses and appointments generally so elaborate; the ballets so captivating, and the company, embracing Miss Vesta Tilley, and a long list of competent artistes working so well together from start to finish; all these must surely conduce to us in memory from time to time for many years to come, and they will vie each with the other for the happiest position in our recollections.

BLACKHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

LECTURE BY THE REV D. TASKER.

On Monday night, Rev D. Tasker, of North Shields, delivered his interesting lecture on "Egypt, the Nile, and the Pyramids—a visit to the East in 1889," before a large audience in the above Church. The lecture was illustrated by limelight views. Mr R. G. Barclay, Shotley Bridge, acted as chairman, and in a few appropriate remarks introduced the lecturer.

The Lecturer, in the course of his remarks said that Egypt, next to Palestine, was the most interesting country in the world, and as we had so much political intercourse with Egypt it was necessary that all Englishmen should know something about this country. (Applause.) He left Blyth in the steamship *Gilsland*, on July 20th, and during the voyage they fell in with the

MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON

off the Rock of Gibraltar, and on Wednesday, August 5th, came in sight of Alexandria, and before them lay the land of the ancient Pharaohs, its Delta. It contained 20,000 cities in its most prosperous times, and in the ancient world it had been one of the most famous of countries. The history of this remarkable land could be traced far into the past, its first

KING REIGNING 5,000 YEARS B.C.,

and the Pyramids were built about 4,000 years ago. It had been conquered by different nations, and at the end of the last century was invaded by Napoleon, who was expelled by the English. Near Alexandria stood the lighthouse Pharos, built 250 B.C. The country between Alexandria and Cairo was a dead level. Their great river the Nile was believed by the natives to have its beginning in Paradise. It began to rise in July, and the Egyptians spent most of the first night of its rising on the river's banks. Unlike any other river in the world, for the last 1,500 miles of its course the Nile flowed without receiving a single tributary. Its rise was caused by the

MELTING OF SNOWS

on the mountains of Abyssinia. At Cairo, its rise was 25 feet. If it only rose about 18 feet it meant famine, while a rise of 27 feet caused disaster to both houses and inhabitants. The river was used for irrigating the land, and was the blessing of the land. The soil yielded three crops every year, and ... English ones. The land was formerly parcelled out in small pieces, but was now falling into the hands of large proprietors, and there was a

LAND QUESTION

to be settled in Egypt as well as in England. (Applause.) The towns were all of the usual oriental description with their crooked, narrow streets and their open bazaars. The State religion was Mahometanism, which arose in the seventh century. Polygamy was allowed amongst Mahometans, though the present Khedive had only one wife. There were 60 or 70 Pyramids in Egypt, and one of the chief features on the banks of the Nile was the Sphinx—a ... monster symbolising strength and beauty. They had visited the great pyramids, and from the top of one of them had got a splendid view of the Sahara, the Nile, and the city of Cairo. These had stood for several thousand years, and were even yet the great sights in a visit to that land. (Applause.)

Votes of thanks concluded the evening's entertainment.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL JOTTINGS.

The present condition of Rev G. P. Wilkinson, of Harperley Park, is very grave.

—:o:—

Lord Scarbrough has consented to become president of the Lumley and District Conservative Association.

—:o:—

Mr John Henry Burn, a son of Mr J. H. Burn, of Cullercoats (owner of the West Stanley Collieries), has been called to the bar.

—:o:—

Mr and Mrs James Joicey and family left Longhirst Hall, on Monday morning, for their town residence, 58, Cadogan Square, S.W.

—:o:—

Mr William E. Darney, Stanley, R.S.O., pupil of Mr Robert Wilson, Sandford Academy, Newcastle, has successfully passed the Preliminary Pharmaceutical Examination, held in Newcastle, on the 14th ult.

—:o:—

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major George Richards ..., Royal Artillery, and Eleanor Maude, sixth daughter of the late Mr H. W. Watson, J.P., of Burnopfield House.

—:o:—

Half a century is a long time, and yet it must be nearly fifty years since Mr Bu... ...ted a picture which we saw at Colepike Hall a few years ago. It was a portrait of Squire Taylor-Smith, who had but then recently added the latter name to his patronymic. The number of Mr Burlison's canvases must be legion since then, and just as they have mellowed with age, so has Mr Burlison's hand lost none of its skill. The city of Durham has been limned by him from so many points that the reproduction of the Castle and Keep and Old Abbey Tower must be to him but a mechanical process. A large painting that has just left his easel, however, presents an entirely new picture of the Dunelmian capital and its classic surroundings. It is taken from a point immediately behind Mr Johnson's mansion at Aykleyheads, whence, over an undulating foreground, a clear view is obtained of Durham's massy fane, with the city itself lying cosily in a deeper hollow to the left. It is altogether a charming piece of landscape painting, and has attracted a large number of people to Messrs Rushworth's Art Gallery, where it is on view.—*Newcastle Journal.*

CONSETT LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Consett Polling District Liberal Association was held in the New Town Hall Buildings, ... on Thursday night week. The chair was occupied by Mr C. P. Douglas, vice-president. There was a small attendance, only seven or eight persons entering an appearance.—At the outset a good discussion arose with reference to the financial position of the association, Messrs James Palliser (Blackhill) and T. Carr (Consett) being desirous of ascertaining the precise relation of that organisation with the Central Liberal Association.—Mr Adam Brodie, secretary *pro tem*, stated that he had taken it upon himself to convene that meeting because the present secretary (Mr Wilson Clayton) said it was no use his summoning a meeting, as none of the members would attend, and he intended to resign. The treasurer (Mr W. Dodd) was not present, nor had he sent a financial statement. Mr Dodds had a small sum in hand, but the amount was already condemned for printing and expenses. The association was owing about £30—three years' contributions to the funds of the Divisional Liberal Association. Messrs Palliser and Carr stated that they were under the impression that only a single year's subscription was due to the Central Association. Mr Brodie explained that the other polling centres in North West Durham were in the same position, some not having paid anything since the formation of the organisation. Even if funds were forthcoming to carry on the ... association it would not be allowed to collapse, for he had received letters from several influential Radicals—including Sir A. ... Morley and Sir Jos. W. Pease—intimating that the divisional organisation should not collapse for want of ways and means, and if the necessary funds were not forthcoming from the ... of the Division, they would undertake that the money should be provided.—The Chairman considered it a shame that the secretary should have to go begging to outsiders for keeping the central association in operation when they had 6,000 Liberal electors in the Parliamentary area. It was not the value of their subscription that they looked at, but it the Liberals only paid a trifle, it would indicate that they were taking an interest in the affairs of the Association.—The meeting strongly denounced the apathy of the Liberals of the town in neglecting to attend the meetings, and failing to contribute towards the funds of the cause.—Messrs Palliser and Carr said they were willing to contribute their quota towards the expense, but it was considered unfair that the ... gentlemen should be compelled to carry on the association which was for the benefit of the Liberals generally. They expressed their determination to face their financial difficulties with a bold front, and make a strong effort to wipe off all liabilities.—Mr Brodie said that if all the polling districts had paid their calls regularly the Divisional Association would have had ample funds in hand. If each Liberal in the division only subscribed 1d per year it would keep the association in operation. However, they were in no worse position in North-west Durham than in other divisions, where the central associations were maintained by a few wealthy Liberals.—After further conversation, it was agreed not to re-elect the officers, but to adjourn the meeting to some future date.—Mr Brodie explained that, according to the rules, the officers for last year would remain in office for another twelve months, and would be responsible for the liabilities.—The meeting then terminated.

A sheep belonging to Rev J. St. ..., rector of Whittonstall, dropped a fine lamb on Friday.

Stella Catholic Registration Association.—The monthly meeting of the members was held on Monday night, in the Catholic Schools, Stella, the president (Mr O'Neil) being in the chair. There was a large attendance.—The chairman stated that, in consequence of a resolution passed at a ... meeting with reference to obtaining the consent of Rev Canon Wrennall to discuss questions ... meetings of the association relative to the schools, a deputation had waited upon Canon Wrennall, and explained the opinion of the meeting assembled a few weeks previous, and he (the chairman) was glad to say the result was satisfactory. There were one or two reasons why such questions should be discussed at their meetings. First, ... necessity, and it was not the wish or desire of the parishioners of Stella and district to have a tax upon his (the canon's) shoulders which he was not prepared to pay and was not responsible for ... ing the last 10 years Canon Wrennall has been out of pocket at least from £40 and £50 a year in trying to keep up the regularity and efficiency of the schools. As parishioners, it was their duty to ... these facts, and to the education of the ... Mr Carling proposed, and Mr Cl... a resolution to the effect that each parishioner ... certain amount quarterly in addition to the diocesan fund in aid of the schools ... the parish. A lengthy discussion took place, and ... it was agreed to adjourn the meeting for a fortnight, when the question would be thoroughly ... at a full meeting.—Addresses were also delivered by Mr Carling, Mr Cuthbert ..., Mr ..., and Father Cusack, and votes of thanks to the chairman and Father Cusack concluded the meeting.

Business Announcements.

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Late Principal of the "Liverpool College Chemistry."

DURHAM BISHOPRIC ESTATES.

ALL those from whom small Freehold and Copyhold Rents, and Rents for the Allotments upon the Division of Commons, are due to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, are hereby informed that the COMMISSIONERS' AUDITS will be held at our OFFICES, 31, Bondgate, Darlington, on MONDAY, the 3rd day of February; at the VANE ARMS HOTEL, Stockton-on-Tees, on WEDNESDAY, the 5th; at the TALBOT HOTEL, Bishop Auckland, on THURSDAY, the 6th; at MEWS', in Stanhope, on FRIDAY, the 7th; at the KING'S ARMS, St. John's Chapel, on SATURDAY, the 8th; at the BLACK BULL INN, Wolsingham, on TUESDAY, the 11th; at the CROSS KEYS INN, Hamsterley, on WEDNESDAY, the 12th; at MAUGHAN'S, in Evenwood, and the FLEECE HOTEL, West Auckland, on FRIDAY, the 14th; at the BLACK HORSE INN, West Boldon, on MONDAY, the 17th; at the QUEEN'S HEAD INN, Lanchester, on TUESDAY, the 18th; at BURNS' LAMBTON ARMS, in Chester-le-Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 19th; at the CROSS INN, Ryton, on THURSDAY, the 20th: and at the EXCHEQUER OFFICE, in Durham, on SATURDAY, the 22nd of February, 1890, 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.

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GEO. HANDYSIDE commences again to give away his Medicine to poor people, who cannot afford to pay for it, on the presentation of a letter from a Minister or Doctor to that effect, at the Bigg Market, Newcastle, on Saturday, February 15th, between three and five o'clock; and at South Shields Market on Monday, February 17th, between six and eight o'clock; and on every alternate week for next two months at these places. All who have poor health should go and hear what everyone has to say about this wonderful Medicine. You will hear all say that for Consumption, Bronchitis, Asthma, Costiveness, Spitting of Blood, Singing in the Ears, Debility, Indigestion, Scurvy, Runnings in the Body, Sciatica, Rheumatism, Change of Life, indeed it appears to cure everything. When it purifies the blood, and cures the most obstinate diseases of Scurvys caused by that impurity, it must cure everything, for we have it on the highest authority that "The blood is the life." I for six months deposited £1000 and challenged Sequah, St. Jacob's Oil, Mother Segel, and the ablest Physicians in the Kingdom, but no one has dared to come forward. One man who professed to do great things, said champions never challenged, but my reply is that champions must either accept a challenge or take a second place. Anyone who can bring forward a man to accept this challenge will confer a great boon upon this Medicine, and to the world, for it is sure to win, and then its worth will be proved. I do not wish to be offensive to the medical profession, for they are an honourable body of men; one doctor actually stood up at one meeting of my patients at Hexham and publicly stated that his mother had been cured by HANDYSIDE'S CONSUMPTION CURE when every other medicine had failed. Everyone should read the report of the Rev T. CLIFTON, of Blyth, who attended the meeting of 180 of my patients at South Shields; they should also read the report of the editor of the *Blyth* [illegible], who made inquiries of what this wonderful medicine was doing, and published the result of his inquiries. They should also see the report of the editor of the *Shields Daily News*, who gave the testimony from the patients' own lips; and they should also read the pamphlet published by Mr. Handyside, containing particulars of the most marvellous cures ever effected. If you cannot get this book from your chemists, write to Mr. George Handyside, Newcastle, who will be glad to send it by return. This medicine has in eighteen months cured about a thousand people, and snatched many more from untimely graves. This is a marvellous medicine for the cure of INFLUENZA, the cases treated having experienced a most magical benefit, and a perfect cure in a few days. I hope there will be some of the worst cases at the Bigg Market next week, for then the public will hear it from the patients themselves the exceedingly wonderful cures this medicine has performed. I intend to open a dispensary in Newcastle for the cure of those whom the medical profession has failed to cure; and then every one will be in a position to know the soothing and healing effects of this cure. I have known this medicine for 35 years, and I am sorry I did not bring it before the attention of the public sooner, as it might have mitigated the privations of many fatherless homes. I am making arrangements to send a supply of my discovery to the lepers; and as I am positive it will alleviate if not altogether cure their pitiable condition. It has cured some cases as bad as lepers, where the whole body has been covered over with ulcers, which gives me great confidence in its vigorous blood purifying power. Those who are not ill enough to take nauseous medicine should take HANDYSIDE'S PILLS. They are a grand thing for Costiveness and all Liver Complaints, and worth a guinea a box compared with mercury pills, which make you better for a time, but ruin the constitution.

HANDYSIDE'S NERVE RESTORER.

GEO. HANDYSIDE has made a discovery of a medicine to take away the desire for Alcoholic Drinks. Whenever it has been tried it has been successful. It will not be sold until it is further tested; but it will be given away free to anyone on the testimony of a Minister, or to the effect that the person had no will of his own and was reduced to a slave with the drink. One man who has taken it told me that there was now an end to drunken dissipation. It will not disgust the victims against alcholic drink. It will only invigorate the nerves and lessen the desire for stimulants.

Public Notices.

HOBSON LEEK AND VEGETABLE SHOW will be held on Saturday, September 20th, 1890, when a GRAND BALL will be held after the Show. 736b

PIANO & SINGING LESSONS.—SHOTLEY.

MR. JOHN NICHOLSON, A.C.O., visits the Old Hall (Miss SHAW'S), on Mondays. Two Vacancies.
34, Grosvenor Road, Newcastle. 717b

LEAZES DRIFT.

BEST HOUSEHOLD COAL.

ON MONDAY, January 20th, and until further Notice, the Price of Coal will be 6s. A LOAD OF 15 CWT.
South Garesfield Colliery. 601b

A LARGE DIVIDEND.

3s. 6d. IS SAVED IN THE POUND BY BUYING YOUR SUITS OF

J. HUTCHINSON,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

"CLAREMONT" (Second in Derby), by "Blair Athol," from "Coimbra" by "Kingston."—"Claremont" is 16·1 h.h., immense bone and fine quality, is Sire of several Winners both on the Turf and in the Showyard.—Apply to Mr HAANSBERGEN, Woodlands, Consett.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

EVENING EXCURSION TO NEWCASTLE.

ON TUESDAY, the 18th of February, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave Consett and Blackhill, at 5-25 p.m (with Bookings from Shotley Bridge, Ebchester, Lintz Green, Rowland's Gill, and Swalwell), for NEWCASTLE. See Bills.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & 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

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Proprietors of this Company will be held at the Company's Offices, Shotley Bridge, on Tuesday, the 4th day of March, 1890, at 12-30 o'clock p.m., to receive the Directors' Report and the Accounts 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 18th February to 4th March.

By Order of the Directors.
M. RICHLEY, Secretary.
Gas Offices, Shotley Bridge,
Feb. 13th, 1890. 735b

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

MADAM AND THE MISSES

FLOOD-PORTER'S ✳ PARTY,

(INCLUDING THE CELEBRATED LONDON LADY QUARTETTE.)

SONGS, VIOLIN, VIOLINCELLO, FLUTE, AND PICCOLO SOLOS.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL DUETTS, TRIOS, QUARTETTS, &c.

COMBINATIONS OF MANDOLINES AND GUITARS, ALSO BANGO, SPANISH BANDURA, CONCERTINA, &c.

SPECIAL GRECIAN COSTUMES BY FOX, COVENT GARDENS.

The above Ladies will give a Series of their Vocal and Instrumental Popular Concerts on

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 24TH, 25TH, AND 26TH, 1890.

Entire change of Programme each evening.

Prices:—Front and Reserved Seats, 2s; Second Seats, 1s; and Back Seats, 6d each. Seats may be reserved at Mr Sloane's Emporium, Blackhill.

Reserved Seats entrance from Front Street only; Second Seats from Middle Street.

Doors open at 7, commences 7·30, carriages 9·30.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the Seventh day of April next, application will be made to Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace assembled at Quarter Sessions in and for the County of Durham, at the City of Durham, for an ORDER FOR STOPPING UP and DIVERTING so much of the PUBLIC HIGHWAY leading from Consett to Blackhill, in the said County, as is situate between the Junction of the said Road with another Road leading to Consett Hall, near the General Offices of the Consett Iron Company, Limited, and a point at or adjoining a Messuage or Dwelling-house belonging to the Tin Mill or Works of the said Company adjoining the said Highway, and that the Certificate of Two Justices of the Peace having viewed the same with the Plan of the Old, and Proposed New Highway, will be lodged with the Clerk of the Peace for the said County, on the 28th day of February next.

Dated this 23rd day of January 1890.
THOMAS WM. WELFORD, JUN.,
Clerk to the Consett Local Board.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

A WEEKLY SALE every Monday for Fat and Store Cattle and Sheep, Dairy Cows, Horses, Conveyances, Farm Produce, &c., commencing at 10·30 a.m. o'clock with Cows, Fat and Store Stock to follow.

Entries should be sent on Wednesday each week
JOSEPH VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Grove Villa, Tow Law.

By Mr. William Nicholson

MR W. NICHOLSON'S Present Sale Appointments for 1890:—

Wednesday, February 19th.—Lanchester Auction Mart.

Wednesday, February 26th.—Mr T. Thompson's Farm Stock, at Springwell, Satley.

By Mr John S. Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY FIRST, FEBRUARY 17TH, 1890.

10 Fat Cattle.
1 Grand Fat Bull.
60 Fat Sheep.
A Number of Bacon, Pork, and Store Pigs.
Cows, Calves, Poultry.
Potatoes, Harness, &c.
300 Cattle Feeding Troughs, and Sundry other lots.
Sale to begin at One o'clock prompt.

692b J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
AUCTIONEER,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,

Appointed by His Honour JUDGE MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

By Mr. John Crawford.

Mr John Crawford's Sale Rooms, Victoria Street, Consett.

Nothing can beat the Old Ones but the Young'uns.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Monday, February 17th, 1890, at the above Rooms, the whole of the JOINERS' TOOLS, belonging to the late Mr. J. Robson. 3 Sets of Mahogany Drawers; Centre Tables; Brass-Mounted Beds; and a lot of other Goods; Saws; Key-hole Saw; Planes; Brace and Bits; Cramps; Cross-cut Saw; Chisels, all sizes; Hammers, &c.

The Tools are little worse than New.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Full Particulars see Posters.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, AUCTIONEER, 25, Victoria Street, Consett, is prepared to execute all orders for the SALE of FARM STOCK, PROPERTY, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCK-IN-TRADE, &c., in the best style, and on reasonable terms; immediate settlement. Mr. John Crawford is appointed by his Honour Judge Meynell to act as Bailiff to levy Distress for Rent in England and Wales, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Mr. Crawford's Sale-Rooms are open daily to receive Furniture for Fortnightly Sales. People that are leaving the District can have their Furniture turned into Cash at once by applying to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 903a

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs A. & R. J. Brodie

Thursday, February 20th, 1890.—Sale of Valuable Freehold Dwelling-House and Consett New Town Hall and other Shares.

MR. ADAM BRODIE, F.A.I., Member of the Institute of Estate Agents, is instructed by the Representatives of the late John Barclay, Esq., Deceased, to Offer for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house of Mrs. BROWN, Railway Hotel, Consett, on Thursday, February 20th, 1890, subject to conditions to be then and there produced and read.

Lot 1.—The Superior, Well-built, and Valuable FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE, Situate in Harvey Street, Consett, as at present occupied by Mr. William Hutchinson, as Tenant thereof, and containing Sitting-Room, Kitchen, Lumber Room, and Spacious Pantry, on the Ground Floor; Four Bed-rooms, on the First Floor, and Large Attic Bed-room, with Dormer Window above, with Good Cemented Yard, Water Closet, Coal Shed and other Conveniences behind.

Lot 2.—15 SHARES in the NEW TOWN HALL COMPANY, LIMITED.

☞ Other Shares may be included in the Sale.

The Tenant will shew the Premises, and further particulars may be had from Messrs. JOHNSON, BARCLAY, & Co., Solicitors, Birmingham; Mr. JOHN BOOTH, Solicitor, Shotley Bridge; or from the Auctioneer, Town Hall and Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

Monday, February 17th, 1890.—Victoria Sale Rooms Consett.—Sale of Superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture, Brass-mounted and other Bedsteads, Feather and Down Beds, Fenders and Fire Irons, Good Wringing Machine, Domestic Sewing Machine, 60lbs. Best Indian Tea, Splendid Fine-toned Pianoforte, Full-Trichord, and other Effects.

MESSRS. A. AND R. J. BRODIE are instructed to remove and SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION in the Victoria Sale Rooms, Consett, on Monday, February 17th, the whole of the Superior Household FURNITURE AND EFFECTS.

Also the following Superior Furnishings, the property of a Gentleman leaving:—Mahogany Folding Table, Superior Eight-Days' Clock in Handsome Mahogany Case, by Marshall, Dumb Waiter, Easy Chair, in Hair, Easy Chair, in Leather, Splendid Brass-mounted Bedstead and Mattress Down Bed and Pillows, Flock Mattress, Dining Room Chairs, Lot of Hand Baskets, Tin Ware, Bird Cages, Stair Rods, Flat Irons, Saucepans, and Sundry Effects and Fine Toned, Iron Framed Trichord Pianoforte, nearly new, recently cost £36.

Sale to commence at Half-past One o'clock.

THE OLDEST AUCTIONEERING ESTABLISMENT IN CONSETT.

ADAM BRODIE and ROBERT J. BRODIE, Members of the Auctioneers' Institute of the United Kingdom, Town Hall Consett, are prepared to execute Commissions for the SALE of FARMING STOCKS, HOUSES, and LAND, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and STOCKS-IN-TRADE, either by PUBLIC AUCTION, or Private Treaty, on Reasonable Terms. Their commodious Sale-Rooms, in Victoria Street, are open daily for the reception of Goods of all kinds for absolute Sale. Auction Sales being held, as a rule, every Pay Monday. Distress for Rent, under the Agricultural Holdings (England) Act, 1883, and also under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888, duly carried out. NOTE THE ADDRESS:—General Office, under the Superintendence of R. J. BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. Private Office, 17, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

By Mr. William Raw.

ALDERHEADS FARM, NEAR CASTLESIDE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, at Mrs. BROWN'S, Railway Hotel, Consett, on Monday, February 24th, 1890, at Three for Four p.m.,

MR. WILLIAM RAW, Auctioneer.

(By Order of the Mortgagee, and subject to such Conditions as will then be produced),

ONE UNDIVIDED MOIETY of a FREEHOLD and COPYHOLD FARM,

Containing 70 Acres, or thereabouts, called "ALDERHEADS," situate near Castleside, in the County of Durham, occupied by Mr. Thomas Armstrong, at the Yearly Rent of £48.

The Moiety is Sold Subject to the Life Interest therein of a Lady, now aged 78 years.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEER, Blackhill; or to

MR. T. MADDISON, Solicitor,
Saddler Street, Durham.
Durham, February 4th, 1890. 714b

JOHN LOWES,
AUCTIONEER & VALUER, STANLEY, R.S.O.

Auction Sales of every description undertaken on the most reasonable terms. Prompt settlement.

VALUATIONS EFFECTED FOR PROBATE, ETC.

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE.

ASSISTED PASSAGES TO CANADA, Cheap Rates to America by the WHITE STAR, AMERICAN, and other popular Lines. Also Lowest Possible Fares to the AUSTRALIAN COLONIES SOUTH AFRICA, and other parts of the World. Auction Sales carried on efficiently and upon the very Best Terms.

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station Free of Charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILLIPSON Auctioneer and Emigration Agent, Dipton [illegible]

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT

BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL CONSETT.

☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property Money received on Loan at 4½ Per Cent. In erest, repayable at Three Months' notice.

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., F.A.I., Secretary.

USE MERMAID SOAP
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£100 GIVEN IN 100 PRIZES OF £1 EACH.

MERMAID SOAP.

ASK YOUR GROCER FOR IT.

Makers—

JAMES DYSON AND CO.,

387b ATLAS WORK ELLAND

Business Announcements

JOSEPH OLEY,
THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
[illegible], WOOD STREET SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

E. BROOKS

THE

GENTLEMEN'S HATTER,

57, GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE.

"LATEST LONDON STYLES KEPT."

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF AND MALT WINE

GLENDENNING'S

IS

A CONCENTRATED, NUTRITIVE DIGESTIVE FOOD,

DELICIOUS TO TASTE, AND ABSOLUTELY PURE.

IT is prepared with great care, and by an entirely new process, from Pure Port Wine, Liebig's Beef Extract, and Kepler Malt Extract.

It is strengthening; it is flesh-forming; it is good; you will like it; and whether you are an invalid, or one who requires an occasional tonic for "body and mind," you will find this Beef Wine to be the thing you want.

Persons recovering from an illness cannot have a quicker or more reliable restorative, because, being so concentrated, it is easy of assimilation, and at once gives fresh vigour and tone to the system.

Numerous testimonials have been received from eminent medical men, testifying to the valuable restorative and tonic properties of this Wine.

PRICE 3s 9d PER BOTTLE; 2s PER HALF-BOTTLE.

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SOLE AGENTS:—
RICHARD MURRAY,
WINE MERCHANT,
CONSETT,
AND
MESSRS T. D. DRYDEN & Co.,
WINE MERCHANTS, &c.
FRONT STREET,
CONSETT.

MOST MONEY LENT

On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods Cutlery, Gems &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 & Silver GUARDS ALBERTS &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

☞ SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.

OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW. 739y

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SEVERAL letters are held over.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE did not arrive in time last week, consequently several paragraphs have had to be omitted.

BREEZES FROM THE MOORS.—Our correspondent would oblige by writing concisely, as we have very little space at our disposal.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 1890.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

PROPOSED NEW POST-OFFICE.

Something like half-a-dozen years have elapsed since the proposed new post-office scheme was first floated at Consett, and although it would be incorrect to state that the idea is as far from being an accomplished fact as it was so many years ago—because it must at least be so many years nearer the point of realisation than it was at the beginning—yet is the project progressing with solemn pace and slow. There is no overlooking the central act that the post-office at Consett is a full quarter-of-a-century behind the requirements of the town.

HOW TO GET A NEW ONE.

That is the point, and it is one upon which the members of the Local Board are not quite agreed. Unfortunately for me, I cannot lay claim to being blessed with a larger share of wisdom than the members of the local body referred to, otherwise they should have had the benefit of my council gratis. If, however, I cannot show them the best and the nearest way to erect a building commensurate with the growth and standing of the town, I can at least tabulate a few facts which bear pretty pointedly on the question under note.

ANOTHER METHOD OF SUPPLYING THE WANT.

It does not appear to have occurred to any of the members of the Board that if it be true, as stated, that there is insufficient postal accommodation in the town, the desideratum could readily be obtained without even the sanction or interference of the Board. There is no reason why the public should be called upon to invest in the building of a huge structure to be afterwards called a post-office. The practical folks who sojourn in the Consett district are far too sensible to set their hearts upon a palatine building merely for the look of the thing. What they seek is comfort and accommodation—nothing more. Why not, therefore, have two post-offices at Consett? One, a branch office, say in Front Street, a clean quiet place in which letters could be posted, leaving the other office to deal with the dispatch and issue of letters, and the telegraphic communication. Such an arrangement would, I think, be a change for the better. It would at any rate remove the stigma at present resting on the town.

HOW TO EFFECT THE CHANGE.

I have already hinted that the ways and means of bringing about a change were extremely simple. And to make the matter still more plain I will detail briefly when and where the voice of a small section of the people asked for and obtained a second post-office in a town much about the same size as Consett. I refer to the flourishing town of Wallsend. At this Tyneside centre of industry there is neither branch bank, police-office, nor even a register office; but there are two post-offices, distant not more than some two hundred yards the one from the other. One is of recent origin, and, briefly told, its introduction was due to the spirited action of a local tradesman, who, having obtained the signatures of fifty householders dwelling in the west end of the town, presented the petition to the postal

authorities, and forthwith obtained the requisite permission to open a post-office. Hebbarn, on the other bank of the Tyne, can also boast of first-class post-office accommodation. I had occasion to call there the other day, and noted with satisfaction that the building was well lighted and spacious, and that roomy compartments were provided for the transaction of the different branches of business. This is just as it should be. Really something must be done at Consett, and that quickly.

ATTRACTIONS.

Appropos of the preceding and kindred subjects is the reference made by the chairman of the Local Board to the lack of attractions and inducements afforded the public of putting away their spare cash to await the coming of the proverbial rainy day. Mr Jenkins referred, of course, to the cramped space and utter want of privacy in a post-office like that of Consett, and in that respect he was unquestionably right. But the term attraction has also a much broader signification in its relation to money saving. It must be evident to the most unobservant that the great bulk of the influence of that force known as attraction is invariably to be found on the wrong side of the balance. There is every inducement that skill can frame and taste devise to tempt the thoughtless to squander their substance, and Consett is not the only town in which no inducement is held forth in the way of guiding the unthinking to a more desirable state of things. If pleasing surroundings in the interior of a district post-office may be ranked among the commendable inducements of the day and hour, then does the chief post-office at Wallsend deserve to rank 100 A 1 at Lloyds. The atmosphere of the building is fragrant with the delicious perfumes of the rosy east, and the myrrhs and balms of sunny lands, where the fire-flies dance among the myrtle bowers. Consett can boast of not a few good customs; but there are evidently similar towns in relation to which it can only hold its own by playing what is not inaptly termed second fiddle.

THE HOUSE—NOT THE TENANT.

Since writing the above, I have received a note from one of the leading public gentlemen in Consett, drawing my attention to the fact that while there is ample ground for objection on the score of postal accommodation, not a whisper has ever been uttered anent the manner in which the work is performed. My correspondent assures me that the duties are entirely vested in the hands of Miss Fraser, a lady whose amiability of character and superior tact for the business has won her the respect of all with whom she has been brought into contact. I need hardly observe that it gives me much pleasure to refer to this phase of the agitation. I know Mr Fraser quite well, and had no misgiving whatever but that the duties devolving upon him and his would be fulfilled to the letter. But I am obliged all the same to the gentleman referred to for the timely hint that the kernel of the grievance had its root in the house—not the tenant.

TRADE.

Things are still pretty busy, I suppose, in the Consett district, and will be I should think for some time to come. There is, however, a cloud on the horizon which succeeding days and weeks may enlarge or dispel. It is not my wont to regard the future with feelings of foreboding and distrust. Very far from it. Few of my readers look upon the matter-of-fact business of life with less serious concern than the present writer. Personally, he sees no rocks ahead, nor does the ominous sounds of breakers rolling on the distant surf fall on his ear. It follows then that one's thoughts are naturally coloured with the pervading spirit within but not so much as to obscure the vision which current events unmistakably shadow forth. There is in the meantime a decided lull in the social tide of commercial concerns, nor could anything else have been expected. This is due to the after-damp following in the trail of the recent boom. I am not prepared, however, to go the length of saying or even believing that permanent evil will result from the present hitch in the wheel of fortune. The origin of the evil is exceedingly simple. The rise in the price of steel and iron was too rapid to be lasting, and as the result of the change makes something like £5,000 in the cost of a medium-sized vessel, it is the most natural thing in the world that men of means will defer investing until such times as the trade winds take a more favourable turn.

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

[BY "RAMBLER."]

I was glad to read what Mr Lax, Shotley Bridge, had to say about cricket, and if practice in the game gives one a right to speak with authority about it, Mr Lax should certainly be an authority on cricket. He played with the old Benfieldside club, and was acknowledged as one of their best men. Then he always played the game in so gentlemanly a spirit that everyone who played with, or against him, enjoyed themselves. He has changed from being an active player into a spectator—and a very enthusiastic and interested one. There is not a law governing the game that he does not know; and while acting as an umpire there is no one point in the play but meets with his hearty applause. He is now on the retired list, but whenever he expresses a willingness to act as umpire, there is no player in the district but welcomes him on the field. His opinion of the game is a high one, and as he has played so long he should be in a position to form a correct judgment.

At the annual meeting of this institute, the secretary (Mr J. Muir) was able to show that they were in a flourishing condition. There can be no doubt that the library, &c., has proved of great benefit to Blackhill, and it deserves to be well supported. It is to be hoped that next year will find it in a still better position.

I see that this annual concert takes place on Wednesday next, and would advise all those who intend going, and have not yet got their tickets, to get them at once, for Mr Liston is sure to prove a great draw. This gentleman has given entertainments in all parts of England, and everywhere he has met with great success.

I see that the new ground of this club has been begun with this week, and it is expected that it will be all laid in about six weeks. If report speaks truly, the new ground is going to be a splendid one, and quite equal to any in this county. I sincerely hope this may prove true.

I hear that the youngsters—nay, I may almost say young men—have, during the past week or two, after the men engaged in our public Park have retired from work, been doing some extraordinary damage, and the Park is now closed to all comers while the operations of laying out the ground is going on. I hope this is not the way the younger portion of the two districts are going to appreciate this long-felt want. Those mischievous youths had better take a gentle hint, and cease their play, before they are brought before their "betters."

The Wesleyans of Consett are determined to have a new edifice in which to worship. It is some time since the present building was too small to meet the requirements of this body. The members of this society ought to have made a move in this direction long ago. However, as they have started, it is to be hoped they will push on with the scheme, and not allow the grass to grow under their feet. I hear that the ladies of the congregation have made a move in the matter, and we may expect to hear at no distant date of meetings being held, and the art of plying the needle fully in operation.

During the past few days, workmen have been busily engaged in repairing the footpath, and building up the retaining wall, where the subsidence took place, on Pasture Drift Road, a few days ago.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

READING AND RECREATION ROOMS.—The Committee of this valuable institution at Consett have decided to make a substantial addition of books—principally works of fiction—to the already fairly well-furnished library.

Mr J. Dent-Dent, the Chairman of the Directors of the North Eastern Railway Company, announced at the half-yearly meeting at York, on Friday, that the new railway from Consett to Annfield Plain would cost about £65,000.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Sunday, a student from Headingley College occupied the rostrum of the Consett Wesleyan Chapel, and preached two excellent sermons—morning and evening—to large congregations. Collections were taken at each service.

BAPTIST CHURCH.—Home Mission services were held in the above church on Sunday, when Mr J. Warden, of Hexham, preached morning and evening to good congregations. On Tuesday evening, a public meeting was held, at which interesting addresses were given by Revs J. Mursell (Berwick), and E. W. Jenkins (Highgate). The pastor (Rev T. Durant) presided. Collections were made on behalf of the Home Mission fund.

SOCIAL GATHERING.—On Friday evening, the members of Consett Wesleyan band of hope, along with a few friends, held a social gathering in the Gibson Street Schools. An excellent repast was partaken of by the company, after which the remainder of evening was spent in an agreeable manner.

CONCERTS.—Professor Victor A. Browning's Choir gave sacred concerts in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Sunday afternoon and evening. The audiences were small. Selections from the greatest composers were very well rendered.—On Monday afternoon, a treat was given to the school children, and in the evening a miscellaneous concert was given.

POLICE BUSINESS.—At the Consett Police Court on Monday—before W. Green, Esq.—*John Burns* and *James Power*, navvies working at Consett, were brought up by P.C.'s Lawson and Humphrey for being drunk and disorderly in the Company's Rows and Victoria Street, Consett, on Saturday last.—Burns was locked up during the afternoon, and about 6 o'clock Power came to the Police Office in a drunken state, and demanded that his companion should be liberated. Soon afterwards, he was taken into custody for creating an uproar in Parliament Street.—Both men pleaded guilty, Burns making an eloquent speech in mitigation of punishment.—Each offender was fined 5s and costs, or 7 days' hard labour.

FALL DOWNSTAIRS.—On Friday morning, an old woman called Jane McGill, fell downstairs in a house situate in Rawes's Yard, Nelson Street, Consett. It appears that Mrs McGill recently left her husband, who lives in the vicinity of John Street, Consett. There was no other person in the house except the old woman, and she lay for several hours at the foot of the staircase, covered with blood. It was ascertained that one of her arms was broken, and that she had sustained other injuries. The police communicated with Mr John Moon, relieving officer, and on Saturday forenoon, the poor woman was conveyed, in a weak and feeble state, to the Lanchester Workhouse.

THE CRICKETERS' ENTERTAINMENT.—Readers are reminded that the annual entertainment, in aid of the funds of the Consett and District Cricket Club, will take place in the New Town Hall, Consett, next Wednesday evening. The committee have again been fortunate in securing the services of Mr Harry Liston, the renowned and talented artiste, who will doubtless favour those who are privileged to hear him with some of his brilliant efforts in the direction of mimicry, fun, humour, &c. It is to be hoped that the local cricketers will be rewarded with a bumper house on the present occasion, as they have committed themselves to considerable expenditure in undertaking the laying of the new ground (which is now in operation, the contractor being Mr G. W. Smith, Newcastle), and pavilion. Up to date the reserved seats sold are in excess of any previous concert, and the result seems probable that the reserved portion of the hall will be well filled. Owing to the demand for seats at Mr W. Ramsay's office, where the plan is lying, the usual custom of calling with the plan has been very limited, therefore we would urge upon all those who are anxious to be present to secure seats without further delay.

A RAW POLICE RECRUIT.—Of all the heads of the police force in the county of Durham, perhaps not one has had more of the raw material through his hands than Supt. Oliver, of Consett. His division was at one time the playground for nearly all the recruits, because of the strict discipline maintained there, and the advantage of being drilled by a sergeant who had been in the army. Probably the drollest and most *outré* of all the importations was a young Hibernian, who became known in the district as "Sweet sixteen." He was a raw, overgrown young fellow, with a prominent nose, which was constantly getting in the way. Nearly every week end he was more or less maltreated, till at length, late one Saturday night, came the finishing stroke to his service in the force. Passing along the Middle Street, just as the public-houses were closing, he received a sudden tap on his unfortunate organ, and a tug from the rear at the same moment pulled him on to his back. The following morning his helmet was found on a "stob" at the opposite side of the street. "Sure I'm glad my head isn't in it," said he to a brother-constable when his battered and bedaubed headgear was shown to him. "If I stay here I shall be kilt here entirely. How long have you been stationed ot this heathenish plale?" he enquired. On being told, he gave expression to the unintentional drollery: "Six years! By the powers, if I lived here six years, I should be kilt before he end of three months."—*Newcastle Daily Journal.*

HONOUR TO A CONSETT FAMILY.—We are glad to learn from *The British American*, of the present month, that Miss H. Worrall, daughter of an old Consett friend which we have much pleasure of inserting:—"About thirty persons called at the residence of W.G.P. John C. Worrall, in Youngstown, on Saturday evening, January 11th, and presented his daughter, Miss H. Worrall, with a beautiful gold watch and chain.—The presentation was made by Mr J. Mundee in a neat little speech.—Bro. Worrall, on behalf of his daughter, thanked the donors for their elegant present.—Among the friends present were Mr and Mrs Wm. Buxton, also D.D., G.P., George Buxton and wife, of East Liverpool, who also made a present of two beautiful bronze vases.—A bountiful luncheon was served by the host and hostess, after which a very pleasant evening was spent in music and games.—The reason for the surprise party was that Miss Worrall will leave Youngstown for Cleveland, on the 18th inst., where she will study singing under the tuition of Prof. Homer A. Moore. She was born in Consett, Co. Durham, England, and at eight years old commenced studying the piano under the tuition of her father. She has already gained a reputation in the musical societies of Youngstown and vicinity, having taking the prizes for soprano solos in the Welsh Eisteddfods held in a city for several years, in duets, trios, and quartettes; she was also successful in the great Welsh musical gathering held in Pittsburgh, December 26th, 1887, and for the past three years has been the leading soprano in the choir of St. ...ns Episcopal Church of Youngstown."

THE COURT MINSTRELS.—On Saturday evening, the Livermore Brothers' well-known troupe of minstrels paid a visit to the town of Consett, and gave their performance in the New Town Hall, and met with a splendid reception. The spacious New Town Hall was filled to excess. As the artistes appeared on the platform dressed in costumes of George II, a splendid spectacle was presented to the large company, and many old faces in the group were speedily recognised. Throughout the entertainment, the choir of vocalists, the dancers, &c., executed their parts in such a manner as to repeatedly call forth the applause of all present. Several of the items on the programme were also received with roars of laughter. The first part of the entertainment consisted of sentimental and comic songs, choruses burlesque tunes, anecdotes, and instrumental solos. The descriptive song "Livermore's yacht," and the musical absurdity by the minstrels, were very well taken with, and ensured no end of amusement. The second half of the entertainment, which consisted of the usual clog dances, banjo eccentricities, burlesque sketches, &c., the audience was kept in a continuous state of merriment. "The merry old girls," a new song and dance, composed by Mr H. Livermore, and performed in character by eight members of the company, was immensely funny. The "American frog dance," performed by Messrs Trellis, Knott, Lewis, McLean, and O'Connor, who jump about the stage in most ludicrous postures, was also greeted with hearty laughter and applause. The celebrated policeman's drill was a most acceptable item, and evoked as much favour as ever it did. The whole entertainment concluded with an original burlesque sketch, entitled "Fifteen dollars."

LOCAL BUTCHERS AND THE TRANSIT OF CATTLE.—On Tuesday afternoon, a meeting of the butchers residence in Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate, Shotley Bridge, and surrounding places, was held at the Golden Eagle Hotel, Cattle Market, Newcastle. There was a very large attendance, presided over by Mr John Parker, Leadgate.—The meeting was summoned for the purpose of adopting economical measures for the safe removal of cattle from the Newcastle Market to Consett and Blackhill Station; Mr F. Swainston, Consett, hitherto having had the sole custody of the beasts while being loaded in the trucks, and during their transit to Consett.—Mr J. Crawford, Consett, thought that the cattle could be removed at a much cheaper rate than was paid at present.—After a long discussion, Mr E. Lockey, Consett, moved that Mr Swainston should be paid 1s 6d a head for every beast when it was safely landed at their destination, this plan being adopted by similar organisations in Shields, Sunderland, Bishop Auckland, Durham, and other centres.—The resolution was seconded by Mr George Harrison, Consett, and carried *nem. con.*—The meeting expressed their entire satisfaction with the admirable manner in which Mr Swainston had fulfilled his duties in the past, and unanimously carried a vote of confidence in him.

BLACKHILL.

On Sunday, two eloquent sermons were preached by Rev. A. Bromley in the United Methodist Free Church, Blackhill, to large congregations.

On Monday, the members of the Lodge of the I.U.O. of Mechanics which meets at Mrs Jameson's, Commercial Inn, Blackhill, held their annual supper last Saturday night.

BAND OF HOPE.—On Tuesday night, the Blackhill Wesleyan Sunday-school Band of Hope held a public entertainment in the school-room. The company, which was a very large one, was entertained by the following talent:—Misses J. Gibson, L. Gibson, Messrs W. Gillis, and J. Bell gave two quartettes in splendid style. Miss L. Brown, Consett, favoured the audience with two selections on the dulcimer, and was *encored*. Mr T. Walton gave a recitation and a reading, which added much to the enjoyment of the evening. Mr H. Milburn also charmed the company by his selections on the concertina. An excellent address was given by Mr T. F. Foster. The chair was occupied by Rev J. Clegg, who thanked the performers for their services. A very pleasant and enjoyable evening spent. A number of pledges were taken.

BLANCHLAND.

GRAND BALL.—On Wednesday night, Mrs Imeson, the proprietress of the Lord Crewe Arms, Blanchland, held her annual ball in the large room of that historical hostelry. Upwards of twenty couples tripped the "light fantastic toe," visitors being present from Consett, Stanhope, Sunderland, Newcastle, and other places. Capital music was supplied by Mr F. J. Sloane's (Blackhill) string band. The ball was led off by a "Country dance," and the whirligig was kept up till five o'clock yesterday (Thursday) morning. Mrs Imeson provided supper for her guests at midnight, and when the party broke up, a sumptuous breakfast was placed before them. The ball proved to be brilliantly successful.

EBCHESTER.

A private assembly was held in the School-room, Ebchester, on Friday night. There were about forty couples present, and an enjoyable evening was spent. The music for the occasion was Mr E. J. Sloane, L.Mus., L.C.M.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Wednesday night, the choir of the above society held their annual supper at the house of Miss Hunter, Derwent View, Ebchester, kindly lent for the occasion, when a splendid ham supper was provided, and a large number partook of the good things provided. Various games were indulged in, and an exceedingly pleasant night was spent. At the close one of Wesley's hymns was sung, and votes of thanks passed to Miss Hunter for kindness. These happy meetings only go a short way to show the good feeling and harmony that exists amongst the members of the society.

PRESENTATION.—The little chapel at Ebchester was the scene of a very interesting ceremony on Tuesday night. The members and a few friends connected with the society met together to present Mr Thomas Irving with a complete set of "Clark's Commentary on the Old and New Testaments," by Thornley Smith, in six volumes, as a token of the respect in which he is held by them, the event being all the more interesting by reason of the affair being kept a profound secret from the recipient, he being in complete ignorance of their plans, and was utterly taken by surprise. The meeting commenced by singing a hymn, after which Mr Stoddart, the oldest member, made the presentation, and referred in feeling terms to Mr Irving's long connection with the society, and the manner that he worked and how well he merited this token of esteem, and trusted that he would be long spared to work in their midst.—Mr Irving rose to thank them, but seemed to feel his position deeply. He said he could not express to them the feelings of his heart at that night. Words he could not find to express to them the deep sense of gratitude which he owed them for their unexpected kindness to one so utterly undeserving. Never had he expected to receive any earthly present for his feeble services in the cause of Christ, but all his ambition was to try to lead others to the place that he had been to himself—namely, the foot of the Cross; and then after his trial was over here to be called up higher to receive a crown of righteousness that fadeth not away, given to him not with earthly hands but by the King Himself. He felt their kindness very deeply indeed, and he thanked them from the bottom of his heart for the handsome present they had made him. He hoped the good feeling that existed among them would continue, and he would not only promise them to look at the books but read them.—This ended one of the happiest meetings held at Ebchester.

WHICKHAM.

LOCAL BOARD.—On Thursday week, an ordinary monthly meeting of the Whickham Local Board was held.—On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, cheques were issued for the payment of the past month's expenses, amounting to £111 17s 4d, leaving a balance of £33 4s 10d.—The medical report of Dr. Attwater showed that the birth-rate for the district was 24·07, and the death-rate 29·34.

LANCHESTER.

The annual tithe rent pay and dinner took place at the Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester, on Thursday se'night.

SALE.—On Wednesday afternoon, Mr Wm. Nicholson disposed of by public auction over 600 lots of furniture, fittings, fixtures, &c., belonging to Mrs Hodgson, who is relinquishing the Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester, and intends going to Stockton-on-Tees. There was a large attendance, and a very satisfactory sale resulted.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

On Monday, Mrs Parmerley, of Stanhope (*nee* Mis Earl, of London), concluded a week's special services at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Chester-le-Street. During the week about 30 members were added to the church. A good number took the total abstinence pledge.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A FATHER.—At Chester-le-Street Court House on Wednesday, *Robert Dunn*, labourer, Birtley, was charged with having indecently assaulted his daughter, Sarah Ann (15), at Birtley, on 21st Dec. Prisoner, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions, bail being accepted.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—On Friday morning, an engine and some waggons ran off the line between Birtley and Chester-le-Street, causing a serious delay to the traffic. The slow train from Newcastle to Durham, and the south express, due at York at 9·35, were both stopped, and when the express got to Durham at 8·55, it was nearly an hour late. It did not reach York till about 10·30, when passengers proceeding to London, Manchester, and other Midland routes lost their connecting trains, and had to wait some hours.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AND DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB.—The annual general meeting of the above club was held on Wednesday night, at the Lambton Arms, Chester-le-Street, Mr J. Luke, Durham, occupied the chair.—Mr J. Brewis (secretary) presented his report. They had a small balance in hand, and a large amount of subscriptions to come in.—Mr Lindsay Wood, The Hermitage, Chester-le-Street, was unanimously re-elected president of the club.—Mr Turnbull moved, and Mr E. H. Wilkinson seconded, and it was resolved that the entire cart-horse show be held this year as usual, the club offering a premium of £60, the date to be fixed by the committee. The rules of the horse show were revised and amended. The committee were also instructed to make arrangements for the usual annual foal show and turnip competition.

STANHOPE.

The business before the Stanhope School Board, on Friday, was routine only, save that the master's reports indicated a decline in the average attendance on account of influenza.

The cost of the enlargement of the Primitive Methodist Sunday-school at Stanhope is £666, and the society has raised in eighteen months towards this cost no less than £467 6s. Amongst the items of income the proceeds of sewing meetings (£91 13), and of bazaar and exhibition (£132 12s), show the energy thrown into the movement by the members of the society.

LECTURE.—On Friday evening, Rev T. H. E. Espin, vicar of Tow Law, gave a very interesting lecture on "Thunderstorms," in the Town Hall, Stanhope.—The Bishop of Richmond occupied the chair.

SURGICAL OPERATION.—Drs. Livingstone and Hood, of Stanhope and Tow Law, performed a skillful operation last week by amputating the hand above the wrist of Mr William Wedgewood, the respected manager of the Parson Byers limestone quarry of Messrs Bell Brothers, at Stanhope, on account of cancer. The invalid is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. Much sympathy is felt for Mr Wedgewood in Stanhope, where he is much respected.

DEATH OF A STANHOPE MAN AT SOUTH CHURCH.—There died last week end at South Church, near Bishop Auckland, a Stanhope man, at one time well known in that neighbourhood. Newton Tweddle, blacksmith, one of the numerous family of Ibbert and Ann Tweddle, who, for a great number of years, lived on Cow Garth Hill. The family have been decimated by death until now there are not many left. William was killed many years ago on Sunniside bank railway; Joseph died this winter from cancer. Robinson, John, and Osual are still living with their families.

WINLATON.

CONCERT.—A highly successful concert consisting of songs, duets, quartettes and glees, was given in the Congregational Hall, Winlaton, by the Newcastle West End Juvenile Choristers, under the conductorship of Mr Archer. Mr A. P. Toft presided.

TOW LAW.

Mr Jonathan Southern, of Crook, preached two sermons in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Sunday last, and lectured on "Tom o' Jack's lad," on Monday evening, to large congregations.

WEST STANLEY.

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH.—On Saturday se'nnight, a service of song, entitled "Which was the hero?" was given in this place of worship at West Stanley, by the members of the Dipton United Methodist Free Church choir. There was a capital attendance, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

BYER MOOR.

CONCERT.—On Saturday evening, a concert and operatic entertainment, entitled "Cinderella," was given in the Byer Moor R.C. Schools. The building was well filled, and the efforts of the different *artistes* were much appreciated.

QUEBEC.

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL, HAMSTEELS COLLIERY.—On Sunday, Rev C. L. Fountain, of Waterhouses, commenced a series of revival services, which have proved to be very successful having added upwards of 20 converts to the church. The services have been exceedingly well attended by the surrounding inhabitants. Mr Young officiated at the harmonium, while the choir rendered a choice selection of hymns and anthems. The united Mission Brass Band paraded in procession through the village, giving a hearty invitation to the people to attend.

HOBSON COLLIERY.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On Monday afternoon, the members and friends of this society at Hobson Colliery, held a social tea at the house of Mr John W. Bell. There was a large attendance, and a handsome sum was realised. The proceeds were in aid of the new chapel fund.

TANFIELD.

Influenza is very prevalent just now amongst the miners in this district. At Mr Joicey's collieries alone about 500 men are off work from this cause, and a difference is thus made in the output of about 1,000 tons a day.

LEADGATE.

Mr W Brown, of Prospect House, Leadgate, was yesterday (Thursday) reported to be seriously ill. His condition is now regarded as almost hopeless.

Mr T. S. Longstaff of the Masons' Arms, Leadgate, desires us to announce that in order to avoid being regarded with a School Board at Leadgate, he will on Easter Monday next pay a guinea to each of the following institutions:—Iveston Village School; Brooms Roman Catholic do.; St. Ives do.; Infant School, Church Square; Wesleyan School, Bottle Bank, and Miners' Hall, Watling Street.

BIRTLEY.

BIRTLEY TO LONDON.—It is a far cry from Birtley to London, but there is, nevertheless, an important business connection between the little Durham village and the great metropolis. Amongst the goods recently shipped on board the Tyne Steam Shipping Company's steamers at Newcastle Quayside have been a number of elegant street lamp pillars, intended for use in London thoroughfares. They were indeed of a very neat and ornamental design, and were manufactured at the Birtley Ironworks. Articles of the class, it is said, are regularly sent by the Company either from Sunderland or Newcastle to the capital of the empire. A poet who lived not far from Birtley, Teams much as he had to do with the Low Fell, speaking as a miner, sang:—

"Think on us, hinnies, if you please,
An it were but to show your pity
For a' the toils an' tears it gies
To warm the shins o' London city."

The last line of the verse might surely be very appropriately altered to read:—

"To leet the streets of London city."

The Birtley production has found both a market and appreciation in London, as they do over a much wider area than one would casually imagine.—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

At the Shotley Bridge Occasional Court, on Thursday se'nnight—before Councillor James Annandale—*Margaret Keenan*, married, living in Edith Street, Consett, was brought up by P.C. Humphrey, charged with being drunk and disorderly in Edith Street, about 7 o'clock on Wednesday night. She had been chasing her own children with a knife.—A fine of 2s 6d and costs was imposed, or seven day's hard labour.

THE LATE MR JOHN DOWSON.—On Sunday night, at St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside, the Vicar (Rev G. H. Ross-Lewin, M.A.), in the course of his sermon, made a touching reference to Mr John Dowson, an engineer at the Derwent Flour Mill, who was accidentally drowned in the mill race as reported at length in last week's *Guardian*. The rev. gentleman said he was not in the habit of preaching funeral discourses in that Church, but he felt constrained to make some allusion to the removal hence of one of the most prominent members of his congregation. Mr Dowson, the vicar said, was a regular attender at the Church services, and hardly ever missed partaking of an early Communion. He was a sidesman at the Church for a great many years, and was an upright, conscientious Christian man. At the end of the service, the hymn, "Now the labourer's task is o'er," was specially sung in memory of the deceased.

TEMPERANCE AND BANDS OF HOPE.—Another of the very pleasurable and entertaining meetings was held on Monday evening, in the Wesleyan School-room, Shotley Bridge, under the united patronage of the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist Societies. The friends at Shotley Bridge secured for their last meeting the service of Mr R. C. Foster, of Consett, who gave two readings, entitled "Sandy McGuire on the Queen's coronation." and "Reminiscences from the Rev C. Garrett," in his best style. Mr Harbottle, Derwent Cottages, with his string band, gave capital selections of music, that gentleman also rendering two readings in his quaint manner. Miss Thompson gave a recitation, entitled "Poor mammy is cold." Miss Nixon gave another recitation excellently, entitled "Dead and alone"; while the Wesleyan choir rendered two pieces, entitled "Sow on," and "Awake, awake." Mr A. Seed, Shotley Bridge, occupied the chair. Votes of thanks terminated the meeting.

RAMSHAW.

OPENING OF A NEW HARMONIUM.—The Ramshaw Primitive Methodist Chapel has lately been furnished with a new harmonium, supplied by Mr W. Heslop, Darlington. In connection with the opening of the instrument special services were, on Sunday, preached by Miss Wallace, Mount Pleasant. Miss Heslop, Darlington, presided at the new instrument. On Monday night, a large audience assembled to hear a concert, in which Misses Muslop, Burrell, and Kirby, and Messrs W. H. Mein, W. D. Featherstone, W. Rycroft, and H. Bowles took part. Their chair was occupied by Mr G. Young.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Sunday, Mr M. Frankland, of Blackhill commenced a series of special services in this Annfield Plain Chapel. The congregations throughout the day were good, and the services during the week have been largely attended.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

TO-MORROW'S FIXTURES (SATURDAY, FEB. 15TH.

Consett Rugby v Tynedale, at Benfieldside.
Leadgate Exiles v Lintzford, at Lintzford (Durham Junior Cup-tie).
Dipton Wanderers v Medomsley, at Dipton.
Dipton Wanderers 2nd v Leadgate Exiles Reserve, at Leadgate.
Leadgate Exiles 2nd v Wolsingham Mechanics' Institute, at Leadgate.
Tanfield Lea v Stanley, at Tanfield Lea.
Consett Albion v Wolsingham Church Institute, at Consett.
Consett Juniors v Derwent Cottages Rangers, at Consett.
Shotley Bridge St. Cuthbert's v Langley Colts, at Langley.
Edmondsley Strangers v Heaton Wanderers, at Heaton.
Catchgate Albion v Causey Stars, at Causey.
Tow Law v Esh Albion, at Tow Law (Durham Junior Cup-tie).
Pelton Fell Harriers v Sunderland East End, at Sunderland.
Edmondsley Strangers 2nd v Heaton Wanderers 2nd, at Heaton.
Langley Park v Pelton Fell Harriers 2nd, at Langley Park.

DURHAM JUNIOR CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

LEADGATE EXILES v LINTZFORD.—These teams will meet at Lintzford to-morrow (Saturday) in the first round of the above competition, when a good game may be expected. The teams will be composed as follows:—Leadgate Exiles—Goal, H. Callaghan; backs, J. McGuire and J. Monaghan; half-backs, Wm. Costello (capt.), Patrick Hughes, and Peter Hughes; forwards, G. Walton and C. Quinn, right wing; F. Quinn, centre; J. Costello and J. McGee, left wing. Reserve, C. Reilly. Umpire, Mr Thos. Kennedy. Lintzford—Goal, T. Smith; backs, Andrews and Cook; half-backs, R. Ward, T. Johnson, and M. Abbott; forwards, J. Taylor, G. Abbott, McKenna, Rule, and R. Abbott. Reserves, Geo. Clements and W. Taylor. Umpire, Mr Williamson. Kick-off at 3.

CONSETT v TYNEDALE.—This match with the Hexham team will be played at Benfieldside to-morrow (Saturday), and should be well worth witnessing. Consett team will be:—Back, J. G. Askew; three-quarter backs, A. Ward, T. Jameson, and M. Williamson; half-backs, J. Anderson and J. Wilson; forwards, W. Turnbull, T. T. Gray, F. Moss, A. Taylor, A. Wood, J. Lancaster, G. Williamson, J. Aitken, and Jos. Askew (capt.) Kick-off at 3·45 prompt.

DIPTON WANDERERS v MEDOMSLEY.—This match will be played at Dipton to-morrow (Saturday). The Wanderers will be represented by the following team:—Goal, H. Freek; backs, J. Walker and A. Tuson; half-backs, A. Dodds, E. Buck, and J. Batey; forwards, W. Turner and J. Gilliard, right wing; W. Robson; R. Crozier and T. Walker, left wing. Owing to the Wanderers being so unfortunate, from illness and other causes, the visitors will be only indifferently represented—Wm. Cant (capt.), R. Cant, Dales, Baron, and Hornsby all being unable to play.

DIPTON WANDERERS 2ND v LEADGATE EXILES RESERVE.—To be played at Leadgate to-morrow (Saturday). The following will compose the respective teams:—Dipton Wanderers—Goal, T. Mann; backs, T. Turpin and W. Bowes; half-backs, J. Bell, R. Crozier, and R. Bruce; forwards, W. Kennedy (capt.) and J. Evans, right wing; J. Jordan, centre; J. G. Temple and R. Jordan, left wing. Reserves, W. Temple, H. McDine, and J. Sparks. Leadgate—Goal, O. Conner; backs, O. Slam and H. Rogers; half-backs, J. O'Neale, J. Martin, and J. Hagan; forwards, A. Connolly (capt.) and M. Day, right wing; C. Reilly, centre; J. McMahon and O. Hughes, left wing. Reserve, J. Clare. Umpire, Mr John Toner.

LEADGATE EXILES 2ND v WOLSINGHAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—To be played at Leadgate to-morrow (Saturday). The Exiles' team will consist of the following:—Goal, J. Carroll; backs, M. Green and Wm. Ooman; half-backs, J. Green, M. Slain, and P. Muldoon; forwards, J. McGuckin, P. Daly, W. Richardson, P. Hafferty, and T. McGraham.

TANFIELD LEA v STANLEY.—These teams meet at Tanfield Lea to-morrow, when a good game should be witnessed. The following will play for the home club—Goal, T. Christopher; backs, W. Milburn and J. Smith; half-backs, Jas. Smith, R. Maleson, and B. Hall; forwards, Atchinson and Morton, right wing; Holmes, centre; N. Gailes and J. Milburn, left wing. Umpire, Mr J. Wood. Kick-off at 3·30.

CONSETT ALBION v WOLSINGHAM CHURCH INSTITUTE.—To be played at Consett to-morrow (Saturday). The following will represent the Albion:—Goal, W. Williamson; backs, T. Skelton and J. G. Robson; half-backs, J. Carruthers, E. Bell, and C. Turner; forwards, R. Arkless and A. Eustace, right wing; E. Carhill, centre; J. Dempsey and T. Dunn, left wing. Umpire, Mr R. Sedgwick.

CONSETT JUNIORS v DERWENT COTTAGES RANGERS.—To be played on the former's ground to-morrow (Saturday). The following will represent Consett—Goal, T. Parkinson; backs, R. Graham and G. Gardner; half-backs, J. Mcbride, Griffin, and Fuller; forwards, C. Winter and J. Winter, right wing; J. McKie, centre; W. Doyle and J. Adams, left wing. Reserve, B. Jenkins. Kick-off at 3·30.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

SWIFTNESS OF THE WILD DUCK.—Thomas Alexander, in his book entitled "Game Birds of the United States," says that wild ducks, assisted by the wind, fly from 60 to 100 miles an hour, and that the blue-winged teal, "going down the wind at the top of his speed, will make fully 150 miles an hour, possibly more."

EXTENT OF HUMAN TRAVEL.—The number of passengers carried by all the railroads in all parts of the world in one year is estimated at 2,400,000,000, or an average of 6,500,000 a day. The absolute number of passengers carried on steamers is smaller; but they are carried for longer distances, and more days' journeys, than on railroads; so that estimated by the mile or the day, the amount of passenger work the steamers do will appear to much better advantage.

CHINESE CHILDREN'S NAMES.—Chinese parents are afraid to give their children the fine high-sounding names their love suggests, lest the evil spirits of whom they stand in constant fear should come to understand how precious they are and cause them some calamity. And so the foreign residents constantly meets with children answering to the names of Little Stupid, Vagabond, Flea, and the like, the idea being that, when the spirits hear the little ones called by such uncomplimentary names, they will imagine that the parents care very little for them, and will not take the trouble to molest them.

ICONOCLAST.—Iconoclast means an image breaker. The controversy respecting images which had been introduced into churches for popular instruction about 300 A.D. was begun about 726, and occasioned much disturbance in the Eastern Empire. Leo Isauricus published two edicts for demolishing images in churches in that year, and enforced them with great rigour in 730. The defenders of images were again persecuted in 752 and 761, when Constantine forbade his subjects becoming monks. Finally, the turn of the other came, and the Iconoclasts were excommunicated at the 8th General Council of Constantinople, 869-870. This controversy led to the separation of the Greek and Latin Churches. The Reformers between 1641 and 1648 in this country were described as Iconoclasts.

OLD POSTAGE STAMPS.—At last a plan has been discovered for using old postage stamps to some advantage. The first thing is to thoroughly soak them, so that they no longer adhere to the paper, and then dry them. Put them away in a drawer for some time. You then have them ready for the mosaic work. The more diverse the colouring the better, and in the collection for use there should be blue, red, green—in fact, every colour that can be found. Then proceed to arrange them in geometrical patterns, cutting some diagonally across where the design needs it, or in halves. They can be adopted to the designs published for patchwork. The chief point to aim at is to select a good pattern, to keep it uniform, and to blend the colourings well. When these have been mastered it is very ornamental work, applied to the tops of tables, small cabinets, boxes, frames, letter-cases, &c. It requires to be sized and varnished with clear crystal varnish.

GREAT FLOWING WELLS.—Artesian wells take their name from the Province of Artois, France, where they have been long in use. At Lillers there is a well which has been flowing steadily since 1126. Two of the most celebrated wells are those at Grenelle and Passy, near Paris. The water body of the former was struck at the depth of 1797 feet. At Passy 1923 feet were recorded by the borer before the water was reached. In each case the water, when it came, came with a rush. At Grenelle it passes up into a high vertical pipe which it overflows. Bourne, England, has an Artesian well which flows over 550,000 gallons a day with pressure enough to flood the highest roofs. Such experiences as that at Belleplain, Ia., are therefore not unprecedented. The Belleplain well has evidently run away with the imagination of the reporter, beside mastering the well-drivers. Western reporters are unused to such immense volumes of cold water.

STREET CARS IN TOKIO.—The most incongruous spectacle is that afforded by the presence of street cars here—a feature peculiar to the capital city alone. Like all the foreign improvements here, the street car lines are English in style; the cars having four or six wheels, and running upon tracks provided with a groove for the wheel flanges. The drivers and conductors are, of course, Japanese, dressed in European clothes, but never more than decently unpacked. The conductor carry ancient-looking leather satchels strapped over their shoulders, from which they sell tickets to all passengers, to be collected at the door as the passengers quit the car. There are no bells on the horses, but a horn hangs by the side of the driver, and the latter energetically toots at his horses dash along at a breakneck speed down the street. Although these Japanese ponies are abused shamefully in order to make them attain a speed satisfactory to the driver, there are no humane societies in Tokio to the cars which stop for ten minutes at a crossing while the conductor and driver wait for an imaginary load of passengers, without the least concern or impatience.

HISTORY OF COALMINING IN SCOTLAND.—As early as 1200 A.D., collieries were worked on the south shores of the Firth of Forth. At the same time there was one at Carridan, near Blackness, and another at Prestonpans. The earliest record of coal on the west coast is found in the charter of James Stewart to the Abbey of Paisley, dated 1294, in which he grants the monks the right to quarry stone and lime, and dig sea coal. It is probable that the mineral was only used by artificers, as it was not until the fourteenth century, when chimneys began to come into vogue, that it was applied to domestic uses. The first workings were open quarries, and when these grew too deep they were followed by shallow pits to which access was afforded by ladders. The "pit and adit" system sufficed for a period of about four centuries after coalworking had been commenced, and by that time much of the shallow coal was exhausted, and it was believed that the supply was about to fail entirely. About the year 1600 the introduction of water raising machinery enabled the miners to go deeper, and gave a fresh impulse to the trade. To further foster the industry, Parliament reduced the colliers to slavery, and gave the owners power to apprehend all sturdy vagrants and set them to work. The best machine at the time was the Egyptian wheel or chain of buckets, driven by horses or water power. When fire-damp accumulated, one the miners clothed in wet sackcloth, went in before the rest and exploded it by means of a lighted candle on a long pole, lying down while the flame passed over him. About 1700 the miners approached the limit of depth to which their water engines could carry them. Windmills and pumps were tried in 1708, but were found unsuitable and the business was nearly at a standstill until Newcomen's fire engine was brought out. By 1769 steam engines had been erected at several collieries for raising water. Horse railways were introduced at the same date. In the latter of the eight part of the eighteenth century the colliers of Scotland were relieved from slavery by Parliament, and long after it was possible to meet with colliers who had been slaves. Hugh Miller tells of one with whom he had met, who related that he had been sold for a pony. In 1792 one of Watts' double-acting engines was erected at Old Monkland to draw coals up the shaft. Coming now to later times we find that in 1849 the deepest pit in Scotland reached to 1059ft.; it was here that the first great explosion of fire-damp took place in Scotland.

A correspondent of *Knife and Fork* supplies the following curious information:—"Permit me to say that no cheese has ever been made in the parish of Stilton, Huntingdonshire. The Leicestershire-made cheese, which is called Stilton cheese, and which was sold—but not made—in Stilton during the old coaching days, was perhaps first made at Little Dalby or elsewhere—in or before the year 1720."

The first external revelation of the dry-rot in man is a tendency to lurk and lounge, to be at street corners without intelligible reason, to be going anywhere when met, to be about many places rather than any, to do nothing tangible, but to have an intention of performing a number of tangible duties to-morrow or the day after.

Henry VIII. was the first English sovereign who was styled "His Majesty." Previously the King was "His Highness," or "His Grace."

The Cheviot Hills form the boundary between the counties of Northumberland and Durham.

[...ISHED.]

JEZEBEL'S FRIENDS.

A NOV L,

BY

DORA RUSSELL,

Author of "Footprints in the Snow," "The Broken Seal," "The Track of the Storm," &c., &c.

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CHAPTER XXVI.—Colonel Kenyon's Birthday.

The next day, Frances drove into Headfort before luncheon with some news for her sister.

"My dear," she said as she entered the dining room, where Ruth was sitting pale and disheartened, "isn't this delightful? I have talked Hugh over, and we are going to give a grand affair at Sudley on his birthday. It is on the 1st of October, so I hope you will look your prettiest on the occasion."

Ruth, who had risen to kiss her sister, did not seem at all excited by the news.

"We are going to have tennis in the afternoon first, then dinner in the pavilion at eight, because it holds more than the dining room, and a dance afterwards; and I mean to have the gardens lit up with Chinese lamps, and to make the whole place look beautiful."

"I hope you will have a fine day," said Ruth languidly.

"Of course I shall have a fine day! By-the-bye, she's a jolly little woman, isn't she, Lady Hastings? But what's the matter with you, Ruth, are you not well? Hugh thought you looked ill yesterday."

"I felt ill yesterday, and don't feel over well to-day."

"I'm so awfully sorry. You saw Seaforth yesterday, I suppose. Did you talk to him?"

"He spoke to me, that was all."

"Well, the first awkwardness is over then, and I daresay presently you'll become very good friends. I don't think I quite like him, you know; he has certainly not improved since he went away."

"He was not likely to improve," said Ruth, with some bitterness.

"Why? Oh, you mean because your love affair with him was broken off? My dear, don't flatter yourself; men can bear a wound or two of that kind without showing a scar."

"I daresay."

Frances did not speak for a moment or two, then she went up to Ruth, and laid her hand lightly on her shoulder.

"You know I'm not given to preaching, yet I feel very much inclined to read you a lecture, Ruth. My dear, you are not behaving wisely to Audley; you are letting him see too plainly you do not care for him; not that I wonder at it, though."

"He knows very well I do not care for him; that I never shall care for him."

"But why let other people see it so plainly? I overheard remarks yesterday made about you, and one lady said she had never seen such an unhappy-looking bride. If Audley had heard that he would have been awfully angry, and, you know——"

"I am unhappy, most unhappy!" said Ruth, rising excitedly. "I asked him yesterday to let me go back to my father's house."

"Was that wise, Ruth?"

"I cannot bear my life," continued Ruth, walking up and down the room with clasped hands; "you do not know all I suffer."

"But why not make the best of it, as I do? I know you did not care for Audley when you married him, nor did I care for Hugh; yet you see I make Hugh content, though I may have my own feelings, too, on the subject."

"Hugh is quite a different man; he is honourable, he is high-minded; he did not force you to marry him by unworthy threats."

"No," and Frances' face flushed. "But is that a generous speech?"

For a moment Ruth was silent; then with sudden penitence and love, she went up and laid her head on Frances' shoulder.

"Forgive me," she half-whispered; "I did not mean to say anything; but he drives me half-wild."

"I know; he is selfish, and bad to get on with sometimes; I see all that—but Ruth, try to look a little happier for my sake; it makes me miserable to think your life has been sacrificed."

These words went straight to Ruth's heart.

"I will try," she said; "it put me out seeing Kenard Seaforth yesterday, and I broke down—yes, I know I am very foolish."

"That's a dear child! Try to make the best of Audley; he's a vain man, and other women flatter him, and you could manage him if you flattered him too. Look how Lady Hastings runs after him?"

"She is quite welcome," said Ruth, and Frances laughed.

"You are not a bit jealous of her then?"

"Jealous! No."

"Yet I have known women who did not care one straw for their husbands to be very jealous of them. It is a feeling of vanity I suppose."

"Then I have none; but don't let us talk about it any more, I will try to look brighter."

"Yes, do, dear; and now will you come over to Sudley and stay with us a day or two? I fancy the change will do you good, and then we shall have all the arrangements to make for the 1st, and no end of things to do. Where is Audley?"

"At the Fort, I suppose, but he will be in to lunch."

"Then I'll stay to lunch and see him, and persuade him, if I can, to let you come to us."

And Frances did this. Presently Audley came into the house, and Frances received him in her most winning fashion.

"Don't turn me out," she said, "for I have invited myself to lunch."

"Only too charmed to see you, of course," smiled Audley. "Where is Colonel Kenyon?"

"He has gone over to see one of his tenants, who wants some repairs to the farm buildings, and Hugh likes to look after these things himself."

"Quite right."

"I suppose it is; so I came to enquire after Ruth's headache, and do you know I think she wants a little change. If she came to us for a day or two, I am certain it would do her good, and you could come whenever you could get over, of course. What do you think?"

"You are very good," said Audley, glancing at Ruth.

He knew now very well that his marriage had been a foolish, wilful act, of which he had begun heartily to repent, and that last quarrel had made him feel very bitter to her. Why not let her go for a day or two, he thought, glancing at her again; but Ruth never raised her eyes.

"Would you like to go to your sister for a day or so?" he said.

"Yes," answered Ruth; and after a few more words they settled it; Frances pressing Audley to go over to Sudley every day.

"Hugh will be delighted to see you," she said; "and Ruth and I shall have heaps to do about Hugh's birthday party; and you must help us, Major Audley! I mean to have coloured lamps, and all sorts of pretty things. By-the-bye, talking of pretty things, what a very pretty woman your friend Lady Hastings is. If I were Ruth, I should be frightfully jealous of her."

Audley laughed, not displeased.

"Ruth condescends to be jealous of no one," he said.

"Well, if you were my husband, I should be jealous; a handsome man always has so much love made to him."

Again Audley laughed, yet he was vain enough to be pleased by the open flattery.

"Then I should have no chance of making you jealous," he said.

"Oh, yes, yes, you would! Just as if a man didn't know when he was good-looking? Women let them know the pleasing fact quickly enough."

Audley stroked his heavy moustache with no small satisfaction.

"I am not so fortunate," he said; but Frances knew very well with whom she had to deal, and smiled, well-satisfied, a few minutes later when they were alone, Ruth having left the room to make some preparations for her visit to Sudley.

"I only wish," he said, half-in-jest, half-in-earnest, "that Ruth had a little of your charming manner."

"Ruth has something more charming than manner," answered Frances gaily, "extreme youth; do not forget, pray, that I have had five years longer experience of the wiles and ways of the wicked world."

"Then it has improved, not spoiled you."

Frances made a coquettish little curtsey.

"For my part," she said, "I like worldly people, and those who do not pretend to be above the foibles of our race; for we are all tainted, you know?"

"...... Audley, looking at her steadily.

"Ruth is young, romantic, and thinks it right always to speak the truth, and so——"

"The truth in her case is often confoundedly disagreeable then, that's all I can say," said Audley, as Frances paused.

"We all say disagreeable things occasionally," she answered with a laugh, "and our beloved parent, you know, is a master of the art of nagging, or rather used to be," she added, a little scornfully, "for I assure you he has turned wonderfully pleasant to me now."

Audley, too, laughed; but she had contrived to put him in a better temper with himself and the world in general; and when Ruth came downstairs, he went to the carriage with the two sisters, and promised to go over to Sudley to dine on the following day.

"I shall depend on your help for the 1st, you know," said Frances, looking back and nodding to him; but Ruth said nothing, and the husband and wife shook hands coldly enough, and that was all.

And this chill parting proved to be a longer one than either of them expected, for the next morning's post brought a letter from Audley for Ruth, to tell her that scarcely had she left Headfort when he had received a telegram to summon him at once to the sick-bed of his only sister. This lady, who was unmarried and possessed of a good fortune, was Audley's nearest surviving relation, and had for some time been in delicate health. The telegram was peremptory, Audley wrote, and he was on the point of starting for his sister's house when he penned the letter to Ruth.

"If Mrs. Kenyon will allow you to remain at Sudley until my return, I think it will be a good arrangement," Ruth read, with a beating heart, and we may be sure that both the Colonel and Frances were delighted that Ruth should do this.

And Ruth went upstairs and breathed a sigh of relief, alas! of thankfulness, that for the next few days at least, she would not see her husband's face. This knowledge seemed to take a weight off her heart somehow, and her girlish colour stole back to her fair face, and her step grew lighter, and she was ready and willing to join in all Frances' plans for the entertainment on Colonel Kenyon's birthday.

"That little woman looks a different creature already, with the air here," said the kindly Colonel to his wife, and Frances assented.

"I hope Miss Audley will keep very ill for some time," she said, smiling; but Colonel Kenyon shook his head at this unfeeling remark.

"Don't wish the poor lady to suffer long, dearest," he answered, for he ever thought considerately of others, and had strong sympathy for all those who pass heavily burdened on their way.

"Shall we ask Seaforth and Beaton to dinner to-morrow, Ruth?" asked Frances, later in the day. "He will help to amuse us."

"No, no," answered Ruth, with a vivid blush, "don't ask Kenard Seaforth while I am here, please, Frances: it is only painful to us both."

"We must ask him for the 1st, my dear."

"That is different, there will be a crowd; but I would rather not see him until then."

Nevertheless, two days later she did see him, for Colonel Kenyon announced that he had asked "Beaton and Seaforth" over for a day's shooting, and to stay all night, and dine at the Park.

"There, you can't help yourself," said Frances, to her sister, when Colonel Kenyon had left the room; "my dear, take my advice, and treat him in a friendly fashion, and it will all become quite easy to you in a very short while."

And Ruth resolved to try to do this. The first painful meeting was over, and it is certainly strange how we become used to things, and fall into ways we are forced to tread. Ruth and Seaforth met again, certainly with embarrassment, but still without the overwhelming emotion of the first meeting. They shook hands, and by-and-bye Ruth found herself talking quietly enough to her old friend. The three men had come in for afternoon tea after the day's sport, and Frances in a charming tea-gown smiled her welcome; Beaton going at once to her side and remaining there, fascinated beyond the power of his own will to turn away.

Presently the Colonel, having drunk his tea, went to have a smoke, but the two younger men lingered in the drawing-room. It was thus impossible for Seaforth and Ruth not to talk to each other, and in a little while they found that words came to them very easily. They did not speak much of past, nor coming days, but of the things around them, though Seaforth did once allude to their former intimacy. There was a stand of flowers close by them, for Frances loved to fill her rooms with the choicest she could procure, and Seaforth began talking of these, telling Ruth of some rare orchids he had seen when he was away.

"I am afraid my taste still clings to the simplest flowers," said Ruth with a smile; "even wild flowers."

"I remember you used to gather them," answered Seaforth in a low tone.

Ah, what memories those words recalled to her heart! Nay, scarcely memories; days that lived always imprinted on her brain, when she had wandered in the fields with her lover, and plucked the scarlet poppies by the way.

"Yes, long ago," she said, and her head drooped, and he watched the colour come and go on her smooth fair cheeks.

He looked at her for a moment or two, and then changed the conversation, asking her about the party to be given in honour of Colonel Kenyon's birthday.

"You are going to have great doings here on the 1st, I am told," he said considerately.

"Yes, Frances is bent on making it quite a success, as it is Colonel Kenyon's birthday, you know. We are to have a band, and a banquet, and a dance, I believe to wind up with."

"Will you keep me a dance?"

"Yes, I shall be very glad."

And so in this commonplace strain they talked, interrupted occasionally by Frances' soft laughter, and the murmur of Beaton's voice. He was standing with his back to them, looking down with his grey expressive eyes at the beautiful woman who was lying back in an easy chair before him, toying with a feather fan. And what were they saying? Foolish words of coquettish jesting on her part; on his, ardent expressions of scarcely veiled tenderness and admiration, which Frances loved to listen to.

Suddenly she started up and declared it was time to dress for dinner, and she and Ruth left the room together, followed a moment or two later by the young men, who went out on the terrace before the house to smoke cigarettes, both thinking of the women they had just left, though neither mentioned the sisters.

They all met at dinner, and then afterwards went out into the still dark gardens to fix about the illuminations on the night of the fête. The Colonel made a joke of the whole affair, and tried to laugh Frances out of the idea of the Chinese lamps her heart was set upon.

"Then I shall not consult you any more," she said playfully. "Mr. Beaton, you come with me, and we will fix where to hang them."

He followed her, only too gladly, under the shadowy trees; and Colonel Kenyon, Ruth and Seaforth, walked slowly behind them, talking pleasantly as they went, and gradually Ruth and Seaforth grew more at ease.

And the next morning it was the same thing. Ruth came down to breakfast in a white gown, and looked so like the fair young girl Seaforth had loved and wooed, that the bitter days of her desertion seemed somehow to fade from his mind. They stood on the terrace and talked together with the sunshine falling on Ruth's uncovered head, and it was only when he parted with her to return to Headfort that the old gloom stole over Seaforth's heart.

"I cannot understand it," he told himself, restlessly; "a girl like that to throw a man over that she cared for—for she did care for me—because another man had a few more hundreds a year; and yet she did it."

He did not go any more to Sudley until the day of the party on Colonel Kenyon's birthday, but Beaton went several times, making the excuse that he was assisting Mrs. Kenyon about the decorations, which, in truth, he was. Major Audley was still absent, and wrote to Ruth that it was impossible for him to leave his sister, who continued to be in great danger. Ruth thus remained at Sudley, and stood by Frances to receive her guests, when one after the other all the people of the neighbourhood who were of any note gathered together in honour of Colonel Kenyon and his young wife.

They looked two beautiful women, the sisters, standing side by side, and so thought their proud father, and the fond husband of one, whose eyes rested again and again on his Frances' face.

And other eyes watched that face too, young, ardent, passionate eyes, that found their heaven there, and saw no beauty in all the other fair women around. And Frances knew this, and it made her glad and her heart to glow with secret triumph, and she smiled on him, though they exchanged few words; but Arthur Beaton felt that he must be content with these, and for her sake kept away from her side.

It was not until the afternoon was far advanced and the sun was beginning to dip behind the trees, that he went up to her, pale and agitated. A few minutes before his soldier servant had sought him out among the crowd assembled on the lawn, and had placed a telegram in his hand, which had been sent on to him from Headfort, and as Beaton read it a great change passed over his face.

He re-read it, hesitated, and then walked up to the beautiful hostess, who was standing surrounded by a little group.

"Can I speak to you for a moment?" he said, and something in his expression checked the gay refusal she had been about to make, to what she considered an imprudent request.

"If you wish it, yes," she answered, and she moved a few steps apart from her other friends, one or two of whom exchanged glances as she did so.

"I have something to tell you," said Beaton, in an agitated whisper.

"Well?" she asked, looking at him with her bright eyes.

"My brother died yesterday, suddenly, of heart disease," continued Beaton, "my eldest brother."

"What! Sir Robert? Then you are now——"

They looked at each other and said nothing; they were both thinking of "what might have been;" but Frances was the first to recover her self-possession.

"Then I suppose you must go?" she said, in a low tone. "I shall see you soon again?"

"Yes," he answered, wrung her hand and turned away, and Frances went back to the group she had left.

"That poor young man," she said, addressing one of the ladies present, "has just received the news that his elder brother, Sir Robert Beaton, is dead."

There was a chorus of politely-expressed regret, and then everyone began talking of the heir.

"If that young fellow is the next brother," said Sir James Hastings, "he has come in for a good thing; I know something of the Beatons, and the old man died worth between seventeen and eighteen thousand a year."

(To be continued.)

DURHAM COUNTY COUCIL.

CHESTER-LE-STREET DIVISION.

The nomination of candidates for the vacant seat in the Chester-le-Street Division closed on Thursday se'nnight at the Constabulary Offices, Chester-le-Street. Four candidates were nominated, viz:—P. Hay, draper, Chester-le-Street; John Mitchell, Chester-le-Street, gentleman; Robert Jas. Coxon, Chester-le-Street, merchant; Joseph Witherspoon, Chester-le-Street, fruit grower. Mr Peter Hay addressed a large meeting of the electors in the Pelton Colliery schoolroom, on Thursday night, the chair being occupied by Mr Andrew Duffy. After hearing the candidate, a resolution was moved by Mr William Deighton, seconded by Mr Minors, and carried unanimously, that Mr Hay was a fit and proper person to represent the division.—On Monday night, a meeting was held in Mr James Turnbull's Auction Mart, Station Road, Chester-le-Street, to hear the views of the four candidates for the vacant seat on the County Council. Mr J. B. Barker was voted to the chair. Only one of the candidates—Mr R. J. Coxon—was present at the meeting, and that gentleman, at the request of the chairman, stepped forward and amid considerable interruption explained his views as to the duties of a County Councillor. Ultimately, the names of three of the candidates—Messrs John Mitchell, Peter Hay, and Robert J. Coxon—were put to the meeting, but few persons held up their hands in favour of any one of them, and, after a few remarks from the chairman the meeting closed.

Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour It acts directly upon the roots of the hair, invigorating them, cleanses the scalp, removing dandruff rendering the hair soft, silky, and glossy, and disposing it to remain in any desired position. It has hosts of admirers, male and female, young and old. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers. 875

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

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

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

Unsolicited Testimonial received January 15th, 1890.

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The Unemployed in East London.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country, to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches, that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages.

"How to Behave," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

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

Health Restored Remedy Free.—A late Sufferer from Nervousness, Weakness, &c having tried in vain every known remedy, has discovered a simple self-cure which he will send free to his fellow-sufferers. — Address, W. Fox, 1, York Street, Southwark, London, S.E. 265a

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

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 Fevers Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pill will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½, and 2s. 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

[By "Stanhope."]

Weardale's sweetest singer was down on Saturday with the influenza, Miss P. Stephenson, of Bollihope, who could not fulfil her engagement at the Primitive school-room, Stanhope, on Saturday evening, at Miss Temperley's girls' Italian costume dress concert.

One of the girls who took part in it, is a sweet singer, and should be looked after. She is possessed of a sweet voice, and has in her the inherent qualities of a good singer. Miss Bainbridge, is granddaughter of Mrs Hogarth, who at one time was one of Stanhope's leading singers. The Hogarths for ages have been noted musicians, composers, and singers.

Few native musicians can beat Miss Temperley playing music at first sight, she is acknowledged the best Weardale has produced as yet. But she has and will have one day a very formidable rival in one of her pupils, Miss Watson, of Ireshopeburn. She performed a piano solo at the concert on Saturday evening, with such precision and style, as fairly took the audience by surprise, and brought down the house. "Bird Waltz," was the piece she performed in so splendid a manner, for one so little and so young. Her deft fingers and excellent musical accomplishments will one day please wherever she may perform.

A harbinger of summer, in the shape of a butterfly, was seen in the Primitive Chapel, Stanhope, on Sunday evening. The warmth and heat of the chapel, together with the steutorian tones of the preacher, had aroused it to life, and it fluttered about the preacher awhile, then lit on his shoulder where it remained a long time, to the amusement of the younger portion of the audience.

A Crawley youth thought he would be a man for once. He went to Stanhope, and, like others much older than himself, got too much of the "cratur." That it is strengthening there is no doubt. It made him so strong as to be unable to walk, and he was found behind a dyke-back almost dead. Had it not been for the skill of Dr Robinson, who pumped it off his stomach, the result might have been fatal.

As soon as the choir, at the concert, on Saturday evening, at Stanhope, struck up the National Anthem, there was a regular stampede for the door by a lot of youths, who screeched, whistled, and shouted, as they rushed down the wooden stairs. But, as one of the door-keepers said, "What can ta expect frae Crawley." How significant! The unmissioned heathen have better manners than these Crawley youths. The Church would not tolerate such conduct, nor would any publican in Stanhope. Why should the Primitives?

The Stanhope footballers got a proper whacking at Middleton-in-Teesdale on Saturday. Somehow they have lost their method of playing. Time was, and that not long ago, when they could beat all their competitors, or run them hard; but to be beat as they were at Middleton, when the Teesdalers scored five goals to their none, is a sure sign that it is quite time they either tossed up the sponge, or went in for doing something more to their credit.

Being properly beaten was not all, some of them missed the brake and also missed the right road home as well, and, after trudging o'er moss and heather, only managed to see home and friends again at five o'clock on Sunday morning.

Much sympathy is felt in Stanhope for Mr Wm. Wedgewood, the respected manager at the Parson Byers limestone quarry, who has just undergone a rather severe surgical operation by having his hand taken off above the wrist. The operation was skilfully performed, and we are glad to hear that the patient is doing well.

There are two rival quadrille parties in Stanhope, the high-flyers and the Scotch Greys, who trip the light fantastic very Saturday evening, in the Town Hall, and the Bank-room respectively. One of the qualifications for membership among the high-flyers is to tumble a summersault over the scraper at the door-step as the gent enters the place. The Scotch Greys are said to possess the best dancers, and on this account are not admitted among the high flyers, even when the Town Hall is engaged, and they cannot have their dance. The Greys have offered to dance the high-flyers for a fiver, the money to form the nucleus of a fund towards raising a cat and baby show, in connection with the Floral and Horticultural Society's annual show in August next.

A number of people in and around Stanhope have invested freely in the Onward Building Society at Darlington.

Shaftew. l Head .h pwreck and the breaking up of the White Lion on the California Rocks is held over until next week.

A large salmon was caught in Bollihope Burn the other day. It was hooked and successfully landed by Mr Greenwell, of Bishoply, and was one of the largest caught for several seasons in Bollihope tributary. It was thought to be one of the noted Suffolk fish which somehow have migrated northwards.

I was highly amused the other evening at a Wearhead walleter who got out at Frosterley station, and whose wallet was so big with his week's provisions, that he could not get through the wicket from the Frosterley station platform. He had to resort to the big gates to get easily through. Bunyan's Pilgrim could not have a bigger or bulkier burden when he arrived at a similar place. Bollihope Mill is the place for creating an appetite, and the breezy uplands of Upper Weardale for keeping it.

Mr John Ridley, the Stanhope quarryman who was buried beneath a fall of earth, and had a miraculous escape in the autumn, has now got strong again, and resumed work this week at the Parson Byers quarry at Stanhope. His life was saved by a barrow and a truck end, which broke the force of the fall, and left him breathing space until he was dug out with a broken arm and many bruises.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Rheumatism and Neuralgia. — Though the former disease remorsely attacks persons of all ages, and the latter ruthlessly selects its victims from the weak and delicate, the persevering use of these remedies will infallibly cure both complaints. After the affected parts have been diligently fomented with hot brine, and the skin thoroughly dried, Holloway's Ointment must be rubbed in firmly and evenly for a few minutes twice a day, and his Pills taken according to the printed directions wrapped round each box of his medicine. Both Ointment and Pills are accompanied by instructions designed for the public at large, and no invalid, who attentively reads them, can now be at any loss how to doctor himself successfully.

Performance of an Oratorio.—On Wednesday week, the members of the Consett Wesleyan Choir (numbering some 30 voices), reproduced in the Wesleyan Chapel at Lanchester, the well known oratorio, entitled "The captives of Babylon." Mr John Buckham ably occupied the chair, and there was a very large attendance. Mr Michael Fawell conducted the singing, while Mr C. Stelling played the organ. The efforts of this high class choir were very much appreciated. The proceeds are to be applied towards furnishing the local preacher's library with books, &c.

Gilmore's Minstrels.—This celebrated troupe gave a very successful entertainment, on Saturday night, at Burnopfield to a large audience. Several new and original songs, solos, dances, sketches, &c., were exceedingly well rendered by Messrs Williams, Spark, Richards, Rutherford, Marshad, and Sands. The second part of the entertainment was remarkably good, the following being prominent:—Messrs W. Hazeldine, W. Bity, J. Mitchell, Little Dado, and the Komical Kaiders, the whole being accompanied by their band, conducted by Mr J. Bainbridge; the troupe, numbering 25, being under the management of Mr J. M Rutherford.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE.

[By "Castlesideite."]

The influenza, after journeying over St. Petersburg, Berlin, Quebec, Toronto, Winnepeg, New York, Liverpool, London, and Stanhope, has reached Castleside. On Sunday, three persons were suddenly attacked, and have since been confined to their bed-rooms.

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We are pleased to note that the injuries sustained by Mr J. Ellison on Saturday morning, whilst following his employment at Consett Iron Works, are not of a very serious nature as was at first feared.

NOTES FROM TOW LAW.

[By "Tow Lawite."]

I am so busy this week that I have not much time for notes, but having heard that the Mormons would like to know my name, with a view to having a little talk, I wish to say that if they knew it would not make any difference. I cannot see my way clear to waste my time in any suchlike ways. I like good company, and a good discussion, but it is a long time since I passed my opinion on this subject. The great Teacher says "By their fruits ye shall know them," &c. I have looked at the leading men who reside at Tow Law, and the conclusion I have come to is not favourable.

I think we want some new blood on the Local Board. I agree with those who say that some of the members are fifty years behind the times. The working-men, I hear, intend to run a candidate at the next election. Nothing can prevent him getting a place if they are true to each other.

They say there is no new thing under the sun, but there is. We have found out the secret here how to make old men young again! We have also parish weddings. Some places may have parish relief, parish coffins, and parish funerals; but we are ahead of all these places. How rapidly we move!

MEDOMSLEY AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[By "Geordie."]

The much-dreaded influenza holds the field to the exclusion of all other subjects. The malady is very prevalent in this district, and the medical men have their hands full in administering to the numerous patients they are called on to attend. Several of the pitmen are victims of *la grippe*, which is to be regretted, as the pits are now in the flood-tide of success. Some of the cases have ended fatally, and I regret to state that two persons have succumbed to the dread disease at Bradley Cottages. One of them was a youth named Walter Baron, who was employed at the Consett Iron Company's Busty Pit, Medomsley, and was well-known and much respected. It is to be hoped that more seasonable weather will shortly set in, and that this fell epidemic will leave our shores never to return.

I observe that the Medomsley Choral Society are announced to give a grand concert in the Temperance Hall, Medomsley, on Monday evening next. Although I have been informed that this society has been in existence some time, I am compelled to admit that I have been in ignorance of it; and I doubt not many of my readers are in the same position. However, as the society has for one of its objects the cultivation of local musical talent, it is entitled to every encouragement. Therefore, I trust that the hall will be filled to its utmost capacity on Monday, and the result will be sufficiently successful for the committee to again favour us with a specimen of their musical abilities. The fact that that universal favourite, Master Willie Arcough, of Newcastle, is announced to sing, is sufficient to warrant a large attendance. I intend to be present, and next week shall be in a position to give my readers my experience.

I see that the Medomsley Floral and Horticultural Society intend to let similar local societies know that they have appropriated August 30th as the date for this year's exhibition. If the show is only as successful as it was last year the committee will be thoroughly satisfied—and so they ought to be.

Although it is rather early in the year to talk about cricket, some notes in your last issue concerning the noble game reminded me of a rumour that has reached me which I sincerely hope is incorrect. It is to the effect that the Medomsley Cricket Club will cease to exist this season. Now this is a calamity which is much to be dreaded, as in the summer months cricket is about the only amusement our young men take part in. If the cause of this rumour is a financial difficulty, I think it is only right that the leading men of the district should take care that it is removed. Medomsley has always been noted as having one of the best purely local elevens between here and Newcastle, and it would be a thousand pities if the club were allowed to drop out of existence. Not only does it provide recreation for its numerous members, but it is a source of gratification to hundreds of sightseers on Saturday afternoons when the club is playing a home fixture. As I said before, it is only a rumour, and I doubt not that as of yore, our local club will be seen, when the season comes, offering a stubborn resistance to the strongest of foes. I look to you, Messieurs Milburn and Thompson, to see that my prophecy turns out trumps.

I observe that in many places the rise of prices by the barbers—I beg pardon, "tonsorial artists"—has caused much heart-burning and discussion. I think it is only fair that the "tonsorial artists" should have a slight rise, and surely none but the most niggardly will refuse the small increase asked for. I am happy to say that the question does not trouble us in this district, as we have been paying the price now demanded for some time, and are perfectly satisfied. Eh, W——?

THE ELECTION OF GUARDIANS.

LANCHESTER UNION.

The time is drawing nigh when the triennial election of Guardians will take place in the Lanchester Union, the townships affected this year by the operation of this system being Conside and Knitsley, Benfieldside, Medomsley, Ebchester, Iveston, Muggleswick, and Healeyfield. It will be in the recollection of our readers that at the last annual vestry meeting, a resolution was unanimously adopted for appealing to the Local Government Board for a third Guardian for Consett. The Lanchester Board supported the petition, which ultimately received the sanction of the Imperial Authority. It is quite probable that nothing further has been done towards securing a suitable colleague to Messrs J. Collinson and T. Siddell—for as a matter of fact these old and faithful servants of the ratepayers will be re-appointed without the trouble and expense of a contest. In glancing round, it is rather a difficult task to fix upon a gentleman who possesses the necessary qualifications to fill that position. The most suitable appear to be Mr J. W. Davison, Mr W. Aynsley, Mr T. R Dolphin, or Mr Jesse Hall. For Iveston township, Rev Canon Kearney intends to resign, and it seems highly probable that Mr W. Brown will not seek re-election, as he is at present in a very weak state of health. Councillor G. Nicholson would very efficiently fill one of these vacancies, and if another Guardian was needed, Mr W. Aynsley, of Consett, seems to be the person to step in. Unless some unforeseen circumstances crop up within the next few weeks, contests will almost assuredly be averted in the undermentioned parishes, where the sitting Guardians have given a good account of their stewardship:—Benfieldside—Messrs J. Lax and R. Murray; Healeyfield—Mr T. J. Muss; Medomsley—Rev W. Cockin and Mr W. H. Hedley; Muggleswick—Mr Robt. Robson; and Ebchester—Mr C. D. W. Baileny. There is some talk of Mr Hy. Cass putting up for Benfieldside. Of course, the election may not be settled in the manner outlined above, but we merely throw out a few hints, so that when the time comes round, the ratepayers will not be altogether unprepared for the changes that may arise, and may be enabled to shuffle the cards so that the best and ablest men occupy the right places.

THE WEEK.

THE YEAR'S DRINK BILL.

The statistics which have recently been published on the drink bill of the United Kingdom are disappointing to those who are interested in the temperance cause. From them we ascertain that the consumption of wine, beer, and spirits in 1889 is higher by seven and a half millions than it was in 1888. In the latter year the grand total amounted to £124,615,346, as compared with £132,213,276 in the preceding year. It is necessary to go back as far as 1878 to find so large a consumption, but then it amounted to £142,000,000. Out of this discouraging assortment of figures only one gleam of consolation is to be derived, and that is that the average consumption for the past decade is something like ten millions annually less than it was for the preceding decade. It must be remembered, too, that the sudden rise of last year is doubtless due to the revival of trade, though it is somewhat cold comfort to reflect that we can only remain a sober nation when we are a poor one. Dr. Dawson Burns supplies some interesting figures on the subject. "During 1888," he writes, "the payments into postal savings banks were £20,385,064, and into other savings banks £9,640,544, a total of £30,025,608; and the total capital in each class of savings banks at the end of 1888 was respectively £58,556,394 and £44,612,581, a total of £103,168,975. So that in 1889 the drink expenditure was more than four times the aggregate payments into all the savings banks, and nearly one-third more than the capital in all such banks at the end of 1888.' What we should like to know, however, is the proportion of savings in 1889 in comparison with the extra amount of drink. If the rise were anything like equivalent to all, except the most fanatical teetotalers, the prospect would seem distinctly less gloomy. As it is, in view of the immense energy which the various temperance societies have during the past few years displayed, and the good work they have done, it is very discouraging to find that we are retrograding rather than progressing. The sooner that Government realises that fact, and affords some substantial help to private efforts, the better will it be for the sobriety of the nation. Education is and should be the most powerful factor in creating a spirit of self-restraint; but we cannot afford to forget the truth that the opportunity to do ill deeds makes ill deeds done.

SELF-CULTURE.

Sir John Lubbock, like the late Lord Iddesleigh, is perhaps happier in his efforts when he is speaking on some social or literary topic than when he devotes himself to the mere polemics of party politics. Long after his fame as a politician has died away Lord Iddesleigh will probably be remembered by the ideal address which he once delivered on "Nothing." Sir John Lubbock's lecture on "Working men and Self Culture," delivered on the occasion of the opening of a new library at Bromley can hardly be placed on the same level as a literary effort with the celebrated address of Lord Iddesleigh. But it deserves to rank very high, and is a most welcome relief from the eternal Irish question which has seized upon all our public men with a grip as persistent and universal as the influenza. Sir John Lubbock, as is usual with him, went to the point directly when he remarked that the true danger to culture in the highest sense of the term is the monotony attendant on the civilisation of to-day. As Sir John remarked, the life of a toiler in a civilised country is terribly tame. But just as the savage has a less monotonous life than the civilised man, so among civilised men the dweller in the country has a great advantage over the dweller in towns. Sir John Lubbock does not share the contempt with which some people are apt to regard the agricultural labourer's life. "He ploughs and sows, mows and reaps. He plants at one season, and uses the billhook and the axe at another. He looks after the sheep and pigs and cows. To lay a fence or tie up a sheaf is by no means so easy as it looks." With so many different employments a man at least does not degenerate into a machine. But with the mechanic or artisan it is otherwise. His occupation is too often merely mechanical, and we cordially agree with Sir John that his only salvation—the only means by which he can avert degradation—is by keeping his mind alive with constant reading. There is no greater boon than a free library.

MR. MONTAGU WILLIAMS'S "LEAVES."

These are the days of "Reminiscences." Every public man has his eye on a publisher, and when he has compiled sufficient matter, out come the inevitable two volumes. It seems to be the rule, indeed, to start a memorandum book as soon as one leaves school, and to jot down all the stories about one's contemporaries as the events occur. That Mr. Montagu Williams has turned this habit to excellent purpose is evident in his "Leaves of a Life" which Messrs. Macmillan have just published. Mr. Williams has had a varied career. He has been schoolmaster, soldier, actor, barrister, and police magistrate. When he was compelled to leave the Bar in 1886 by an attack of cancer in the throat which nearly cost him his life, he was the foremost advocate of the time in criminal cases. As he says, he has defended more prisoners than any man living. The defence of criminals is not always conducive to the public weal, but, fortunately for London, Mr. Williams was made a metropolitan police magistrate, and he has discharged his duties with such admirable judgment that he bids fair to leave behind him one of the highest reputations on the magisterial bench. As for his reminiscences, they suffer somewhat from the necessities of padding. The choice of material is not always happy, and there are too many pages about reports of law cases which have no interest now for the general reader. But a great deal of excellent matter remains, and many of Mr. Williams's stories, which are made all the more attractive by the unaffected style of narration, are likely to be handed on for more than a generation. Perhaps the moral effect of some of them is not calculated to increase our respect for juries. Without intention, probably, Mr. Williams succeeds in throwing a pretty strong light on the fallibility of the jury as an instrument of justice. He has a good deal to say about cases in which verdicts were won by the art of the advocate, against the weight of the evidence. Anyone who wished to frame an indictment against the jury system would make liberal use of Mr. Williams's "Leaves." As the fruit of his experience at the Bar and on the Bench, Mr. Williams frankly declares that the metropolitan police, as a detective force, are practically useless. This opinion demands the serious attention of Parliament.

Football.

ASSOCIATION.

Mickley 2nd and Tindale played a draw.

Ouston Mixed beat Birtley Mixed, at Ouston, by one goal to nil.

Causey Arch Juniors and Streetgate Juniors met on the former's ground, the home team winning by two goals to one.

Catchgate Albion 2nd played Stanley, at Stanley, the visitors being victorious by three goals to one.

Catchgate Albion beat Whickham, on the ground of the former, by nine goals to one.

Tow Law defeated Cockfield Harriers, at Tow Law, by four goals to nothing.

Causey Arch Stars and Tanfield Excelsiors met on the ground of the former, the home team winning by two goals to one.

LEADGATE EXILES v BLAYDON ALBION.—Played at Leadgate, and after a pleasant game the Exiles won by four goals to two.

LEADGATE EXILES RESERVE v BRANDON.—These teams met on the ground of the former, when the Exiles won by two goals to one.

DIPTON WANDERERS 2ND v BRUNSWICK 2ND.—Played at Dipton, and resulted in a draw of three goals each.

CONSETT ALBION v DERWENT COTTAGES RANGERS—Played at Derwent Cottages, and resulted in a win for the Albion by one goal to nil.

CORBRIDGE v STOCKSFIELD.—Played at Corbridge, and after a good game resulted in a victory for the home team by two goals to one.

MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE v STANHOPE.—Played at Middleton, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team by five goals to nil.

TANFIELD YOUNG EXCELSIOR v SHIELD ROW WANDERERS.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a pleasant game ended in a win for the Excelsior by two goals to nil.

HALTWHISTLE v WEST WYLAM HARRIERS.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the Harriers by five goals to one. The visitors were entertained to tea, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

STANLEY TRUE BLUES 2ND v LINTZ ROVERS.—Played on the ground of the latter, and after an unsatisfactory game resulted in a draw, neither team scoring. J. Nicholson played an excellent game in goal for Stanley.

SOUTH MOOR ALBION v STANLEY TRUE BLUES.—Played on the ground of the former. Directly after the start W. Brydon registered the first goal for the True Blues. The Stanley forwards played an excellent game, and J. Harrison was conspicuous at half-back. The final score was:—Stanley, five goals South Moor nil.

CONSETT RUGBY 2ND v CONSETT ASSOCIATION A TEAM.—An Association game was played between these clubs on the ground of the former, at Benfieldside. The Rugbyites had the best of matters all through the game, and ultimately won by five goals to nil. For the Rugby club, J. Brown, Atkinson, and Taylor played in splendid form, while for the Association team, Swan and Calligham appeared most conspicuous.

LEADGATE EXILES v NEWCASTLE CO-OPERATIVE.—Played at Leadgate on Wednesday, and resulted in a draw of one goal each. The game from start to finish was of a most friendly description, both spectators and players enjoying themselves alike. After the match the teams adjourned to the Bradley Arms, where a special tea was provided, and gave the utmost satisfaction, reflecting great credit on the host and hostess. The following were the teams:—Newcastle Co-operative—Goal, Mallighan; backs, Quinn and Finlay; half-backs, Wilde, Spoors, and Jones; forwards, Pyke and Kirton, right wing; Owen (capt.), centre; Newton and Bond, left wing. Umpire, Mr J. Hagan. Exiles—Goal, J. O'Neale; backs, J. McGuire and J. Monaghan; half-backs, P. Hughes, J. Costello, and W. Costello (capt.); forwards, Geo. Walton and C. Reilly, right wing; P. Quinn, centre; J. Tuson and W. Walker, left wing. Umpire, Mr J. Toner.

CHESTER-LE-STREET WANDERERS v TANFIELD LEA.—The latter club journeyed to Chester-le-Street to play their fixture with the Wanderers, and the game was played in periods of two thirty-fives. Tanfield Lea won the toss, and played with the sun to their backs. The home team kicked off, and Tanfield Lea's forwards secured the ball, and by a bit of neat passing, soon made the home custodian handle, which he did in nice style, but the ball was quickly returned, and it was soon seen who had the best of the game, for Tanfield Lea attacked furiously, and shot after shot was sent in, but the home backs defended in grand style (notably Carr, of Edmondsley club), but the visitors kept swarming around the home goal, and hands was claimed close in goal, and allowed. Smith took the kick, and passed to Holmes, who sent in a stinger, hitting the crossbar, and rebounding into play. Smith rushed in, and headed the ball through making the first goal for the visitors, after twenty minutes' play. The ball was sent rolling again, and the home team waking up, Sewell (also of Edmondsley club, playing on the right wing) had a nice run to the visitors' goal, and sent in a nice shot, which was easily kicked away. The home half-backs tackling well gave the visitors' backs some trouble, but Milburn relieved by a huge kick, and Tanfield's forwards changed the scene for a few minutes, Smith sending a few hot shots in, as did Milburn and Morton, but which were well saved by the home goalkeeper at the expense of two or three corners in quick succession, but nothing resulted till a corner was obtained off Carr. Smith sent the ball in, but it was fisted out to Hall, who headed the second goal for the visitors just a few minutes before half-time. Play was of a give-and-take nature, and half-time found the ball in mid-field, and the score standing—

Tanfield Lea	Two goals
Chester-le-Street	Nil

On resuming, the game became very exciting and fast, the home team playing well in the visitors' ground, but were kept at bay by the half-backs, Hall, Davison, and Wood playing a grand game. The home team obtained a few corners, but were too weak in goal for being dangerous, and the game was very even from now, each goal being attacked in turn, but when time was called, the score was still—

Tanfield Lea	Two goals
Chester-le-Street	Nil

DURHAM ASSOCIATION CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

LEADGATE PARK v SUNDERLAND ALBION.—The Albion, the holders of the Durham Cup, paid Leadgate to scratch in the tie, and will now lose their opportunity of playing in the next round, having been suspended by the English Association. At the request of the Albion, Leadgate Park travelled to Sunderland to play a special friendly game with Sunderland Albion Reserve. The Park were minus the services of their usual goalkeeper and centre half-back. The game was played in two forty-fives, and was witnessed by about 3,000 spectators. Campbell commenced the game, and the ball was carried down by the visitors' left wing; Brown shot, the ball striking the upright and rebounding into play, and Lawson sent well up the field, but Snowdon returned. Burnhope securing passed to Robson, who centred, but Campbell sent over the bar. From the goal-kick the Albionites made a combined rush, and had a look in. Jackson headed out, but Stewart securing sent in a shot which Day only partially stopped, the ball rolling through. Sunderland now fairly bombarded the goal, and for about ten minutes play was at the Park end. During that time Sunderland registered other three points, and half-time found the score—

Sunderland Albion	Four goals
Leadgate Park	Nil

Sharp re-started, and Reyner returning Campbell secured, and with a well-combined run the Park forwards made for the Sunderland fortress, but the splendid defence of Henderson evaded all chances of scoring. After a few minutes' defensive play on the part of the Park, Burnhope broke away, and passing halves and backs shot for goal; Henderson fisted out, but Hunter securing banged it through, scoring the first and only goal for the Park. During the remainder of this half the Albion added four more goals to their score, and at the call of time the final score stood—

Sunderland Albion Reserve	Eight goals
Leadgate Park	One goal

The combination of the Park forwards was splendid, they playing the best combined game they have done this season, but owing to their inaccurate shooting, and the good defence of Henderson and his two supporters, they failed to equalise. No comments need be made respecting the Albion team, as every man played a sterling game. The spectators showed no partiality whatever, repeatedly cheering the respective teams, which were as follows:—Leadgate Park—Goal, J. Day; backs, F. Jackson (capt.) and J. Anderson; half-backs, S. Reyner, J. Snowdon, and J. Haggerstone; forwards, J. Robson and A. Burnhope, right wing; T. Campbell, centre; J. Hunter and J. Brown, left wing. Umpire, Mr Wm. Johns. Sunderland Albion—Goal, Henderson; backs, Munday and Lawson; half-backs, Jackson, Richardson, and Reavley; forwards, Stewart and Miller, right wing; Sharpe, centre; Grainger and Hall, left wing. Umpire, Mr J. Allan.

NORTHUMBERLAND MINOR COMPETITION.

MICKLEY v ALNWICK.—These two teams met on the ground of the former, before an enthusiastic number of spectators. The home team pressed strongly, and had very hard lines. Duns, the ex-county player, defended in brilliant style. A very fast game resulted in a win for Mickley by two goals to one.

RUGBY.

North Durham 3rd beat Greenside (Ryton) by three goals and one try to two goals and one try.

JOTTINGS.

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

Leadgate Park has been obliged to form a third team. All dates vacant. The secretary would like to hear from other clubs that have any vacant dates.—Address A. Graham, St. Ives Road, Leadgate

Dipton Wanderers 1st received notice on Saturday morning that Brunswick 1st could not raise a team, and were thus disappointed of any match on Saturday.

At the usual meeting of the Medomsley Debating Society, last week, Mr W. G. Thompson (hon. sec. of Medomsley Cricket and Football Clubs) read a most interesting and carefully-compiled paper on "Football." An animated debate followed.

"Captain" writes in the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*:—On Wednesday, the Co-operatives journey to Leadgate to meet the Exiles there. I have often heard of the hospitality extended to visitors, and I am exceedingly sorry, owing to the Press and Pantomime sports, that I will be unable to take advantage of the generous invitation given me by Mr McCurley, the energetic secretary of the Exiles, to visit them tomorrow in company with the Co-operative team. However, on some future occasion I will make it my duty to give them a call. The Exiles, and also the Co-operative team, are doing their best for the furtherance of football, and they deserve all the encouragement they may receive at my hands, and also from any others.

Consett Rugby did not play Benwell on Saturday, as the latter once-famous team has collapsed.

CATCHGATE ALBION v. STANLEY (WEDNESDAY TEAMS).

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Kindly allow me, through your columns, to say a few words about the players which Catchgate Albion referred to in last week's *Guardian*, regarding the Stanley Wednesday team. They say they journeyed to Stanley to play their game, and on arriving found that only four of the men they expected to play turned up. This is not a fact, because when I arranged the game I distinctly told them that we were not able to raise a team, and that we were bound to pick from other teams, and so that was the team which is picked to represent Stanley on Wednesdays. But we did not pick from all the clubs they named in your columns. Your correspondent goes on to say: "However, not wishing to be disappointed of a game they consented to play." I do not understand the meaning of consented. Do they want to make the public believe that they were not willing to play our team when they saw them on the field? No; the reason is this, that they brought nearly all their first eleven, and not their Wednesday team, and they thought they could hold their own against the team which we had on the field; but they were sadly disappointed after the game, seeing that they were defeated by four goals to nil, and not one disputed, as they stated in the paper. I would like to see Catchgate team be more civil on the field, and not use the language which they do, and not try to mislead the public again.—Yours, &c.,

T. M.

Stanley, Feb. 11th, 1890.

Cricket.

The members of the Tanfield Temperance C. C. wish to arrange matches for the ensuing season, ages averaging 18 years. Clubs will oblige by sending their dates to G. Murgeson, secretary.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT C. C.—A commencement has been made with laying out the new ground for this club, in a field near the Station Hotel, Benfieldside, which has been acquired from Mr Wm. Turner, on a lease of ten years, with the promise of a renewal at the expiration of that period. The contractor is Mr Smith, of Newcastle.

WEST PELTON VIOLETS C.C.—This club have the following vacant dates:—At home, April 19th, May 17th, June 28th, July 26th, August 9th, and Sept. 6th. From home, May 24th, July 19th, August 30th, and September 13th, and would like to have them filled up with teams between 17 and 20 years of age. Secretary's address, James Lee, Grange Villa, Chester-le-Street.

WOLSINGHAM COUNTY COURT.

Saturday, Feb. 8th.—Before His Honour E. J. Meynell, judge.

IMPORTANT TO BREWERS AND INNKEEPERS: "RACKED" ALE.

CAMERON v. RUTTER.—Messrs Cameron and Co., of South Church, Bishop Auckland, brewers, sued Robert Rutter, innkeeper, for £3, the price of one-and-a-half barrels of "racked" ale supplied to defendant for Wolsingham Agricultural Show. Mr J. T. Proud (Bishop Auckland) represented plaintiffs, and Mr R. G. Wooler (Wolsingham) appeared for defendant.—Mr Walter Scott said he was a partner in Cameron & Co., and defendant came to their brewery about the middle of August last, and said he would require four or five barrels of "racked" ale for Wolsingham Agricultural Show, at which he had the refreshment tent. Witness endeavoured to persuade defendant not to get the beer "racked," and remarked that his experience proved that such beer was unsatisfactory, both in the interests of the innkeeper and consumer. Mr Scott, in proof of that statement, instanced a case at Crook Show, where the innkeeper was supplied with beer by them in the ordinary way, and it was sold out, whilst a neighbouring innkeeper, who had "racked" beer, was unable to sell his. In the face of this, defendant sent a written order on Sept. 3rd for four barrels of bitter, and one of mild, all to be "racked," and the order was executed with promptness, save that plaintiffs sent one barrel short, thinking the number ordered could not be got through at the show. After the show defendant wished plaintiffs to take one-and-a-half barrels back, but this plaintiffs refused to do. No complaint was made about the quality at the time, but when defendant found that plaintiffs were determined not to take the beer back, he complained that the quality was bad. Defendant was supplied with four barrels for the house at the same time, and all of it had been consumed without a word of complaint. Witness sent less than the quantity ordered because—representing 3,000 gallons—he thought that was more than would be required.—Mr Welch, plaintiffs' traveller, corroborated.—The cellarman deposed that he "racked" the ale, and that it was in good condition. It was expressly sent at defendant's own risk.—Mr Wooler put in an admitted receipt showing settlement for £23, without reference to or mention of any balance; and to questions, Mr Scott said the books would have been brought had it been known that the receipt would not have shown a balance due. He had never heard of the account being disputed. Defendant's pass-book would show the balance due.—Mr Wooler: We contend this receipt was one in full.—Judge: It is not said to be a receipt in full.—Defendant, on being called, said he did not owe the money; but on being questioned by Mr Proud, he declined to swear that the balance had been paid. He also admitted that plaintiff advised him not to have the beer "racked."—Other witnesses were called for defendant, who said the beer was "clouded and flat."—His Honour said he was satisfied the amount had not been paid, and if defendant declined to take good advice, and insisted on having "racked" beer, he must pay for it. Plaintiffs could not be expected to take it back. He therefore found for plaintiff for the amount claimed, with costs.

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By-the-Way Items.

ANGLING IN THE WEAR.—Mr John Hogarth, Stanhope, killed 25 trout on Tuesday week, with worm fishing in the Wear at Stanhope. Mr William Tweddle killed 21 on Monday. The fish were in prime condition.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT THE SPEN.—The pigeon shooting match between W. Bragg, Blackhall Mill, and T. Spears, The Spen, who were matched to shoot at 15 pigeons each with 1¼oz of shot, and the use of one barrel for £15 a-side, was shot off on Saturday, near the house of Mr R. Browell, The Spen. There was a good muster of spectators. Bragg proved to be the winner at the 13th shot. A. Smith, Winlaton trapped for the winner, and W. Stewart, Sunderland, for the loser. Mr R. Lockey, Blaydon, acted as referee. Scores:—Bragg, 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 1—8 in 13; Spears, 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0—4 in 13.

CHESTER-LE-STREET ROWING CLUB.—The members of this club held a successful smoking concert at their Club Room, Crown Inn, Chester-le-Street, on Friday night. There was a large attendance of members and friends, and a capital entertainment was provided. Mr James Curry, captain of the club, presided, and during the evening, presented Mrs McLean, the hostess, with a handsome silver cruet, which had been subscribed for by a few members of the club, as a token of respect, and as some slight recognition of her kindness and assistance to the club. The cruet was inscribed:—"Presented to Mrs McLean by a few members of the Chester-le-Street Rowing Club, February, 1890." During the evening, Mr Winn gave several solos on the violin, and songs were sung by Messrs O'Connor, Atkinson, Dawson, Gladstone, Curry, and others. Mr Richard Finlay presided at the piano.

SPARROW SHOOTING AT BLAYDON.—A sparrow shooting handicap, promoted by J. Tilley, at the house of Mr John Bowey, Railway Inn, Blaydon, was shot off on Saturday, in the presence of a fair number of spectators. The birds were of splendid quality. At the third round, the four shooters having three birds each down, agreed to divide viz.:—Bridge End, 18; Felton Lonnen, 18; J. Robson, 18; Cobbler Bob, 18. W. Crone was trapper, and J. Pickering, referee.

BLAYDON RACES.—The committee of Blaydon races held a meeting on Friday evening, at the Douglas Hotel, Blaydon, for the purpose of making preliminary arrangements for the meeting to be held on Whit-Monday. The total value of the stakes to be run for was increased by £35, bringing the full sum up to £200. There will be six events, as follows:—Stella Stakes: winner £20, second, £5, third, £2 10s; Townely Stakes: winner, £30, second, £5, third, £2 10s; Licensed Victualers' Stakes: winner, £20, second, £5, third, £3; Braes of Derwent Hunt Cup: winner, cup value £20, second, £5, third, £3; Blaydon Stakes: winner, £50, second, £7, third, £3; Ladies' Plate (for beaten horses): winner, £12, second, £5, third, £2.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE FOOT HARRIERS.

These hounds continue to give the very best of sport, as the number of hills in difficult country goes to prove. The popular and genial-master, Mr J. A. K. Falconer having been ill for several weeks, the duty of hunting the pack has devolved on the kennel huntsman, John Orrock, and the whips, Messrs Lewis Priestman, and W. Wilson, who have been able to do the needful. On Saturday week, the meet was at Mosswood, and they had a very good day indeed, killing two hares, the first in 45 minutes and the second in two hours. Considering the heavy going, and with the sheep and young plantation to contend with this was very meritorious work. The first hare was given to Mr Anderson, farmer. There was a good number of people present who seemed to enjoy the run thoroughly. On Wednesday, the meet was at Grey Mare Hill where the assembled sportsmen were destined to see one of the best hunts of the season. They were not long in finding a good hare which gave them a stiff run, being finally killed and broken up before the huntsmen could reach the dogs after 50 minutes' warm work. They then tried the Hong Plantation behind Highfield, where they found her line lay principally round by Fotherley, Fairle, Grey Mare Hill, Black House Plantation, and Hong Plantation. For two and three quarter hours she took them at a good pace over this ground, being killed behind Whittonstall, and given to Mrs Cowan, the tenant of Grey Mare Hill. Those out could not have wished for a better day, and all returned home thoroughly satisfied with their day's pleasure.

Trade Notes.

THE WEARDALE MINES.—These lead mines, which are being actively developed, show substantial signs of richness. An excellent "find" is reported from Killhope Mine, yielding phenomenal quantities of ore. The Sedling Vein is being fitted with plant for early increased working; while the Rispy (Rookhope) Crushing Mill, railway, and locomotive, is so far completed as to be nearly ready for commencing work.

DURHAM MINERS AND THE WAGES QUESTION.—The ballot papers has again been issued by the Hamsteels Lodge upon the 15 per cent. question, which resulted as follows:—

For strike	235
No strike	35
Majority	200

CONSETT WATERWORKS COMPANY.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Consett Waterworks Company took place on Wednesday afternoon, at the head offices at Consett. Mr J. Burdon, of Durham (the chairman of the board of directors), occupied the chair, and there was a very large attendance of shareholders over twenty being present.—The following report of the Directors was presented:—

"Your directors have pleasure in submitting a statement of accounts made up to December 31st, 1889, examined and certified by the auditors, Mr J. Heaton and Mr J. R. Coates, and by Messrs T. C. Squance and Sons, chartered accountants. Your directors are glad to report an increase of revenue, the receipts from mechanical rentals being £540 8s 4d, and from domestic rentals £298 17s 9d in excess of the corresponding period of last year. After payment of interest on bonds, income tax, and management expenses, there remains an undivided profit of £5,809 1s 8d, out of which your directors recommend the payment on the 17th Feb. next of a dividend, clear of income tax, at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, at the bank of Messrs Backhouse and Company, Durham, which will absorb £5,296 5s 2d; that £500 be placed to the reserve fund, and that the balance of £12 16s 6d be carried forward to the next half-year's account. Your directors have pleasure in stating that the suit against Mr Ritson is now finally settled, and the expenses connected with it have been paid since the close of the half-year's account.

"Mr Askwith, the company's engineer, reports that the extension of the mains in Edmondsley and Waldridge Colliery, referred to in the last report, has been completed, and water laid on to the houses. Several small extensions of service pipes have also been carried out. The works of the company have been efficiently maintained during the past half-year, and are in good order.

"Signed,

"JOHN BURDON, Chairman.
"WILLIAM BOYD, Vice-Chairman.
"WILLIAM WILES, Secretary."

The revenue account shows that the total income for the year was £8,094 6s, which was made up as follows:—Mechanical water rents, meter rents, &c., £5,139 5s 6d; domestic water rents, £2,932 16s 6d; rents, £13 9s; transfer fees, £7 15s. The expenditure had only amounted to £1,399 15s 11d, the principal item being wages, £381 15s 2d; repairs, £228 0s 7d; salaries and collector's commission, £289 7s 5d; rent of springs, wayleaves, &c., £31 2s; directors' fees, £164 6s 6d; auditor's fee, £3 3s; rates and taxes, £156 12s 2d; printing, stationery, &c., £35 15s 5d; general charges, £99 13s 8d; banker's commission, £10, leaving a balance to be carried to the profit and loss account, of £6,693 10s 1d.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, referred to the rapid progress made by the company during the past five years, and mentioned that the last twelve months the additional houses supplied by water by the company numbered 1,200. They were in a very prosperous condition, and there was every prospect that this state of things would continue. He also referred to the long pending suit of the Water Company against Mr U. A. Ritson for alleged damage to the Loud reservoir at Annfield Plain by the colliery workings, and announced that the case had been finally settled, each party paying its own costs. After each side had expended a considerable sum in legal proceedings, the action remained exactly where it commenced.—Mr Boyd seconded the adoption of the report, which was agreed to *nem con.*—On the motion of Mr William Aynsley, and seconded by Mr W. Keenleyside, a dividend of 6½ per cent was unanimously declared.—Several of the shareholders expressed an opinion that the able and energetic secretary (Mr W. Wiles) was worthy of an increase of salary, and after discussing the matter, a resolution was passed instructing the Directors to advance his remuneration and to determine the amount at the next meeting.—On the proposal of Mr Hood Henderson, seconded by Mr W. Aynsley, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Directors at the conclusion of the successful meeting.

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LECTURE AT CONSETT.

Last (Thursday) night, Rev J. ... Wesleyan supply, Consett, delivered ... and interesting lecture on "Street life" in the Gibson Street Schools. There was a large audience, and the lecture was illustrated by lime-light views. The proceedings began with the whole audience singing "Stand up for Jesus," which was followed by prayer.

The LECTURER spoke of the difference between coloured and plain pictures, and thought that a plain picture taught them most of people they met in the street. Pope has said that "The proper study of mankind was man," and though he did not say anything about woman—(laughter)—they would study woman too. (Hear.) A picture showing the bellman announcing the lecture was the first view. Then followed what is a common sight in colliery villages—the knocker-up. They were told about the duties of the milkman, sweep, butcher, and newspaper boy, the lecturer telling a story of a small boy caught stealing a newspaper. "Why don't your father take a paper?" said the captor, to which the youngster replied, "Because he sends me to take it." (Laughter.) When the view of a cabman was on the screen, the lecturer depicted the jealousy which existed between the drivers of hansom cabs and ordinary four-wheelers. One day when two of these opponents were stuck on London Bridge, the driver of the "growler" shouted "What are things like up there?" "A dreadful smell from the slums," was the cutting reply. The "growler" noticing that the gentleman riding in the hansom was reading our leading newspaper, retorted "You need not be so cocky, for you are much behind the times." (Laughter.) At Herat, they did not buy fruit as in England, for there man went into an orchard to get the fruit from the tree. He was weighed when he went in, and again when he came out, and had to pay for the difference in his weight. (Laughter.) While a mason was working at a place in Scotland, he whistled the "Blue bells of Scotland," which he kept with his cutting. His master who overheard him suggested that he should whistle a more solemn tune, and the mason changed to "The Dead March in *Saul*." The view of a German band was heartily applauded, and the lecturer told some witty stories on the experiences of the bearers of this kind of music. As they looked at the blind scripture-reader, the lecturer told of a man who had a board on him, on which were the words—"I am blind." A gentleman to try him threw a shilling on the ground and the "blind" man at once picked it up. "I thought you were blind," said the gentleman. "I'm blest if they haven't put a wrong board on me this morning," said the beggar, "I'm deaf and dumb." (Laughter and applause.) He thought they could learn a great deal from the street, and it had been the practice of great men to learn something from everyone they met. The singing of "Hold the fort" brought an enjoyable gathering to a close.

THE FILEY FISHERMEN AT CONSETT.

Last (Thursday) night, the Filey Fishermen inaugurated a series of special services which they intend conducting in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Consett, this week end. Four of their number have been travelling throughout the North country for some weeks past, endeavouring during the winter season to follow the counsel of their Lord and Master, and become, in the true sense of that word, "Fishers of men." Their fame is generally known as earnest and soul-stirring evangelists, and while they are not gifted with the flow of rhetoric and eloquence possessed by some eminent and learned divines, they preach the sterling truths of the gospel in a simple and homely way, which cannot fail to do incalculable good in the extension of Christ's vineyard. Three of the party came to Consett from Darlington, one of their number having had to return to his perilous calling at Filey. The chapel was well filled, and the fishermen in turn gave touching gospel addresses, and effectively sang during the course of the evening, "Breakers ahead," and "There is room at the cross." Mr T. Jones, accompanying on the organ. This (Friday) evening, the fishermen (who are attired in their seafaring costumes) will render the pathetic service of song entitled, "Tempest toss'd." There is no service on Saturday night, but on Sunday, morning and evening, they will deliver gospel addresses, while in the afternoon another service of song, called "Perils of the ocean" will be given. The choir will assist at these services. The proceeds will be applied to the chapel trust funds.

UNIFORM CLOSING OF PUBLIC-HOUSES.

IMPORTANT POINT AT LANCHESTER.

Yesterday (Thursday), at the Lanchester Police Court, during the hearing of a licensing application, Mr Geo. G. Taylor-Smith, J.P., requested Supt. Oliver to remind him, at the next general annual Brewster Sessions, if some arrangement could not be arrived at for the simultaneous closing of public-houses. The present system, he said, was rather confusing. In some places, the houses were closed at 10 o'clock, while in other districts, they were not shut up till 11 p.m. It would be more satisfactory, he thought, if all the public-houses uniformly closed at 11 o'clock.—Supt. Oliver explained that, shortly after the passing of the Licensing Act of 1872, the justices arranged the time for closing the public-houses in the various districts. Of course, in rural parishes, the houses had to be closed at 10 p.m., while in towns and large villages they were permitted to remain open an hour later.—Mr T. W. Welford remarked that the Magistrates could not override the Act which enacted that in county places the public-houses should be shut up at 10, and in towns at 11 o'clock.—Mr Taylor-Smith: What is a populous place then?—Supt. Oliver: I believe that any town or village containing over 2,000 inhabitants, is regarded by the Act as a populous district.—Mr Welford: It means that while there's a population of three-and-a-half millions, the licensed houses need not closed till half-past twelve. (Laughter).—The subject is to be brought forward at the ensuing licensing sessions.

WESTGATE.—Councillor Lingford, Bishop Auckland, has sent £5 to Mr Joseph Lee for the Westgate Wesleyan Chapel Building Fund.

THE INFLUENZA. — The influenza has now reached the breezy uplands of Upper Weardale, and is very prevalent at St. John's Chapel and neighbourhood, while at Stanhope, Frosterley, and Wolsingham it still rages with unabated severity. Few have escaped either a slight or a severe touch of it. At Stanhope children have escaped much better than they are doing further up the dale.

TRAP ACCIDENT.—Two Stanhope men—Mes Askew and Fairless—in returning from Middleton-in-Teesdale, on Sunday night, missed their road with horse and trap and arrived at the lead ore working place of Cala where the trap was broken and the occupants much bruised. They spent the night in the wine shop, and at daylight set off home with the horse and despatched a cartman for the broken vehicle.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Weardale Branch of the National Union of Teachers was held at Frosterley on Saturday afternoon. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr J. Rushton, Board School, St John's Chapel; vice-president, Mr J. S. Freeman, Board School, Westgate; secretary, Mr J. A. Mason, Barrington School, Stanhope. Mr Rushton, on taking the chair, gave an address on current educational topics.

Mr. Fitzgerald, president of the National League in America, has issued an address to the members asking for contributions to aid another effort for Irish freedom. "A general election in Great Britain is," he says, "impending, and two years at most—possibly two months—will bring us face to face with the crisis."

John Wallis, a member of a Nottingham Friendly Society, was seen entering two shops and buying food whilst receiving sick pay from the society, whose rules provided that a member must not transact business whilst on the sick fund. Wallis, being expelled from the society, applied to Mr. Justice Kekewich, who has now ordered his reinstatement, on the ground that he had not broken the society's rules.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[BY "EXPRESS."]

The footpaths of the village and of several of the highways have received — not before time — a precious covering of chippings. For some time the thoroughfare around about this district have been in a disgraceful condition, and one would have thought that there was no authority in operation to keep them in repair. We cannot express the gratification felt by those who have to traverse these particular footpaths in the darkness. One can now rely upon having a sure footing as they move along; but previously it was an impossibility. This is one boon that has been conferred upon the district; but there is room for many more.

While speaking of footpaths, my attention has been called to that renowned one of all—I mean "Tommy's Lonnen," which is still in a delapidated condition. The Highway Board do not treat this road the same way as the others. In the darkness it is very near impossible to get to South Moor, and if you do venture, you are running a great risk. What about the representative for the district on the Board—has he used his influence in the matter? I trust that he will see that it is put into a decent condition fit for the people to walk upon.

I notice that the owners of the Louisa Colliery at the present time are busily engaged in erecting a new iron heap stead. It will be a great improvement when completed, and will benefit the working of the colliery immensely.

Building operations still keep progressing in this village. The Co-operative Society have erected a fine sample of workmen's houses, and many other property owners are following their example. It is a pity that building sites should be so scarce, because houses are in great demand at the present time.

The Morrison Colliery, situate on the road to Lanchester, and belonging to the Messrs Hedley, is about to be re-commenced. A large number of men will again be employed shortly. This move on the part of the Company will be welcomed by many of the hands which were formerley employed at this colliery.

I am glad to learn that Mr Wm. E. Darney, assistant to Mr Joseph Robinson, the Stanley chemist, has successfully passed his preliminary pharmaceutical examination, held at Newcastle, on the 14th ult. This young man is to be congratulated for the steady progress he has made since he entered the business.

Mr Robinson, chemist, Stanley, can now boast of having two assistants in his establishment who have passed their pharmaceutical examination, which speaks highly in favour of his qualifications as a chemist.

The Wesleyans at this place are making good progress with their new chapel scheme. The members are unanimous in the matter, and they have now secured the ground upon which they intend to erect a commodious edifice to worship in. The plans are now being prepared, and the day is not far distant when the foundation stones will be laid.

I think a step ought to be taken in the direction of procuring light for the village during the long, dark nights. For a good while now the matter has been talked over; but nothing seems to be put into practice. What do our influential ratepayers think about the matter?

The influenza epidemic is now abating in this district. Almost everyone has been touched with the complaint, and employment in the district has been very much impeded by it.

Is it true that a Burial Board was formed here a few days ago, and comprises six Churchmen and three Wesleyans? The present burial ground is almost filled up, and the new Board contemplate taking over a new plot of ground behind the Primitive Methodist Chapel. I wish the Board every success.

The hand of death has removed another respected inhabitant in the person of Mr J. R. Toes, who was manager of the boot and shoe department of the Co-operative Society. The deceased took a great interest in all kinds of sport, and was secretary for the committee of the races which used to be held in the village every year. Last year he brought to a successful issue the great band contest and sports. His demise will be felt by a large circle of friends. The remains of the deceased were followed to their last resting place, on Monday, by a large concourse of people, all the *employes* of the Co-operative Society attending.

AN AMUSING SCENE IN THE VICINITY OF BLACKHALL MILL.

The other day an amusing episode took place in the vicinity of Blackhall Mill, between two butchers, hailing from Consett. It appears that the elder of the two procured a pony and trap, for the purpose of seeking a pig from Blackhall Mill, and the younger one resolved that he would go with him, and they also took with them a young boy. All the three were seated in the trap, and the journey to their destination was made in safety, until they reached the river Derwent. In this enlightened age the young generally have the impression that they know far more than their elders. And so it was in this case. The younger butcher thought that he knew the road through the Derwent better than his senior, and he resolved to drive. Taking the reins, he drove the animal straight through the Derwent, instead of keeping in the ford. The amateur driver had not been accustomed to ford rivers; but at the same time he thought he was going to accomplish the task in splendid form, when all at once the animal came to a standstill. For what reason the occupiers were brought to such a sudden stop they could not tell. The whip was brought into use, but it was all in vain, the poor animal would not go another inch further. These two butchers were for once in their lives placed in a disagreeable predicament. What was to be done? A conference was held between the parties in the middle of the river, and they resolved to give the animal another chance. They remembered the old adage—"If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again." They did try, and their little steed made one mighty bound which brought the fastener which held one of the traces away, and the animal almost walked out of the shafts. Then the shouts of "whoa" came with a vengeance from those who occupied the conveyance. By this time the party was in a dilemma, and they did not know what to do. The senior butcher contended that as the younger one had brought them into the difficulty, he ought to get them out of it. To this end the younger butcher resolved he would do his best, and he was in the act of taking off his boots and stockings for the purpose of wading the stream; but the excitement of the senior became so intense that this idea of his had to be abandoned, and he had to jump into the water with them on, and carry the boy to land. By this time a crowd began to gather, and the senior, who was still in the conveyance, gave the animal a sudden jerk, for the purpose of turning him up the ford. The animal took the hint, and drove the senior butcher safely to the side of the land which they had left, and left the junior wading his way through the stream. After the latter had safely reached the land, he at once went to a small shop for the purpose of procuring a new pair of stockings. On making application to the attendant, he was asked if they were "women's or men's" he wanted? To this question the butcher replied, "Do you take me for a woman?" The attendant formed her own conclusions, and supplied him with a pair. Having secured his bargain, he betook himself to his fellow-butcher, who had re yoked the animal, and they all got into the conveyance and made their journey back to Consett, leaving the pig behind them. At the same time they resolved that they would never go back to Blackhall Mill until the County Council bridged the river Derwent.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[BY "ANNFIELDITE."]

The members of the Y.M.C.A. of this village contemplate building a place of their own to hold their meetings. Why should they not? It is either to be built of iron or wood, and the site fixed upon is on the Greencroft estate. This is a wise suggestion on the part of the committee, and they should push the scheme at once.

During the week, Mr M. Frankland, of Blackhill, has been conducting special services in the Wesleyan Chapel at this place. The congregations have been very good, considering that the preacher is a local man. Mr Frankland is an earnest deliverer of the truth, and is sure to do good.

The Sunday-schools in connection with the Annfield Plain, Oxhill, and West Stanley Primitive Methodist Societies have held their Scriptural examinations, and it is with pleasure we have to state that nearly all the scholars, who sat to be examined, have passed a very creditable examination, and obtained first and secondclass certificates. The teachers of these schools are to be congratulated for the painstaking training they have shown towards the scholars of these schools.

The coke-trade in the district still continues to be brisk, and the supply from many of the yards does not keep up with the demand. Several of the owners have resolved to build more ovens in order to meet the requirements of their customers.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION AT CHESTER LE STREET.

On Wednesday night, Mr Joseph Witherspoon, one of the candidates for the representation of Chester-le-Street Division on the County Council, addressed a meeting of the electors in Mr Turnbull's Mart. Mr G. O. Turnbull occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance.—Mr Witherspoon, who was well received, described his views at some length. He said he would not beg for favours, but would ask everyone to vote in an honest straightforward way for the man they approved of. He offered himself to them, and he pledged himself to do his best to faithfully represent them and serve their interests. (Cheers).—A few questions having been asked and answered, all the four candidates' names were submitted to the meeting, but no expression of confidence was awarded to any of them.

FREE MARRIAGES AT WOLSINGHAM AND TOW LAW.

Rev Chancellor Espin, rector of Wolsingham, and Rev T. H. E. Espin, vicar of Tow Law, respectively father and son, report on the experiment to popularise the Church by the adoption of a system of free marriages. It appears that of 24 marriages in the ecclesiastical parish of Wolsingham, 13 only are entered on the church registers. Five only of the 13 were preceded by the calling of the banns. The rector notes, with regret, that eight marriages out of the 24 were "merely civil contracts" solemnised at the registrar's office. The vicar of Tow Law regards the plans to abolish marriage fees with a sweet satisfaction. He reports that of 12 weddings at his church in 1889, seven have taken place since the fees were abolished—that is, within the last three months of the year. The number is double that of the average for the last five years, and the rev. gentleman avers that his innovation was well justified by those results.

A writer in the *Northern Echo* says:—"If, as the rev. gentlemen seem to suggest, the nuptial ceremony at the church altar gives a more gracious endowment to the matrimonial career than is possible in the case of wedding by "mere contract," no one, I am sure, will do other than commend every couple to the good office of the parson. But practical experience of life does not encourage the happy idea that special unction attaches to weddings in church or chapel. This is a proposition that is fully established if we test it by the records of the Divorce Court, in which the register finds scant mention. We all wish newly-married folks "much happiness;" but it probably never occurs to the average Englishman that wedded life is likely to be any happier because of the particular place in which it was inaugurated. Where a clergyman honestly believes that special grace follows weddings at church one can respect his opinions; but it is a sentiment which this dreadfully utilitarian age does not give much sympathy. Either weddings at church are more benign in their character and thus more conspicuous in their results than when performed at the register office, or else the abolition of fees must come to be regarded as simply a new method of recruiting for fellows ip in the Church of England. Whether by encouraging matrimony at the church it is desired to give more sanctity to the marriage vows, or to rely to increase or strengthen associations with the Church, makes all the difference in the way one looks at this "free wedding" movement.

STANHOPE FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual spring meeting for the election of officers and revision of schedule was held in Mr Mewes' commercial room, Pack Horse Inn, on Tuesday evening.—Mr W. Egglestone, who had been secretary for 14 years, resigned on account of pressure of business, literary work, and precarious health.—Mr J. G. Bainbridge proposed, and Mr W. Tweddle seconded a motion that the best thanks of the society be accorded to Mr Egglestone for his long and able services, so freely and ungrudgingly rendered to the society.—The motion was carried unanimously.—Messrs Fred. Walton and Arthur Elliott were chosen secretaries for the ensuing year; Mr John Crawhall was elected treasurer, and the Bishop of Richmond president of the society. The vice-presidents and committee were also re-elected. The schedule of prizes also underwent some alterations, and the show was fixed for the 9th of August. The North-Eastern Railway Company had written asking for the date of the show, and it was decided to ask for an excursion or two as usual. One from Consett and neighbourhood has been desired for years, but never granted as yet, and the one from Newcastle has been discontinued. Only one was run from Darlington and the Wear Valley district last year. It was also decided to ask a few of the leading local nurserymen for special prizes. The society has reached the 27th year of its existence, but these last few years have been unfortunate, on account of depressed trade and wet show-days. The committee, however, are hopeful for a successful gathering this year.

Mr J. Roberts, chemist, Clayton Street and New Bridge Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been solicited by a number of gentlemen to contest St. John's municipal vacancy, but both business and domestic matters have obliged him to defer the consideration of a contest of this nature.

FLOWER SHOW.—The spring meeting of the committee of this show was held on Monday evening, when the schedule of prizes was revised. £5 was added to the prize list, and a number of prizes were added, such as carnations, picotees, zinneas, phloxes, button hole bouquets, specimen plants, etc. The show was fixed for August. It was decided to ask for an excursion to this year's show. Mr J. Maddison presided. There was a good gathering.

FEMALE MINSTRELS.—On Wednesday evening, this troupe of armour-clad Amazon female minstrels paid a visit to Tantobie, and gave an excellent entertainment in the Co-operative Hall, to a large company.

SOCIAL TEA.—On Monday afternoon, a social tea was held at the house of Mr Stephen Gedling, White-le-Head. There was a large company present, and the sum of £6 4s was realised. The proceeds were in aid of a new Wesleyan Chapel for Tantobie.

At Wolsingham Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Mary Ann Welsh was sent to prison for a month with hard labour for stealing a shirt and petticoat from the yard of Mrs Maughan, on the 3rd inst.

YOUNG FOLKS' COLUMN.

THE BEAUTIFUL HAND.

Three fair girls were seated on a mossy bank by the borders of a rippling stream, which flowed in silver beauty at their feet. The sun was gilding all things with a golden brightness, and lighting up the features of the young and mirthful damsels. It was a most beautiful picture. The young girls were merrily engaged in wreathing garlands of wild flowers, and decking each other with flowery coronets woven by their own fairy fingers.

By and by they began to compare the size and beauty of their hands, and each disputed with the other whether hers were not the loveliest of all.

One washed her hands in the limpid stream, and let the pearly drops trickle from her fingers; another plucked wild strawberries, and stained her finger-tips with a ruddy pink; the third gathered sweet violets until her hands were redolent of their fragrance; and all were beautiful.

An aged and haggard woman, clad in the garb of meanest poverty, drew near, saying: "Give me of your charity; I am very poor."

All three denied her; but a fourth girl, who sat close by with hands unwashen in the brook, unstained with fruit, unscented with flowers, gave the poor woman a little gift with a kindly smile, and received her grateful thanks.

Then the aged woman asked them the subject of their dispute, and they told her, lifting up their beautiful hands.

"Beautiful indeed!" said she.

But when they asked her which was the *most* beautiful, she said—

"It is not the hand which was washed in the stream; it is not the hand which is tipped with red; it is not the hand with the fragrant flowers; but it is the hand which *gives to the poor* which is most beautiful." As she said these words, her wrinkles fled, her staff was thrown away, and a beautiful angel stood before them. She touched the generous girl with her hand, and said: "*Your* beauty, my child, will last for ever." Turning to the rest, she said: "The loving heart and the kindly hand are beautiful, and where these are not there is no beauty left." And straightway she vanished out of their sight.

Right; "beauty is but skin deep." The rough brown fist of honest sailor Jack is better than the fairest hand that ever wore diamonds, with a proud, unfeeling heart behind it.

AN ACCOMMODATING NEIGHBOUR.

A very characteristic story of men who run to brains is told of the Rev. Philip D. Schaff, who about thirty years ago was preaching in Mercersburg, Pa. The reverend doctor up to that time had never been married, nor had he kept house. By the charms of one of the sisters of his flock he was persuaded to do the former, and, as a matter of course, the latter followed. He and his wife had not been long domiciled when the perplexing question arose how to get rid of the kitchen refuse.

The doctor was advised by a neighbour to buy a small pig, and the advice was accompanied by an offer to sell him one. Accordingly the pig was purchased, and immediately another problem came up to be solved—viz.: how to get a pen for it. Casting about, the doctor discovered a large dry-goods box in which some of his household effects had been received. He set to work with saw and hammer, and with pieces of boards from the box he soon constructed a pen, which was only a little larger than the pig itself. In a few weeks the pig grew so that it hardly had room to turn around, and another difficult question had to be settled. The doctor studied over this matter several days; meanwhile the pig was hourly getting larger. He finally decided to go over to the neighbour from whom it was purchased, and asked if he would not be kind enough to exchange evenly and give him another small pig for the large one that had outgrown its pen.

The lady telling this story, then a child of ten, says she sat in her father's waggon while the good doctor told her father in all seriousness how kind his neighbour was to give him a small pig for his large one, without charging him any difference.

AN EASTERN LEGEND.

The learned Rajah, Kalezkishen, has given us an old fable about a king and a mendicant, from the Persian of Tazkiratush-shura. There was a king, whose army was as numerous as the host of angels, and his dignity exalted above all human beings. He had a daughter in his palace famous for every virtue. Her moon-like face was shaded with the curling hair falling on her forehead—her eyes were so black that they shamed those of the antelope—her hair, so long as to reach her feet, seemed spread like a net to catch the bird named chakora. Her house was immensely high, with a window as radiant as the gate of heaven, in which, when the princess sat, she was like the rising sun.

A mendicant seeing her, became desperately enamoured; her looks pierced his heart like arrows. This became known to all; it was the subject of conversation everywhere. The news of the beggar's love at last reached the ears of the sovereign, her father, upon which his majesty called his prime vizier, and asked:

"What am I to do in this difficult business? I am in need of your council!"

The vizier kissed the ground, and replied:

"O king, who art the beauty of the crown and of the throne! Should the head of this man be cut off, it would be a separation of his head from his body, and would stigmatise your generous disposition!"

With this the king agreed. But, to put an end to the matter, the vizier invited the lover to his own house, and, with due respect, addressed him thus:

"Your union with that darling object for whom you are burning to distraction would be easy, were you to bring one hundred of the pearls named shubchiragh at any time."

The moment he heard this, to him happy intelligence, the mendicant ran joyfully to the ocean, took out his wooden cup, and began to take up water with it. When this was heard by the inhabitants of the water, they assembled to witness his strange act. One of them came forward and asked:

"What is your wish, and what will you gain by this?"

He replied:

"I will throw out all the water, and make the ocean quite dry to get its pearls!"

Upon this, having consulted among themselves, they went down to the bottom and, emerging again, scattered pearls on the shore—"for," they said, "should he persevere, he might accomplish his intent."

The mendicant, seeing the pearls, hastened to fill up his cup, joyfully returned to the king, and offered them to his majesty, who had been the author of the plan to dishearten the beggar. When the king saw the pearls he seemed low-spirited, thought much, but could not come to a conclusion upon anything. The mendicant, observing the displeasure of his majesty, kissed the ground, and addressed him thus:

"O king, may this world be subject to your power! If it be unpleasing to you to grant me the object of my ardent desire, I shall dissuade my mind from the possession of it!"

But the king rose, and, presenting him with many valuable jewels, said:

"You are the only fit person to have my daughter!" and accordingly the marriage was celebrated.

The Persian moralist adds:

"Now it is evident that the wishes of the mendicant were realized solely by his courage and boldness. Courage only is crowned with success. The ants, even, if they be courageous may become Solimans!"

Little Mary was reproving her younger brother for fibbing. "Now, Russell," said she, drawing down her face, and frowning threateningly on the tiny culprit, "dust you remember, never, *never* to tell another of your wrong-side-out stories to me!"

Punctuality is a high domestic virtue, but the American gentleman who, the other day, shot three men, a woman, and a baby, because his supper was not ready, really carried his love of order a little too far.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, Feb. 12th. — Before Rev J. P. De Pledge (chairman) and W. B. Van Haansbergen, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Robert Oswell, John Kelly, John Lockey, James Walker, and *James Wilson,* all pitmen, of Oxhill, were proceeded against by P.C. Lewis, for being drunk and causing a disturbance at Kyo, 18th ult.—Each offender was mulcted in a penalty of 5s and costs.

James Brannon, Hamsteels (brothers), were summoned by P.C., Chambers for committing a like offence at Esh Village, 27th ult.

The following defendants were prosecuted by P.C., Hairwin for being drunk and disorderly at South Moor, on the 1st and 2nd, Feb.—*James Hope,* West Stanley, *James* and *John Mason,* Burnhope, *Robert Locke,* and *Mrs Locke,* South Moor.—They were fined 5s each and expenses.

Arthur Larken, a farm servant, was brought up by Inspector Davison, for being helplessly inebriated in the village of Lanchester, on the previous evening.—The defendant had called at all the "pubs" in the place, and was so tipsy that he could not furnish his name or address.—Defendant was similarly dealt with.

Two tramps, named *Monaghan* and *Jackson,* of no fixed place of abode, were put forward at the instance of P.C. Smith, for having been inebriated in Middle Street and Thomas Street, Consett, on the preceding day.—In default of paying fines of 5s each and costs, the Bench committed both men to Durham for seven days.

A COWARDLY ASSAULT AT CORNSAY.

Wm Grayson, miner, was charged with assaulting Hodgson Walker, a youngman, at Cornsay Colliery on the 5th inst.—Defendant said he struck the complainant in self-defence.—Prosecutor stated that he was going to his work on Wednesday night, and while he was in the timber yard, defendant came behind him and struck him upon the head. Grayson hit him till he was knocked senseless. He was ready to go down the pit at the time, having his working clothes on, and he never spoke a word to provoke defendant. They had not had a quarrel previously.—In reply to Grayson, complainant denied that he ever threatened to knock his face off.—Defendant said that Walker dipped his hands amongst a tub of stones, and then he (Grayson) struck at him. Complainant afterwards wanted to strike him with a pick.—Walker shoved his (defendant's) wife against the pantry, and threatened to knock her face off.—Complainant repudiated the allegation, and added that he was staying with his aunt, who lived next door to defendant. There had been some differences between his aunt and defendant.—The Magistrates said that Grayson had committed a very cowardly assault upon the complainant without any cause whatever. He was fined 10s and costs—£1 4s 0d in all.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Thomas Plews, a young fellow, of Cornsay Colliery, was summoned by George Sanderson, a gamekeeper, for causing damage to grass, to the amount of 1d.—Prosecutor said that on the 5th inst., he found the defendant trespassing in a field in the occupation of Wilkinson Kemleyside, at Hedleyhope. He had twice previously warned defendant, and did not want to summons him. There was a footpath through the field, but Plews was going in a different direction, taking a "short cut" to his work. There were some notice-boards erected cautioning trespassers.—Defendant's father averred that his son was merely traversing a path which had been used for the past 14 or 15 years.—The Bench: But he had been warned.—Plews: But he thought the gamekeeper was simply making game of him. (Laughter.)—The magistrates advised Sanderson to have the notice-boards re-painted and bushes planted along the beaten track.—Defendant was fined 1s, and ordered to pay the damage and costs.

BREACH OF THE MINES' REGULATIONS AT SOUTH-TANFIELD.

Henry Shaw, a coal-hewer, employed at the South Tanfield Colliery, Oxhill (belonging to Messrs Jas. Joicey and Co.), was summoned for that, on the 27th January, at South Tanfield "A" Pit he did unlawfully contravene one of the special rules duly established and enforced at the said mine, by then and there placing his safety-lamp within less than two feet from the swing of the pick, contrary to special rule 108.—Defendant pleaded guilty, and Mr T. W. Welford (who prosecuted) stated that the owners did not wish to press the charge; but under the Mines Act they were bound to bring the matter before the courts.—Mr Kay, acting manager, explained that a man brought the lamp to him, which had been damaged at the top by a blow from a pick.—Mr Taylor-Smith: Is this a fiery mine?—Mr Kay: Yes. A serious explosion occurred there some years ago, when several men were killed.—Defendant pleaded guilty, but declared that it was a pure accident. The pick had not penetrated through the zinc.—The Chairman: That was by more good luck than anything else. However, the owners do not want to press the charge, and we will give expression to their wishes. At the same time, you must remember that when serious charges are brought against miners, the magistrates will punish them very severely, because they are endangering the lives of other people.—A nominal penalty of 10s and costs was inflicted.

A RACKET AT THE CAUSEY.

James Needs, Marley Hill, miner, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of Sarah Carr, at the Causey, 25th Jan. He was further charged with assaulting, at the same time and place, P.C. Robson, of the Durham C.C., Gateshead County Division.—The father of the landlady gave evidence to the effect that defendant created a loud disturbance in the house, and declined to leave as requested. The police had to be sent for to eject the man, and when he got outside he behaved very badly indeed. Needs, who was a stranger to witness, was jumping about the floor of the tap-room.—Defendant alleged that the landlady's father was drunk, and wanted to let him see which of the pair could jump the highest. (Laughter.)—Witness (astonished): What! me drunk? Oh fie! fie!! (Laughter). Man, you ought to be ashamed to say such a thing. (Roars of laughter). I was never drunk in my life. (Renewed laughter.) You put a dog's nose into another man's glass, and then compelled him to drink the beer. (Laughter).—Defendant: I had not a dog with me. It was someone else who had the dog.—P.C. Robson deposed that he was obliged to expel the man by force. He was the worse for drink, and was jumping about the room, besides shouting and swearing. When witness told him to go outside, defendant said he would do as he liked. He resisted very much. Needs had his coat off. He was not intoxicated.—Defendant explained that he had a live rabbit for which he paid 2s, in his back pocket. He put off his coat when he began to jump for a half-gallon of beer. (Laughter). The policeman added that when the man was outside, he indulged in very abusive language, and witness tried to get him away. Defendant threw off his coat, and delivered him several violent blows on the forehead. He also butted the officer in the stomach with his head. Two men endeavoured to get the man off home.—Defendant: I went home by myself. You struck me first when I got outside. You went into the Causey, and stopped drinking whiskey till "loosing time." (Laughter). You're never away from the Causey. (More laughter).—The Bench dismissed the charge of refusing to quit, but for the assault, defendant was fined 10s and costs.

PITCH AND TOSS NEAR HARE LAW.

Matthew and *Charles Cain, Joseph Willis, George Taylor,* and *Wm. Carter,* Dipton, *Lawrence Ramsley,* Hare Law, and *Joseph Middlemass,* East Castle Colliery, all appeared to answer a charge, preferred against them by P.C. Philipson of playing at pitch and toss on the footpath near Bushblades Farm, Hare Law, on Sunday afternoon, 12th Jan. Mr W. H. Oliver (Durham) appeared for defendants, who denied the charge.—The constable said that about three o'clock p.m. he watched defendants gambling near an old pit shaft. They had two scouts stationed upon the stiles at the entrance to the field. He observed the "school" for about ten minutes. Witness went to Hare Law Farm, and hid himself behind a wall, where he watched the men for another ten minutes. He was espied, however, for someone exclaimed, "It's only that b——Phillipson. He doesn't know us." The officer approached to within 40 yards of the ring, when they ceased throwing up the coins, and gave utterance to some frightful language. Defendants then made off in the direction of Dipton.—In answer to Mr Oliver, Phillipson would not swear that any of the defendants were throwing up the coins or betting upon the results.—Mr Oliver stated that there were about 50 men assembled, and although some of his clients might be present, there was no evidence that they were gambling. He called Sarah Fairless, who testified that Taylor lodged with her, and that he remained in the house all that afternoon, not going out till the church bells were ringing for evening service.—The justices came to the conclusion that the defendants were gambling, but they had decided to give Taylor the benefit of the doubt. The other offenders were mulcted in penalties of 5s each and expenses.

THE EDUCATION ACT: THE NEW DEPARTURE.

Mr W. Ward, on behalf of the School Attendance Committee for the Lanchester Union, proceeded against *Anthony Brown,* East Stanley, for not sending his child to school.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

John Telford, of Quebec, and *William Kirtley,* of Wilks Hill, were fined 5s, including costs, for a like offence; while the summons against *John McAnaney,* also of Quebec, was adjourned for a month.

Mr Ward asked their worships that, in School Board cases, whatever penalty was imposed, this should stand for the full amount of the costs in every case. The fines of 2s 6d or 5s imposed should be remitted as the amounts of costs.—The magistrates however, decided that the prosecuting authorities must pay the deficiency. For instance, the expenses in each prosecution amounted to 5s 6d, and if fines of 2s 6d were imposed the school committee would have to pay 3s 6d deficiency, and 6d defendant if the full penalty was inflicted.—Mr A. W. Granger (magistrates' clerk) pointed out that in all other divisions of the county, the school Boards had always defrayed the costs of the prosecution.—Mr Ward appealed to their worships not to do such a grave injustice as to saddle the ratepayers with the cost of these prosecutions. He hoped the magistrates would reconsider their decision. They had the power to remit the costs.—The Chairman promised to give the subject their earnest attention.

SICK MINISTERS.—We regret to hear that the Rev F. Watson, Primitive Methodist Superintendent, has been unable to fill the pulpit, for some time owing to illness.—The Rev R. Shephard, Vicar of St. John's, was able to conduct the service on Sunday, after a severe attack of general debility, which has evidently weakened the rev gentleman.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS

CONSETT—11, Middle Street, 12th inst., the wife of James Kelly, of a daughter.

LEADGATE—Church Square, 11th inst., the wife of G. W. Proctor, of a son.

MARRIAGES

SATLEY—Parish Church, 28th ult., by Rev J. P. De Pledge, vicar, Mr B. Gill, of Berry Hills, Ripon, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr R. G. Fawcett, of Stonefoot Hill, Tow Law.

WHITE-LE-HEAD—Primitive Methodist Chapel, 8th inst., by Rev M. Johnson, Edward Armstrong to Robina Hall, both of White-le-Head.

PELTON FELL—Wesleyan Chapel, 5th inst., by Rev W. D. Johnson, Thomas Laws to Mary J. Clark, both of West Pelton.

DEATHS

CONSETT—10, Forster Street, 9th inst., aged 35, David Lumsden.

BLACKHILL—14, Tinmill Place, 9th inst., aged 50, Mary Ann, wife of John Simpson.

LEADGATE—9th inst., aged 37, Mary A. Urwin.

BRADLEY COTTAGES—Wood Houses (at the residence of his brother-in-law, Isaac Brown), 9th inst., aged 20, Walter, youngest son of the late Wm. Barron, of Pontop High Stables.

LANCHESTER—The Hospital, 4th inst., aged 82, John Ridley.

DIPTON—Hill Top, 4th inst., aged 75, Elizabeth, widow of the late Daniel Dodd.

WEST STANLEY—7th inst., in his 12nd year, John Richard, husband of Phillis Toes, for 12 years manager of the West Stanley Co-operative Boot Department.

EAST PONTOP—1st inst., aged 45, Robert James, youngest son of the late John McRay, Chester-le-Street.

WEARDALE—St. John's Chapel, 1st inst., aged 30, Mary Ann, wife of Rev T. Cook, of York.

PELTON FELL—31st ult., aged 67, Elizabeth, wife of Robert Maddison.

3rd inst., aged 11, Robert George, son of George Stables.

WITTON GILBERT—1st inst., aged 63, Mrs Margaret Long.

CHESTER LE-STREET—2nd inst., aged 4 years, Lillias May, daughter of George Shield.

3rd inst., aged 3 years, Lena Beatrice, daughter of Richard Pattinson.

RYTON—Cross Inn, aged 6 months, Lily Jane, daughter of William and M. A. Summerside, late of Royal Oak Hotel, Winlaton.

BLAYDON—27, Tyne Street, 10th inst., aged 61, Jane, wife of John Vallans.

EASINGTON LANE—Lord Seaham Inn, 10th inst., Jane Ann, wife of Thomas Severs, of Bantling Castle.

NEWCASTLE—69, Tamworth Road, 9th inst., aged 33, Rebecca, wife of John Smith, and daughter of William and Jane Wilkinson, Catchgate.

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