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

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

☞ WANTED TO PURCHASE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE FOR CASH.

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The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

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

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

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

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

No. 1,280. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, February 20th, 1885. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Contracts.

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

Wanted.

WANTED, a LAD; a good Ploughman.—Apply to T. CARR Dyke Nook, Consett. 137u

WANTED, a Girl, as General SERVANT, about 16 years of age.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. 151u

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

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

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

CLERKS, Travellers, Commission Agents, and others seeking Employment should at once write for Terms and Drawings of my new Domestic Invention; 50 per cent. Commission offered to pushing business men.—Address, JAMES KERRY, 110, The Hill, Lexden, Essex. 140u

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

MRS. ARMSTRONG'S REGISTRY OFFICE, 15, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle.—Ladies requiring Servants can be suited daily with Cooks, Housemaids, Nurses, and good General Servants; and Servants of all classes with good situations, by applying at above address. 515t

To Let.

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

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

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TO BE LET, a HOUSE and SHOP. Also, a LOCK-UP SHOP, Co-operative Buildings, Dipton.—For particulars apply to JOHN RIDDLE, Dipton. 149u

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

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE, an excellent BICYCLE, on reasonable Terms. Apply at 54, Cutlers Hall. 135u

FOR SALE, a nice Young COW, rising 4 years old; due the 1st March.—Enquire at 47, Plantation Row, Leadgate. 134u

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

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

DWELLING HOUSE FOR SALE, situate in East Parade, Consett, containing 12 Rooms, Bath Room, &c., with Stable and Loft at rear. Price £625. Large portion of which can remain on Mortgage if desired.—Apply to J. T. KAY, Solicitor, West Hartlepool. 132u

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FREEHOLD HOUSE and SHOP FOR SALE, situated at Tinmill Place, Blackhill, in the Township of Conside and Knitsley.—Apply to WILLIAM TURNER, Whitehill Lodge, Blackhill. 150u

A GOOD PLAN.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Specimens of both may be seen at any time.

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

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

Business Announcements.

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

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.

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

☞ All Business promptly and carefully attended to.

JOHN FREEK,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
23, VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.

HOT DINNERS, TEAS, and other REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice and most Reasonable Terms.

N.B.—As J. F. has a REGISTRY OFFICE in connection with his Business, Ladies wanting Servants would do well to give him a call. 384c

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

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

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

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

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

CURRY'S Invaluable STOMACH & LIVER PILLS.

CURRY'S TOOTHACHE DROPS.

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

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

Dr. SCOTT'S ELECTRIC APPLIANCES.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

☞ SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS,
AND VARNISHES.

HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES

ALTERATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES.

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

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54, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE IMPROVED

MAGNETIC BELTS,

For Lumbago, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Liver Complaints, &c
INVIGORATORS for Bronchitis and Asthma.
INVIGORATORS for Weak Lungs and Debility.
CHEST PROTECTORS for Colds, Coughs.
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Shoulder, Arm, Leg, Ankle, and Wrist Appliances.

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

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

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND ASTHMA.
H.M. Prison, Durham, September 6th, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—I have worn your Magnetic Invigorator for nearly two years, and am happy to say that I now feel much better than when I commenced to wear it. My complaint—chronic bronchitis and asthma—is of long standing, and I do not expect a permanent cure. You can use this as you choose.—Yours truly,

Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN ROBINSON.

MAGNETISM FOR LOSS OF VOICE
Eslington Inn, Teams, Gateshead, Aug. 26th, 1884.

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

Mr. D. Lamont J. MADDISON.

ASTHMA AND BRONCHITIS.
Prudhoe-on-Tyne, June 21st, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—My wife was a great sufferer from shortness of breathing left after a severe attack of Bronchitis, she had also since then been slightly Asthmatic. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the Magnetic Invigorator purchased from you has been of wonderful use to her, and she has now worn it nearly two years. She feels altogether improved in health, and bids me say that she has found the Invigorator of the greatest value, both as regards the relief it has given her and in keeping her well.

I may also tell you that my wife's father, who suffered from Rheumatism, and spent pounds and pounds without relief, has derived astonishing good from your Appliances. Use this in any way that will be the means of making your Appliances more widely known.—Faithfully yours,

Mr. D. Lamont. JAMES R. GREEN.

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

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

D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT,
(PERMANENT AND ONLY ADDRESS),
44A BLACKETT STREET NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
NOTE.—The Appliances forwarded Post Free.
572

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 6lbs. of INDIAN TEA (the Finest Tea in the world). Should it be your pleasure we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.

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

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
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(OVER 60 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
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STEAM TO WEST AUSTRALIA, &c. AMERICA, AND AFRICA.

PLATE GLASS INSURANCE.

FIRE, LIFE, AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

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BRICKS! SANITARY PIPES!

FIRE BRICKS, 2½in. and 3in., Quarls, various sizes, Ground Fire-Clay, Common RED BRICKS, RIDGE TILES, FIRE BACKS for Glendinning Ovens, FLUE BRICKS, CHIMNEY TOPS, KITCHEN SINKS, GULLIES, JUNCTIONS, BENDS, ELBOWS, TAPERS, GARDEN EDGING, CEMENT, PLASTER, LATHS, HAIR LIME, TACKS, SAND, COALS, COKE, &c., &c., can be Supplied in Large or Small Quantities by applying to

R. CURRY AND CO.,
☞ DELVES LANE, CONSETT. ☜

STOCK of BRICKS, PIPES, &c., at DELVES LANE DEPOT.
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9, AND 9A, MIDDLE STREET.

SALE OF REMAINDER OF RIDLEY'S STOCK.
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SALE OF MILLINERY AND MANTLES.
SALE OF ALL KINDS SURPLUS STOCK.

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

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR. 57u

PERSONS WISHING TO MAKE UP THEIR
HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW,
SHOULD USE THE

"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.

IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.

PREPARED ONLY BY

JOHN HUME AND SONS
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BRANCH—MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 583r

HALL'S for OIL CAKE and COTTON CAKE.
HALL'S for HORSE FEED.
HALL'S for CATTLE SPICE.
HALL'S for FINEST HUNGARIAN FLOUR.
HALL'S for FINEST CALIFORNIAN FLOUR.
HALL'S for FINEST NEW PROCESS FLOUR.
HALL'S for the CHEAPEST SUGARS.
HALL'S for the BEST SUGARS.
HALL'S for the CHEAPEST TEAS.
HALL'S for FINEST NEW SEASON TEA.
HALL'S for BEST ASSAM TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST DARJIELING TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST BUTTER.
HALL'S for BEST LARD.
HALL'S for MANNA CAKE.

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

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

JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN 298t

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

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

MORISON JOHNSTON,
8, BIGG MARKET, NEWCASTLE,

Begs to announce that he has commenced the Business of AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, in conjunction with his present business, which will be carried on as usual. He trusts to receive the support of his friends and the public generally.

☞ All Accounts of Sales settled promptly. 396t

INDIA RUBBER STAMPS,

FOR Endorsing Envelopes, Cheques, and Postal Cards, Heading Notepaper, Marking Linen and Pigeons, Stamping Monograms, Crests, and fac-similes of signature.

POCKET AND DATING STAMPS,
Price and Pattern Sheets Free on application.
WILLIAM COLDICOTT,
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HERBS, ROOTS, AND BARKS.

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270, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD.

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

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

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

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT
PERMANENT BENEFIT
BUILDING SOCIETY.

ENROLLED PURSUANT TO ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

CHIEF OFFICE:
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

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

NO LOAN FEES OR PREMIUMS CHARGED.

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

ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1885,

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

ADAM BRODIE,
SECRETARY,
7u TOWN HALL, CONSETT

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

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

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

☞ TO ADVERTISERS.

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

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

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

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
AT
59, FRONT STREET, CONSET
Where Advertisements are received up to Nine o'clock on that morning.

Business Announcements.

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STONE and COAL-BORING MACHINES, STEMMING GEAR, SEWING MACHINES, WASHING, WRINGING and MANGLING MACHINES, PATENT POSSTAFF SPRINGS.—Sold Wholesale and Retail by GEORGE HUNTER, Medomsley, Lints Green. 63t

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS

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

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

CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT.
FOR
FANCY AND GENERAL STATIONERY OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
TRY
JASPER COCKBURN,
STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, PRINTER, & BOOKBINDER,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

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

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

Artificial Teeth at reasonable prices.

They are adapted to the mouth on an improved system, guaranteed in every case to fit perfectly, and warranted for five years.

No extraction of stumps necessary.

A complete Upper or Lower Set from 30s to £4 10s., 3s. to 10s. per tooth.

Nitrous Oxide Gas for Painless Dentistry.

Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.

Country patients visiting Mr. CAMPBELL's Establishment in Newcastle, will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and, whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare. 810t

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

ENTIRE NEW STOCK
OF
BOYS', YOUTHS, AND MEN'S OVERCOATS.
BLACK WORSTED OVERCOAT, 21s. 6d.
BOYS' SUITS, 2s. 6d.
BLANKETS, FLANNELS, &c., AT REDUCED PRICES,
FELT HATS AND CAPS, IN ENDLESS VARIETY.

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

☞ BY STEAMER FOR £7.

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

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

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

For further particulars regarding Passages, Land Laws, and Resources of the Colony, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL & Co., 109, Leadenhall Street, London, and 12, Renfield Street, Glasgow; or to the Local Agent, A. BRODIE, Town Hall Consett, or to
WILLIAM J. JOHNSON,
Queensland Emigration Office,
20u 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

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

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

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

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

☞ HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

MILNER'S HAIR RESTORER, 1s. PER BOTTLE

Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture. Dandelion and Podophyllyn Antibillious Pills.

QUININE WINE PREPARED ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA.

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

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

COMPOSITION ESSENCE AND COMPOSITION POWDER.

Agent for Mr. LAMONT's Magnetic Chest Protectors, &c.

SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.
TRUSSES, BANDAGES, ELASTIC STOCKINGS.

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

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, February 20th, 1885.

OUR MILITARY RESOURCES.

We have found some cynical persons inclined to sneer at the fuss that has been made about sending out to the Soudan what they are pleased to call a paltry force of some seven thousand men. And, certainly, if anybody made it his business to read all the small details that appear in the newspapers under the heading of "The Reinforcements," he might be lead to suppose that the military officials were making a great stir over a comparatively small matter. But it is not the officials who are to blame, if anybody is. Just the same sort of bustle would doubtless have had to be made in this country at any former time, or would now have to be made in any other country, in preparing a force of seven thousand men with all their military baggage, armaments, ammunition, and stores, for a sea-voyage of several thousand miles, to be followed by a desert-march of some hundreds. The only difference, now and here, is that newspaper reporters are running about everywhere, observing the smallest details of the proceedings, and jotting them down in paragraphs for their journals. And we cannot blame the papers for publishing these petty items, all of which are of interest to persons having relatives or friends in the corps or detachments referred to, while among the readers of any paper there may be numbers of such persons specially interested in one paragraph or another. All the "general reader" has to do is to skip the minor items, and limit his attention to a general view of the preparations. He will then, perhaps, recognise, that as we have already more than twelve thousand men in Egypt and the Soudan, it is not such a petty achievement to send out seven thousand more in a week or two. That will make some twenty thousand of our troops engaged in that region; and if to these we add the European garrison of India, and all the garrisons of our smaller possessions, it would be found that we had considerably over a hundred thousand soldiers on service abroad, without counting the native armies of India and the local forces in other dependencies. The excess over the usual demands for foreign service must necessarily be provided for by exceptional measures, or rather by the special measures devised to meet such an exigency, as we only keep in the United Kingdom a limited number of regular troops, just sufficient to accomplish the three purposes of furnishing reliefs to our foreign possessions, of preserving the peace at home, and of securing us against sudden attack from abroad. As many of our home-staying battalions are depleted to make up the out-going ones to war strength, it becomes necessary, in the first place, to call out a portion of the Army Reserve to make good deficiencies in the ranks of the regulars. Of Reserve men we have fifty thousand, but shall only want a few thousand for our present purpose. Then, to replace, not men abstracted from battalions left at home, but whole battalions sent abroad, we may find it requisite to call out a few battalions of Militiamen, probably not exceeding one-twentieth of the whole force. The number of such battalions required will be the smaller because considerable portions of various Volunteer corps have offered themselves for garrison duty, and these detachments can be easily formed into administrative battalions, or be set to garrison duty where only detachments of battalions are required.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Lord Rosebery's entry into the Cabinet is intended no doubt to strengthen it, and to show the world that the idea of a Greater Britain and the confederation of the mother country with the colonies is not put out of the programme of the Liberal party. There are, in fact, two schools; the old Radicals, whose watchword is unchanged and goes on a tradition of the Cobden days—Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform is their Shibboleth—but the rising generation of Radicals have a larger conception of our political future, and in Lord Rosebery this party is now represented in the Cabinet.

Now that all doubt is at an end as to Gordon's fate our course of action becomes plainer than ever. Khartoum must be taken at any cost; and if Wolseley makes a successful dash forward and carries it by a *coup de main* before the next season sets in, he will not only cover himself with glory, but also greatly simplify all our after operations. It is absurd to suppose that it is necessary to follow the Mahdi into equatorial Africa. It is enough to hold the junction point of the two Niles, White and Blue, to strangle the slave trade, and so to hold the Soudan for the only purpose for which we should care to hold it.

Gordon, who is the nation's idol at present, is also in danger, as other idols, of being set up on a pedestal and brought out into the open to be adored. Trafalgar Square has been pitched upon by the idol-makers as the most suitable place to plant his effigy—I suppose as a set-off and contrast to the first gentleman in Europe who bestrides a dummy horse. Another proposal, still more absurd, is to take down the Duke of York from his invisible perch, and set Gordon up instead. What our hero has done to deserve this fate it is hard to say.

The papers are fond of jingling phrases. Two are now in vogue. It is the "butcher and bolt" or else the "slaughter and scuttle" policy which the Government are taxed with pursuing. Both phrases are now a week out of date. The Suakim Berber railway, happily now decided upon, will place Berber within twenty-four hours of a British fleet. That alone settles the question of Upper Egypt and Nubia. With Prince Hassan as nominal ruler of the Soudan, our hold on that country is complete.

Spiteful critics are remarking that the Prince of Wales is enjoying a battle of flowers at Cannes at the time when the whole country is distracted with wars of a more serious character. But this is rather hard on our Prince. Every one cannot be a Gordon; besides, he had made an engagement to go out to Cannes for a few weeks' change of scene months before it was thought what a tragic issue there would be of this siege of Khartoum. Besides, there is a good deal of "sour grapes" in this criticism of the Prince. Most of us would be only too glad to go to Cannes if we only could.

Mrs Lowell, wife of the American Minister, is dangerously ill. Some years ago she contracted typhoid fever in Madrid, and her constitution never recovered the shock caused by her prolonged illness on that occasion. In any case, Mr Lowell's tenure of his post is now drawing to a close. On the 4th of next month President Cleveland takes the oath and enters on the office of President, and the Democratic party who have sent him to Washington are greedy for the spoils of office. The British legation is the blue ribbon of diplomacy, and so is not likely to be long left vacant.

The City people feel secure of their ancient privileges for at least another year. It is not generally thought that the Government will have time, even if they have the inclination, to deal with the Municipal Reform Bill on this side the General Election. Mr Ayrton, speaking at Mile End the other day, made a very sensible suggestion upon this subject. Under the Redistribution Bill, as he pointed out, London will be for the first time fairly represented in Parliament. The sixty Metropolitan Members who will sit in the new Parliament may be trusted to know the feeling of the Metropolis upon this question. In Mr Ayton's view the Municipal Reform Bill should be entrusted to the consideration of a committee composed of these sixty members. The proposal strikes me as eminently practical. No other mode can be suggested of giving the Metropolis a voice in the future constitution of its government.

Dr Thorold, the Bishop of Rochester, was one of our younger and more vigorous Bishops who was supposed to have years of work in him. But he is rapidly ageing under work and worry. As for worry, I should say that the latter takes years off a man's life for the months which work takes out of him. He has called in the Bishop of St. David's to assist in his Spring confirmation; but the real help would be to give him a Suffragan Bishop for South London. The financing of a Suffragan Bishop, however, with such a small official income as his will not be an easy matter.

The Dean of Windsor, Dr. Randall Davison, the son-in-law of the late Archbishop Tait, has set an example to the Trustees of the British Museum which they will probably not be slow to follow. He has urged on them the propriety of throwing open the Museum on Sunday afternoons and evenings, and there is little doubt that, after a little hesitation, the Trustees will fall in with the suggestion; and so another plank of the old Sabbatarian platform will be taken away.

The scheme for the new fish market at Shadwell was thought to have dropped out of existence. It seems a long time for these days of rapid movement since its promoters engaged in a fierce Parliamentary struggle to obtain the necessary powers for their enterprise, and came off victorious. Billingsgate and Corporation fought hard to retain their monopoly—though, by the way, the Court of Common Council seemed subsequently inclined to repudiate the part taken by their officials in the matter. Nothing more was heard of the undertaking, and it was believed that further proceedings were prohibited by the lack of funds. But a move has now been made. A company has been formed, with the Duke of Westminster and other well-known magnates upon the directorate.

It is pleasant news that open spaces are to be secured in perpetuity for the masses at Highgate and at Kilburn. The cry to save the Highgate Woods has not been in vain; and if the agitation for a "Park for Paddington" has proved fruitless, a much-needed breathing ground has been obtained by its next-door neighbour amongst the suburbs. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners will no doubt be pardoned by the parsons for their splendid gift out of Church property to the London populace; but the secularization of the Gravel-pit Wood seems like a little bit of Disestablishment by way of foretaste! It is understood that the Commissioners are ready to sell the adjoining woods on easy terms, so to make quite a small Epping Forest in the N.W. of London.

Correspondence.

(☞ We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, nor do we undertake to return their communications. —Ed. C.G.)

LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I observed in your issue of the 30th ult. a discussion, initiated by Mr Hobson, arose in favour of the cottage hospital system being the best and most effective method of dealing with epidemics, at a small outlay. I have not had the pleasure, sir, of seeing the bye-laws or rules for the Lanchester Hospital Board, but in my humble opinion a rule should be introduced, to have the effect of creating an honourable claim upon employers for costs incurred by the hospital in cases where their servants or workmen have had the benefits of hospital treatment. Whatever serves to lessen the influence of courts by lessening taxation will be gladly welcomed by the unwealthy class of poor-rate payers, whilst the clamour of arbitrary power and wooden shoes could be kept up, the people were easily allured and alarmed into taxes. Those days are now past; and it is to be hoped better times are in prospect. It is a fact, sir, where there is proper house drainage, and the cleansing of privies, ashpits and cesspools, attended to there will not be many cases of small-pox or expensive hospitals wanted. I hope, sir, that an alliance will be formed to carry these things out in the parish of Lanchester, but to accomplish these objects, the Boards must necessarily be fitted to a common and correspondent principle. Confidence can never take place whilst an hostile disposition remains in either.—I am, sir, yours, &c., A RATEPAYER.

Consett, Feb. 10th, 1885.

THE TRAIN SERVICE ON THE DERWENT VALLEY LINE.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Is it possible that at last we are likely to have better railway accommodation between here and Newcastle? It may be assumed that, as one of the shareholders of the Railway company thought fit to broach the subject at the recent meeting at York, we have reason to hope that something will be done if only we are prepared to act. I am sure Mr L. C. Ridley, the gentleman who so kindly brought the subject before the shareholders, deserves the thanks of the inhabitants of Consett as well as of the other townships on the Derwent Valley line.

We have for a long time had to suffer, in this district, much inconvenience in consequence of the inadequate railway facilities afforded to us on this branch. It does not require, either, a great amount of perception for one to gather that unless some step of a decided turn be taken by us in the shape of a deputation to the Railway Company, we may, for a long time to come, have to suffer a continuance of our present grievance.

Mr L. C. Ridley speaking at the meeting above referred to asked—"Why is the service of trains on the Derwent Valley line so inadequate to the number of the population?" Why, indeed! It is a question that cannot easily be answered. And again, speaking of the 7·30 p.m. as the last train from Newcastle in the evening, asked—"Why cannot there be a later train arranged for?"

It so happened that he was ruled out of order by the Chairman in speaking upon a matter of detail which could not be discussed at that meeting; at the same time Mr Ridley was told that a deputation waiting upon the Traffic Committee would receive proper consideration. Will Consett—as probably the most interested, now move in the matter, and try to heal a sore that has existed for so long? Mr Ridley has done more than the work in having brought the matter before the Company in the manner in which he has done; and if only to shew the justice of his complaint, and our appreciation of his interposition, it behoves us to be up and doing. What gentleman of influence will take the initiative towards the formation of a deputation?—I am, sir, yours faithfully, SPERO.

CONSETT REPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Your last week's issue contained information respecting the choosing of a candidate for the Consett Division, which must have taken very many residents in the district by surprise. I think, sir, it would be much better to have a candidate chosen by public meetings of the electors, than by a private conference of "leading Liberals and Conservatives in the district surrounding Lanchester." The gentleman thus chosen would become the nominee, not of a *class*, but of the *whole party*. The workmen of the district are now part and parcel of the electorate, and as such claim to have a voice in the selection of their future representative. The right to elect a member includes the power of selecting a candidate, and as one writer puts it, "Those who have nothing to fear from the poll, can have no reason to shrink from the preliminary ordeal of a properly representative organisation." What is wanted, first of all, is the formation of such an organisation, which shall attend to the register, and direct the affairs of the Liberal party. Some of the newly-formed constituencies are acting wisely in this matter. At Bishop Auckland a meeting was held a few days ago "to consider the propriety of taking immediate steps for the formation of a Liberal Association for the division, and if that step should be decided upon, then to arrange for the formation of district committees in the various polling districts and centres of population." The people of the Bishop Auckland Division have shown us a good example, and I commend their conduct to the leaders of the Liberal party in this Division. If our leaders are wise and business-like men, they will see to the perfection of an organisation which will represent *every elector* in the new constituency. Without registration the Suffrage Bill is a dead letter and without political organisation can never be fully utilised. To choose candidates is in the natural order of things, the result of registration and organisation. By taking that course the return of a member will be accomplished who would advocate measures conducive to the prosperity and welfare of this important constituency.

In conclusion, I again wish to enter my protest against the meeting held at Lanchester. It was not fair to hold such a meeting, and decline to ask any gentleman to come forward as a candidate for the representation of the Division. Such a course was not honourable to its originators, it was not fair to the constituency.—Yours, &c.,

M. NOBLE.

Blackhill.

THE MISSION AT BLACKHILL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

DEAR SIR,—The religious public who have been, and still are, interested in the important Mission that has just been closed in this neighbourhood, ought to present you with a vote of thanks for the favourable reports that you have given in your valuable paper from time to time (not more favourable than true); yet you have devoted space in your paper to report the doings of the Ladies that many newspaper proprietors would not have thought of doing, especially when the work has been after a fashion that has not been witnessed in this neighbourhood before.

I am sorry to see in your report of the concluding meeting, in last week's issue, that the friends have had to complain of the non-attendance of the ministers of the different churches, after, receiving special invitations. I think there is great respect due to the Revs Messrs Jenkins and Lord for their co-operation, especially when other ministers have been looking on with indifference, and not always silent indifference. This ministerial indifference is a matter that the said "Ladies" cannot understand, and for this reason, in former Missions conducted by them, they have always had the co-operation of ministers, and especially of the ministers of the denomination to which they belong. As some people are not certain as to which section of the Christian Church the said Ladies belong, I beg to state for the information of all parties concerned, that Miss Thompson is a member of the Church of England and an adherent of the Revs W. Haslam and W. H. Aitkin. She would be a credit to any church, so would any of the other three ladies. Mrs Watson, Miss Watson, and Miss Wilson are members of the Wesleyan Church in the Brampton Circuit. They commenced their labours at home, and have been instrumental in doing much good. New places have been opened out, chapels have been enlarged, and new ones built. At the opening of a new chapel by the Rev Charles Garrett, the superintendent of the circuit announced that the Ladies would conduct mission services during the following week. Instead of that high methodist authority (an ex-president of the conference) frowning upon them, he wished to be introduced to Misses Watson and Wilson, and congratulated them on the success of their work, and wished them to frequently correspond with him and let him know how they succeeded, as it was a work in which he took deep interest. They have laboured in several of the chapels in their own circuit. At present they have invitations to four of the said chapels.

They have also conducted mission services in several Wesleyan chapels, the names of which I could give you, in other parts of the Carlisle district. They have also conducted services in chapels in the Newcastle district, and have been thanked by the Wesleyan ministers, leaders, and trustees for their successful services, having been instrumental in adding many members to the church. Miss Wilson will commence services in the Wesleyan Chapel, Newbrough, on the 21st inst. They have invitations through the ministers to many Wesleyan chapels in different parts of the country—among others, to the cities of Carlisle and Newcastle, also to Ryton, Blaydon, Jarrow, Fence Houses, &c., in the Newcastle district. They have also had invitations to chapels in Darlington, Devonshire, and Lancashire—one minister offering them the use of any chapel in his circuit if they would only go. After they have fulfilled their present engagements in their own neighbourhood Misses Watson and Wilson have engaged to conduct services in the Wesleyan Chapel, Tow Law.

I think enough has been said to let the public know that the *Ladies* are not religious renegades; and I think persons in their position, who leave the comforts of a respectable home and take up their abode in a workman's cottage (if need be) and sacrifice their health and strength in labouring night after night for the wellfare of all classes, and especially for the lowest of the low, deserve something else at the hands of the representatives of the different churches than cold indifference. (If they can have nothing else, they willingly accept it for the sake of their Divine Master.) I think they will have learned one very important lesson in connection with their mission in this neighbourhood, viz., that the Lord can do his work in buildings that have not been consecrated to his work before, and that he can open such buildings when the doors of certain sanctuaries have been closed against them—and by being thus driven into the Agricultural Hall, Blackhill and Town Hall, Shotley Bridge, they have been brought into contact with a class of individuals they would have never seen in an ordinary place of worship; consequently, they have been instrumental in doing much good to a class of people who have to a great extent been neglected. We don't offer this as an excuse or as a justification of the conduct of those who have closed doors (that ought to have been open) against them, but to show that the Head of the Church can work by whom he will work, and in the most unlikely places, whether the authorities of the church approve or disapprove. Will return to the subject again, if necessary; in the meantime I beg to remain, yours faithfully,

A METHODIST.

SELLING CATS FOR "SCOTCH HARES" AT THE FELLING.

At the Gateshead County Police Court on Tuesday, before Messrs Richard Forster and U. A. Ritson, *Ann Little* (51), a respectably-connected married woman, was brought up on remand charged with stealing a game cock, valued at 15s, the property of a neighbour, John McKee, labourer, High Felling, on the 4th February; further, with stealing a cat, valued at 20s, the property of Rd. Dobson, provision merchant, High Felling, on the 5th inst.; and further, with stealing a cat, the property of Christopher Allen, at the same place. Mr C. M. Dix appeared on behalf of the prisoner. In the first case the evidence was to the effect that the cock was missing, and that subsequently the prisoner sold it for 2s to a neighbouring publican. In the second case, evidence having been given as to the disappearance of the cat from prosecutor's shop, Sergt. Tillar was called, and said that from information he received he arrested the prisoner on Monday, the 9th inst., on a charge of stealing a game cock. On searching the premises he found in the cellar kitchen a table with blood and cat fur on it; also a leg and other portions of cats on the floor. On examining a water-closet he found several cats' paws and bladders of two cats. He searched a hen-house and found a yellow cat produced. It was covered over with sand and thoroughly disembowelled. He found the skins of 19 cats in a garden near prisoner's house. On Saturday, the 14th inst., he charged the prisoner with stealing a domestic animal, to wit, a cat, the property of Mr Dobson, on February 5th. She replied, "Yes; I did kill the yellow cat you found in the hen-cree. I was going to kill him and sell him in the same way as I did the others. I have sold several, and we have eaten several ourselves. They are very like a rabbit when cooked." Prisoner afterwards said that she used to put down some bait in the cellar kitchen at night and catch them there. She killed them by putting a wet towel over their head and then pressing them between her knees; they died in a minute or so. She admitted having put the skins in the garden, and stated she had buried others in the midden. Witness added that Mrs Little had been selling those cats for over three months, and several had been cooked and eaten in her own family. She admitted having sold Mr Wright two cats, and he (witness) had taken action just in time to prevent one of them being cooked.—By Mr Dix: The cellar kitchen was not used much by the family. About 40 skins had been found in neighbouring gardens, and there had been frequent complaints about them. —For the defence it was in the first instance urged that the prisoner was insane, and therefore not responsible for her actions, but the police evidence entirely destroyed this plea. There was no doubt that the prisoner was a confirmed drunkard, and it was stated that her family were anxious that something should be done in a private way for her future custody.—For the first offence prisoner was ordered to pay a fine of 40s and costs, and for the second to go to gaol for three months with hard labour.—The third charge was not gone into.

CONSETT NEW TOWN HALL COMPANY.

The fourth general meeting of the shareholders of the Consett New Town Hall Company (Limited) was held in the ante-room on Wednesday se'nnight, under the presidency of Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P. (Chairman of the Board of Directors). There was a fair attendance.

The CHAIRMAN read the statement of accounts, which showed that the amount expended upon capital account to the present time is £4,679, and the net profit is £115 7s 11d. Although the completion of the building was somewhat delayed, the ground floor premises were ready for occupation on May 1st, and the large hall, &c., a month later.—With the exception of a small shop in Front Street, all the premises are let to respectable tenants. The Directors trusted that the shareholders would consider the statement of accounts satisfactory; the amount earned for the hire of the large hall proving that a room of this description was required in the district.

After a lengthy address by the CHAIRMAN, it was resolved on the motion of Mr G. HAWDON, seconded by Mr J. DAVISON, that a dividend, as proposed by the Directors, of 2½ per cent. be paid.

The Rev F. Steggall, Mr W. R. Taylor, and Mr W. Shell, the retiring Directors, were re-elected. Mr A. Brodie was re-appointed auditor.

It was also resolved, on the motion of Mr G. AINSWORTH, seconded by Mr T. GLEDSTONE, that the seal of the company be affixed to the register of shareholders.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held on Thurday se'nnight, and was attended by Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. (Chairman), Rev J.P. De Pledge, J.P., Messrs J. Wilkidson, W. Logan, W. H. Hedley, T. Taylor Smith, W. M. Annandale, J. Buckham, T. J. Muse, W. Shell, W. Cumming, J. Bowey, W. Bell, and the Clerk (Mr Ritson).

INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE.

Week ending Feb. 4th	182
Corresponding week of last year	161
Week ending Feb. 11th	178
Corresponding week last year	176
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	12
" " corresponding fortnight last year	14

RELIEF EXPENDITURE.

Return of the number of persons relieved, and the amount expended during the 5th and 6th weeks of the quarter ending March 1885:—

EASTERN DISTRICT.

Week ending	ADULTS. Not able-bodied	ADULTS. Able-bodied	CHILDREN. Under 16 years.		AMOUNT OF RELIEF. In money £	s.	d.	In kind. £	s.	d.
4th Feb.	142	45	213	400	30	18	9	0	0	0
11th Feb.	142	45	213	400	26	14	6	0	0	0
WESTERN DISTRICT.										
4th Feb	121	86	228	435	31	18	6	0	0	0
11th Feb	121	86	228	435	31	18	6	0	0	0

BALANCE IN HAND.

The treasurer (Mr John Cummins) reported the balance in hand on February 12th to amount to £1,758 11s 8d. The amount in arrears is £352 12s 6d.

After the relief cases had been disposed of, there was no other business before the Board.

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

Friday's monthly meeting was presided over by Mr C. Bainbridge.

MESSRS HEDLEY'S REVALUATION.

The Clerk read the revaluation sheets prepared by Messrs Hedley, who have advanced the total railway valuation by £2,189, the extra valuation of Wolsingham steelworks and cottages raising the grand total to £2,696.

Mr MADDISON strongly disapproved of payment for revaluation by percentage on the increase sustained, and declined to modify his opinion on the rejoinder by Messrs WALTON and SNOWBALL that the valuers would only be remunerated according to the increased valuation sustained.

Mr MADDISON inquired if the Board were prepared for a costly law suit, a result, however, which the Clerk did not apprehend.

THE SEPARATE CELLS.

The Local Government Board approve the plan and estimate for the erection of new vagrant wards.

STATISTICS.

The vagrants had numbered 149 during the past fortnight, against 74 for the corresponding fortnight of 1884. The inmates were 97, against 87 on the corresponding day last year.

A statement as to the persons in receipt of relief in the Union on the 1st of January showed the in-door paupers to number 97, an increase of 25; and out-door 617, an increase of 51.

The vaccination returns show general compliance with the law.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

HEALTH OF THE DERWENT DISTRICT.

At Friday's meeting, Dr W. Montgomery, reporting on the health of the Derwent district for the past year, stated that the total deaths in a population of 884 was 12, or 14·5 per 1,000, against 28·12 last year.

TYPHOID PANIC AT WOLSINGHAM.

The question of epidemic, drainage, and water supply at Wolsingham occupied exclusive attention, and considerable feeling was engendered.

The Surveyor said there had been no fresh cases of typhoid from the steelworks for about a month. The cases, apart from those of the steelworks, were doing well, and the fact that there were cases apart from the works suggested some other local cause.

Mr Wm. Shaw, general manager of the steelworks, had written to the Local Government Board on the matter, suggesting that the Imperial Board should send down at once a sanitary engineer to hold an inquiry.

The Local Government Board, who had perused the medical report on the typhoid outbreak, ask what steps the Authority propose to take with reference to sewerage, and a water supply which shall be free from contamination.

The Authority, therefore, resolved to sign an agreement for a water supply from the Weardale and Shildon Company, on the terms fixed by the latter; to send a copy of this resolution to the Local Government Board, and to invite the Imperial Board to institute a Government inquiry.

A SHOCKING STORY FROM STANHOPE.

It was stated that a man named Stobbs, a joiner, had been going about the town whilst suffering from small-pox.

Dr LIVINGSTONE said the case was scandalous. The man had been going to public-houses drinking whilst in this state. The sergeant of police had ordered him to stay in the house, and had been treated to nothing but cursing and swearing by the man. His wife had gone to the sergeant's house and shook her fist in at the window, saying she hoped they might take the infection. The children were also running about, and thus endangering others. There were now six centres of infection in the town. It was time something was done in the matter, and he proposed that the pauper small-pox cases be removed to the infectious wards of the Workhouse.

Mr WALTON seconded.

It was also resolved to prosecute Stobbs.

SANITARY STATE OF THE HOSPITAL.

The Inspector (Mr Egglestone) reported that the hospital drains had been opened, and were found to be a complete wreck. The whole of them will have to be taken up and re-laid. Most of the joints were found to be disconnected, and the pipes choked with an accumulation of years. They were in a dreadful state, and if small-pox patients were admitted pails would have to be provided for them.

A Committee was ultimately appointed to see that the hospital was put into a state to receive patients.

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

THE NORTH DURHAM LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT SOUTH SHIELDS.

On Monday, the last annual meeting of the North Durham Liberal Registration Association was held at South Shields. The business proceedings were transacted in the Assembly-room of the Royal Hotel. There was a large and representative gathering, composed of Liberal politicans from all parts of the division. Mr H. T. Morton, J.P., of Biddick Hall, occupied the chair.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr S. Storey, M.P.) presented the report for the year, which showed that the net Liberal gain on the register was 185, and then stated: "Since the last annual meeting the County Franchise Bill has been passed, and this has made a great change in North Durham. Instead of its consisting of one district returning two members, it has been divided into five, each returning one member. Under these circumstances the present Registration Association would seem no longer a necessity, and the committee recommend that in future the registration of each of these districts should be managed by an association elected within the district itself, the local associations performing the same functions for its district as the North Durham Registration Association hitherto has performed for the whole division. The committee cannot conclude its operations without expressing an earnest hope that the Liberals and Radicals in each of the new divisions will act together in harmony, so as to secure the representation of the county by earnest reformers."

The report was adopted, and it was decided to wind up the association; but on the motion of Sir FARRER HERSCHELL, M.P., seconded by Mr W. H. PATTERSON (Durham), a resolution was passed requesting the President (Mr H. T. Morton), the Vice-President (Mr J. Joicey, J.P.), and the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (Mr Storey, M.P.), to continue in office for the present year.

Mr W. H. JAMES, M.P., moved, and Mr W. JENKINS seconded, a vote of thanks to the President and officers for their services in the past.

An adjournment was then made to the Free Library Hall, where an excellent luncheon was provided. Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P., presided, and he was supported by Sir Farrer Herschell, M.P., the Hon. W. H. James, M.P., Mr C. M. Palmer, M.P., Mr S. Storey, M.P., Sir Henry Havelock-Allen, the Rev J. P. De Pledge, Ald. Williamson, Mr W. H. Richardson (Monkton), Ald. R. Brown (Sunderland), Mr R. W. Hodgson, Mr F. W. Laing, Captain Carr-Ellison, Mr J. Joicey, Mr James Laing, Mr W. Jenkins (Consett), Mr A. S. Stevenson, and Mr A. Thompson. The vice-chairs were occupied by Dr Robson, J.P., Mr J. Thompson, Mr H. T. Duncan, and Mr R. Purvis. The company numbered about 2000, and a few ladies were present.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the usual loyal toasts, and also gave "The Bishop and Clergy and Ministers of all denominations."

The Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE (vicar of Satley), in responding, congratulated the company on the passing of the Franchise Bill. He hoped the members whose indomitable perseverance had contributed so largely towards this great consummation would not be forgotten. He considered it would be a standing reproach to the county if all those members who had fought so bravely in the good cause were not, if such was their desire, given seats in the new Parliament. (Cheers.) As to the future, he might venture to remark that they were not met as Red Republicans. (Laughter.) They did not want to destroy the institutions of the country—only to reform them when reform was necessary. (Cheers.) He had the utmost confidence in the Liberal party, believing it would continue to promote "peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety," throughout this country. (Cheers.)

The Rev M. GRAY (Nonconformist) also replied.

Mr WILLIAM GLOVER proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," to which Captain J. R. CARR-ELLISON responded. He said he could not but feel deeply humiliated as an Englishman and as a Liberal, nor could he help blaming the Government for not trying to rescue General Gordon sooner. They were two days too late. Had they been there two days sooner they would have been in time. ("No, no," and applause.) He hoped they had all read or heard Mr Joseph Cowen's speech—that most eloquent and patriotic speech, delivered at Newcastle on Saturday night. (Applause; "No, no," and a few hisses). It was, in his opinion, the best speech that had been delivered during the past six months. (Applause, and "No, no.")

Sir FARRER HERSCHELL (Solicitor-General) in proposing "The North Durham Liberal Registration Association and other kindred Associations," said so long as Conservatives existed and organised and formed associations, so long would associations and gatherings of that kind be essential to their success. They formed associations because they were Liberals, and because they believed it was for the good of the country that the cause of Liberalism should prevail over the cause of those who opposed it. If their opponents armed and the Liberals laid down their arms they would be likely to be worsted in the conflict. They could not fight an organisation without having an organisation. No doubt they had individuals possessed of high eloquence, and no doubt the very eloquence with which they are endowed gave to their cause a vitality and strength, but they could not in the nature of things expect in all the constituencies of this great country to find eloquent and powerful orators who would command enthusiasm. Nor was he at all sure that if they had the House of Commons filled with them that it would be a desirable representation of the nation. They wanted men to work at practical details. (Applause.) He confessed that criticism was of the utmost value to any Government, but he thought it was well to draw the line between criticism and fault-finding. (Applause.)

Mr J. JOICEY, J.P., replied in an appropriate speech. He hoped North Durham would in future return none but Liberal members to Parliament.

Mr S. STOREY, M.P., who also responded, denied that there had been any attempt to force working men on the new constituencies, but two or three working men had been suggested if there were constituencies who would adopt them. What was desired was that the Liberals and Radicals of each constituency should meet together and select their own candidate. They all had one aim in view, and that was to secure the success of the Liberal party. (Cheers.)

Sir HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN, Bart., proposed "The Houses of Parliament." He said that one of the most fitting, proper, and difficult tasks before the House of Lords was to reform itself, and he was of opinion that the Upper House should be an assembly in which the elective should supersede the hereditary principle. Referring to the Soudan he expressed the fear that we were committed to what some might consider an aggressive war in Central Africa; and he deprecated anything like a war of vengeance.

Mr C. M. PALMER, M.P., responded. He alluded to the courage and determination with which the North Durham Liberal Association had fought for the extension of the Franchise. He had been mentioned as a candidate for one of the new divisions—Jarrow; but in that matter he must abide entirely by the wishes of the Liberal party. If a working man were chosen he would, of course, step aside; but he should be loth to separate himself from North Durham.

Mr W. H. JAMES, M.P., also spoke. He said the House of Commons had splendid traditions, and he was confident that its future would be equally grand. In the past sixty or seventy years we had brought together a great empire, largely by working in the paths of peace, and it was to be hoped that nothing would be done to break up those great possessions. After the Battle of Trafalgar William Pitt went to the Lord Mayor's banquet, and the gentleman who proposed his health said he had saved Europe; but Pitt replied, "England cannot be saved by any single individual. England has saved herself by her own exertions, and it is to be hoped she will save Europe by her own example." (Cheers.)

"The Trade and Commerce of the North of England" and other toasts followed.

In the evening a public meeting was held in Harmston's Circus, Ocean Road, at which there was a very large attendance.—Mr J. C. Stevenson again presided, and in introducing the proceedings expressed a hope that there would be no feeling of military vengeance in the Soudan. All Liberals, he said, should abstain from urging the Government on in that respect, but should give to the Government their hearty support.

Mr C. M. PALMER, M.P., who was received with cheers, moved the first resolution:—

> That this meeting records its satisfaction that the Franchise Bill has been passed, and that the Redistribution Bill is likely to pass during the coming session, and begs to tender to Mr Gladstone and his Government its warmest thanks for the earnestness they have displayed in the conduct of these measures.

(Cheers.) The working people of Durham had fought the battle for the franchise with greater vigour than any other part of the kingdom, and therefore they were entitled to demand that they should be thoroughly represented in the coming Parliament. (Hear, hear.) There would in future be sixteen seats instead of thirteen, and his good friends that day had on more than one occasion been pleased to say that the present members for the county should not be overlooked. (Hear, hear.) People were at present busy disposing of the seats in the county, yet he did not find that on any occasion whatever had mention been made of his colleague, "the bonny pit laddie." (Laughter.) What were they going to do with him, because he was one of the sitting members, and according to their policy respecting present members he was entitled, and ought to claim, one of the districts. (Laughter.) He did not know why, but it happened somehow that he always came in at the last of a capital race, and he always ran. (Continued laughter.) One satisfaction was that by their kindness he had never headed the poll, and that he (the speaker) had always had the pleasure of being at the top. (Cheers.) His colleague was a man who took things more coolly than any other man he ever knew in the House of Commons; but notwithstanding this coolness, and notwithstanding that he was a man of the greatest intelligence and the greatest knowledge, he thought they would agree in their own minds that he would be better as a representative of some Welsh borough or county. (Laughter.) For his own personal comfort, as well as theirs, he hoped that when the election time came there would be no necessity for a contest. (Laughter and hear, hear.) He hoped that the Liberals in each one of the divisions would be thoroughly organised, and that there would be no talk of this name for this division and that name for that until each district should have entirely made up its mind as to the policy it was to pursue. (Hear, hear.) It would be a mistake, he thought, to follow any other course than to permit each district to exercise its free choice in the selection of a candidate; but whatever was done he hoped that all sections of the Liberal party would unite and carry their man; so that his much esteemed and much beloved colleague might not be returned for any division throughout the whole of the county of Durham. (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr JOHN WILSON (one of the labour candidates chosen by the Durham Miners' Association) seconded the resolution. He said he came before them as one of the newly-enfranchised, one of the men who had never been fit for political society till now. (Laughter and cheers.) On behalf of himself and those he represented he tendered his thanks to the men who had worked and who had given their votes and their voices, and to her Majesty's Government in particular, for extending to them the measure of justice by which they had been enfranchised. There was one thing he wished to remark while on that subject. He had been a resident in Durham city two and a half years, and one of the things to which he had looked forward with pleasure was the enjoyment of the privilege of giving his first Parliamentary vote in favour of a man whom he considered to be one of the ablest men in the country — the Solicitor-General. (Cheers.) However, the fates were against that gentleman's remaining as the member for Durham. Durham had lost one of its seats, and he understood that the Solicitor-General by his own free will had chosen to retire and to allow Mr Thompson to remain. But he hoped, and he gave his bond, that so far as he was concerned, if a constituency were found for Sir Farrer Herschell in the county of Durham—and he did not know why there should not be—(hear, hear)—he should have what little help, rough as it might be, that he could give him. (Cheers.) As one of the candidates chosen by the Durham miners, he would like to make a few remarks. He had not been chosen because of any particular qualification which he possessed. The Liberal cause had nothing to fear. The working men would not divide it. They had more sense. They were not the traitors to introduce Arabs into the political Khartoum: they regarded their Gordon too much for that. (Cheers.) It had been said that the divisions should be allowed to choose their own candidates. But if they were to have labour representatives those who were to pay them must have the first choice. (Hear, hear.) A district might send up a man as a labour representative, but the miners might say, "We won't pay him: we'll pay Crawford and Wilson." But he knew the miners to a man, and he had full confidence in saying that the Federation Board and they would not choose men that any district in the county would not choose and approve of. (Cheers.) He repeated, they had no desire to be antagonistic to the Liberal party; they had rather shown a desire on the other side. At the time that the three labour candidates were first proposed they held out the right hand of fellowship and copartnership to the Liberal cause, and they said, "We are willing if you accept us three, who are the nominees of the workers of the county, we are willing to work with you, to toil with you, to labour with you side by side politically, in order that we may maintain the Liberal cause entire and intact." That was the attitude of the working men, and there was no man who had had more to do with them than himself. He knew their aims and aspirations; he knew them to be truly Liberal; he knew that there was hardly a man among them who was not a Radical. (Cheers.) It might be said that there was a Conservative working man here and there. Well, he never saw a field of potatoes in his life that had not a bad one in it. (Loud laughter and cheers.) But they must rely not on the diseased ones, but on the politically sound ones, and as they had not deceived them in the past they would not deceive them in the future. (Cheers.)

Sir FARRER HERSCHELL next spoke, and referred to the satisfaction he experienced at the passing of the Franchise Bill. He was certain it was appreciated more in the North of England than in any other place. His experience was that whenever an extension of the franchise had taken place it left every institution better. Referring to Egypt, he said that from the very first moment when they began to meddle with her finances, and when they were asked that one ruler should be deposed and another put in his place, he had the gravest misgivings, because in taking the first step they were assuming responsibilities of such a nature that they did not know where they would end. The mischief was done in taking the first steps; but he hoped the war would end in a manner consistent with the welfare, honour, dignity, and safety of the country.

The Hon. W. JAMES, M.P., moved: "That this meeting re-affirms the adhesion of the Liberals of North Durham to the old policy of peace, retrenchment, and reform, and hopes that at the coming election the Liberals of the county will send representatives prepared to support this policy."

Mr JOICEY seconded the adoption of the resolution, which, after being supported, was carried, and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

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

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

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes 1s 1½d. and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 Stamps by the maker E. T. TOWLE, Chemist Nottingham.

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.

LANCHESTER RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

This Authority met at Lanchester on Thursday afternoon in last week, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. The members present were the same as in attendance at the Guardians' meeting held previously.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF BURNHOPE.

Mr BUCKHAM reported verbally that he had received information to the effect that the inhabitants of Burnhope had been provided with a capital service of water by the colliery proprietors, and the people were satisfied with the existing supply. He had also been thanked by the residents for the active steps he had taken in obtaining them a better supply.

EBCHESTER WATER SUPPLY.

A letter was read from the Consett Water Company declining to supply the village of Ebchester without including Broomhill and Medomsley Edge, at a less sum than £500; inasmuch as the pipes would have to be extended a considerable length, and the revenue would not recoup the Company for the outlay involved.

The subject was referred to a Committee.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF ESH.

The Secretary of the Weardale and Shildon Waterworks Company wrote to inform the Authority that they had not received any reply to their offer made in October last for supplying the village of Esh with water; and the Directors requested a definite answer forthwith, as they wished the matter to be taken off their books.

Mr CUMMING said there was a plentiful supply of water at present, but how long it would last he could not say.

This question was likewise relegated to a Committee for consideration.

THE CRAGHEAD SEWERAGE QUESTION.

A letter from the Local Government Board was read, enquiring what progress has been made for the disposal of the sewerage of Craghead and neighbourhood, and the Imperial Authorities desired to be informed of the nature of the steps being taken.

Mr LOGAN explained that a very short time after the Authority had received Mr A. Taylor's report relative to the Government enquiry at Craghead, another official communication came from the Local Government Board intimating that on and after March next, the village of Craghead would be transferred to the Edmondsley township, in the Chester-le-Street Union; and they were simply waiting to see whether this step would be carried into effect.

After a few remarks, the Clerk was directed to reply to the Local Government Board to the foregoing effect.

ESH SEWERAGE SCHEME.

The Inspector was instructed to prepare plans for sewering the village of Esh; Messrs Logan and Cumming being authorised to meet the Inspector on the spot, and select the most suitable site for the outfall works.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr Rounthwaite) submitted the following report:—

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

GENTLEMEN,—The owners of Burnhope Colliery have considerably improved the existing provision for water supply at that place by building a small storage tank with pump, &c., at No. 1 well. The manager has also in hand the improvement of the other wells. In accordance with your instructions, analysis of No. 5 well has been obtained from the County Analyst and is submitted herewith.

In pursuance of your resolution at last meeting I have had the Lanchester sewer opened out in four places, viz.: by removing the covers of man-holes in two cases, and opening up the ground in other two places. It—the sewer—is in good position, and running well. I have had it thoroughly flushed by turning the whole of the village burn through it for many hours.

In order that access for inspection may be at once obtained in the future a couple of small shafts are in course of formation, which, together with the two man-holes, should have proper iron covers.

The arrangement for flushing, ordered to be carried out in connection with the West Stanley main sewer, has been completed.

I have certified the balance due to Messrs Langton and Sedgwick for Dipton sewerage outlet works at £51 13s 6d.

Monthly summary:—

Nuisance notices served during the month ..	6
Letters written with respect to nuisances &c.	34
Plan approval notices sent out..............	3
Plans received and examined	8
Habitation certificates sent out............	3
Villages, hamlets, &c., inspected............	80

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
J. WM. ROUNTHWAITE.

Lanchester, 12th Febuary, 1885.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

January 15th, 1885.

Your Committee have received the following plans, and recommend that they be approved, subject to the matters marked on each plan being attended to, viz:—

571.—Francis Priestman, outbuildings, Derwent Hill.
572.—Earl of Durham, cattle shed, W. Langley Park.
573.—John Eden, outbuildings to "Blue Bell," Kip Hill.
574.—James Joicey, outbuildings to houses, Flint Hill.
575.—William Appleby, additions to house, &c., The Leazes.
577.——. Normar, addition to house, Esh.
578.—Annfield Plain Co-operative Society, outbuildings at the store, Annfield Plain.

That the following plan be disapproved, viz:—

576.—Edward Rutter, conversion of house into two houses, at Esh.

The report was adopted.

The analysis of Mr Stock regarding No. 5 well at Burnhope, certified that the water was only fit for domestic purposes providing that it was previously filtered.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The Medical Officers submitted the following reports:—

Lanchester District.

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

Mr CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—Since my last report there have been 4 more cases of small-pox at Hamsteels Colliery, and 1 at Quebec.

Craghead and Wagtail Cottages are free from the disease. The temporary hospital at this place, and the one at Howl Dean, have been disinfected.

The following are fresh cases of epidemic diseases that have appeared in the district during the last four weeks:—

Five cases of typhoid fever at Hedley Fell, a mother and 4 children. The mother and one of the children died.

Twenty-two cases of measles, 3 of scarlet fever, and 4 of typhoid fever at Cornsay Colliery.

One case of scarlet fever at Esh, and 3 at Quebec.

The house behind Wherly's shop at Cornsay Colliery, and his 4 houses at Quarryhouse Cottages, are not fit for habitation.—I am, Mr Chairman and Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON.

February 12th, 1885.

Medomsley District.

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

GENTLEMEN,—No fresh cases of febrile disease have come under my notice since my last report, but several cases of croup in Ebchester and Medomsley are under treatment.

The sanitary condition of the district continues good.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. T. BOLTON.

February 11th, 1885.

Eastern District.

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

GENTLEMEN,—The following cases of zymotic diseases have been notified to me during the month, viz.—4 of scarlatina at Shield Row; 2 at Oxhill; 2 at East Pontop; and 2 at Dipton; 1 of enteric fever at Stanley, and 1 at Dipton.

With regard to the two last mentioned cases, each of them occurred in a house where the disease had been a short time ago.

I have not been able to trace the origin of the others.

The mortality for the four weeks is much lower than usual. 23 deaths were registered, being equal to an annual ratio of 16·1 per 1,000. One death only was due to zymotic disease, viz., scarlatina.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

T. BENSON, Medical Officer.

February 10th, 1885.

THE SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.

The following paragraphs are taked from Dr Wilson's annual report, submitted to the Authority:

"Small-pox made its appearance in the beginning of November last in a house at Wagtail Cottages, near Craghead. A family of the name of Burdon were visited by a young female friend who was barely convalescent from the disease, and who is a resident of Durham where small-pox has been epidemic for the last nine or ten months. This young woman lodged in the house all night, and in the course of three or four days a daughter of Burdon's—a girl of twelve years of age—sickened from the disease. During her recovery a sister was attacked, afterwards a brother, then a sister-in-law, who resides next door, and then her husband. While this was going on in Burdon's family, their neighbour Young and his family removed to one of the new houses at Craghead. In about a week afterwards two of his children were down in the disease. This was followed by the wife of Young's brother being laid up with the disease, and who resides in one of the houses of the new row. At this point the disease returned to Wagtail Cottages, and attacked a boy of nine years of the name of Kay. About ten days afterwards his brother, a young man, sickened and died on the 9th day.

"In this same month two young men, who belong respectively to Lanchester and Cornsay Colliery, but who are employed in Durham, felt unwell, came home, and in the course of a few days small-pox showed itself. The father of the young man at Cornsay Colliery, with the rest of the family, left the house. The mother remained to nurse, but about the end of the convalescence of her son she sickened and died on the fourth day.

"In the month of December I saw a mild case of small-pox in a young man at Ushaw Moor, and a rather severe case in a young woman at Hamsteels Colliery. The latter had been in the habit of visiting weekly the village of Brandon, where I am told the disease is rife.

"Permit me to record here the satisfactory and prompt manner the owners of the colliery villages I have mentioned supplied houses in isolated positions for the purpose of temporary hospitals for the treatment of the patients"

CONSETT AND DISTRICT RELIEF FUND.

EVENING CONCERT.

Since the inauguration of the above scheme, whereby many a destitute, friendless, and outcast soul has been comforted, it has been entirely supported by the subscriptions of private individuals; but the committee, in order to allow the public to display their philanthropy, determined to appeal to their generosity. Accordingly, the committee of the Consett Choral Society were approached, and they at once promised to lend their assistance, the outcome of which was a grand evening concert given in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday evening. Considering the noble object of the enterprise, coupled with the fact that a good programme had been arranged, it was naturally expected that there would be a very large attendance; but it was rather disappointing to find that the spacious room on that night was little more than half-full. The artistes were mostly local, and they were supplemented by a choir of about forty voices, all under the direction of the conductor, Mr C. Stelling. The following well-arranged programme was gone through:—Part I. Chorus, "Sweet Spring, all hail;" song, "Three jolly sailor boys," Mr P. Surtees; song, "The blue Alsatian mountains," Miss Cairns; duet, "The army and navy," Messrs Stelling and Surtees; serio-comic song, Mr Holliday; trio, "Up, quit thy bower," Miss Cairns and Messrs C. Davison and Surtees; song, "The clang of the hammer," Mr Dryden; song, "Killarney," Miss Smith; part song, "A sail! a sail!" Part II. Part song, "Merrily, merrily o'er the trackless deep;" song, "Dream faces," Mr Davison; song, "The better land," Miss Harwood; duet, "Away from the rolling sea," Miss Bell and Mr Dryden; song, "The Midshipmite," Mr C. C. McColvin; part song, "How merrily and gay;" song, "Rippling waves of sparkling hue," Miss Bell; trio, "Peter Piper," Messrs Stelling, Holliday, and Surtees; song, "The outlaw," Mr Frankland; song, "Ehren on the Rhine," Mr Stelling. The pieces allotted to the choir were from the cantata which they gave with unparalelled success some weeks ago, "The wreck of the Argosy," and it is needless to say that the execution of the same was good. In Cowen's pathetic song, "The better land," Miss Harwood was especially happy, and scored a meritorious *encore*. Miss Bell (Leadgate), who possesses a very refined soprano voice, won laurels in rendering the song, "Rippling waves of sparkling hue," she being lustily redemanded, and which she gracefully acknowledged. The catch, "Peter Piper," brought an *encore* to Messrs Stelling, Holliday, and Surtees, during the rendering of which the audience were fairly convulsed with laughter. The other performers did full justice to their respective pieces, but as the piano was rather out of tune, the effect of their singing was not so great as it otherwise would have been. The accompaniments were played by Mr Stelling and Mr Geo. Dryden, who gave every satisfaction.—At the close of the programme, Mr Adam Brodie, hon. secretary of the Relief Fund, said that in the absence of their chairman (Mr William Shell, sen.), he wished to propose that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr Stelling and the Choral Society for their services that evening. He deplored the comparatively small attendance, as he thought the object of the proceedings alone should have commanded a full house. (Applause.) However, he was glad to inform them that some handsome subscriptions had been forthcoming that week, and these would supplement the proceeds of that concert. When the committee waited upon the Choral Society, the latter promised without the least hesitation to do whatever lay in their power to alleviate the distress at present existing in this town, and he thought they fully deserved their thanks.—Mr Thomas Swainston briefly seconded the proposition, which was carried with much enthusiasm.—Mr Stelling having replied on behalf of the Choral Society, the entertainment was brought to a conclusion by the company singing the National Anthem.

CATARRH OF THE BLADDER.—Stinging, irritation, inflammation, all kidney and kindred complaints, cured by "Buchu-paiba." At chemists. Newbery and Sons, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

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.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B41 PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional), Gravel, and Pains in the back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s 6d each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address for sixty stamps by the Makers, THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln. Wholesale Agents, BARCLAY & SONS, London, and all the Wholesale Houses.

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

NATIONAL SMOKE ABATEMENT INSTITUTION.—The Council of the National Smoke Abatement Institution have published a report for the year 1884, which shows the direction and scope of changes which have been observed by the Council during the period. The council do not advocate particular methods of smoke prevention, but by the various reports of tests, and the papers and communications which they have obtained from various authorities and published, the best methods of heating have been fairly suggested. The report, a pamphlet of 23 pages, is interesting and useful as a record of what has been done and said on the subject during the past year, and the information it contains shows at least that, without any hardship to proprietors, a great deal of the smoke now allowed to pollute the air might be easily avoided, and the means are described.—*The Engineer*.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, February 16th.—Before JAS. ANNANDALE, Esq. (in the chair), and Lieut.-Colonel A. B. WILBRAHAM.

DRUNKENNESS.

Swinburne Murray (34), of No. 7 Melbourne Street, Consett, pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly in the public streets of Consett, about nine o'clock last Saturday night.—The charge having been proved by P.C. Newton, the defendant was fined 5s and costs.

REFUSING TO QUIT.

An old offender, named *James G[illegible]* (27), miner, of Annfield Lea, was brought up by P.C. Bain to answer a charge of being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises kept by Mr Matthew Urwin, of Tanfield Lea, on Saturday last. Prisoner was likewise charged with wilfully damaging a quantity of pots and glasses at the same time and place.—About eight p.m. the prisoner became exceedingly noisy and troublesome in the prosecutor's house, and when the landlord ordered him to go out, he refused to move, but deliberately smashed a number of glasses and pots, the damage being assessed at 1s. Eventually P.C Bain was called in to eject the man.—Prisoner was fined 5s and expenses for refusing to quit, and mulcted in a further penalty of 1s and to pay 1s damage for the second offence in default, to be imprisoned for fourteen days' hard labour.

THEFT OF A WATCH AND GUARD: ANOTHER INCORRIGIBLE.

Joseph Law, a boy of 13 years, residing with his parents at Clough Dene, near Tantobie, was brought up in custody on a charge of stealing a watch and guard, the property of Robert Lynn, a miner.—P.C. Bain informed the Bench that the boy was utterly incorrigible, and beyond the control of his parents. Of late, it was suspected that the prisoner had been concerned in different petty thefts committed in the immediate district; but no action had been taken against him. However, on Saturday last, the boy was found to have stolen the watch and guard, whilst they were suspended from a nail in the prosecutor's house. At the request of the boy's father and Mr Lynn, he (P.C. Bain) apprehended the lad at six p.m. the same night, when the stolen property was found in his possession.—On the application of Supt. Jas. Oliver, the prisoner was remanded to take his trial at Lanchester on the succeeding Thursday.

GATESHEAD COUNTY POLICE

TUESDAY, Feb. 16th.—Before Earl RAVENSWORTH (chairman), and J. HALL, Esq.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLIES.

Margaret Turner, of Swalwell, charged by P.C. Taylor with having been drunk and disorderly at Swalwell, on Jan. 31st, was fined 2s 6d and costs.

Robert Eltringham, of Crawcrook, was summoned by Sergt. Benzies for being drunk and disorderly at Ryton, on the 31st ult.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

John Curran and *James Curran*, of Ryton, were charged by P.C. Reynolds with having been drunk and disorderly at Ryton, on Jan. 31st.—Defendants were fined 2s 6d each and costs.

Edward Gallegar, *Edward Joice*, and *Richard McGee*, of Emm. Villa, were severally summoned by P.C. Cox for having been drunk and disorderly at Crawcrook, on Jan. 30th.—A fine of 2s 6d each and costs was imposed.

Roger and *John Lough*, charged by Sergt. Benzies with being drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on Feb. 2nd, were fined 1s and costs each.

Bejn. Storey, of Swalwell, was charged with having been drunk and disorderly at Swalwell, on Jan. 31st.—P.C. Taylor stated the facts, and the defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.

REFUSING TO QUIT.

William Bateman, of Blaydon, summoned for being drunk and refusing to quit the Ferry Inn, at Blaydon, on 31st Jan., was fined 1s and costs.

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF HORSES.

Charles Howorth and *George Cooper*, both of Winlaton, were summoned on a charge of having been drunk in charge of two horses and carts at Swalwell, on Feb. 5th.—They were fined 5s each and costs.—P.C. Lambert proved the cases.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Edward Oliver and *George Veitch*, of Greenside, were charged by P.C. Cox with committing a breach of the peace by fighting with each other at Crawcrook, on Jan. 30th.—Defendants were each bound over for three months, and pay 8s a-piece as costs.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

George Pearson, of Blaydon Haughs, was summoned for doing wilful damage to rails, the property of Messrs Smith and Patterson, at Blaydon, on the 1st inst.—P.C. Cockburn proved the charge.—Fined 2s 6d, and ordered to pay 1s damage and costs.

ASSAULT AT DUNSTON.

John Carlisle, of Dunston, was summoned for assaulting James Waugh at that place, on Feb. 1st.—He was fined 1s and costs.

THEFT OF MUTTON AT BLAYDON.

Ann Weans, *Elizabeth Ford*, and *Ann Young*, all of Blaydon, were charged with stealing 4lbs. of mutton, valued at 2s 6d, the property of Thomas Tom, on Feb. 5th.—A fine of 2s 6d and costs was inflicted.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE AT THE SPEN

Robert Shield, of Winlaton Mill, was charged with having been drunk and disorderly, and also with assaulting P.C. Farrar, at The Spen, on Jan. 31st.—Shield having been convicted of different offences previously, and who, it appears, is a very violent man when under the influence of liquor, was sentenced to undergo three months' imprisonment for assaulting the police, and ordered to bear the costs. Shield paid the costs. The charge of drunkenness was dismissed.—Mr Warlow prosecuted; and Mr Forster defended the prisoner.

George Atkinson, of Winlaton (who made his second appearance this year, and who has undergone many previous convictions) was charged with assaulting P.C. Pattison at The Spen, on the same date. Prisoner was committed for one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

A ROUGH'S REVENGE UPON THE POLICE.

James Luke, of the Royal Oak Inn, Winlaton Mill, was summoned by Robert Shield (a defendant in a previous case) for harbouring the police at Winlaton Mill, on Jan. 30th, during prohibited hours. Mr Forster prosecuted; and Mr Warlow defended.—P.C. Taylor stated that he went to defendant's house on business connected with his duties. The landlord not being at home at the time, he remained until Mr Luke came in. While he was speaking to the landlord a knock came to the door. The landlady asked who was there, and the reply was "The sergeant." P.C. Taylor came out, and inquired what he (Shield) wanted?—Shield replied: "You have no business in there."—P.C. Taylor told him he knew perfectly well what he was doing.—The Chairman said the police could not perform their duties without visiting public-houses occasionally; therefore the case would be dismissed.—Several publicans were present and evinced the keenest interest in the case.

In Memoriam.

JOHN LOWSON, OF ANNFIELD PLAIN.

The oldest resident in Annfield Plain, Mr John Lowson, departed this life on February 4th of the present year. Lowson was born of humble parentage in the City of Durham in the year 1792. His parents removed from the City when John was only four years old, and resided at the Moor Pit, situated between Hare Law and Catchgate. At the tender age of seven years, the subject of this memoriam was sent to work in the coal mine, situate on the west side of the Loud Hill, called the "Success Pit," and here he grew to man's maturity. When he was 24 years old, he took a wife. In his early manhood Lowson identified himself with Wesleyan Methodism, and became a useful and laborious worker in the cause of Christ. Annfield Plain at this time being a comparatively new pit village, John Lowson came to reside at this place, and in the year 1835 was one of the first to open his cottage for preaching service, and for some considerable time the Wesleyan Methodist Society worshipped under his roof. The preachers shared his hospitality until the society found more and better adapted premises in Mr Mackey's schoolroom. John Lowson is one of the pioneers of Methodism living in this village, and has witnessed many changes during the establishment and growth of Methodism, having lived 47 years in this place, he having seen the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel twice enlarged after it was first built. At his decease he has left behind him a large and prosperous society propogated by such humble and earnest labours by himself and his co-workers. There is at present a resident Wesleyan minister at Annfield Plain (the Rev William Taylor,) and a large and useful staff of local preachers, and some good and useful men have been raised up into prominent and responsible positions in the world through the humble efforts of such industrious, hard-working men. John Lowson has been foremost in the ranks of the cause of Methodism for more than half a century, receiving his first quarterly ticket of membership from the Rev William Jackson, who was travelling in the Gateshead District; and his last one under the resident minister, the Rev W. Taylor.

The subject of this sketch was a man of a most remarkable memory. Any striking event happening in the district years after he could, from memory, narrate the principal circumstances, and name the day and date and all particulars of the incident. Lowson was able to work, in and about the collieries, until he attained the age of 86 years, being a healthy and hard-working man. Unhappily for the last six years of his life, more or less, he has been confined to his bed, but retained in a wonderful manner his memory and reasoning powers up to the last, and he quietly passed away at the ripe old age of 92 years. He leaves behind a name and character worthy of imitation. His remains were interred on Sunday week, at St. Thomas's Church, Collierley. This notable man was followed to the grave by a large concourse of people of all classes. He was much revered, and all desired to pay a tribute to his departed memory. The funeral ceremony was performed by the Rev J. Gornall (vicar of the parish.) The rev. gentleman has often visited him on his sick bed, and administered to his spiritual wants as a Christian, and much to the credit of the agents of the Marley Hill Company, be it said, for having allowed this good man, for the last six years of his life, his house and firing.

Cricket.

CONSETT WHITE STARS CRICKET CLUB.—The members of the club held their annual meeting, on Saturday evening, when the following officers were elected for the forthcoming season:—Captain, Mr J. R. Maxwell; vice-captain, Mr T. Adamson; secretary, Mr J. Geo. Willey; treasurer, Mr R. Turley; committee, Messrs J. Harwood, W. Turnbull, J. Maxwell, W. Hutchinson, N. Fawell, J. Malpass. The secretary is open to arrange matches with other clubs.

Football.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

Feb. 21.—Hobson Wanderers v. Tow Law, at the Hobson.
" " Page Bank 1st v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Tanfield Lea.
" " Elswick Ordnance Works 1st v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, at Tanfield Lea.
" 28.—Tanfield Lea 1st v. Hebburn 1st, at Hebburn.
Mar. 7.—Beamish 1st v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Tanfield Lea.
" " Heaton 2nd v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, at Heaton.
" " Heaton Juniors v. Tanfield Lea Juniors, at Tanfield Lea.
" 14.—Hobson Wanderers v. Hedleyhope, at Hedleyhope.

BENWELL HILL v. BLAYDON JUNIORS.—On Saturday, Benwell Hill beat the latter by four tries, one disputed, to nil.

TANFIELD LEA v. PELTON FELL (A).—Played on Saturday, on the ground of Pelton Fell, and after a hard game the match ended in a win for Tanfield Lea by three goals to one goal.

TANFIELD LEA JUNIORS v. TANTOBIE JUNIORS (A).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and after a good and hard game, ended in a win for Tanfield Lea by two goals to nil.

BACKWORTH HOTSPUR v. PRUDHOE ROVERS.—On Saturday, Backworth Hotspur beat Prudhoe Rovers by two goals and two disputed to nil, at Prudhoe, in the second round of the second team competition.

SHROVE-TUESDAY AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.—According to an old custom, the inhabitants of Chester-le-Street on Shrove Tuesday played their annual football match in the front street of that town, the "down-streeters" again being victorious.

HENDERSON'S WANDERERS (DURHAM) v. CROOK (R).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday. The game was played in two thirties, the Wanderers winning by one try and two touches down to three minor points. All played well in the home team, and for Crook, Goodall, Raine, and Browning did their best to avert defeat.

BEAMISH AND DISTRICT v. 1ST NORTHUMBERLAND ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.—The return match between these clubs was played on the ground of the former on Saturday in two thirty-fives, in spring-like weather, and before a large number of spectators, and after a most pleasant and fast game, the home captain, with a fine run, sent the leather through the uprights and scored the only goal that was obtained by either side.

CONSETT v. TUDHOE DISTRICT (R).—The return match of these clubs was played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and after a very pleasant game, resulted in a victory for the home team by one goal, one try, and four minor points to nil. The game was played in two thirties, and was well contested, the forwards being very well matched, but the backs of the home team were much superior, and tackled very surely. The tries were both got by Anderson, from one of which Jameson kicked a goal from rather a difficult position. For the visitors, Junor, Barras, and Hodgson played an excellent game. Teams:—Consett—P. Gibson, back; J. G. Murray, W. Kempster, and J. G. Taggart, three-quarter backs; Tom Jameson (capt.) and J. Anderson, half-backs; J. Kempster, H. Davies, A. Struthers, N. Scott, W. Fiddes, J. Fiddes, W. Beldon, J. Jackson, and T. H. Kirkup, forwards. Tudhoe—Hutchinson, back; Braithwaite, Elliott, and Robinson, three-quarter backs; Junor and Cockrayne, half-backs; Barras, Stoker, Nelson, Hodgson, Edwards, Urwin, Anderson, Wrainford, and Soulsby, forwards.

Sporting Items.

SPARROW SHOOTING AT STELLA.—The sparrow shooting handicap promoted by Mr R. Aitman, near the house of Mr Joseph Bolam, of Stella, resulted in the handicap being divided between J. Gray, J. Greener, Lockey, and J. Armstrong.

WRESTLING NEAR PRUDHOE.—The sixth competition for a silver cup for wrestling for 10½ stone men, took place on Saturday night, at Half-way House, near Prudhoe. In the final falls, M. Pryan, Westwood, threw Joseph Graham, Emma Villa, twice in succession and won.—For youths under 16 years there were 40 entries; there was some capital wrestling, the winner turning up in W. Wade, of Mickley; A. Tulip, Half-way House, being second.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF FOXES NEAR LANCHESTER.—For some time past Mr Hudson of Ford, had noticed that a drain running across two of his fields had become blocked, and in order to remove the obstruction he caused the pipes to be pulled up. He was astonished on their removal to find no fewer than four full grown foxes firmly wedged in the pipes. They were all dead, and had evidently been in their confined quarters sometime, the bodies being slightly decomposed. The length of piping was about 400 yards, and of this distance the animals had travelled about 300.

SPARROW SHOOTING AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.—On Saturday, a handicap at sparrows was held near the house of William Taylor, and proved a most successful affair. The handicap was from 15 to 18 yards rise, 50 fall, with the usual conditions as regards charge. Scores:—Clogger, 17 yds, 1 1 0; J. E. Forster, 17, 0; Taylor, 17, 1 0; Blakey, 16, 0; Lumley, 16, 1 1 1; Stobbart, 16, 1 0; W. Anderson, 15, 1 0; W. Pace, 16, 0; R. Johnson, 15, 0; 2nd lot, 0; 3rd lot, 1 0; Kyo, 15, 0; Barrass, 15, 0; Underhand, 15, 1 0; Forster, 15, 1 0; Port Wine, 15, 1 0; T. Forster, 18, 1 1 1; R. Wheatley, 18, 0; J. E. Forster, 17, 1 1 1; Blakey, 16, 1 1 1; Nelson, 15, 0; Jackson, 17, 1 0; 2nd lot, 1 0; T. Forster, 18, 1 0; Wm. Pace, 16, 1 1 0; Jackson, 3rd lot, 1 1 1; Pace, 1 0; J. E. Forster, 17, 0; Port Wine, 17, 1 0; W. Pace, 16, 1 1 1; 2nd lot, 1 1 1. The handicap is to be shot off on the 28th February.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT WATERHOUSES.—A pigeon shooting handicap, promoted by Mr Thomas Gray, of Waterhouses, was commenced on Saturday, in a field near the house of Mr Sam Coxon, the Black Horse Inn, Waterhouses. The weather was all that could be desired, and, as promised, Mr Grey had on hand an endless supply of the very best birds. There was a large gathering.—Shooting was resumed on Monday. The following were those of the competitors (over 100 in all) who had all their birds down at the end of the eighth round, and divided the money—£5 added to a sweepstake of 5s each:—K. G., Hallgarth, Just in Time, Jemmie Donall, Caller Oul, Corrie Roy, Sambo, Dodds, Sam Brown, Lizzie, Morris, Jip, and Blaydon.

NORTH DURHAM HUNT.—On Thursday week, a meeting of the members of the above hunt was held at the County Hotel, Durham, for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessary steps for the future hunting of the county, Mr Maynard having expressed his intention of retiring from the mastership at the end of the present season. Mr L. Wood, of Southill, was selected as chairman.—On the motion of the Chairman, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Maynard for his past services, and for the excellent sport he has afforded during the twelve or thirteen years he has occupied the post of master.—Mr Maynard, in returning thanks, alluded to the kindness he had always received from fox preservers and farmers. He also expressed his thanks to the subscribers and members of the hunt, and more particularly to his friend, Mr Apperley, the honorary secretary.—After a long discussion relative to the future hunting of the country, Dr Adamson proposed that a committee of six gentlemen be formed to take into consideration what would be the best means of hunting the country, what amount of funds can be obtained for the purchase of hounds, kennels, &c., and to report to a future meeting of the members of the hunt.—Major Smith seconded the motion, which was carried.—The following gentlemen were appointed on the committee, with power to add to their number:—The chairman (Mr L. Wood), Lord Ravensworth, Mr A. L. Maynard, Mr R. Forster, Mr P. H. Chapman, Mr Geo. G. Taylor-Smith, Mr M. Kearney, and Mr Pierson.

RABBIT COURSING AT FLINT HILL.—The rabbit coursing promoted by Thomas Gibson, near the house of John Bennett, Flint Hill, Dipton, resulted as under:—Brown's Little John, 17½, beat Oates's Fox, 15½; Parker's Poor Tom, 17½, beat Oates's Fox, 15½; Burgess's Port Wine, 15½, beat Goss's Fancy, 15½; Goss's Fancy, 15½, beat Brown's Little John, 17½; Rook's Britain Still, 16, beat Cappy's Midget, 14½; Cappy's Midget, 14½, beat Tweddle's Jenny, 18; Burgess's Port Wine, 15½, beat Curry's Nellie at the Well, 16; Oates's Fox, 15½, beat Nellie at the Well, 16. Second Round—Little John beat Poor Tom, Port Wine beat Fancy; Britain Still beat Midget, Port Wine beat Fox. Stake divided.—A small sweep followed, and in it Little John, 17½, beat Tramp, 18½; Fancy, 15½, beat Britain Still, 16; Black Peter, 15, beat Tailor, 18½; Lizzie, 17, beat Nun, 14½. Second Round—Little John beat Fancy; Black Peter beat Lizzie. Stake divided. Thomas Brown was judge, and J. Turnbull gun firer.

A GREAT DAY WITH THE BRAES OF DERWENT HOUNDS.—On Saturday the trysting place for the gentlemen hunting with this pack was Ryton Lane Head, a spot close to the kennels of the hunt at the period when it bore the name of "The Prudhoe and Derwent Hounds." This was the time when old Waugh—immortalised by Surtees under the cognomen of Pigg—was huntsman; and when many a day of excellent sport was enjoyed under management and conditions differing very much from those at present prevalent. There was a strong muster at the meet on Saturday-morning, and amongst those present were:—Colonel Cowen, the master of the hounds, and Messrs Joseph Humble, L. Parker, T. Charlton, A. Poole, H. Grace, F. H. Lamb, James Anderson, Masters Simpson and Clayton, J. E. Cowen, Jos. Cowen, &c. Sharp to time, Siddle Dixon threw the hounds into Holburn Dene, and very soon a peal of welcome music proclaimed that Reynard had been found at home. A game fox quickly broke away in the direction of Tommy's Bog, through which the pack drove him with the scent breast high. Onward he dashed past Crook Hill and Holly Bush to Bank Top, where a short but fast and unchecked run was finished with a kill. This commencement only served to whet the worthy master's appetite for sport, and he at once gave the word to trot on to Crawcrook Whin. A second find showed the sound judgment exercised in this movement, and within a few minutes the whole field were going at a splitting pace in the direction of Sled Lane. A disappointment here awaited the followers of the chase, however, as the fox got to ground at the head of the lane, and nothing remained to be done but to try the whin again, which effort did not prove successful. A move to Liddell's Fell was therefore ordered by Colonel Cowen, and no sooner had Dixon and "Jack" the whip put the hounds into cover than the merriest of music proclaimed a find. The fox boldly broke away into the open, crossing the fields as far as Brockwell, and giving the gentlemen of the hunt a spell of galloping, almost at racing pace, over some of the best country in the district. Away from Brockwell to Garesfield went the little red rover, and then, swinging right round, he dashed back by Norman's Riding and through the Nab Ends to Winlaton, where he was headed. For the time being he had evidently had enough of straight-away running, as he dodged about among the steep declivities of Bellas Wood, from which he was at length cleverly driven by the gallant pack. Then he set his head in the direction of Pathhead, but directly after reaching that point doubled back and made past Bewes Hills to Greenwell House, with the pack now fairly on terms with him. Reynard kept straight on to the clay heaps at Blaydon Burn, where the hounds ran into him in the open, the spot being within fifty yards of the master's residence. There was a general adjournment of the field to this hospitable dwelling, and, after the inner man had been duly refreshed, Colonel Cowen gave the word for another essay, men, horses, and hounds being once more almost as fresh as when they assembled at the meet. The move was made through the low-lying ground westward of Blaydon Burn, and onwards to Chicken's Wood, where a find soon showed that the luck of the hunt was dead in Reynard broke away to the eastward of the cover, and headed, by way of Brockwell and Longridge, for the thick whin cover on Sandy Banks. Out of this the pack quickly forced him, and he then doubled back through Brockwell. Thence he continued steaming away at railroad pace past Snook Hill and across the country to Thornley Burn and Winlaton Mill, by which time he began to lose courage, and he sought shelter in Land's Wood. But not a moment's rest was permitted him, and he took to the fields again, the pack running in to him, in the open, at Derwent Villa. This brought to a close a grand day's sport over the most open part of the country that the Braes of Derwent hunt.

General News.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURN.—The return for the week ending February 14th shows a decrease of £13,170 compared with last year. The only increase is in dock dues, £96, the items of decrease being:—Passengers, £1,245; merchandise and cattle, £5,916; minerals, £6,105. The total decrease this half-year is £49,387.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.—The great climatic variations which soldiers and sailors experience render them liable to a variety of diseases, the development of which is favoured by exposure and hardships—often, it is to be feared, by their own carelessness as well. Holloway's remedies afford a safe and easy means of cure for those constitutional and local maladies which are so frequently engendered by residence in unhealthy climates and by incautious living. The Ointment is a wonderfully healing application, as it cleanses the surface of foul sores and ulcers, soothes the throbbing and pain in cases of inflammation, and checks the progress of skin diseases. The Pills purify the blood, cleanse the liver, and remove all noxious matter from the system.

MIRACLE-WORKING BY THE SALVATION ARMY.—Some extraordinary faith-healing miracles in connection with the Salvation Army are reported from Hanley. "Major" Pearson, who professes to work these miracles on blind, deaf, and lame people, on Sunday held services in the Circus, Hanley, which were attended by some thousands of persons, including about a hundred invalids of all ages afflicted in a variety of ways. Some of them had lost the use of their lower limbs, and were brought to the Circus in bath chairs. After evening service the faith-healing ceremony commenced. Throwing off their outer garments, the "major" and his subalterns descended into the arena. Those present were exhorted to pray without ceasing. A lad, crippled from very early age, was first operated upon, and while "Major" Pearson vigorously rubbed the disabled limb his followers prayed for healing powers. They prayed earnestly and long, and finally the lad was induced to rise, and, amidst great excitement, managed to walk a little. After prayers for another three-quarters-of-an-hour, a deaf woman, aged 70 years, a young woman who was stone deaf, and another young woman, a confirmed invalid, stated that hearing and health had been restored. Other equally marvellous cures are reported. In one case a young woman went to the building with a crutch and returned without its aid, and another woman ascended the platform and publicly certified to her miraculous recovery. The whole congregation joined in thanksgiving for these marvellous cures.

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

NORTH DURHAM DISTRICT I.O.G.T.—The annual session was opened in the Workmen's Hall, Sunderland, on Monday, by Bro. Charles Gibson, D.C.T. Bro. Joseph Malins, of Birmingham, G.W.C.T., presided during the day. There were present 61 delegates representing 43 lodges, 6 superintendents of juvenile temples, and a large number of visitors. The report read by the Secretary showed the total number of lodges in the district to be 52, with a total membership of 2,207. The district superintendents of juvenile temples reported that there were 25 juvenile temples in the district with a membership of 2,006 boys and girls.—At night the delegates met at the Gas Office, in Fawcett Street, Sunderland, and proceeding to the Workmen's Hall, where another meeting was held.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins, 1s. 1½d., labelled "JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent." While Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease."

NORTH OF ENGLAND IRON AND COAL TRADES.—MIDDLESBROUGH, TUESDAY.—Prices of No. 3 pig iron, which have been declining steadily for some time past, were lower again to-day, merchants taking 3d per ton less than the figure they mostly accepted a week ago, yet as the prospects are so discouraging buyers will purchase very little, only what they require to keep them going for a little while ahead. Though spring is so near, there are no indications of any break in the depression, and consumers are reluctant to commit themselves, for they cannot tell whether the worst has been experienced. Merchants have to-day offered No. 3 G.M.B. for prompt f.o.b. deliveries at 34s 6d per ton, and have done business at this, consumers offered 1½d less. Makers as a rule quoted 35s, but when a fair order was offered them at 34s 9d few of them would refuse, and even 34s 6d has been accepted, though under exceptional circumstances. The leading firms are well supplied with contracts for delivery over the next few weeks, but stocks will, it is believed, have considerably increased, owing to the small shipments, and the irregular working of the mills and forges. Though the mills have been doing comparatively little, we find the price of forge iron rather firm, at 33s 6d per ton for the best known brands, and 33s 3d for others, but grey forge is certainly scarce, the makers having been producing chiefly the better qualities. Connal's warrants are offered at 34s 6d prompt cash, but cannot be sold at that figure, nor even at a lower. The ironfounders have a better supply of work, but cannot realise any better prices for it, as there are so many founders who lack orders. The quotations for finished iron are unaltered, but are undoubtedly weaker. Steel manufacturers have a greater number of inquiries, and work is more plentiful with them. The coal trade continues quiet, and a good deal more coal could be raised if there were any demand for it. Prices are unaltered, but if anything tend in favour of the consumer.

MR J. COWEN'S ADDRESS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS.—Mr Cowen, M.P., addressed his constituents in the Circus, Percy Street, Newcastle, on Saturday night. Over 4,000 persons were present, and the proceedings throughout were enthusiastic. Mr R. O. Lamb, of Gibside, occupied the chair. The platform was occupied by representatives of both political parties in the city. Mr Cowen, in the course of his annual address, reviewed the situation in Egypt, attributing the present crisis to the alternate hesitation and recklessness of the Government. They had, directly or indirectly, slain over 20,000 persons, and expended over £20,000,000 since the bombardment of Alexandria. He urged that a clear and vigorous policy should be pursued, and no entangling engagements entered into with other Powers. Referring to the Seats Bill, Mr Cowen held that splitting the constituencies will tend to lessen, not to augment party manipulation or dictation.—Ald. Angus moved a vote of confidence in Mr Cowen as senior member for the city.—Capt. Newstead seconded, and Dr Rutherford supported the vote, which was unanimously adopted.—Mr Cowen briefly replied, stating that he supported the Government of Lord Beaconsfield when it was in difficulties, and he would support the Government of Mr Gladstone with equal cordiality when it was in difficulties also. (Cheers.) He moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Dr Newton and heartily carried.——An overflow meeting of from 1,500 to 2,000 persons was held in St. Thomas' Street—Colonel Cowen, of Blaydon, presiding. A vote of confidence in Mr Cowen moved by Mr Elijah Copeland and seconded by Mr J. E. Young was unanimously carried.

CURIOUS WILLS.—Quaint last testaments are by no means rare even in these late, and, as some worthy people say, degenerate times. Only a few weeks ago the will (dated October 9, 1876) of Mr. William Charles Jones, late of Manchester and of The Elms, near Warrington, Cheshire, merchant, who died on August 1 last, was proved at the Chester District Registry, by Mrs. Lucretia Elizabeth Jones, the widow, and William Charles Jones, the eldest son, the executors, the value of the personal estate amounting to upwards of £875,000. The greater part of this vast sum was naturally left to the family; but, one bequest is almost humorous in its provisions. In this clause the testator bequeaths £1,200 Consols upon trust to give each of 150, or less, of the most destitute persons of Bedford Leigh, Lancashire, annually, at Christmas, from four to six pounds of beef, a four-pound loaf of bread, a half-pint glass of ale, and a pocket-handkerchief. It may have chanced that the late Mr. Jones, by the gift of a pocket-handkerchief, meant one of those huge red and yellow sheets which Black Country artisans so affect, and he designed all the recipients of his charity should have something in which to carry comfortably home their four to six pounds of Yule-tide beef and their four-pound loaves. Such a method of taking purchases from a shop is common enough among the working classes.

INQUISITIVE inquiries—Does a fond lover visit his uncle when he "pops" the question? Would you call the horn of the unicorn a "unique horn"? Is it a low thing to go into hy-sterics? If you wished to have a "good" time, would you join the Salvation Army? When a fog is gone, would you say it is mist? Are sighs all one size? Is an oyster-shell a marine residence? Is "Ivanhoe" grammatical? Should it not be "I have a hoe"? Can bank-notes at any time be "hard" cash?

MR. ERASTUS WIMAN, the Canadian financier who lives on Staten Island, has given two handsome public bath-houses to Toronto, which are situated on either side of the bay and inscribed in bold letters, "Wiman's Baths." Some time ago, as the British Association excursion was sailing into that city, one of the scientists discovered the signs. "Ah," said he, turning to a friend, "I told you the Americans were an uneducated lot!" "Why so?" returned the other, in amazement. "Don't you see those signs there? What an atrocious way to spell 'women's'!"

PARADISE for lovers of shell-fish.—A gentleman just returned from Toronto states that he saw an English officer give his servant a half-sovereign, with instructions to "bring up some lobsters" to his temporary quarters, where he purposed making merry with some friends. In due time a cart arrived laden with the desired crustacea, which the servant proceeded to bring in creelfuls into the house. "Why, what is all this about?" inquired the puzzled provider. The servant touched his hat, saying, "Please, sir, I am to say that the other cart-load will be up by-and-by."

[illegible] IN [illegible] H[illegible] —[illegible]," clear [illegible] beetles, [illegible] bugs, flies, [illegible], moles [illegible] gophers. 7½d. [illegible] boxes [illegible]

PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION at the *lowest* possible prices by ROBERT JACKSON "Guardian" Office, Consett. Estimates furnished

Business Announcements.

THIRTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

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

ESTABLISHED 1830. 962p

"BON MARCHE."

SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

UMBRELLAS!!

AT A LARGE DISCOUNT OFF COST PRICE

PRICES:—FROM 9½d. EACH, UP TO 22s. 6d.

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

27 DOZEN STAYS AND CORSETS.

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

PRICES:—From 1s 4½d., and upwards.

The "BON MARCHE" Corset (expressly made for ourselves), 2s 11d. per pair.

For Beautiful and Cheap Fancy DRESSES, go to the "BON MARCHE."

For Bargains in VELVETS, SHAWLS, and SKIRTS, go to the "BON MARCHE."

Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Good and Cheap FLANNELS and BLANKETS.

Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Bargains in SHEETS, RUGS, and TABLECLOTHS.

For the Best Value in Men's SHIRTS, BRACES, COLLARS, FRONTS, &c., go to the "BON MARCHE."

For Wonderfully Cheap CALICOES, HOLLANDS, HARNS, and DIAPERS, go to the "BON MARCHE."

Go to the "BON MARCHE" for extra Value in Gent's Lambswool UNDERCLOTHING.

Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Bargains in GLOVES, HOSIERY, LACES, FRILLINGS, &c.

70 Dozen TARTAN SCARFS, MUFFLERS, KNITTED CRAVATS, &c., 1d., 2d., 2½d., up to 1s 6d.

PARTICULARLY NOTE THE ADDRESS—

D. BAIN & COMPANY,

"BON MARCHE" (New Drapery Shop) FOR GENUINE BARGAINS,

4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,

NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN.

GEORGE HOBSON,

WHOLESALE

MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,

HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF

FINE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.

INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.

OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.

THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED

Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

HOBSON'S IMPROVED CONDIMENT FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, STACKING, &c., Cheapest and Best in the Market.

HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD. REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.

This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save calves from that inflammatory fever commonly called quarter-ill or Black Leg.

G. H.'S MIXTURE OF

PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION 427r

C. E. THOMPSON,

MANUFACTURER OF

RUBBER, STEEL, AND BRASS STAMPS, SELF-INKERS, DATERS AND NUMERATORS,

PEN AND PENCIL STAMPS,

SELF-INKING LINEN MARKERS, EMBOSSING PRESSES, METAL-BODIED RUBBER TYPE,

AUTOGRAPHS, MONOGRAMS, CRESTS, &c., 809t

9, GRAINGER ST., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

SOUTH BIRTLEY STEAM, BRICK, AND TILE WORKS, CO. DURHAM.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

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

---

JUST ISSUED.

Super Royal Quarto, handsomely bound, gilt and bevelled edges, Price £1 1s.

SUITABLE FOR A SCHOOL PRIZE OR GIFT BOOK.

VIEWS

OF

MANSIONS & PLACES OF INTEREST

IN THE

LANCHESTER AND DERWENT VALLEYS,

AND

PORTRAITS OF LOCAL MEN

BY GEORGE NEASHAM, DURHAM.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

PORTRAITS.	
William Jenkins	1
Matthew Kearney	2
William Hedley	3
George Hedley	4
Thomas Colpitts Granger	5
John Graham Lough	6
John Annandale	7
John Renton	8
Joshua Lax	9
John Surtees	10
Robert Smith Surtees	11
VIEWS, &c.	
The Ford, the Seat of M. Kearney, Esq., J.P.	12
Lanchester Church	13
Burnhopeside, the Seat of Geo. Hedley, Esq., J.P.	14
Crookhall	15
Consett	16
Consett Iron Works	17
Greencroft, the Seat of Thomas Taylor-Smith, Esq.	18
Greenhead, the Birthplace of Lough the Sculptor	19
Lough's Mill	20
Shotley Grove	21
Shotley Bridge in 1840, from a Drawing by T. M. Richardson	22
The Bridge at Shotley Do. Do.	23
Shotley Bridge Spa D. Do.	24
Colpike, the Seat of Edward Taylor-Smith, Esq., J.P.	25
Ebchester Church	26
Ebchester Church before being Restored ..	27
Medomsley Church	28
Hamsterley, the Seat of the Misses Surtees ..	29
Hamsterley, from the West	30
Handley Cross Bridge	31
Broadwood, the Seat of Geo. Garry Taylor-Smith Esq., J.P.	32

Mr. ROBERT JACKSON, proprietor of the *Consett Guardian*, has been appointed Sole Agent for the Sale of the above Work in the Consett District, and will send a copy to any address on receipt of a Postal Order for Cn. Gu... 52

AMERICAN LINE.

UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,

EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY

First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

THE SHORTEST AND BEST ROUTE TO THE WEST.

Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO., 17 and 19, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; WM. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law. 85u

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Public Notices.

171 IS the Winning Number for the CASE OF STUFFED BIRDS, belonging to J. ATHEY, White-le-Head. 148u

SUN FIRE AND LIFE OFFICES, LONDON

FIRE.—*Established* 1710.

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

LIFE.—*Established* 1810.

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

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

RELIEF FUND FOR CONSETT & DISTRICT.

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

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

43u ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall Consett, Hon. Sec.

RELIEF FUND FOR CONSETT.

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

CONSETT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS, CONSETT.

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

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

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

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

Doors open at 7; to commence at 7·30 p.m.

Admission—Threepence each. 115u

Public Notices.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

ON Monday, the 23rd February, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave CONSETT, &c., at 6·30 p.m. for NEWCASTLE.

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

The Return Train will leave Newcastle at 10·50 p.m the same day.

For further particulars see Special Bills.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE FLOWER SHOW (26TH ANNUAL).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND, 1885.

☞ Schedules shortly ready.—Apply, WILLIAM RAMSAY, Secretary.

Benfieldside, Blackhill. 129u

GEORGE RICHARDSON'S

GREAT

SALE WILL CONTINUE ANOTHER WEEK.

GREAT SALE OF REMNANTS ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

☞ Sale will close Saturday, 28th February. 146u

In the Press, Crown 8vo., Price One Shilling.

SHORT SKETCHES OF EMINENT MEN! OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

BY MARK NOBLE. 138u

CONSETT & DISTRICT 741st STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

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

Chair to be taken at 7·30 p.m., by Mr. STARR or his Agent. Admission Free.

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

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

Subscription Meetings every Monday night from 7·30 to 9. Be in time for First Appropriation. 117u

MEDOMSLEY CRICKET CLUB.

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

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

☞ Admission—A few Reserved Seats, 1s. 6d.; Second Seats, 1s.; Back Seats, 6d. Doors open at 7; to commence at 7·30. 109u

CONSETT AND DISTRICT RELIEF FUND.

THIRD LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
James Annandale, Esq., J.P., Shotley Bridge	2	2	0
J. T. Potts, Esq., Harrogate	2	2	0
W. H. Hedley, Esq., Medomsley	1	1	0
Mr. Robert Jackson, *Guardian* Office	2	4	0
Mr. J. T. Muir, Collected from Workmen	1	5	0
Mr. Thomas McCourty, Consett	0	5	0
Mr. Wm. F. Lane, Iveston Road, Leadgate	0	5	0
Mr. Dan. Donelly, 3rd Contribution	0	2	0
Mr. Jno. Tait, Fortnighbly	0	2	6
Mr. James Scott, Consett	0	5	0
Mr. Philip Teare, Blackhill	0	5	6
R. G. Barclay, Esq., 1 cwt. Tinned Meat.			

ST. IVES CHURCH, LEADGATE.

☞ GRAND BAZAAR AT EASTER.

ON EASTER MONDAY AND TUESDAY, APRIL 6th and 7th, 1885,

A BAZAAR

OF USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL WORK,

WILL BE HELD IN THE

INFANT SCHOOL-ROOM, LEADGATE.

The Proceeds will be devoted towards extinguishing the remaining Debt on the Church.

STALL HOLDERS:

Mrs. MITCHELL, The Vicarage, Leadgate.

" FOREMAN, East House, Leadgate.

" NICHOLSON, Front Street, Leadgate.

" TODD, Front Street, Leadgate.

" SHAW, Villa Real, Leadgate.

Donations in Money, Material, or Made-up Goods will be thankfully received by the Stall Holders.

R. W. SHAW, EDWARD TODD, } Churchwardens.

73u

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

LOOK OUT! ☞ LOOK OUT!

SATURDAY, 21st, and MONDAY, 23rd.

MR. R. L. WALKER,

SCOTLAND'S MONARCH OF SONG, IS COMING!

ALSO,

CAPTAIN SYDNEY HALL,

The MAN of MYSTERY from INDIA, The GREAT THOUGHT READER, PROFESSOR of the MAGIC ART, And INDIAN CABINET FETE PERFORMER, IS COMING!

AND COMPANY. SEE BILLS.

ADMISSION—3d., 6d., and 1s.

Doors open at 7·15; Overture at 7·45. 142u

NOTICE.

SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BENFIELDSIDE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in reference to the above District, that:—

1. The above School Board have (subject to the approval of the Education Department) made certain Bye-Laws in pursuance of the powers given to the School Board by s. 74 of the Elementary Education Act 1870, as amended by the Elementary Education Act, 1876.

2. A printed copy of the proposed Bye-Laws will continue deposited, for inspection by any ratepayer, at the Benfieldside Board Schools, the Office of the School Board, for one month from the date of the publication of this notice.

3. At the expiration of the said month the said proposed Bye-Laws will be submitted to the Education Department for approval.

4. The School Board will supply a printed copy of the said proposed Bye-Laws gratis to any ratepayer.

130u R. GRENFELL BARCLAY, Clerk.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Pit Hill.—Saturday, Feb. 21st, 1885.

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

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

CHEAP EMIGRATION TO AMERICA

EMIGRANTS WANTED BY THE 1,000.

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

APPLY TO A. PHILLIPSON, AUCTIONEER, DIPTON.

By Mr. John Crawford.

Market Lane, Bank Foot, near Whickham.

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

JOHN CRAWFORD,

AGRICULTURAL VALUER AND FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,

26, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

Business done promptly and on reasonable terms.

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket.

The Oldest Established in the City.

SALES BY AUCTION of HORSES, CARRIAGES and SADDLERY, EVERY TUESDAY, Two o'clock.

Entries respectfully solicited.

A. T. CROW, Auctioner.

JOHN PEEL, Proprietor

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

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

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

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

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

Full particulars of this Sale in Posters. 122u

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

Postal Address—ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

☞ Royal Auction Mart, Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside.

☞ Monday, February 23rd, 1885.

MESSRS. NICHOLSON & MURRAY will SELL, on Monday next:—

15 to 20 Calving Cows and Heifers.

20 Fat Cattle.

60 Fat Sheep.

20 Hams.

Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs, Hay, Poultry, &c.

Sale at One o'clock. 115u

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,

AUCTIONEER, VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

By Mr. William Nicholson.

Cornsay Cottage, Cornsay Colliery.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at Mrs. LAKEY'S, Royal Oak Inn, on Wednesday, Feb. 25th, 1885, all that Detached Leasehold DWELLING-HOUSE, containing Six Rooms, together with a COTTAGE, containing Two Rooms, with Two-Stalled Stable, Yard, and all Conveniences, and Large Garden of about a Quarter-of-an-Acre, at present in the occupation of Mr. THOMAS HOPE, the Owner, and his Sub-Tenant.

Further particulars may be obtained of Messrs. MARSHALL & GRAHAM, Solicitors, 58, Claypath, Durham, or to the Auctioneer, Stowe House, Cornsay.

Sale at Three o'clock p.m.

WILLIAM NICHOLSON, Auctioneer.

Stowe House, Cornsay. 136u

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart.

A SPECIAL SALE will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28th, 1885, for DAIRY COWS, STORE CATTLE, &c.

20 Dairy Cows and 70 Store Cattle now entered.

Further entries invited, which should be forwarded as early as possible. 144u

THE USUAL FORTNIGHTLY SALE will be held on Monday, March 2nd, for FAT STOCK only.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

Partridge Close, Tow Law. 145u

Holling Hall, near Lanchester.

J. VICKERS, honoured with instructions from JOHN SMITH, Esq., who is retiring from Farming, will SELL BY AUCTION, without Reserve, on Thursday, March 5th, 1885, the whole of his valuable FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, HAY, STRAW, EATAGE, &c., &c.

☞ Full Particulars next week. 143u

By Mr. William Raw.

Iveston Road, Leadgate.

MR. WILLIAM RAW, honoured with instructions from Mr. MATTHEW HALL, who is going to Emigrate to America, will SELL BY AUCTION, the whole of his Household FURNITURE, SHOP FIXTURES, &c., on Saturday, March 7th, 1885. Particulars next week.

Sale Office, Blackhill. 147u

JOSEPH OLEY,

THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,

10, WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE

Business Announcements.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT

Is now recommended by the leading Medical Men in the North, as being

THE MOST SUITABLE WINE

FOR

SICK PERSONS AND INVALIDS.

☞ 36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage paid on 6 bottles and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,

WINE MERCHANT,

9, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE. 103t

CARRIAGES.

J. COWEN,

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EDITORIAL NOTICES.

"A CONSTANT TRAVELLER."—Your letter arrived too late for publication this week.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 1885.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

> "When Adam delved and Eve span,
> Where was then the gentleman?"

To this Elysium the land agitators seem very desirous to return. A cottage on the banks of a meandering stream makes a pretty landscape picture; and, charmed by the scene, the cry is—"The land for the people." The small holdings scheme looks well in theory; but its chances of success are infintesimal. The people know as much about the cultivation of the land as the Zulu knows about the circle of the sciences. We have long borne the appellation, "a nation of shopkeepers," and the sobriquet is a pretty well-chosen on. John Bull would be a fine fellow with a spade in his hand, and a face as long as his arm. Mother Earth is a bad paymaster. She may be sure enough, but the returns are few and far between—and that would suit the present generation badly. It will be time enough to return to that pristine state of things after our coal beds and other minerals are worked out; but in the meantime we had better leave cheese and butter-making to our easy-going friends in the land of canals and windmills. With the exception of politics, than the land question there is no other subject about which so much has been written; and as is usual in such cases, those who know least have written most. To have passed through an agricultural county in an express train is about the only practical knowledge that many a journalist has of that subject, and thus it is that "where the judgement's weak, the prejudice is strong." The condition of the small farmer is far from being an enviable one. Your nine and ten hours' system is to him a misnomer. He rises with the lark, and toils long after "the bird of the wilderness" has sought its dewy couch. Of riches he may not dream; but of anxiety and care he has, in truth, a goodly share. Working hard and living mean is the only method by which small farmers can scrape a few odd pounds together; and did the men who live by the fruit of agitation induce the denizens of the towns to initiate the frugality and industry of their brethren in the country, then would they have done a work worthy of their day and generation. That the land laws, in the present form, are a blot on civilisation it is true; but the small holding craze is not the cure for so long-standing a disease. Large farms can be worked much cheaper than small ones, and in these days of foreign competition the cost of production is an item that cannot be lightly overlooked.

The modern School Board is a great bugbear to schoolmasters. Talk of serving two masters; it would be somewhat difficult to determine how many right worthy attendants watch the outgoing and the incoming of the country schoolmaster. If he chance to have a salary in keeping with the position of a gentleman, the members of the Board become subject to periodical attacks of nightmare. Subsequently, a council is called, and the root of the evil is discussed—not on its own merits, but in comparison with the councillors' individual and collective incomes. The absurdity of such a procedure must be apparent to every individual of average intelligence, excepting, of course, the sagacious gentlemen who have managed to reduce a certain schoolmaster's salary. The precedent is a bad one. It would appear that the income of a schoolmaster may be regulated in conformity with the salaries of district residents among whom his lot may be cast; and that bodes no good for the schoolmaster of to-day. This basis of remuneration will hardly apply to the professions. If the *elite* of a district is made up of grocers and colliery officials, it is no fault of the schoolmaster that the income of such gentry may be somewhat circumscribed. Why should he be dragged down to their level! There was nothing said about the years which must needs elapse before a schoolmaster can command as much salary as pay his board and lodgings, to say nothing of the expense incurred in course of a long and arduous term of preparatory training. No; there was just one text, ond one idea, and being of one mind and heart the business was soon disposed of. These worthies and worldly wise men have, no doubt, performed a right noble service; and although other and better men may take their place at the council board, it will afford them a certain species of satisfaction to remember that:

> "The evil that men do lives after them—
> The good is oft interred with their bones."

However that may be, schoolmasters will do well to make a note of this case. Landowners are blamed for raising the rentals of their farms when the land has been improved by the farmer and a higher state of cultivation reached. The charge is too true; but the landlords are not the only offenders in such-like cases. Let a schoolmaster succeed in increasing the Government Grant by the usual and ever toilsome footpath of efficiency, and instead of recieving the thanks of the parish for his pains, the only intimation of the Board's approbation will be by a reduction of salary! A strange way of testifying one's respect, indeed; but the Board, doubtless, mean well. It would not do, you see, to allow a dominee to "gather gear," for are we not told that "the love of money is the root of all evil!"

Apropos to schools and School Boards is another question which creeps up ever and anon for solution—corporal punishment, to wit. It will be seen by last week's *Guardian* that the conductors of one of our district schools are of opinion that "there's nothing like leather." They have reversed the wisdom of Solomon, for it will be remembered that he advocated a bridle for the ass and the rod for the back of a fool. Leather is now, however, thought to answer the purpose much better for divers reasons; and those whom it may concern—and the lady teachers especially, for they are said to be quite experts with the cane—should endeavour to remember the advice given by a magistrate a month or two ago. It was to this effect: That there was a certain part of "the human form divine" which might be made the seat of local punishment, without fear of doing violence to the young and rising generation.

To-morrow (Saturday) evening, the members of the Derwent Angling Association will hold their annual meeting in the Town Hall, Shotley Bridge. Other instittions have come and gone, but this—one of the most interesting of our local associations—has never changed its local habitation. In other respects it has, however, made rapid progress. Members' tickets have been reduced to something like half the former cost; and sundry regulations have been introduced for the better working of the Association. Not content with the old-fashioned system of multiplying and replenishing the finney tribe, recourse was had to importation—a good way of keeping up the supplies. Fishes in embryo have been introduced by the thousand, and the Derwent has, in too many cases, been their cradle and their grave. I refer to the infamous practice of trout poisoning, from which the members of the Association have suffered much. In other respects the venture in fish farming has been quite a success. The members had great sport last year, and the number of trouts killed show that Derwentside anglers can handle the rod to some purpose. Mr Charlton, of Consett, "cut the breath" of no fewer than 537, whilst 700 found their way into the capacious basket of a Mr Fowler. It is proposed to limit the age at which the nimble tenants of the river shall be deemed "fit and proper" subjects for the frying pan—or what comes to the same thing, the stature, length, or longitude is to be fixed at seven inches all told. Hitherto there has been no law, and consequently no transgression; but these are progressive times, and it has been found necessary to check in some way the massacre of the innocents.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

There are now living within two miles of Consett ten people, whose united ages amount to 866 years, the oldest 92, and the youngest 81.

On Saturday, *William Langhorn*, who belongs to Consett, was charged before Mr C. A. Head, J.P., with begging at South Bank, and was committed to prison for fourteen days.

VAGRANCY.—On Wednesday, at Shotley Bridge Bridge before Mr James Annandale, *John Doran* (27), better known by the sobriquet of "Rodney," living in William Street, Consett, was charged with vagrancy. About midnight on the 18th inst., he was found by P.C. Newton lying in the manger of the stable belonging to Mr George Brown, Railway Hotel, Consett.—Prisoner was committed to gaol for fourteen days.

DEATH OF MR JOHN ARMOUR.—Consettonians will be sorry to learn of the death of Mr John Armour, who for many years resided in their midst. Mr Armour some years ago left Annfield Plain for Consett, and was employed as cartman to Messrs R. Dickinson and Co. at their brick works. He afterwards commenced business as a travelling draper, and having succeeded, he afterwards retired from that business, since which he has resided at Newcastle. The last visit he paid to Consett was on the day his late employer (Mr R. Rickinson) was interred. He was for very many years a member of the Wesleyan Methodist body, and died as he had lived, a consistent Christian.

THE SCOTTISH MONARCH OF SONG.—Our readers will be aware that we are to be favoured next Saturday and Monday nights with a visit from Mr R. L. Walker, the Scottish Monarch of Song, who has had the honour of appearing before the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the principal nobility and gentry of Scotland, and who has been giving for the last few months many entertainments with the greatest success around this district on behalf of the relief funds to delighted and crowded audiences. He is to appear, along with Captain Sydney Hall, the Man of Mystery from India, in the New Town Hall, Consett. The last-named gentleman appears to have visited almost every country in Europe, and is known everywhere as one of the cleverest conjurors of the present day; while his thought-reading experiments never fail, and is unsurpassed by any of our English representatives in that art. We understand he has undertaken to find a pin to be concealed in any part of Consett on Saturday afternoon, leaving the Railway Hotel at three o'clock. It's not often that the inhabitants of this district are favoured with such talent, and we trust they will embrace the opportunity now afforded. They will also be assisted by several well-known and talented artists.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

WESLEYAN HOME MISSIONS.—The annual meeting in support of the Wesleyan Home Missions took place in the Shotley Bridge Chapel on Friday night. There was a pretty fair attendance. The chair was taken by Mr T. J. Muse, of Castleside House. The Rev J. H. Hopkins, deputation from the Parent Society, urged the claims of the above missions; and the other speakers enbraced the resident ministers and local gentlemen.

A POACHER HEAVILY FINED.—At the Hexham Police Court on Tuesday, Frank Angus, pitman, Medomsley Edge, was summoned for two breaches of the game laws, and also for resisting the police on two separate occasions, in the parish of Shotley Low Quarter, on January 30th and February 5th. Angus, who is an old offender, was fined £10 in all and costs, namely, two fines of £1 and costs for poaching offences, and two fines of £4 and costs for resisting the police.

LEADGATE.

C.E.T.S.—The usual meeting was held on Friday evening in the Infant Schoolroom, Church Square, when there was a large attendance. After an opening address upon "National expenditure in drink" by the Secretary (Rev J. Kirk), and a few remarks by the Rev J. W. Mitchell (vicar), an interesting and racy address was given by Mr James, a well-known advocate of temperance in Leadgate. He especially amused the audience by his dramatic representation of an intoxicated man attempting to fight some swine on his way home, in his blind ignorance taking them for human beings. The following programme was given during the evening:—Reading, "Teetotal mill," Mr Clegg; duet (violin), "Nellie Bly," Messrs Winter and J. T. Stewart; reading, "Eve of Waterloo," Mr F. Lee; glee "Hark! the distant hills," the party; song, "When you and I were young, Maggie," Miss Polly Winter; glee, "Laughing chorus," the party. Miss Stewart presided at the harmonium. The Rev J. W. Mitchell also read "The drunkard's daughter."

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

ACCIDENT.—At the South Derwent Colliery owned by Messrs Dickinson and Co., John Breackens, a young man, while following his employment as a coal hewer at the above pit on Monday afternoon, had one of his legs broken below the knee-joint, and also his collar bone broken by a fall of coal and stone, which came off above the "back" and gave no warning. The injured man was conveyed home as soon as possible, and Dr Craig, assistant to Dr Hooper, was soon in attendance, and he set the broken bones. We understand he is progressing favourably.

BLACKHILL.

Benfieldside Stock Auction Mart.—Messrs Nicholson and Murray sold on Monday 14 calving cows and heifers, from £10 12s 6d to £23 15s; 2 calves, at 15s; 22 fat cattle, from £9 10s to £21; 92 fat sheep, 30s 6d to 48s; 8 pork pigs, 22s to 60s. Hay, 80s per ton; and hams, 5½d per lb. Trade fairly good all through.

Wesleyan Mutual Improvement Association.—Mr Mark Noble delivered an interesting lecture in the Wesleyan School-room, on Monday evening, the title of the lecture being "Hodgson Casson: a Fisher of Men." There was a fair attendance, and the interest was well sustained throughout. The chair was occupied by the Rev Wm. Douglas, president of the association.

"Short Sketches of Eminent Men."—Under this title, Mr Mark Noble, of Blackhill, proposes to publish a volume, containing the sketches which have appeared in the *Guardian* of eminent personages under the heading of "Northern Lights." The work is in the press and will be ready shortly, and may be obtained for the modest sum of one shilling.

Bible Students' Society.—The above society had a very interesting meeting on Saturday night, the reading being "The Humanity of Christ," which Mr Robson treated in a very excellent manner for so young a man. The after conversazione educed a variety of thought as to the relation which the "Humanity" bears to the "Atonement," and as to "Sonship" and "Fatherhood;" that is, "Does Sonship imply priority of Fatherhood, or does it imply necessarily non-eternity on the part of the Son?" A lively discussion arose as to the announcement of the Angel "The holy *thing* which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." In fact the whole subject rendered the meeting a pleasant and an instructive one, in which Mr Robson was much commended for his paper. It is expected that the "Divinity of Christ" by Mr Siddle on Saturday evening will call forth an excellent conversazione evincing much reading upon so important a topic. Each meeting opens and closes with prayer.

Baptist Home Missions.—The annual meeting in connection with the above-named Missions took place in the Baptist Chapel, Highgate, last Friday night. There was a tolerably good attendance. The chair was occupied by Mr Richard Evans, of Beech Grove, Consett, who briefly opened the proceedings. The chief speaker was the Rev J. M. Murphy, of London, who attended as a deputation from the Parent Society. Mr Murphy, it appears, was originally designed by his father to be a Roman Catholic Priest; but after receiving his education for such a position, he became a convert—through the instrumentality, it is believed, of the preaching of the Rev C. Spurgeon—of the Baptist Church, to which sect he has been closely identified ever since, and has been one of the most useful and energetic ministers connected with that denomination. In the course of an address of 1½ hour's duration, the rev gentleman entertained his hearers with a graphic account of the operations of the Baptist Missionary Society in Ireland; and also described, in vivid terms, the life and habits of the Irish peasant population. He urged the claims of the people to their earnest consideration; and spoke of his own efforts in organising mission work in Ireland. Mr Murphy possesses a rich, mellow voice, and has an attractive and commanding style of delivering his utterances; and during the progress of his eloquent speech he was repeatedly applauded with great heartiness.—The other speakers were the Revs E. P. Riley (Baptist Minister, Consett), E. W. Jenkins, the pastor, &c.—At the close of the meeting, a collection was taken on behalf of the Baptist Missions, and on the motion of Mr Jenkins, seconded by Mr O. Heymer, votes of thanks were extended to the Chairman, the speakers, and others.

CASTLESIDE.

Teachers' Conference.—On Saturday, a representative conference of the Sunday-school teachers of the district took place in the Board Schools, Castleside—Mr Chas. Elliott (Dene Howle) presiding—when a highly interesting and instructive paper, introducing several novel features regarding the method of teaching in Sunday-schools, was read by Mr T. Duckworth, who was heartily thanked for his essay, and requested to publish it.

Healeyfield and Rowley School Board.—The monthly meeting took place in the Castleside Board Schools on Monday afternoon, under the presidency of Mr T. J. Muse (chairman). The other members present were Messrs E. Leybourne, R. Walton, M. Lee, J. Milner, and the clerk (Mr R. Ward).—The school statistics for the past month, furnished by Mr Duckworth, the head-master, were as under:—Number on roll, 101 boys, 108 girls; total 209. Average present, 183; ditto absent, 26. Cash banked, £10.—The Attendance Officer (Mr Proud) applied to the Board for an increase of 10s per annum in his salary. After consideration, the application was allowed; that official's stipend thus being raised to £6 10s a year.—It was resolved to purchase a box of objects, with a view to facilitating instruction in the Infant's classes.—The consideration of the question of arrears in school pence was deferred for a month.—The members resolved to hold the monthly entertainment to be given by the scholars on Wednesday next, the 25th inst., the arrangements as heretofore being left in the hands of the master; and from the programme issued, the Board anticipated that a rich musical treat was in store for the public.—The sum paid by the cheques for the current month amounted to about £50.

CATCHGATE.

United Methodist Free Church.—Mr Anderson, of Kirkheaton, has conducted very successful special services every night during the past month. Mr Anderson is a zealous evangelist, and labours hard to evangelise the masses. On Wednesday afternoon, a public tea was held at the close of these services, which was well patronised. Mr Anderson carries with him the best wishes of the people amongst whom he has been labouring.

SATLEY.

A Compliment to the Vicar.—The *Northern Echo*, commenting upon the Liberal meeting at South Shields on Monday, observes:—"The doctrine accepted yesterday was that we have long preached. More than one speaker admitted that organisation was the first duty, and selection the second. The Rev J. P. De Pledge, however, made one remark on the subject of candidates that must excite universal approval. The Vicar of Satley is one of the few clergymen who can claim any share in the great work of Parliamentary Reform. His voice and his influence have been always at the service of the people, Mr De Pledge, however, would be the last to parade his own work. He merely claimed recognition for that of other people. The Rev J. P. De Pledge thinks it would be a disgrace to the county of Durham did it not find seats for the sitting members who stood by the cause of Reform. We believe that the people of the county will endorse this sentiment."

SPEN COLLIERY.

The Water Supply.—Adverting to the correspondence recently appearing in these columns, "Rambler" writes thus:—I see "N. T." would deny my statement if he could, but instead he confirms what I have said. He admits that one service pipe is nearer the low end of the village than the other by 300 or 400 yards. That being so, there are 200 to 300 yards more to reach Ramsay's houses, that being more than the distance I already stated. I presume "N. T." lives close by the service pipes, therefore, he must be aware that a pony and cart serves water to his fellow-workmen, and that proves there is plenty of water. But the question is the trouble involved in getting it there, especially to the workmen who carry, during the dry season, their water a mile-and-a-half from the same place. But that is nothing, as "N. T." has not to exert himself so. Had there been rain prior to the time that I wrote, the springs would have been running freely, and the rain barrels would have been filled, and used as slop water. "N. T." also asks if Mr Ramsay has been asked to obtain a better supply of water for his tenants. I answer in the affirmative, Mr Ramsay having tried his utmost, and he thought it a very hard case indeed, that an excellent supply should run through a part of his property, and some of it going to waste, his tenants not being allowed to use it. This is my last communication on this topic, as the Blaydon Local Board has contracted to supply the place with water. In answer to Mr Wells as well as "N. T.," with all due respect, those who prefer going to the old supply need not use the Company's water.

STANHOPE.

Gas Company.—The annual meeting of Stanhope Gas Company (Limited) was held on Monday, when a dividend of 7½ per cent. was declared, and the shareholders present adopted a recommendation of the directors to reduce the price of gas to consumers for lighting purposes to 4s 2d, and for cooking and heating purposes to 3s 4d per thousand cubic feet. The reduction to ordinary consumers is 10d per thousand.

Weardale District Highway Board.—The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held in the Union Buildings, Stanhope, on Friday, Mr C. J. Backhouse, J.P., in the chair. Cheques were signed for the month's expenditure—on main roads, £62 6s 5d; and district roads, £49 7s 6d. The Board allowed a fence wall to be straightened on Harthope road by a give-and-take arrangement. An accumulation of material by the side of the road at the west end of Frosterley village is to be removed. It was reported to the Board that Mr Hildyard, J.P., had paid the remaining instalment of his promised contribution of £300 towards the erection of Haggford bridge.

WEARDALE.

Leadmining.—Last Friday night, a conference between the miners' delegates and Messrs Richardson and Maxfield, directors, took place at the company's offices, New House, the chief and sub-agents (Messrs Jas. Blenkiron, S. Watson, and J. Thompson) being also present. The subject under discussion was the suspension of certain explorations throwing about 100 miners out of work. The several aspects of the question were freely discussed. In the main the directors dwelt upon the bad state of the lead trade and the disadvantageous terms of the tenure of the mines, also the fact that under the guaranteed lent money system and other incumbrances the men were about £3,000 in arrears to them, which, with the bad prospect, had necessitated the ceasing of explorations for the present. If those out of work could find ore in the mines they would pay them £2 per bing for it.—This, the delegates reported, was practically impossible, as the miners required money to subsist upon at the present time.—Mr Blenkiron expressed the deepest concern at the enforced cessation, and earnestly hoped ere long something would turn up to give employment to all.—After further desultory conversation they separated without anything definite with regard to further employment being arrived at.

WEST PELTON.

Mr Thomas B. MacKinlay, son of Mr Edward MacKinlay, West Pelton Colliery (Messrs James Joicey and Co.), has satisfactorily passed the mining examination, held at Newcastle in January last, and obtained a manager's certificate of competency.

BLAYDON.

Local Postal Arrangements.—An afternoon delivery of letters has been established at Runhead, Crook Hill, and Stargate-under-Blaydon; and the wall boxes at Stargate and Addison Colliery will in future be cleared at 4·30 and 4·45 p.m. respectively.

WINLATON.

On Monday evening a successful temperance meeting was held in the Board School-room, Winlaton, presided over by Mr Tebb.

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association of Ringers.—A general meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association of Ringers was held on Monday at Winlaton. There were present about thirty ringers, from Newcastle, Newton Hall, Jarrow, North Shields, and Stockton. At St. Cuthbert's Church, Stella, where a peal of 6 tenor, 10 cwt., was at the disposal of the ringers, a peal of Bob Minor was rung; and at St. Paul's, Winlaton, with a peal of 6 tenor, 7½ cwt., a peal of Kent Triple Bob Minor was rung. Afterwards a dinner was provided at the Highlander Inn, Winlaton. The Rector of Winlaton (the Rev A. Jones) presided, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr R. S. Storey, president of the association.

DURHAM.

A Cannibal.—At the Durham Police Court, yesterday (Thursday), *Edward McKnight*, for drunkenness and assaulting the police was fined 20s and costs. He struck an officer in the mouth, kicked and bit him on the arm.

County Agricultural Society.—The annual meeting of the members of the Durham County Agricultural Society was held at the Three Tuns Hotel, Durham, on Saturday. Captain Beckwith occupied the chair.—The annual report showed that there was a balance in hand of £86 6s 11d.—The society decided to hold their next annual exhibition at Barnard Castle on or about the 24th July.—The Duke of Cleveland was elected president for the year.

Death of a Clergyman.—The Rev Henry Barrett, M.A., died on Sunday night at his residence, North Bailey, Durham. Mr Barrett graduated at Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1828, but did not take orders till 1840, when he was ordained and licensed by the Bishop of Durham to the curacy of Gateshead. Two years later he was presented with the living of Pelton, which he held till 1871, when he retired, having since resided in Durham. He was appointed a magistrate of the county of Durham in 1859, but failing health has of late years prevented him from giving great attention to his duties on the bench.

Board of Guardians.—At Saturday's meeting of the Durham Guardians the special committee appointed to consider the mode of effecting a more equal apportionment of the Guardians amongst the various parishes and townships in the Union, submitted a lengthy report in which they recommended the addition of members from the more populous townships, and the amalgamation of other small townships in the Union. Some discussion took place on the details of the proposed alteration, and ultimately the Board decided by a large majority to accept only that portion of the report which provided that the parish of Brancepeth return only one member instead of two, and that the township of Stockley return two members instead of one in future.

Action Against the Durham School Board.—At Durham County Court, on Tuesday, before Judge Meynell, William Ainsley, builder, Framwellgate, Durham, sued the Durham School Board for £9 5s 5d for damage done to a wooden shed, tools, and other materials, the property of the plaintiff. The Board has recently been carrying out certain alterations and additions to their infant school in Framwellgate, and in November, 1882, they took down a wall which adjoined the plaintiff's shed, and he alleged that in consequence of their taking out the foundations of the wall, the soil had fallen in, causing the timbers which supported the roof of his shed to give way, damaging the building, which afterwards collapsed and spoilt the tools stored in it. He had asked the Board for compensation, but they took no notice of his application. For the Board it was contended that every precaution had been used in building the wall. The shed projected into the Board's property, rendering it necessary to cut some of the timbers.—His Honour found for the plaintiff for £5 and costs.

Extraordinary Conduct of a Doctor.—At Durham County Court, on Monday, before Judge Meynell, an inter-pleader issue was heard, in which George Wheatley the elder, Mill House, Houghton-le-Spring, sought to recover possession of certain horses and other effects alleged to have been wrongfully seized by Dr O'Flannagan, of Houghton-le-Spring. Some months ago, Dr O'Flannagan recovered £30 damages from George Wheatley, the younger, a son of the present plaintiff, for a breach of the conditions of a lease under which the latter held Warden House, at Houghton-le-Spring. Execution was issued for this amount, and the horses and other effects seized at the instance of Dr O'Flannagan. It was now alleged on behalf of Wheatley, senior, that these did not belong to his son, but to himself, and he stated on oath that he had purchased them himself at various times and from various people—his son included.—On the plaintiff's case being closed, Dr O'Flannagan, in opening his case, characterised the whole proceedings as a conspiracy.—His Honour: Never you mind, you must prove that.—Witnesses were then called, but their evidence was irrelevant to the question at issue, and His Honour in the result found for the plaintiff.—On judgment being given against him, Dr O'Flannagan got very excited and declared the judge was a party to the swindle.—His Honour: If you don't conduct yourself properly you will perhaps be sent to prison.—Dr O'Flannagan [illegible] at once left the court.

SWALWELL.

Saturday Evening Concert.—On Saturday evening the usual concert on behalf of the poor and unemployed, was held in the Board Schools, which was crowded in every part—the Rev William Fairweather presiding—when a grand entertainment was given by Mr R. L. Walker, the Monarch of Scottish Song, who has had the honour of appearing before the Prince and Princess of Wales. He is the author of all the songs he sings, and interprets them in a masterly style. He was assisted by Capt. Sydney Hall, whose conjuring tricks are equal to that of Dobbler, and whose feats of thought-reading could not be surpassed. Mr R. Plumb gave a recitation and presided at the piano.

CROOK.

Mysterious Death of a Miner.—At the Queen's Head Inn, Crook, on Tuesday, before Deputy-Coroner J. T. Proud—an inquest was held touching the death of Bernard Johnson (33), of Crook, miner, single, who died on Sunday morning.—Mr Superintendent Banks was present, and put questions to one or two witnesses.—Henry Johnson, brother, said deceased left home between nine and ten o'clock on Friday morning, and went to Esh in search of work. Afterwards he heard of him being in an insensible condition at Hill Top. He was brought home, and received medical attention, and never recovered consciousness, dying on Sunday morning.—Dr Forrest, who attended the deceased, found a lacerated wound on the back of the head, but no fracture.—Dr A. Mackay, who had made a *post-mortem* examination, said externally he found a wound on the head, a bruise behind the left ear, and a large bruise on the left hip, and another on the left ankle. Upon removing the scalp, a diffusion of blood on the back of the head, the left side and behind the ear, and as far forward as the temple, was found. Upon opening the membranes a large amount of blood and a clot over the left orbit, with considerable laceration of the brain tissue, were found. The organs of the chest were in a healthy condition, and the body was fairly well nourished. In addition, there was no odour of drink from the stomach, which, however contained some fluid. The cause of death was diffusion of blood on the brain, the result of injuries. The doctor considered that the injury was not caused by an instrument, but probably by a fall, the deceased being dashed against some hard substance.—Frederick Aldworth, whose house deceased went into at Stanley Pit, said Johnson appeared to be drunk. He never spoke, but in reply to questions, sometimes murmured "Oh dear." He was taken out of the house and led to the side of some ovens. He had a cut on the back of his head.—Thomas Mordy said he found deceased about seven o'clock on Saturday morning, in a garden, in a kneeling attitude. The place would be about half-a-mile from the last witness's house.—A verdict that deceased died from effusion of blood on the brain, but that there was not sufficient evidence to show how the injuries were received, was returned.

WHITE-LE-HEAD.

Liberality of Colliery Proprietors.—The firm of Messrs James Joicey and Co. have informed the Rev E. Phillipson that they will give the handsome donation of £25 to the funds of the White-le-Head Primitive Methodist Chapel; also the firm of Messrs Priestman and Co. have given the munificent gift of bricks, value £100, for the erection of the chapel at Victoria Garesfield.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

On Wednesday week, Mr H. B. Slee, of Gateshead, delivered his popular lecture on "Hodgson Casson," in the Chester-le-Street Wesleyan Chapel. Mr J. Mitchell, of Claremont Villa, occupied the chair.

On Thursday se'nnight, the annual meeting in connection with the Wesleyan Home Missions was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Chester-le-Street—Rev J. Duff in the chair. Rev J. Hopkins, of Manchester, the deputation, spoke at length on the object of the mission.

TOW LAW.

Mr B. Cawood, the singing evangelist, preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, morning and evening, on Sunday. Mr Cawood is an old visitor to Tow Law, and his services were appreciated by crowded congregations on his last visit.

Mr James Neech, of London, commenced a series of special services in the Presbyterian Church, Tow Law, on Sunday.—The Rev E. B. Allen commenced this week a course of lectures in the Wesleyan Chapel, on Wesleyan Methodism. The series of lectures will embrace "Wesleyan Methodism," "What it is," "Its founder," "Its rise and progress," "Its constitution and polity."

The Tow Law and Thornley Association for the Prosecution of Felons, held their annual dinner at the house of Mrs Randle, Tow Law Hotel, on Wednesday last, and not on the 11th as previously reported, when upwards of forty members sat down to an excellent repast, after which a very enjoyable evening was spent. The after meeting was presided over by Mr Wm. Ridley.

Stock Auction Mart.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday 44 dairy cows and heifers, 6 geld cows, 19 store cattle, 21 fat cattle, 127 fat sheep, 3 young horses, a few loads of hay and oat straw, 20 bolls of oats, &c. There was a splendid show of fat stock, which were in good demand at the following prices:—Fat steers made from £19 to £22, top, Mr J. Murray, Blackhill; heifers, £16 to £18 2s 6d, top, Mr Dodd McNeil; fat ewes, 35s to 45s 6d, top, Mr A. Hall, Park House; shearlings, 42s to 48s 6d, top, Mr Van Haansbergen, Woodlands Hall; hoggs, 30s to 38s 3d, top, Mr Herbert, Bradley Hall; Scotch wethers, 33s to 37s 6d, top, Mr Dowson, West Newlands. Blooming young cows were in good demand at prices ranging from £18 to £21 10s, but secondary kinds were a complete drag, and only realised from £9 to £16; geld cows made £10 to £14; and stirks, £6 to £9 10s. Hay, £3 10s, and oat straw, 45s per ton; oats, 6s per boll.

WEST STANLEY.

Expedition Round the Parish of Beamish.—On Shrove Tuesday, the senior scholars of Stanley National and Oxhill Board Schools joined together in an expedition round the Parish of Beamish. They were accompanied by the head-masters (Messrs T. Darney and J. Green), and also by the male teaching staff of both schools, who lent valuable aid to the youthful explorers. The Rev L. M. Chesters also joined the expedition, which numbered in all nearly 100. A start was made at 8·15 a.m., the party first marching round the Parish Church, singing the morning hymn, after which they proceeded to the Winning Bridge, which was the starting point. The company traversed the boundary of the Parish, and as the weather was all that could be expected, the walk was most enjoyable. The party closely followed the boundary of the Parish, and arrived at Oxhill at noon, where it was agreed to leave the remainder of the boundary to be explored until a later date. The journey was made most interesting by the head-masters explaining the objects of interest which were passed.

C.E.T.S.—(*Beamish Branch.*)—An unusually large and attentive meeting was held on Monday evening in Stanley National Schools. The chair was occupied by the Rev L. M. Chesters, vice-president, who opened the meeting by prayer after a hymn had been sung. The programme was introduced by Mr E. W. Robson, who read "Betty at the Tyne pantomime," causing much merriment. This was followed by a recitation, "Buy your own cherries," by Miss M. J. Bruce, after which Miss K. Masterman sang "The gipsy's warning," and receiving an *encore*, she again appeared before the audience. Miss Isabella Masterman next recited "I am so tired," in a manner that did credit to so youthful a performer, and although this was her first *debut*, she gave her piece in admirable style, her youthful, yet clear voice, being heard to advantage by all present. After this, the Chairman distributed a few cards of membership to the new members of the society. The choir subsequent sang the melody, "Joy bells," and Mr G. Bruce followed with an address, which was well received, the speaker keeping the audience in an incessant roar of laughter. This was followed by the reading, "Old Jasper Jones and the squire," which was well executed by Mr Lylie, after which Mr E. W. Robson favoured with the song, "Lost," followed by Master J. Masterman reciting "Where are the ten?" Miss A. Wood closed the programme by reciting "The mouse and the cake," and the meeting terminated by hymn and prayer. It is worthy to mention that the younger members of the society are being [illegible] to do good work in the way of reciting [illegible].

MEDOMSLEY.

On Sunday, Mr Andrew Liddle, of Allenheads, Weardale, commenced in the Medomsley Wesleyan Chapel a series of mission services, which will extend for over a fortnight. During the week the services have been numerously attended.

Concert.—The committee of the Medomsley Cricket Club announce a grand concert in the Templars' Hall, for next Monday evening, in aid of the funds. A well-arranged and attractive programme will be gone through by the following artistes: Miss Stephenson (soprano), Mr W. Ferguson (tenor), Mr E. Soulsby (bass), and Mr George Duncan (the renowned comic singer), all of Newcastle.

DIPTON.

St. John the Evangelist.—The last of this season's series of "Pleasant Evenings" was held on Wednesday night in the Free Church school-room. An unusually large number of performers had offered their services, and there was a numerous audience. The characteristic of the entertainment was undoubtedly the number of duets it contained; the young Misses Thirlwell and Masters Thirlwell and Richley singing the "D.B.S." and "See-saw," Misses Baker and Anderson "The convent bells," Miss Thornton and Mr Chatt "When a little farm we keep" and "Polly Hopkins," and Miss Thornton and the Vicar "Flow on thou shining river" and "A.B.C." The song were "What is home without a mother?" and "The vacant chair," by Miss Henderson, "Dolly's revenge" (*encore*, "Three flies") and "Caller herring" by Miss Fairley, "The boys and girls of England" by Master Henry Maude, "Life is but a river" by Mr Chatt, "No to be married" by Mr Telford, and "The little lamb" by Mr Arkless. The three latter gentlemen also sang the glee, "Ye shepherds tell me," very tastefully. The readings were few in number, but in the hands of two such favourites as Miss Maggie Thornton and Mr Prevell they received every care and gave every satisfaction. Mr Prevell, though suffering from a severe hoarseness, causing roars of laughter with the unique *brogue* and *humour* of the "Exercise book." Before closing the entertainment, the Chairman expressed his gratitude to all the performers at this and the previous "Pleasant Evenings." Many objects had been furthered by these meetings—people had come in contact with and got to know each other, who were strangers before, the dull course of life had been driven back for a few hours, and some money raised for the new Church. The National Anthem closed the proceedings.

HAMSTERLEY.

C.E.T.S.—Croniwell Branch.—A very successful meeting was held here on Saturday evening, Mr E. T. Reed, the organising secretary for the Diocese of Durham, being the principal speaker. He said that the object of the society was threefold: its primary object of rescuing those given over to habits of intemperance involving two others, namely, the banding together of the strong to help the weak, and the providing of suitable recreation from a want of which the public-house is too often sought.—The Rev A. G. Baldwin (curate of Medomsley) said that the Society rests upon the sure basis of scripture, and points to a practical application of the parable of the good samaritan, spoken by our Lord for every age. Mr Chaytor contributed considerably to the entertainment in giving two violin solos, accompanied on the harmonium by Miss Sarah Snowdon; overture, "Guy Mannering;" valse, "Dream faces;" recitations, "The honest miller," Mr James Whitfield; "In the signal-box," Rev A. G. Baldwin; song, "The Midshipmite," Mr T. Robinson.

LANCHESTER.

The lime trees, presented by Mr Geo. Hedley, J.P., Burnhopeside Hall, are being planted in the village, and, as the summer approaches, this ancient place will present a picturesque and attractive appearance, and well worthy of a visit. The footpath improvements have alson been completed.

EAST HEDLEYHOPE.

The Good Templars of East Hedleyhope gave a literary and musical entertainment in the large room of the colliery schools on Saturday evening. Mr M. Davison occupied the chair.

WOLSINGHAM.

In the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wolsingham, special services, conducted by Miss Nattrass, were commenced on Sunday.

Stack Fire.—A large stack, containing about nine tons of hay, belonging to Mr Geo. Raine, of Wolsingham, was completely destroyed by fire on Friday night. The stack was standing on Thistlewood farm, about a mile from Wolsingham. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The stack was insured.

The Robbery from a Barrister.—At the Bishop Auckland Police Court, on Monday, John Pinkey, a boy, was fined £1 or a month's imprisonment for stealing a valuable walking stick from Dr J. R. Carr, barrister, Wolsingham. Mr Carr was walking home and, according to custom, reading, when the lad snatched the stick from under his arm and made off with it.

Death from Exposure.—On Wednesday, Wm. Peacock (70), living with his son-in-law at Carr Farm, near Wolsingham, was found lying in a field of Mr Atkinson's in a helpless condition. He had been visiting some friends on the preceding day, and on returning home at night had evidently missed his way in the dark. The unfortunate man was conveyed home, and every assistance rendered, but he survived only a few hours.

USHAW MOOR.

Lecture.—The Baptist Mission Chapel (which is in connexion with the Waterhouses Baptist Church), was on Monday evening filled to hear the Rev R. W. Dobbie deliver his popular lecture on "General Gordon." The points noted were: Gordon in the Crimea, Gordon in China, Gordon and the Soudan, and Gordon at Khartoum. The lecturer was frequently applauded, and a hearty vote of thanks was awarded him. Mr J. Raw occupied the chair.

LAMESLEY.

Parish Church.—On Friday, the organ, to which considerable additions have recently been made in this church, was re-opened. There was a public tea in the schools at Lamesley; tables were provided and presided over by Mrs Snape, Mrs Anderson, Mrs and Miss Robson, Mrs Sunderland, Miss Parkin, and Miss Thiedemann, of Lamesley; Mrs White, of Marley Hill; and Miss Allan, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There was an organ recital by Dr Armes, of Durham, from six till seven o'clock. At 7·15 Divine service began; prayers were intoned by the Rev R. W. Snape, M.A., vicar; the lessons read by the Rev John Mathwin, M.A., vicar of West Pelton, and the Rev S. White, vicar of Marley Hill; and an eloquent sermon preached by the Ven. H. W Watkins, D.D., Archdeacon of Durham, from the text, Phil. iv, 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again, I say, rejoice." At the tea, organ recital, and service there was a large attendance of clergy and laity. On Sunday, the re-opening services were continued and sermons preached in the morning by the Rev Canon Blunt, M.A., rural dean, and rector of Chester-le-Street, and in the evening by the Rev W. S. Reeman, vicar of Fatfield.

"I should like to see somebody abduct me!" said Mrs. Smith at the breakfast-table the other morning, looking up from the newspaper. "H'm! So should I, my dear—so should I!" said Mr. Smith, with exceeding earnestness.

A celebrated lawyer fell asleep at the theatre while attending a representation of "Macbeth," and waking up just as Macbeth cried, "A deed without a name!" he exclaimed; "Then it is void! A deed without a name isn't worth a penny!"

"Why don't you go to work?" said a charitable lady the other day to a tramp, before whom she had placed a nicely-cooked meal. "I would," replied the vagrant, "if I had the tools." "What sort of tools do you want?" asked his hostess. "A knife and fork."

"There's two ways of doing it," said Pat to himself, he stood musing and waiting for a job. "If I save me four thousand pounds, I must lay up two hundred pounds a year for twenty years, or I can put away twenty pounds a year for two hundred years—now which shall I do?"

A clothier, who advertised upon his shop window, "Hands wanted on boys' pants," was startled by a country gentleman stepping brusquely into the shop, and pointing to the bill, saying, "Hands won't do any good now-a-days, measter; it needs a jolly big leather strap."

THE SOUDAN WAR.

DEATH OF GEN. STEWART.

[CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.]

A telegram from Korti to-day (Friday) announces the death of General Sir Herbert Stewart, who was wounded in the fighting near Metemneh. From the outset his injuries caused the gravest anxiety. He was being brought back to the rear with the convoy of wounded, when he succumbed at Gakdul.

RETREAT OF THE BRITISH TO ABU KLEA.

THE MAHDI MARCHING ON METEMNEH.

Korti, Wednesday Night

A despatch from Gen. Buller says that a convoy of wounded under Col. Talbot, while marching from Gubat to Gakdul on the 13th inst., when about nine miles from Gubat met a rebel force, estimated at 5,000 strong, on its way to reinforce the Arabs at Metemneh. Col. Talbot at once formed up the escort of the convoy to resist an attack, but the enemy were in far too great strength for him to assume the offensive, hampered as he was by the wounded.

The enemy opened fire, but when a few shots had been exchanged the light camel division on its way to Gubat arrived upon the scene. They at once began skirmishing with the enemy, but after some little time the rebels continued on their way to Metemneh without offering further molestation. They had with them some guns and many camels, and the fact that they should pass without attacking so small a body shows that either they were under stringent orders to push on to Metemneh without fighting, or that the result of the late battles has inspired them with a wholesome fear of the fighting powers of our troops. Our loss in the affair was one man killed; dangerously wounded, one non-commissioned officer; wounded, four men.

News of an attack by Gen. Buller's force on Metemneh, the post on the Nile held by the enemy, has been hourly expected. All correspondents referred to the attack as imminent. There seems, however, to have been a successful attempt to hoax the enemy by keeping them in expectancy of an attack while our troops were retiring from the post at Gubat, which is reckoned valueless now that Khartoum has fallen, to Abu Klea, which is a stronger and better strategic position.

The First Battalion of Coldstream Guards, over 800 strong, under Col. Lambton, left London yesterday (Thursday) morning for Gravesend, and there embarked on board the hired transport *Manora* for conveyance to Suakim.

The correspondent of the *Times* at Korti, yesterday (Thursday), telegraphing, stated that the retreat was rendered advisable by the heavy loss certain to be incurred in the taking of Metemneh, and by the fact that the fall of Khartoum has set free the Mahdi's army, besides supplying him with a large number of soldiers drilled by General Gordon, many guns, and several thousand rounds of ammunition. The small force at Gubat was in a false position since the fall of Khartoum, having been deprived of its objective. The Mahdi might have invested Guba, bringing heavy artillery to bear on the defenders, and he is said to be coming down the river with a force of 65,000 men; but this number is believed to be much exaggerated. Holding the wells as we now do, the rebels cannot move an army along the desert route.

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

Korti, Thursday, 3·20 p.m.

Messages received from General Brackenbury, dated Ussi Island, 15th inst., stated that his cavalry entered Salamat and found it deserted. Leading the infantry within five miles of Salamat, the horses and camels went safely through the Shukook Pass, which had been prepared for defence but abandoned bg the enemy.

Brackenbury hopes to be at Abu Ahmed by the 25th inst., but doubts if he can concentrate there before the 29th, owing to the necessity of crossing mounted troops over to the other side of the river.

He adds that any estimate of time must be very uncertain, owing to the difficulties of the river.

REV E. P. RILEY ON THE WAR.

On Sunday evening last there was a large attendance at the Baptist Church, Consett, to hear the Rev E. P. Riley upon the subject of war, as advertised in our last issue. Mr Riley founded his remarks upon Luke xiv, 31 and 32. After pointing out that the fact of our Lord using such an illustration showed how careful He was to seize upon that which was familiar to His hearers, and how ready He was to allude to the concerns of individuals and nations in order to force home the truth that if any man would be His disciple the Cross must be accepted that the Crown might be won, the rev. gentleman proceeded to consider some of the motives which induced men to engage in war, and the miseries resulting from it. There was, he said, in the nature of man an element of *destructiveness*. This would be seen in the child to whom often to destroy brings the keenest pleasure. And as it is with the child so it is with the man. He delights in the catching of fish, the shooting of birds, the hunting of animals. It is idle to pretend that he ravages the animal kingdom only because of necessity or because he must live. When some poor animal has been hunted to death or torn to pieces by the dogs, it is said there has been a good day's "sport." Human nature can and does delight in the taking of life. The savage whose conception of bliss is the happy hunting ground, and who adores his belt with the scalps of his enemies, and the civilised man who can say with exultation "the sport I followed, for 'tis mimicry of 'noble war,'" and whose breast tells by the medal the slaughter of human beings alike, have within them warlike passions, and find delight in exercising them. And these men love *excitement*. The mind is so constituted that it delights in change. The more varied the subjects which occupy it the greater the pleasing sensation of novelty. The life of many men is uneventful and monotonous, and anything which breaks in upon that and brings a pleasurable excitement is welcome. The tramp of armed men in the street, the sound of martial music, the banners waving in the wind, the departure of troops, amidst the cheering of thousands, the interest which is found in the movements of troops on the battlefield, and the awaiting of intelligence from the seat of war and, if we are victorious, the banquets to the successful generals, and the illuminated streets—all this has an attraction which it is difficult to resist. A gambler often stakes his money and his honour, and makes himself and fortune a wreck because of the hazardous game which fascinates him, and many a man has climbed a steep and dangerous ascent, and walked near the edge of a precipice because the excitement of his actions had an irresistable attracion for him. And the principle operates in inducing men to engage in war. And it is engaged in from a *false view of glory*.

It is thought that the glory of a nation is seen in the power which it has of overcoming other nations by the force of arms. That its glory is seen in the efficiency of its troops, and the number of victories these have gained. To subject other races to our yoke, to increase our territory—all this seems glory to the ordinary mind. And then we have been taught from childhood to regard those who have done these things as the greatest heroes, although in the performance of their deeds they may have been guilty of injustice and oppression, and upheld the most abominable tyranny. We have been taken, it may be, to visit their statues and taught to hold them in honour. And consequently there are thousands who think it a glorious thing for a nation to plunge into war, who ask themselves no question as to the justice of the act, but are content if we are successful. Victory, however obtained, is glory. They will answer you, like Old Kasper, in Southey's poem—

"Now tell us all about the war,
And what they fought each other for?
It was the English, Kasper cried,
Who put the French to rout;
But what they fought each other for,
I never could make out—
But everybody said, quoth he,
That 'twas a famous victory."

[illegible]

able desire to rescue a gallant hero, or relieve the uncertainty surrounding his fate, but to engage in warfare from the motives which had been brought under review was the *natural tendency of the human heart*. All the reasons for war ought to be looked at in the full consciousness of *the miseries of war*. When we hear of a man being shot dead in our immediate neighbourhood, our pity is aroused for him that he should be taken away so suddenly, for others who it may be by his death are left unprovided for. Or if we were told that to-day the arm of one of our neighbours was chopped off by another man, our pity for the sufferer would be great, and we would be filled with disgust at the cruelty of the deed. But when we hear of thousands upon thousands slaughtered on the battlefield, of the maiming and mutilation of thousands more, how often are our sensibilities deadened. A vivid picture was then drawn of the horrors of the field of battle, of the agony in foreign hospitals, of the desolation, despair, and death in the homes of the relatives and friends of the victims. The earthquake, the hurricane, the pestilence, were the work of nature, but war was an instrument fashioned by man to be used against his fellow. The only remedy for war was the Gospel of Jesus Christ which, received into the heart with simple faith, changed the disposition of men, and led them to love God and love their fellow creatures, and brought them to possess the Spirit of Christ, who came, not to destroy men's lives, but to save them. God is the highest and best of Beings—infinite, eternal, perfect, and if we are at enmity with Him it is no wonder if we are with lower existences. It was an unequal contest that an unforgiven man waged war with God, and eternal life could only be secured by accepting the conditions of peace: "He that believeth on the Son of God is not condemned." "Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

OUR SOUDAN POLICY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—It is a grave and serious matter to advocate opposition to even an isolated portion of the policy of a Ministry, whom we did our utmost to return to power, and with whose general principles we are in entire agreement. That opposition does nevertheless now and again unfortunately become the first duty. However reluctant we may be openly to express our dissent from the action of a Government, so many of whose purposes, and so much of whose policy we heartily endorse, yet we cannot, we ought not, to be still when we see them drifting into the adoption of measures which are opposed to the judgment and conscientious conviction of a very large section of their own supporters, if not of the Opposition also—when we see them embarking on a great military expedition to penetrate the African deserts, apparently without an object or an aim.

For if Gordon is dead what is the purpose of this great and increasing army now mustering in the Soudan, the commander of which has a *carte blanche* to act as he deems best? If it be said though Gordon is no more, there are yet Egyptian garrisons whom it is our duty to rescue. The reply is, it is perfectly evident from their conduct at Khartoum that these men are fully able to take care of themselves. When the men for whom we are fighting and literally enduring the heat and burden of the day turn round and treacherously betray our bravest into the hands of the foe, it is time to ask ourselves for whom and for what we are struggling? What quarrel we have with these wild Arabs, who are, after all, only striving for possession of their own country? Others say that the prestige and honour of this country demand the conquest and humiliation of the Mahdi. I ask what prestige and what honour are to be obtained by the prosecution of a war without any just end or purpose in view?

Can we not rise to the conception of a prestige and an honour based on something higher than a victorious exhibition of brute force, or rather of an unlimited supply of the best materials of modern warfare, for that is really about what it amounts to?

It seems to me that at this moment there is a true honour within the grasp of England for beyond that to be obtained from the most brilliant campaign or the most decisively successful war. In a sentence, "Let us come out from among them." Let us, putting aside all thoughts of ignoble vengeance, false honour, or lust of conquest, determine that this matter shall end. Then shall we gain real prestige by exhibiting to the world the spectacle of a people possessing great power, who dared to use that power with self control—a people who knew when to strike and when to stay the sword. Let our troops at once fall back on the frontier of Egypt proper and on the Red Sea littoral, open negociations with the Mahdi, let him clearly understand that while the Soudan is not our concern, Egypt is for the Egyptians. If he refuse to acquiesce and determine to fight, he becomes the aggressor, our conscience is clearer, we are then only raging a defensive war for the protection of the Egyptians, whose country we are practically in possession of (temporarily it is to be hoped!) and therefore, I suppose, bound to defend. Our military position greatly strengthened by the concentration of our troops and the shortening of our line of communications expenditure both of life and treasure, will be reduced, and it seems to me we shall once more be acting on something like lines of justice and rectitude.

Of course these details can only be looked on as suggestive, for as the Solicitor-General said at South Shields the other night, it is impossible that the country can have possession of all the information that is in the hands of the Cabinet, and therefore it is for them to settle on the exact mode of procedure what we are concerned with is the clear and decisive enunciation of the fact that we will not have this forward policy in Africa.

I am not vain enough to think that feeble words of mine will produce effect where effect is needed, but those who have led public opinion hereto—our Members of Parliament and their chief supporters, the Nonconformist Ministers, and the leaders among the industrial population—can, if they will, do so again. Let them speak out as John Morley has spoken, and Courtney and Labouchere have spoken, let them originate and carry forward such an agitation as will convince the Ministry that their present and contemplated action does not, and will not, meet with the support of the people of the North country.

We are satisfied enough with ourselves to believe that our two Liberal counties have done something to mould the action of Ministers in the past. Let us try again! and perhaps what Durham and Northumberland say to-day England may say to-morrow.

That it may be so is the profound hope of many a one besides your subscriber,

J. Wm. Rounthwaite.

Blackhill, 19th Feb., 1885.

CONSETT ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Liberal Committee and Local Branch of North Durham Registration Association was held in the Committee Rooms last (Thursday) evening, Mr W. Jenkins, J.P., in the chair. There was a good muster of members, and the feeling throughout was of the most unanimous character, the discussion being principally confined to the arrangements rendered necessary in consequence of the change now pending through the passing of the Franchise Bill and the Redistribution of Seats. It is calculated that there will shortly be added to the electorate within the new Division of Consett at least 11,000 electors, and in order to give those persons an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the course to be taken under these altered circumstances, and also as to the candidate most likely to represent in an efficient manner the new constituency about to be created, it was resolved to hold a public meeting in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Thursday, March 5th, when it is hoped that the attendance will be commensurate with the importance with the interests involved on the occasion.

Mr David Dale, J.P., of Darlington, has, we learn, written to the leading Liberals intimating his willingness to stand for the Consett Division, if invited by the general body of the Liberal party to do so.

LADIES' COLUMN.

"Winter, dear cold-handed winter," as Christopher North puts it, has been with us for the last month and now gives gentle hints that the time of leave-taking is at hand. Only a Scotchman could sing the praises of "sharp, short, bracing, invigorating days, that screw up muscle, fibre, and nerves like the strings of an old Cremona, discoursing excellent music; with long snow-silent or hail-rattling nights."

It is one of the privileges enjoyed by Londoners that they are so far south that long before their Scotch countrymen have had their usual share of their dear cold-handed winter, spring heralds her coming with all manner of graceful, pleasant gifts. During the last week it has been delightful to search our tiny flower beds—as gardens not worth mentioning, but as London flower beds of priceless value—for the first signs of the crocus and the snowdrop. Memory recalls the exact spots at which the favourite clumps of last year blossomed, where the golden, and where the pretty purple heads were last seen. The snowdrops, too, that come on so quickly, and are so soon in blossom, are a welcome sight, their first green tips shewing above the bare brown beds. The little weed known as Shepherd's purse has survived the winter blasts better than ever this year, and if its luxuriance be a sign of a rich spring, it brings us promise of genial weather. The French call the plant "Fleur de Saint Jacques," and the old English herbalists "St. James's Wort," using it to cure various diseases by outward application. Unfortunately, the faith in the efficacy of St. James's Wort, which was part of the cure, is sadly wanting in the present day, so the little hardy weed grows unmolested in the hedgerows all through this month and the coming ones.

Naturalists are beginning to note the scarcity of our pretty friend, the robin red-breast. When one comes to think the subject over, the robin of the poets is missing. He does not come upon window-sills as he used to do, asking for a benefaction in the cold weather. Neither do we meet him in our garden walks hopping fearlessly before us with pleasant familiarity. Some English visitors to Cannes and Nice have been throwing a little light upon the diminution of our feathered favourites. How the robins came to be in the Riviera no one can tell. They are not natives, so that the presumption is that they, like the swallows, migrate in the winter, though naturalists seem not to have suspected the robins of wandering tendencies. In the markets, say the visitors to the winter resorts, hundreds of robins, dead, and tied up in bunches for sale, can be seen any day of the spring. Here no one would dream of cooking a robin, but it appears that all small birds in French territory are netted and looked upon as contributions to the spit, or pot. Other naturalists date the scarcity of the robin to the severe cold of the years 1878 and 1879, when thousands of small birds died from starvation. But there have been from time immemorial occasional hard winters with severe frosts, and yet the hedge birds maintained their numbers, and came out chirping in the warm sunshine just as usual. If these two reasons to account for the disappearance of little cock robin must be abandoned, someone else must supply a third with yet greater probability.

The first spring bonnet in a Regent-street shop window is always an arrival to be specially recorded. For the last six weeks there has been a monotony in the milliners' styles which embarrassed those lady correspondents who were out in search of novelties. The same velvets, the same plushes, were repeated over and over again. It seemed as if we had been wearing the prevailing styles for years, so monotonous had they become. The first spring bonnet was therefore a joyful sight when we took our winter walks abroad last week. It was protected from air and dust by a bell-shaped glass shade, the care bestowed being in itself a certificate of pecuniary value. First a crown of tow coloured cord, firm and well defined. The front, made of a thick ruching of apple coloured velvet, was caught back at the left side by a straw bird with piercing jet eyes. On the top, rather inclining to the right side, a huge bunch of flowers, so true to nature by art's cunning that, save for the calendar of the seasons, the blossoms might have passed for real. Solomon's seal has not hitherto been a milliner's flower, no more has foxglove, the foxglove of fairy legends. But together they made a group which spoke eloquently for the genius of the artist who combined them.

But surprising as was the bonnet as a whole to eyes weary of winter colours, one detail flashed a whole series of pleasant thoughts across the mind. For the last few months it has been the caprice of ladies to substitute feathers for artificial flowers on evening dresses. Ostrich aigrettes on the bosom displaced chrysanthemums and eucharis, and tips grouped together looped up the draperies of skirts. Soft feathers were on fans and on muffs, hard feathers on hats, be the latter high or low. Sad stories come from Paris of the lack of work for the poor flower-makers, and equally dreary reports from the East-end of London, where considerable trade is done in making the cheaper kinds of flowers. The feather mania had wrought much ill, and it is a pleasure to chronicle the blossoming of flowers once more in the milliners' windows. Several of those magnificent dresses which Mrs. Langtry brought over from Paris, alluded to last week, in which she appeared at the Prince's Theatre, in "Princess George," were flower-trimmed, even to extravagance, so it is very certain that we may safely buy artificial flowers for the new season.

It is but a short time since the bodices of evening dresses were tuckered to excess. Thick lace of black or ecru, two or three inches deep, was sewed on very full round the square, or heart-shaped front, and drawn into a frill with silk cord or narrow ribbon. There was also the tulle or lisse frill, which was very extravagant wear, as it looked tumbled and crushed on the very slightest provocation, and never survived one evening's pressure of a warm muffle. Quite suddenly the great authorities have declared against tuckers round the bodices of evening dresses. Supposing that the top of the dress be cut in a point at back and a point at front, a few folds of tulle or lace net are laid inside, shewing just above the edge, though lace may be laid on lavishly as ornament on the bodice and shoulders. How long this latest caprice will last no one can calculate, but it is very trying to ladies who have left youth far behind, or indeed to any who are not as plump as little pigeons, with necks as fair as infants.

In spite of doctors' warnings, who know the component parts of every kind of hair dye and hair restorer, foolish women will try experiments by way of improving their appearance. The terrible nervous headaches for which fond relatives prescribe in vain often come from the use of these chemical mixtures, which are secretly applied. Once begun, their use becomes imperative, and all hope of the hair recovering its natural crispness may be abandoned. The fashionable dye this year seems to be a deep gold, with such a dash of red in it that the sight suggests tomatoes, or pepper pods, rather than locks of hair. It is rumoured that the red will be dispensed with a few weeks hence, and exceedingly bright gold substituted. Already we have gold powder on the hair in the evening, and it is not at all offensive to the eye, for it looks dry, as if it could be easily brushed off, and therefore would be perfectly harmless. Ladies whose hair is beginning to shew silver streaks have boldly gone in for white powder, and anticipated the future. With the hair dressed in little curls on the top of the head, after the French style, the addition of a little powder is very stylish. There is an effort being made in Paris to revive a style of dress known as the Josephine, because it is a revival of the days of the First Empire, and the costume in which Napoleon's wife has had often been painted. Though only intended for very young people, those who have really adopted the prevailing mode are those who have left youth far behind them. The dress is made of some white, very clinging material, like gauze, Indian silk, nun's cloth, &c., with a full bodice, a long plain skirt training at the back, a very short waist, and sash, the ends tied behind. Sleeves short and full, and tied with ribbons like a baby's, with ecru silk stockings and sandalled shoes to match in colour. For little girls this form of dress is very pretty, but some women cannot learn the secret of growing old gracefully. The other evening at a large party, at which recitations were the entertainment, a lady dressed *à la Josephine* recited Tennyson's [illegible] the May.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

MAXIMILIAN'S WISH.

Maximilian I., Emperor of Germany, was, in his youth, remarkable for a high courage and love of adventure, which at times led him to feats of rash daring. One of his chief pleasures was hunting among the Tyrolese Alps.

On Easter Monday, 1493, the young Emperor, who was staying near Innspruck, rose before dawn for a day's chamois hunting. He took with him a few courtiers and some experienced hunters, and by sunrise they were already high up on the mountain pastures. Excited by the fresh air and the sublime scenery Maximilian exclaimed, "I wish that I could gain to-day some spot amid the homes of the chamois and the eagle, where foot of man has never trodden before, nor will be able to follow me; where even the thunder-clouds should mutter far below me while I stood in eternal sunshine! That would be a fit spot for the throne of an emperor!"

The courtiers replied that his majesty had but to wish and it would be fulfilled;—to such a renowned and fearless hunter what could be impossible?

At this moment one of the huntsmen gave notice that he had sighted a chamois, and the whole party were soon in full chase. Quickly out-distancing his attendants Maximilian reached the brink of a chasm which the chamois had passed. One moment he paused, then with a light spring leaped over the black abyss, while a shout, half of admiration and half of terror, burst from his astonished suite. "That was a royal leap! Who follows?" he exclaimed, with an exultant laugh. Onward he sped. For a moment the chamois was lost to his view, but presently its form appeared again, standing out against the sky on the top of a high rocky ridge. To gain this ridge it was needful to climb an almost perpendicular precipice; but Maximilian, nothing daunted, followed on, driving small iron holdfasts into the rock where he could gain no footing, and holding on by the hook at the upper end of his Alp-stick. At last he seized a projecting piece of rock with his hand, hoping to swing himself up by it, but the stone loosened and fell, and the Emperor fell with it. For some moments he lay stunned. On recovering consciousness he found he had fallen into a sort of crevice or hollow in the rocks; on one side they rose above as a high wall, impossible to scale; on the other, however, they were hardly higher than his head. "Lucky again," he thought, as he scrambled up, but as he emerged on the top and rose to his feet, he remained motionless with awe-struck consternation. He stood on a narrow ledge hardly wide enough for two men abreast, and beneath him, sheer down to a depth of many hundred feet, sank a perpendicular wall of rock. He knew the place: it was called "St. Martin's Wall," from the neighbouring chapel of St. Martin, and the valley below it now hidden by white rolling vapours was the valley of Zierlein. Above him rose the "wall" so straight and smooth, that it was hopeless to think of scaling it. In vain Max gazed round for some way of escape. The only spot within sight where man could find footing, was the narrow shelf on which he stood. This ledge itself extended but a few feet on either side and then ceased abruptly. His wish of the morning now occurred to him. How exactly it had been fulfilled! And how little could the Emperor exult in his lofty and airy throne. He merely felt with a shudder his own exceeding littleness in the face of the great realities of Nature and Nature's God.

Beneath in the valley of Zierlein, a shepherd was watching his flocks. As the sun cleared off the mists from the foot of St Martin's Wall he noticed a dark speck moving on the face of the rock. After observing it narrowly, he exclaimed "It's a man!" and ran to spread the news. Soon a little crowd stood gazing up at the wall. Just then a party of courtiers came up. "Has the Emperor passed this way?" they asked. "He climbed so far among the rocks that we lost sight of him." The shepherd pointed upwards at the wall. The Emperor's attendants gazed at the dark speck and then at each other in horror. One of them put a speaking-trumpet to his lips and cried at the loudest pitch of his voice, "If it is the Emperor who stands up there we pray him to cast down a stone." The watching crowd held their breath in suspense for a moment, and then down came the stone. A loud cry of lamentation broke from the people, for they loved their young Emperor for his frank and kindly ways, and his especial fondness for their country.

Meanwhile, higher and higher rose the sun. It was midday now, and the stones beneath the Emperor's feet became hot as a furnace, and the sunbeams smote fiercely on his head. Exhausted he sank down on the scorching rock. Drawing a little parchment book from his pocket he tore out a leaf and wrote on it the question "whether any human help was possible." Then with a bit of gold ribbon he tied the parchment to a stone and dropped it into the valley. Long he waited, then repeated the message a second and a third time, but no answer reached his ear from the vast assembly that now filled the valley.

Again he tore a leaf from his book. There was no more gold ribbon to bind it to the stone, so he took the Chain of the Order of the Golden Fleece—for what value had it to a dying man?—and then threw the stone down from his high and airy grave. In his last message, the Emperor thanked the people for their faithful love, and owning that his life was the penalty of his pride and boastfulness, made one last request,—that they would send to Zierlein for the priest to give him the blessing, and that they would then join in prayer to the great Helper to strengthen him to endure the pangs of a lingering death. Off sped a messenger for the priest, whose arrival was announced to the Emperor by a shot. Max kneeled in prayer, and then a second shot rang on the air, and through the speaking trumpet came the words of the blessing. The sun disappeared behind the mountain range, but from the purple shade of the valley the Emperor could hear a faint murmur, which told him that the people were praying for him. Darkness descended, and one by one the stars came out, but Max continued absorbed in prayer. Suddenly a bright gleam flashed on his eyes, and he saw before him, torch in hand, a figure of a bright-haired barefooted peasant youth. Exclaiming, "Lord Emperor, follow me quickly," the figure turned and slid down into the hollow from which Max had climbed that morning, then glided through a crevice which the Emperor had failed to detect. With difficulty Max squeezed through the narrow chink, to find himself in a steep, rugged fissure leading into the heart of the rock. Then for miles and miles downward he followed the light, till at last the ravine opened into a low cavern, at the end of which the torch and its bearer suddenly vanished. Groping towards the spot Max found himself again in the open air. Hearing a distant confused noise he followed it, and reached the foot of St. Martin's Wall, where the priest and people were still kneeling in prayer. Stepping into their midst he cried:

"Praise the Lord with me, my people. See He has delivered me!"

The Emperor was never able to discover who had been the instrument of his rescue. A report spread among the people that an angel had saved him, but when Maximilian heard of it he said, "Yes, truly, it was an angel; my guardian angel, who has many a time come to my help—he is called in German 'The people's loyal Love.'"

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—My *first* is anger; my *second* has much to bear; and my *whole* has been compared to a gem.

2.—My *first* is an expanse; my *second* is a biped; my *third* is competency; and my *whole* is like snow at Christmas.

3.—A pretty bird behold my all,
That, Oh, so sweetly sings:
Reject my *first*, and then I'm used
In measurement of things.

4.—Buried Proverb.—No, never was our excitement keener, as we made a flying ascent, he yelling with a terrific shout "Now I'll win." O! these heart-stirring times.

5.—I am a word of nine letters; my 4, 7, 1, 2 is water; my 9, 8, 4, 4 is an image; my 6, 3, 5, is covered; and my *whole* is a part of our life.

6.—My *first* is to observe with care,
It may another meaning bear;
Some carry it where'er they go,
And like them it moves to and fro.
My *next's* in constant use by man,
Of every clime and nation;
Without it voice were only sound,
Like mutes of the creation.
My *whole* combined, you'll easily find,
Is ever used for safety.

7.—I am three words, and require fourteen letters. For my 1, 10, 3, 7, 13, you must look to the earth; for my 9, 2, 11, 7, 14 you must look to the Mint; for my 8, 6, 5, 4 you must look to a river; and for my *whole* you must look to a country where there is no war and the people are content.

8.—Missing Consonants.

-i-e o- - -ea- -e -a- - -e-i - u-
-e -a- -a-e ou- -i-e- -u- -i-e;
A- -, -e-a- -i- -, -ea-e -e-i- - u-
-ou- - -i- - - o- - -e -a- - - o- -i-e.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1.—It is better to wear out than to rust out. 2. Shakspere. 3. Lime-rick, Water-ford, Car-low, Ant-rim-Downpatrick, Port-a-down. 4. Den-mark. 5. Companion. 6. Book-worm. 7. Broadstairs.

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THE BLACK SHAFT;

OR,

THE MINER'S DAUGHTER—A MYSTERY.

BY

HENRY FRITH,

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

CHAPTER III.

HOSEA AND SIMON PLOT A LITTLE SCHEME.

Hosea Calton was the superintendent of the property, appointed by Mr. Duncomb. He combined the duties of steward and bailiff, with certain overseeing of the alum works in the neighbourhood. No man in the district had such a reputation for knowledge of the seams and veins. It was by his advice that the new excavations had been made at some distance from the long-unworked Black Shaft. The village had been deserted; "hands" and hands' wives and children had migrated, leaving great heaps of slag, and slate, and rubbish, iron wheels, some trucks, and rails, an old pumping-engine, and many unused and rusting articles, and decayed tokens of the death of the pit.

The "Black Shaft" had never been very productive. It had promised well, and had begun "bonnie." But the workings soon ceased; the seam suddenly stopped. The shaft remained, it got an evil name, and the Black Shaft thenceforward became unworkable. The men declined to dig any farther that way. Superstition raised its head out of the workings and alarmed the neighbourhood. Noises had been heard; sights seen, all of an uncertain and unearthly kind; these were quite sufficient to give the shaft an ill name. If a new opening could be made with reasonable expectation of success then the men would return. At present they had all deserted the place, for Mr. Duncomb had determined to wait. He had enough and to spare, and made alum out of the cliffs.

But when Hosea Calton came and hinted to him that there was "corn in Egypt," that the seam was as good as ever a few furlongs farther on, that a shaft might be sunk with success a mile nearer the "Rookery," then Horace Duncomb felt obliged, in his nephew's interest, to have the trial made. He could not live long; he only held the property for his life, or during his nephew's minority. Mervyn would come of age at twenty-five, and succeed. If he did not Simon would inherit from his father.

With plenty of money and no occupation nor responsibility, Mervyn Duncomb never contemplated usurping the position of "Squire" from his uncle. Horace Duncomb, quite accustomed to rule, did not trouble his nephew concerning the property. He was honest and true, but he also provided for his children and saved money, which, perhaps, had Mervyn known the facts, ought to have been spent on the property.

In all Horace Duncomb's transactions Hosea Calton was consulted. Young Simon and Hosea was quite friendly. Simon was older than Mervyn, his cousin, for the old squire, after many years of bachelorhood, had one day announced to his disgusted brother his intention to marry a penniless girl, the daughter of a perpetual curate—an old school-mate.

The marriage was celebrated, and in due time a direct heir was born to the property. Horace Duncomb felt himself ill-used, and when Mrs. Philip Duncomb died in giving birth to a daughter, who also died, the squire consented to leave him the property with the guardianship of his son till he, Mervyn, was twenty-five. If the lad died, the guardian could dispose of the property as he pleased, failing direct issue. But Mervyn had reached two and-twenty in full possession of all his faculties, and a separate income of eight hundred pounds out of the property. He would surely succeed to it.

Simon Duncomb felt greatly aggrieved. Until his uncle had married he had been regarded as the heir. Now he found himself, at thirty, practically dependent upon his cousin, whom he detested. But he endeavoured to conceal his real feelings, and assumed a sanctimonious manner, making a kind of Puritan protest against any amusements, while he indulged himself, in secret, in much more questionable ways than those he denounced.

In Hosea Calton he found a "kindred spirit"—one, who while "serving the Lord," as he continually expressed it, was careful to serve himself. But each man, though pretty accurately gauging the other, still retained the character he had assumed, and though one belonged to the Established Church and the other Dissented, they met on the common ground of "humbug" and self seeking, but, above all, Hosea was for seeking iron and coal.

What a difference two-score years has made in North-east Yorkshire! The busy Cleveland district, now teeming with furnaces, tunnelled with galleries and shafts, long and deep. On the surface are many evidences of the labourious industry of the district, but underground the miners drill, hack, and blast the ironstone into long streets and great passages.

The beauties of the Esk and its neighbourhood, the picturesqueness of Mulgrave, Marske, or Runswick had no charm for Hosea Calton. Rugged and rough by nature, his pleasures were of a consistent character. Roughness and ruggedness attracted him. The shaft and the mine, with their grim and grimy associations, had more charms for him than the quaint beauty of Lofthouse or the rolling moor, the hills and dales. The green and purple moorland, the farmed land, the woods and streams had no pleasure for Hosea, who regarded them as coverings merely for the hoards of natural wealth, which he believed lay below. So he tunnelled and drove his galleries, assisted by speculators, but failed at first. Now he had, he believed, "struck oil," or rather iron; and he rejoiced that the day had dawned for Cleveland.

Simon Duncomb had been in his confidence and had found him money. Simon had conceived the idea of enriching himself out of his cousin's property, and snapping his fingers at him. Horace Duncomb was absolutely careless; he had failed before, and doubted the result now, but Hosea was positive. If Simon could only manage to get Mervyn out of the way before the value of the new seams could be made known, a company might be formed, or the mine might be worked by the owners of the property.

To get Mervyn out of the way was now Simon's wish and intention. Hosea would, he fancied, assist him; at any rate the attempt should be made; on that the young man was determined. He had many reasons for wishing Mervyn away, and go he must, of his own will or by force.

So it was with the greatest satisfaction that Simon learned that Katie's behaviour had aroused a jealous passion in the young man's heart, and that he had determined to leave home. The next thing was to induce him to leave before the value of the property had been fully disclosed. Mervyn, careless as he was, had expressed his doubt to Jessie concerning the new vein, and he was now too much annoyed with Katie to pause in his plans and too impulsive to remain to see the issue.

Simon hurried away early next morning, and sought Hosea Calton. He found the man of iron already up and stirring. His daughter, an only child—his wife was dead—was seated with him at breakfast. The man greeted his visitor in Yorkshire parlance, which we will not attempt to produce here.

"You're early afield," he said. "Sit ye down and eat a morsel. Here, Bess, make room for young squire; quick, lass."

Bessie moved away as directed, and Simon placed himself beside her father.

"Look here, Hosea, what time must we go down to-day? Can't we delay the inspection?"

"Delay. Yes, o' course. But why? Ain't the squire ready to come?"

"Yes, he will come, and my cousin; but you see, he wishes to leave soon, and it would be a pity to hinder him."

"Ah yes; so 'twould. Well, we talk it over. Finish your food, and we'll go and see about this. Now then, Bess, hat do you want?"

"Nothing, father. I——"

"Well, take it with you; young squire and me has something to talk on—business it is. Have you read your chapter this morning?"

"No, father; not yet."

"Well, then, bring your Bible, and we'll read it together, and have a few words. Then we shall rise refreshed, Mr Duncomb."

"Certainly," assented Simon; "by all means."

As soon as the morning service was over Hosea reached down his pipe from the chimney-piece, and beckoning his visitor said—

"Now, we are in a fit frame for the worldly work. What do you want with me?"

"Only to enquire whether, by some excuse, we could not postpone our examination of the place, or conceal its value until my cousin leaves the 'Wolds.'"

"Ay; but suppose he don't leave at all. Suppose I have told him the value of his property. He will remain! It is his—not ours, Mr. Simon, sir."

"You've never been such a fool as that, Hosea, I hope. Why, you will spoil all our prospects!"

"But dooty, young squire; dooty is safety. Now, you see this iron, or whatever is in it, will become very valuable, and if I follow my plain dooty I may become a partner, or a manager, perhaps, in the mine. Dooty is safety!"

"But if *I* succeed to the estate you will be more than a partner, Calton, eh? You will have a sum of ready money when I come into the property—a good round sum for Bessie yonder and for your old age, Hosea."

"Ah, yes, that may be; but how do I know whether you ever *will* come into the property? Now, the other game is a safe one. My conscience——"

"Hang your conscience!" interrupted Simon Duncomb, angrily. "Don't try to humbug me, Hosea; your conscience is india-rubber, I know. Let us act fair. I tell you, my cousin, that hateful Mervyn, is going away; never mind why. He has made a mistake, but I am not going to tell him how to play against myself. No, indeed. We must keep him in the dark—in the dark. Do you understand?"

"In the dark," muttered Hosea Calton, looking in a half-vacant manner at his accomplice. "In the dark—in the mine you mean?"

A flash of intelligence mounted to Simon's cunning eyes. Was there any double meaning in the stolid overseer's speech, "In the dark!" It was an ominous phrase!

Simon drew his chair nearer to Hosea, and looked at him intently. The "overman" continued to smoke quietly as if quite unconcerned.

"What did you say, Hosea?" whispered the younger man. "In the mine?"

"No, I didn't say in the mine. I asked you whether you *meant* in the mine when you *said* in the dark; that's what *I* said!"

"No I did not, when I said it," replied Simon.

"Well, do you mean it now?" inquired the other, in a low, fierce tone. "Come, man, give it tongue—out with it—Yes, or No. What the devil *do* you mean?"

Simon Duncomb hesitated a little before he answered. Indeed, he could not directly reply. As he paused the tick-tack of the clock was audible in the room, and the songs of birds, the calling of fowls, and other country sounds, were all distinctly heard in the silence. Just as a flash of lightning will show us a number of objects at once, much more plainly than at noon-day, so these sounds struck much more plainly on the highly-wrought sensibilities of Simon Duncomb in the silence of the cottage.

"Well," inquired Hosea, "have you any reason to think that Mr. Mervyn will *not* succeed to the property, and that your offer will be accepted and carried out?"

"I can only repeat that he intends to leave here almost immediately. He has had a quarrel with his sweetheart—who is also *my* sweetheart—and he is going to run away, like the impulsive fool he is, thinking she will be recalled! He had better stay and abuse her for her conduct, and bring her round that way."

"Ay, ay. To soften a man condemn yourself. To soften a woman, pitch it into her hot and strong. The more you beat 'em the better they be—is women, dogs, and the walnut tree! Well, sir?"

"Well, Hosea, he will go I am sure. If he meet with any accident or do not return, I will marry my sweetheart."

"And his?" remarked Hosea.

"And his—just so," continued Simon. "I will succeed to the property when the old man dies, and then you will live in clover all your life."

"Yes all my life; but I ain't so sure of after that. If anything *did* happen——"

"Anything happen! How can we tell if it do happen? We have nothing to do with it. A man disappears suddenly, to the great grief of all his relations, particularly of his cousin——"

"His affectionate friend and cousin," added the overseer.

"His affectionate cousin," continued Simon, with a grin of hate on his face. "Yes; he disappears, and the heir succeeds to the estate. Your fortune is made *by the mine*, you see, which you work for the landlord, and you become a gentleman. Your daughter has her carriage, and lovers in loads; lords and honourables. There's a prospect!"

"Aye, a fine prospect, but 'prospectin' ain't always payin'. I've learnt that much. But Bessie's a lady; aye, that she is now, this minute. Now, I'll make a bargain with you, if you will marry my girl when you come into the property. She's a lady looking, and you can make her one then. Yes, or no, and I'll help you *work the mine!*"

Simon looked warily at the man as he spoke. Was this a trap? Had Hosea noticed the intimacy which existed between his daughter and himself, thought Simon?

No, it was impossible. He must, however, throw the man off the scent, but how? Suddenly a vile thought came into his mind—a wicked flash showed him the way—and, with a shade of reluctance in his tone, artfully feigned, he replied:

"Well, you see, Hosea, I don't think I could marry your charming daughter. There are reasons——"

"Reasons again' my girl! What reasons? She's good, she's true, and will make any man a good wife. Why, she's fit for Mr. Mervyn himself. She is! A perfect lady."

"That's just it. He ought to marry her."

Hosea turned, and then looking steadily at Simon, said sternly:

"Do you know what you are saying, Mr. Simon? Ought? What's ought?"

"Nothing, generally," answered the young man, flippantly. "A good deal in this case, I fancy."

"Oh, you fancy, do you? Well, then, quit your fancies and speak out. What about marrying? You said Mr. Mervyn *ought* to marry my girl. Why?"

"It is such a delicate question that."

"Do you mean for to insinuate aught again' my lass? By the heavens above, I'll crush your life out."

He sprang at Simon, who managed to elude the attack.

"Stop," cried Simon. "No violence, or none towards *me*. I say nothing. Ask Bessie herself quickly. Don't mention my name. Of course you won't for it's libel; but you find out whether I'm not right. Bessie has been out often o' nights for whiles—eh?"

"That's true at times; and was she with *him*? Speak out, or——!"

A threatening gesture concluded the sentence.

"Ask her—on the quiet—that's all. Good-day."

"No, not yet. You wait. Will you swear she meets young Duncomb? Speak!"

"Well, you see——"

"Speak, I say!" roared the angry overman, as he rushed at Simon and held him by the throat and collar. "Speak, you hound, or I'll shake the words out of you!"

"Calton, you forget yourself. Leave go at once," spluttered Simon, whose bruised face was not improved in expression by this treatment. "Let go!"

"Not till you tell me what I want to know. I'll throttle you in a minute! Speak!"

"Yes, then, since you will have it. I didn't intend to peach. You must keep me out of this, Calton, or beware!"

"Oh, I'll beware soon enough. I won't tell of you. Go along, now; and mind, never mention this again to mortal soul—or I'll kill you!"

After this threat, which Hosea Calton seemed quite prepared to carry out at short notice, Simon Duncomb hurried from the cottage, and the overseer continued to gaze after him.

"A half-hearted, cruel chap, he is. I don't like his manner. But I have him under my thumb now."

Suddenly a suspicion seemed to strike the man—a horrible suspicion. He threw it from him. Yet the phantom again and again presented itself. At length the overseer could contain himself no longer. He called to his daughter.

"Bessie, come here. Look sharp, girl."

Bessie's heart stood still. Her father's tone she knew betokened that something unusual had happened. She turned pale, then red, but did not move.

"Are ye a-comin'," roared Hosea, "or shall I fetch ye down?"

There was no disputing this order, and Bessie came nervously downstairs.

"Why didn't ye come before, eh? Now tell me the truth. What has young Duncomb been saying to you?"

"Saying to me, father? Nothing; I have scarcely seen him," replied the girl, falteringly.

"Not to-day, perhaps; but he has met you, I know that much. Now, has he ever insulted you? Come, now. Because he's a-goin' to marry you, my lass. There!"

"Marry me! Oh, father! but did he tell you? He will, then, acknowledge me."

"What!" asked Hosea, in a low, ominous tone, and slightly bending forward, contracting his bushy brows as he spoke. "What! acknowledge you! What d'ye mean?"

The girl was silent. Her pale face was the picture of shame and terror.

"Speak out," roared Hosea. "Speak out. Has this man promised to marry you? Has he—oh, my God!—has he—ruined you?"

"Oh, father—father, forgive me. We *are* married. Forgive me; he married me a time ago, and I was afraid to tell!"

She fell at his feet, and, burying her face in her hands, wept piteously.

The stern miner raised his clenched hand as if to strike his daughter dead, but, fortunately, he checked himself in time.

"Married!" he muttered. "Married! where's your lines? Who married you, and where?"

"I've no lines; it was in the barn yonder, one evening months ago," sobbed the unhappy girl, in her misery wishing she were dead. "I don't know who married us!"

"No," burst out Hosea, with an oath. "No, you don't, you——" He stopped before the epithet had passed his lips, but she knew he had condemned her. "You have disgraced yourself. Oh, you, you vile thing, get out of my sight. Go—go to your lover; you are no daughter of mine. Begone."

Meanwhile Simon Duncomb was walking homewards deliberating upon what had occurred.

"I have managed to put him on the wrong scent, I think. Marry Bessie—well, not again. Wonder what has become of Mordaunt? If he were to turn up it might be awkward. Still, he promised—well I daresay he has drank himself to death by this time. Once Mervyn is out of the way all will be plain sailing. I will manage to get rid of Bessie, and the mine will serve me a good turn. Hosea will make me safe. I can't afford to be scrupulous. Mervyn and Bessie disposed of, then Kate may be mine yet. What a fool I was to assent to that barn-door marriage! Luckily there were no witnesses, and a drunken parson is not much use!"

He hurried along the cliff path, and, as he paused to look back, he perceived Hosea leave his cottage and proceed down the gorge lined with red-roofed houses which had by degrees dotted the hill sides and formed a village on the frontier of the sea and shore.

CHAPTER IV.

A MISUNDERSTANDING!—THE DESCENT INTO THE BLACK SHAFT!

"What sudden fancy is this, Mervyn?" asked his uncle, when the young man had imparted to him his intention to leave the "Wolds." "What freak is this? Surely you are not in such a hurry?"

"Yes, uncle. You know three years must elapse before I come of age. After I succeed to the property, which you are so kindly and so ably nursing for me, I shall have no opportunities to travel or see the world. I want to go at once, because——"

"Because you are impulsive. Has Jessie hurt your feelings? You are too sensitive, my boy. Don't let the girls worry you. They delight in tormenting a man. Show them you are independent of them, and they will soon run after you. If anyone has annoyed you——"

"Oh, no, uncle, no one has—at least, not particularly. Simon and I are not quite as friendly as we might be; but Jessie and I are excellent friends—brother and sister. Still I want to go."

"Very well; of course, you can do as you please," replied Mr. Duncomb, rather unwillingly, for he did not like to hear that Jessie and his nephew were only brother and sister. "You have money sufficient. If not, draw upon me, as usual."

"You are very kind, uncle, and now as I think I ought to consult you, I may as well say I think of going to America."

"To America! My dear boy, what an idea! America is such a long way off."

"Yes, that is the very reason I have thought of going thither. I shall go across from Liverpool and travel through the States. It is not so very difficult."

"Dear me, America! Well, Mervyn, I suppose you will go. There are steam-packets now, I believe, and the danger is less than it used to be. Still, there *is* danger."

"There are plenty of steamers, uncle, and no difficulty. Now, about this new vein—is there anything in it?" asked Mervyn, changing the subject.

"If I understand rightly, there is a chance of ironstone, which will soon bring you a handsome increase. But Hosea Calton has been so often wrong——"

"Yes, indeed. I will go with you this afternoon, and trust to your usual kindness to look after my future interests."

"One moment, my boy—you will pardon an old man, I am sure—tell me truly, is there any quarrel between you and Jessie? I have hoped that perhaps there might arise a tenderness between you—and—I fancied——"

"No, uncle," replied Mervyn, as the old man paused; "Jessie and I are by no means in love with each other. I like her very much, and she, I believe, likes me as her cousin, but beyond a little flirting,—if I may say so—cousinly affection, and 'chattiness,' Jessie and I have not proceeded."

Mervyn blushed as he answered, for he was aware that he had whispered many "soft nothings" to his cousin Jessie, which she might have, and not unjustly, considered as something more than fraternal opinions concerning herself. But she had made no sign; and her father, though he had hoped, had been too wise to remark upon the intimacy of the youthful cousins.

"Very well, Mervyn," he said, at length, "I will send you the order on any Liverpool bankers—at once. Your luggage?"

"I have packed the few things I intend to take from here. I will have an outfit in Liverpool. Freman will take my baggage to the nearest station. So all has been prepared. I will go this evening, I think."

"Very well, Mervyn," repeated the old man. "You shall have your own way. We shall meet at luncheon."

So Mervyn went away, and as he left the study he encountered Miss Askenhurst in the hall. She determined on another effort, and quite ignored the quarrel.

"So you are actually running away from us, Mr. Duncomb," she said, after a somewhat stiff greeting on his part. "Are you afraid to stay in such quiet company?"

"No," he answered, "I want change. I want to see the world. Besides, there is nothing to keep me here. No one cares whether I go or not."

"Oh, Mr. Duncomb, don't say that. I am sure we *all* care very much, and Jessie is quite sorry, because she will have no one to help her catch the white donkey when you have gone."

"I dare say my cousin Simon will act as well as I have in that way, Miss Askenhurst," he replied, coldly. "White donkeys are not difficult to catch; ask Simon."

Katie laughed uneasily, and promised she would.

"But you do not really mean to leave us?" she continued, more earnestly. "I am quite sure we shall see you again soon."

"You will not see me until I am of age, Miss Askenhurst. Good-bye."

"I will not bid you farewell now," she said. "Oh, Mervyn, how *can* you be so silly?"

"Silly!" Thank you, Miss Askenhurst—you are complimentary to-day."

"Don't be stupid. Come, give up this trip of yours. It will be much better for you to remain and look after your property. Now for my sake—for Jessie's sake, I mean—do not go away!"

"For Jessie's sake? Jessie does not care."

"Indeed she does. We all care."

"Do you, Kate?" he asked, weakly.

"Yes, of course I do."

"You would be really sorry if I went—unhappy, I mean?"

"Well, not unhappy—sorry."

"Do you care for me, then?"

"Yes, I think I do. A little."

"Only a little," persisted Mervyn.

"Dear me, I cannot be so cross-questioned, Mervyn. A little with me is sometimes a great deal," she replied, quickly.

"Yes, sometimes; but not now. I can see that plain enough," replied the perverse young man, who was blind in his anger, and annoying Katie by his obstinacy.

What more could she say? The man had not asked her to be his wife. She had told him in the plainest language she could use that she wished him to remain with her, and yet he would not take what lay before him. He would seek causes—he would not receive effects ready to his hands. The white donkey was not so bad as this man. What could she say to this coldly obstinate individual?

"Well, Mervyn, a wilful man will have his way. If you *must* go you *must*. I think you very rude to go when I am here."

"You have Simon—your devoted admirer—to console you. Surely you will be happy with *him*," said Mervyn, bitterly, as his words of yestereven recurred to him. "Is not one 'beau' enough at a time for your string?"

"Mr. Duncomb, you are rude and ungenerous. I think you *had* better go."

The weather was getting "stormy" again, when fortunately the *tête-a-tête* was interrupted by Simon, who came in hurriedly, and after addressing a few affectionate words to Kate, which made Mervyn's blood boil, the "young squire," as he was sometimes called, took his cousin's arm and led him aside. Kate had already disappeared.

"I have seen Hosea," said Simon to his cousin, "and he wants you to come down the shaft to day. You remember those old galleries which were worked for coal some years ago?"

"Yes," replied Mervyn, thinking of Katie, and paying very little attention to Simon, with whom he kept a hollow truce.

"Well, the Black Shaft has been rigged up, and we can descend by it to the new vein, which Hosea *says* he has discovered. (Between you and me I don't think much of him.) Anyway, you will come and see."

"No: I shall leave here at once. I am sick and tired of all this business, and will go abroad. Uncle can do as he pleases."

"Nonsense, Mervyn," replied Simon, affecting a *bonhomie* he was far from feeling. "Because you and I like the same girl, though I did not until lately think you cared for Kate."

"Well I do. Let that suffice!"

"Don't be savage. Listen. You *must* go and see your property. What will people think?"

"I don't care what they think."

"Not now, perhaps. You are out of sorts. You will some day though, when you return. You can set off immediately after the inspection, and reach Liverpool or Manchester, or London even, to night. Hosea won't do anything without you." Chap 4

"Very well, I will go. I am quite ready. My baggage is all packed, and will go this afternoon. When you are prepared, call me down."

Neither Kate nor Jessie intended to accompany the gentleman, so when after luncheon they parted in the hall, their farewells with Mervyn had to be spoken.

"Good-bye, Mervyn," said Jessie, half-tearfully, as she kissed him in a cousinly fashion. "If you must go, *au revoir*. Come back to us as soon as you can, mind."

"He'll come back quick enough," said his uncle, brusquely. "He's a fool to go at all."

"Good-bye, Mr. Duncomb," said Kate. "We shall see you in Manchester some day, perhaps, and be friends there."

"Not very likely," said the sore young man; "thank you all the same. Good-bye, Miss Akenhurst."

He held her hand, looking calmly in her face. He wanted to kiss her this once, but did not dare. Jessie, the simple-hearted, came to the rescue.

"Give him a kiss, Katie," she whispered.

Kate blushed, but put her face up a little towards Mervyn, who bent down and touched her cheek.

"God bless you!" he whispered. "Good-bye, Jessie; I will never forget your kindness. Good-bye."

The girls shook hands with him again. He held Jessie's hand last. She turned aside into the room adjoining, and looked out of the window, dreamily.

Mervyn turned as he entered the trap, which was to convey him and his relatives to the "Black Shaft," and for an instant his eyes met Jessie's. What a depth of sorrow and resolution lay in them! What did that expression mean? He would have given half his estates to have gone back and begged an explanation of that look. Trouble, pain, sorrow, regret, for something done or undone; even affection lay in those eyes, whose lids showed traces of tears. *Was* he a fool after all, as his uncle had said?

It was too late then. The die was cast. Go, he must. But he was sorry now. He waved his hand, Jessie nodded with a sickly, watery smile behind the glass, and the wagonette drove away.

The Black Shaft was soon reached, and preparations were made to go down. The frame was lowered. As they descended, Mervyn looked up and saw the blue of the sky becoming darker and darker. Over the edge of the pit he fancied he could perceive a woman's face—peeping. But the white face, if it were a face, changed to a red spot like blood; and then the platform on which he stood went down into the thick darkness and silence of the Black Shaft.

* * * * * *

For evermore—for evermore!

(To be continued.)

Preservation of Flowers for Decoration.—Many flowers can be preserved for several days if a cool and damp cellar or other similar place is at command, where they can be kept nearly or quite in the dark. The Passion flowers, for instance, that we very rarely see open for more than one day—in fact, this is about the limit of their existence—may be preserved in good condition for three or four, and even five days, if cut early in the morning, after fully expanding, and then placed in the dark till required. Some of the Passifloras flower, as it were, by fits and starts, and perhaps, just when a few flowers are wanted, they are a few days past. By adopting the means just detailed, an extension can be made, very possibly, to meet the requirments. Blossoms of the Passifloras will also remain open during the evening if cut early in the day, whereas on the plant the majority will close in the afternoon. Other "flowers of a day" can be kept in a similar manner, such as the Ipomæas, for example. Water lilies, when required in a cut state, can be made to remain open all night with ease by passing the thumb and finger up each petal and reflexing it. During the summer months all flowers will be found to keep the better if cut early in the day or late in the evening, when their vitality is not being weakened by rapid evaporation. In warm weather we prefer to complete all arrangements early in the morning, and place them away (if not immediately required) in a cool and shaded place that is free from draught. The retention of the dew on the flowers will have a beautiful effect in the evening; this cannot, however, be managed unless a cold, moist cellar is available till the needed time for bringing them forth.—*From Cassell's "Popular Gardening" for January.*

EATING AT NIGHT.

Popularly eating at night is thought injurious, but unless dinner or supper has been late, or the stomach disordered, it is, says the *Science Monthly*, harmless and beneficial—*i.e.*, if one be hungry. Four or five hours having elapsed since the last meal, invalids and the delicate should always eat at bedtime. This seems heretical, but it is not. Food of simple kind will induce sleep. Animals after eating instinctively sleep. Human beings become drowsy after a full meal. Why? Because blood is solicited towards the stomach to supply the juices needed in digestion. Hence the brain receives less blood than during fasting, becomes pale, and the powers become dormant. Sleep, therefore, ensues. This is physiological. The sinking sensation in sleeplessness is a call for food. Wakefulness often is merely a symptom of hunger. Gratify the desire and you'll fall asleep. The writer was recently called at two a.m. to a lady who assured him that she was dying. The body was warm, the heart doing honest work. To her indignation he ordered buttered bread (hot milk or tea were better) to be eaten at once. Obeying, the moribund lady was soon surprised by a return of life and desire to sleep. The feeble will be stronger at dawn if they eat on going to bed. Fourteen hours lie between supper and breakfast. By that time the fuel of the body has become expended. Consequently the morning toilet fatigues many. Let such eat at bed-time and take a glass of warm milk or beef tea before rising. Increased vigour will result. "But the stomach must rest." True. Yet when hungry we should eat. Does the infant's stomach rest as long as the adult's? The latter eats less often merely because his food requires more time for digestion. Seldom can one remain awake till half-past ten or eleven in the evening without hunger. Satisfy it and sleep will be sound. During the night give wakeful children food. Sleep will follow. The sick should invariably eat during the night. This is imperative. All night the children and delicate may take warm milk, beef-tea, or oatmeal gruel. Vigorous adults may also eat bread and milk, cold beef, mutton, chicken and bread, raw oysters, all of course in moderation. Do not eat if not hungry. Eat if you are.

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

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

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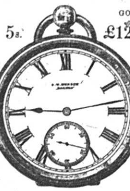

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Christmas Cards, Silk Fringed, Hand Painted, Plush, &c. All Prices. [Large Stock to select from. 3d. in the 1s. discount allowed on Printed Cards. Wholesale Buyers supplied at Dean Street, at old prices.
Albums! Albums (to hold 200 Cards) with leaves beautifully ornamented, from 4s. 6d., suitable for presentation.
Albums, small size (to hold 50 Cards), from 1s. each.
Scrap Books, New and Handsome designs, 6d. to 10s.
Boxes of Drawing Instruments for School, Class, and Presentation, from 11d. to 90s.
Scraps for Screens, in endless variety, from One Penny
Oleographs for Screens and Framing, great choice, very *cheap.*
Playing Cards, from 9d.; Snap Cards, 6d. and 1s.
Bibles, Prayer Books, Hymn Books, Text Books.
Children's Coloured Picture Books, all prices.
Birthday Cards, Easter Cards, Birthday Text Books.
Account Books, Time Books, Club Books.
Books Bound, Strong, Neat, and Cheap.

ALLAN
BOOKSELLER, &c.,
DEAN STREET, COLLINGWOOD STREET
AND BLACKETT STREET.

THIS DAY'S NEWS.

THE WAR IN THE SOUDAN.

THE LATE GENERAL STEWART.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAM.]

KORTI, FRIDAY, 9·30 A.M.

General Stewart died at Gakdul on the 16th inst. from the wound received in the battle at Metammeh, on the 19th ult. The news cast great gloom over the whole of the British forces.

A special telegram in a second edition of the *Standard* says:—

HEADQUARTERS, KORTI, FRIDAY, 8·5 A.M.

I regret to have to inform you of the news of the death of General Stewart. His wound, which for a time was going on very favourably, has lately given grave cause for anxiety, having proved more severe than was anticipated, and the worst has been feared for the last 48 hours. Generals Dormer and Grenfell have arrived.

The *Daily News* publishes the following telegram in a second edition to-day (Friday):—

KORTI, THURSDAY NIGHT.

The news of Sir Herbert Stewart's death received here to-night caused the greatest regret to everybody in camp. Only those who were with him throughout the march across the desert can fully appreciate his many rare qualities, his ceaseless energy, his care for the men, his readiness of resource in an emergency, and his merits as a leader. He died at Gakdul, always memorable in connection with his first brilliant march on his way back from the scenes of his two victories.

The announcement of General Stewart's death has caused profound regret in Colchester barracks.

ROYALTY INSPECTING THE TROOPS.

Early this (Friday) morning, the Prince of Wales, who stayed all night at the Horse Guards Barracks, Windsor, inspected the Third Battilion of the Grenadier Guards before leaving for the Soudan. The Prince, addressing the men, said he he well remembered this day thirty years ago when that very Battalion left for the Crimea. He remembered how well they fought then, and knew they could now do so again.—The Queen has sent an autograph letter to the Battalion assuring them of her prayers in their behalf.

The Grenadier Guards embarked on board the transport *Australia* at Gravesend to-day (Friday) amid a scene of excitement unequalled since the days of the Crimean War. The flags flew from the buildings, the streets were decorated, and the crowd was intensely enthusiastic.

Major Douglas, Assistant Commissary, General Robertson, Major F. Davies, Lieut.-Col. Watson, Capt. Lawyer, and Capt. Ballantine left Charing Cross this (Friday) morning *en route* to Egypt.

The hired transport *Poonah* left Queenstown for Portsmouth this (Friday) morning in tow.

The Second Squadron of the 20th Hussars embarked at Portsmouth this (Friday) morning for the Soudan.

WAR EXPENDITURE.

The supplementary estimates issued to-day (Friday) shows that further sums of £330,000 will be required for the Navy, £250,000 being for conveying the troops to the Soudan, and £485,000 for the Civil Service and Revenue departments. £165,000 of the latter vote is for public education.

HEAVY FAILURE IN AMERICA.

[CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.]

NEW YORK, FRIDAY.

The suspension is announced of Messrs Gidiere, Day, and Co., cotton merchants, of New Orleans. The liabilities are £100,000.

THE FATAL FIRE AT BLACKBURN.

Respecting the great fire at the Knudgen Brook Mill, Blackburn, yesterday, by which seven lives were lost, a telegram this (Friday) afternoon, states:—Only the body of a man has been recovered from the burning ruins at Blackburn during the night. Several human bones were found. The grief of the relatives around the fire was highly affecting.

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

The Boundary Commissioners report for the English counties and Scotland was issued to-day (Friday). The Commissioners recommended that the Parliamentary Boundaries should equal the municipal.

THE WATERLOO COURSING.

FORMBY, FRIDAY.

The WATERLOO CUP, for 64 subscribers at £25 each. Winner, £500; 2nd, £200. The deciding heat was run off to-day (Friday), when Miss Glendyne and Bit of Fashion divided the stakes. Both these greyhounds belong to Mr Dent, who is a native of Northumberland.

The WATERLOO PLATE, of £150, taken from Cup Stakes, for 16 beaten dogs. Winner to receive £75; 2nd, £30. Third round: Cocklaw Dean beat Twenty-five; Che Sara beat Jova. Deciding course: Cocklaw Dean beat Che Sara, and won.

The WATERLOO PURSE of £215, taken from the Cup Stakes. Winner, £75; 2nd, £30. Deciding course: Marsden beat Dansemse, and won.

MINERS' WAGES REDUCED.

The South Yorkshire Colliery owners intend reducing the men's wages 10 per cent.

Consols unaltered. Wheat dull.

A NOTORIOUS THIEF CAUGHT.

This (Friday) morning, *Caroline Davison* (23), was arrested by P.C. Davidson just as she was being liberated from Durham goal (after undergoing six months imprisonment for stealing about £20 at Darlington) upon a charge of having stolen two sheets, and other articles of wearing apparel, the property of Mrs Ann Clark, who keeps a public-house at Hill Top, Dipton, where the prisoner was engaged as domestic servant only a few days. She will be tried on Monday at the Consett Police Court.

DRUNKENNESS AT BLACKHILL.

At the Shotley Bridge Court-house to-day (Friday), before Mr Jas. Annandale, J.P., a widow, named *Mary Judge* (44), residing at No. 4, Bottle Bank, Blackhill, was brought up by P.C McKenzie for drunkenness, the woman having been found lying on the door-step of Dr George Renton's house the preceding (Thursday) night.—Prisoner has previously been imprisoned for not sending her children to school. — She was now mulcted in 2s 6d and costs, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

BURNT TO DEATH AT GATESHEAD.

An old woman, named Hannah Elsdon, died this (Friday) morning at Gateshead, from the effects of burns received in a shocking manner. Mrs Elsdon, a widow, aged 66, resided with her son, Lewis Elsdon, at Bankwell Lane. She was left alone in the house last night, and whilst proceeding upstairs with a paraffin lamp in her hand, she stumbled and fell. The lamp broke, and Mrs Elsdon's clothes immediately caught fire. When her son returned shortly afterwards, he found his mother lying helpless on the stairs, her clothes having been completely consumed. Dr Green was sent for, and found the woman to have been burnt in a shocking manner all over the body. She lingered for some hours in great agony, and died at five o'clock this morning.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, Feb. 19th.—Before M. KEARNEY, Esq. (chairman), the Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE, GEO. G. TAYLOR SMITH, Esq., and GEO. HEDLEY, Esq.

GAME TRESPASS.

James Morris and *Matthew Hunter*, miners working at Lintz Colliery, were charged with being in pursuit of conies, on January 29th, on land belonging to Mr Bowes, of Gibside Hall, near Rowlands Gill Station.—P.C. Pattison deposed that he was proceeding along the main turnpike between Rowlands Gill and Burnopfield, when he saw the defendants, accompanied by a "snack" dog, in the plantation. The animal was hunting the wood, and the defendants were in the act of setting their nets over the holes, and searching them with a ferrit. Witness lost sight of the men for a couple of seconds or so, but he watched them subsequently emerge on to the turnpike road. He stopped the defendants and took four nets off Morris, and upon seaching the man he found the ferrit concealed between the waistcoat and his breast. (Laughter.)—By Morris: He would be 100 yards away when he first espied them. They were on a private road leading to the farm.—Morris: We were not in the wood. We never went off the road.—Hunter: If the Bench will allow me to fetch my dog into Court, they will see whether it is a "snack" dog or not.—Mr Smith: Any dog will catch conies.—The Chairman: What were you going to do with the nets and ferret?—Defendants: We were going to sell them.—The Bench fined the offenders 40s and 8s 6d costs; or one month's imprisonment in default.

A BOY CONVICTED OF STEALING A WATCH AND GUARD.

Joseph Law, a boy only 13 years of age, was placed in the dock (having been remanded from Consett) to answer a charge of stealing a watch and guard, valued at £6, the property of Robert Lynn, a dairyman, residing at Clough Dene.—Prosecutor testified that on Saturday last, about five p.m., the watch and chain were hanging on a nail in the wall of his kitchen. On his return from milking the cows, he saw the prisoner waiting for some milk. After the lad had gone, he missed the watch and its appendage. Shortly afterwards, the prisoner came back with an empty can, and as he suspected the boy of having taken the articles, he questioned him on the point. At first, Law denied any knowledge of the theft; but subsequently he promised to restore the articles providing he (prosecutor) would say nothing further respecting the robbery. When he received the watch and chain, he handed them to P.C. Bain.—The boy's father said that what the prosecutor had stated would be correct.—P.C. Bain adduced that at 6·30 p.m. on Saturday, he proceeded to Clough Dene and apprehended the prisoner. On accusing him of stealing the watch and guard, he made no reply; but on the road to the officer's house, the lad admitted he had taken the articles off the nail, and in doing so he broke the "keeper." He conveyed the prisoner to Consett Police Cells, and locked him up.—The prisoner has been suspected of being concerned in various petty larcenies committed in the neighbourhood, and Mr Laws informed the Court that his son was not altogether right in his head. He was constantly getting into mischief, but he could not always watch the boy when he was out his sight. He had repeatedly thrashed the lad most severely, but the punishment appeared to have little effect upon him.—The Chairman, after consulting with his colleagues, remarked that it was very distressing to find a young creature like the prisoner beginning his career in this manner, and it might lead him to worse things. The Bench had decided to give him another chance, and would not impose the punishment he so richly deserved. He would receive twelve strokes from the birch rod, and if he should be brought there again for a similar offence, he would be sent to gaol.

THE POLICEMAN AND HIS VALENTINE.

Elizabeth Brown, a young woman belonging to Leadgate, employed as a domestic servant by Mr Robinson, of Iveston New Inn, was brought up charged with stealing a set of imitation jet brooches, worth about 4s.—Richard Buddle, of 4, Harvey Street, Newcastle, a N.E.R. policeman located at Suffolk Street Station, attested that last Sunday evening, he posted a letter and small box at Newcastle, containing the ear-rings produced, addressed to Miss Robinson, at the New Inn, Iveston.—Jane Hannah Wilson, daughter of Thos. Wilson, newsagent, Leadgate, stated that on the preceding Monday morning she accompanied the postman on his rounds delivering papers, leaving one at the New Inn. The postman gave her two letters and the box produced, and she handed the same to the prisoner with specific instructions that she should give the box to Miss Robinson.—Mary Jane Robinson stated that her brother kept the New Inn, Iveston. On Monday, 16th inst., she received a letter from Mr Buddle, which was conveyed to her by the prisoner. As she did not obtain the box and ear-rings, she questioned the prisoner, who said that she knew nothing about the articles. Accordingly she forwarded another letter to Mr Buddle, and on the Tuesday morning received a reply, consequently she again spoke to the prisoner touching the earings. The young woman still emphatically denied any knowledge of the articles, and she went upstairs and searched the prisoner's dress, the result being that she discovered the box and its contents in one of the pockets. When she charged the prisoner with having the ear-rings in her possession, she repudiated the allegation. Witness thereupon took the articles in question out of the prisoner's dress pocket, when the latter said, "The things do not belong to you."—In answer to the Bench, witness stated that the prisoner had only been in the service of her brother about six weeks, and she knew nothing against her character previously.—Sergt. Norman deposed to apprehending the prisoner last Wednesday, and on charging her she replied, "I own I took the ear-rings."—Prisoner pleaded guilty, alleging that she did not observe the address on the box, and understood that it was for herself, as she also received a letter that morning. When Miss Robinson searched her dress upstairs, she told her that the ear-rings were enclosed in her letter.—Replying to the Chairman, the prisoner said her mother was dead, and her step-father resided at Leadgate.—The Magistrates consulted a few minutes, when the Chairman said that the theft had been clearly established. The prisoner really ought to have been sent to prison, but the Bench felt reluctant to adopt this course, as it would blight her prospects for life, and cast a stain upon her character hereafter. She would have to pay a fine of 10s, including costs.

HINTS FOR THE HOME.

NEWSPAPER READERS.—The man who reads many newspapers finally comes to think in grooves. Even his speech is affected by it. He ceases to talk English, and begins to converse in journalese. Certain adjectives to him always accompany certain substantives. "Business," he says, "is stagnant." It is invariably so in the newspapers. They are hidebound. For instance, in the newspapers a bride should always be beautiful, a bridegroom distinguished, a magistrate upright, a statesman profound, a seaman bronzed, a neck swan-like, a bosom of ivory, a stream limpid, a cry heart-rending, a site picturesque, an adventure unheard of, a crime hideous, anguish mortal, appearances deceitful, tears bitter, an abyss fathomless, a fortune princely, lightning blinding, conflagrations devastating, an assassin a Thug, conscience a still small voice, a community (ours) intelligent, citizens prominent, darkness Cimmerian, a poor horse a Rosinante, a silent man a sphinx, a silent woman—no name for her. The list might be extended almost indefinitely, but the intelligent newspaper reader can at once continue it.

"My dear," said an overheated citizen to his wife at dinner to-day after he had swallowed a piece of meat whose temperature was at the boiling point, "my dear this food is so hot it will take the coat off my stomach.' "Well, what do you want of a coat on your stomach this weather?" was the gentle response.

"I wish you would let me give you a shampoo," said a barber to the victim in his chair, "you need it badly." "Yes, I know I do; but of all the barbers who have told me that I needed it, you are the first one generous enough to do it for nothing!" Silence unbroken, save by the clip, clip of the scissors immediately ensued.

Voter: "So you seem pretty certain of your election, Mr. Smiler?" Candidate: "Pretty certain? Why, my dear sir, I'm sure of it." Voter: "Glad to hear you say so Mr. Smiler; glad to hear you say so. By the way, I pledged myself to support you, I believe; but as you don't seem to need my help, I think I'll give it to the other fellow.

Market Reports.

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

NEWCASTLE FRUIT AND POTATO, Saturday.—Scotch potatoes, 6d to 8d; English do., 6d; onions, 10d to 1s 6d per stone; figs, 4½d to 10d per lb; apples, 1s 6d to 2s per stone; New Towns, 6d to 8d per lb; russets, 2d per lb; cauliflowers, 1d to 3d each; oranges, 6d to 1s 6d per dozen; foreign grapes 6d to 10d per lb; cabbage, roots, and other classes at late rates.

NEWCASTLE MEAT AND POULTRY, Saturday.—

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Prime large beef	0	9 to	1	0	Pigeons, per couple	1	8 to	1	9
Prime mutton	0	11	1	0	Turkeys, per lb	0	11	1	2
Small Pork	0	9	0	11	Turkeys, pults	0	0	0	0
Veal	0	8	0	11	Partridge, brace	4	6	5	6
Lamb per lb	0	0	0	0	Pheasants	6	6	7	6
American beef	0	5½	0	7	Geese, per lb	0	10	1	0
„ mutton	0	5	0	9	Goslings, each	0	0	0	0
„ lamb	0	0	0	0	Hares, each	4	6	5	6
„ veal	0	7	0	9½	Leverets	2	6	3	6
„ pork	0	8	0	9	Rabbits, couple	2	6	3	6
Hens, each	1	0	1	9	Ptarmigan, cuple	0	0	0	0
Ducks, per couple	2	6	3	6	Black Game, brce	5	6	6	6
Ducklings, per cp.	0	0	0	0	English fresh butter, per lb	1	4	1	6
Chickens	5	6	7	0	Fresh eggs 8 for 1s				
Wild ducks brace	0	0	0	0	Salmon, per lb	2	3	3	0
Quails, per couple	0	0	0	0	Do. trout	0	0	0	0
Grouse, per couple	0	0	0	0					

HEXHAM PROVISION, Tuesday.—Butter, 1s 4d to 1s 5d per lb; eggs, 9 for 1s; black game, 0s 0d to 0s 0d per br.; grouse, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; hares, 3s 6d to 4s 6d; rabbits, 2s 6d to 3s 0d per couple; chickens, 2s 3d to 3s 0d; ducks, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; potatoes, 5d to 6d per stone; cooking apples, 2s 6d to 3s 0d per stone; cauliflowers, 3d each; plums, 0d; blackberries, 0d to 0d per quart; lemons, 1d to 4d; cabbages, 1d to 2d each; flour, extra superfines, 1s 10d; superfines, 1s 8d; fines, 1s 6d; maslin, 1s 4d; oatmeal, 2s 4d per stone.

DURHAM PROVISION, Saturday.—Chickens, 2s 6d to 3s 0d; ducks, 2s 9d to 3s 0d; hens, 1s 6d to 2s each; turkeys, 7s to 10s; geese, 8s 0d to 9s; guinea fowls, 3s to 3s d each; hares, 2s 6d to 4s each; pigeons, 1s 0d to 1s 6d per couple; rabbits, 2s 8d to 3s 3d per couple; butter, 1s 6d to 1s 8d; eggs, 7 to 8 for 1s; apples, 3s 0d to 3s 6d; onions, 1s 6d to 2s 3d per peck; potatoes, 6d per stone.

NEWCASTLE CORN, Tuesday.—Arrivals into Newcastle for week ending Feb. 17, 1885:—Coast and rail—Wheat, 220; maize, 100; barley, —; malt, —; oats, 2108; rye, —; beans, 15; peas, 129; flour, 75 qrs. Foreign — Wheat —; maize, —; barley, 374; malt, —; oats, —; rye, —; beans, —; peas, —; flour, 3,308 qrs. The arrivals of wheat both from the coast and abroad are this week rather meagre. At this day's market there was only a moderate inquiry for wheat, and on the business done last week's rates were about maintained. Maize a slow sale and 6d cheaper. Scotch oats quiet and previous prices. Foreign dull and rather lower. For fine foreign malting barley there is a fair inquiry, but ordinary and local samples are neglected, and to sell 1s less money was accepted. Feeding barley steady. Beans and peas unchanged. Flour met with a moderate demand without change in value.

HEXHAM, Tuesday.—Rather less than an average supply of grain this morning, for which there was a slow sale. Barley, 14s 6d to 18s per boll. Other descriptions hardly quotable.

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £3 10s to £4 13s; this year's growth, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d; new land hay, £3 17s to £5 8s; this year's growth, £0 0s to £0 0s; clover hay £3 5s to £4 4s per ton; wheat straw, 1s 8d to 2s 1d; barley straw, 1s 7d to 1s 9d; oat straw, 1s 9d to 2s 1d per thrave; carts of hay at market, 126; carts of straw, 41.

NEWCASTLE CATTLE, Tuesday.—The arrivals from a distance consisted of 62 head of cattle and 261 pigs from Aberdeen and the districts in the North-east coast of Scotland; 1,433 beasts and 167 sheep from foreign countries; and 11 beasts from Ireland.

Respecting quality, every description of Stock was a good seasonable average.

Four hundred and thirty-eight beasts went South yesterday to Manchester.

The supply of beef comprised 2,059 head. There was a better feeling in the beef trade to day, with a fair good trade for the South, and all changed hands at the close.

The number of sheep shown was 3,440. The mutton trade was slow, and at the close a clearance was not effected.

The number of pigs shown was 907. There was little or no change to note in the pork trade.

PRICES FOR THIS DAY SINKING THE OFFAL.

Beef, prime heifers, per stone	8s 6d	to	8s 9d
Secondary sorts	8s 0d	..	8s 3d
First-class oxen	8s 3d	..	8s 6d
Middling	7s 9d	..	8s 0d
Cows and inferior	5s 6d	..	7s 6d
Pigs	5s 3d	..	8s 0d
Sheep, small, per lb	8½d	to	8¾d
„ large fat, per lb	8d	to	8½d
Lambs, per lb	6d	to	7d.

Nos: Cattle, 2,059; sheep, 3,440; pigs, 907.

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

STATIONS.		WEEK DAYS.					
	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NWCASTL' Dep.	6·10	9·40	11·0	12·20	2·30	5·30	7·30
Scotswood „	6·17	9·47	11·7	12·27	2·37	5·37	7·37
Swalwell „	6·24	9·54	11·14	12·34	2·43	5·44	7·41
Rowlands Gill „	6·34	10·4	11·24	12·44	2·53	5·54	7·54
Lintz Green „	6·40	10·11	11·30	12·50	2·59	6·0	8·0
Ebchester „	6·53	10·20	11·40	1·0	3·12	6·10	8·13
Shotley Bridge „	6·59	10·24	11·44	1·4	3·18	6·14	8·19
CONSETT Arr.	7·5	10·30	11·50	1·10	3·23	6·20	8·25
CONSETT Dep.	7·10	10·32	...	1·12	3·25	...	6·33
Knitsley „	7·21	10·43	...	1·23	3·36	...	6·44
Lanchester „	7·30	10·53	...	1·32	3·45	...	6·53
Witton Gilbert „	7·38	11·1	...	1·40	3·53	...	7·1
Aldin Grange „	7·45	11·9	...	1·47	4·0	...	7·9
DURHAM Arr.	7·50	11·15	...	1·52	4·5	...	7·15
	A.M.		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
DURHAM Dep.	7·25	...	11·42	2·35	...	5·10	8·10
Aldin Grange „	7·32	...	11·48	2·41	...	5·17	8·17
Witton Gilbert „	7·40	...	11·55	2·48	...	5·25	8·25
Lanchester „	7·50	...	12·5	2·54	...	5·35	8·35
Knitsley „	8·2	...	12·15	3·8	...	5·45	8·45
CONSETT Arr.	8·12	...	12·25	3·18	...	5·55	8·55
CONSETT Dep.	8·15	9·10	12·33	3·25	...	5·56	9·2
Shotley Bridge „	8·20	9·15	12·38	3·30	...	6·0	9·7
Ebchester „	8·24	9·19	12·42	3·34	...	6·4	9·12
Lintz Green „	8·34	9·29	12·50	3·44	...	6·14	9·22
Rowlands Gill „	8·39	9·34	12·55	3·50	...	6·20	9·28
Swalwell „	8·47	9·42	1·3	3·57	...	6·27	9·36
Scotswood „	8·54	9·49	1·9	4·4	...	6·34	9·43
NEWCASTLE Ar	9·5	10·0	1·20	4·15	...	6·45	9·53

SUNDAYS.

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

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

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

SALTBURN, STOCKTON, & DARLINGTON BRANCH

STATIONS.				WEEK DAYS.			
	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASLE dep.	...	6·10	...	...	12·20	...	5·30
CONSETT	...	8·20	...	...	2·0	...	6·24
Rowley	...	8·30	...	...	2·10	...	6·34
Burnhill	...	8·40	...	...	2·20	...	6·43
Tow Law	...	8·53	...	...	2·33	...	6·56
CROOK arr.	...	9·5	...	...	2·45	...	7·8
„ dep.	7·35	9·7	11·23	1·5	2·52	5·30	7·13
Bishop Auckland	8·0	9·31	11·43	1·29	3·12	6·3	7·37
Darlington	8·30	10·0	12·10	2·0	3·45	6·45	8·10
Stockton	8·56	10·31	12·40	2·29	4·13	7·18	8·37
Middlesbro'	9·5	10·41	12·50	2·38	4·22	7·31	8·51
SALTBURN	10·10	11·15	1·25	3·12	4·57	8·5	9·24

STATIONS.				WEEK DAYS.			
	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
SALTBURN dp.	5·50	8·5	9·52	...	1·40	3·45	5·40
Middlesbro'	6·27	8·40	10·25	12·50	2·13	4·20	6·5
Stockton	6·37	8·48	10·32	12·57	2·21	4·28	6·22
Darlington	7·20	9·20	10·55	1·30	3·0	5·5	7·20
Bishop Auckland	7·49	9·46	11·21	1·56	3·26	5·33	7·48
CROOK arr.	8·10	10·6	11·42	2·16	3·47	5·55	8·10
„ dep.	8·13	...	11·49	2·20	...	6·5	...
Tow Law	8·25	...	12·1	2·32	...	6·20	...
Burnhill	8·40	...	...	2·45	...	6·35	...
Rowley	8·50	...	...	2·55	...	6·45	...
CONSETT arr.	9·0	...	...	3·5	...	6·55	...
N'WCASTLE	10·0	...	...	4·15	...	...	...

ADVICE TO MOTHERS!—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to taste, it produces natural, quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine dealers everywhere at 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

At the monthly meeting of this body, held at the Town Hall Buildings, Shotley Bridge, on Wednesday night, the following members were in attendance, viz.: Messrs Jas Annandale, J.P. (chairman), J. Smith, Rd. Murray, Wm. Wilson, J. Lax, F. Priestman, Jos. Eltringham, A. E. Turner, J. Dowson, H. Carss, and the Clerk (Mr J. Booth).

ESTIMATE FOR THE NEXT HALF-YEAR.

After the confirmation of the minutes of the preceding meeting, the CHAIRMAN read the report of the Finance Committee, recommending the adoption of the Surveyor's estimate of the expenditure for the ensuing six months, and they suggested that a rate of 1s in the pound be levied. The items are as under:—

Estimate of the money required by the Benfieldside Local Board for the purposes in respect of which the General District Rate is hereafter set forth—February 16th, 1885.

Establishment Charges:

	£	s	D	£	s	D
Salaries	97	10	0			
Rent	7	10	0			
Incidentals	20	0	0			
				125	0	0
Stationery	10	0	0			
Gas and lighting	152	0	0			
Medical officer	7	17	6			
Highways	250	0	0			
Derwent Road	15	0	0			
Water cart	10	0	0			
Election expenses	20	0	0			
Footpaths	200	0	0			
				664	17	6
Total				789	17	6

	£	s	D
Rateable value on houses, £8,245, at 1s in the pound	412	5	0
One-fourth on land, £643 12s 6d	32	3	7¼
Three fourths on houses, £3,514 2s 6d	175	14	1¾
	620	2	9
Half-cost main roads from the County	170	0	0
Total	790	2	9

Mr CARSS moved that the Surveyor's estimate be adopted.

This was seconded by Mr MURRAY, and carried *nem con.*

CONSETT *versus* BLACKHILL RAILWAY STATION.

The Clerk announced that he had written to the Directors of the North-Eastern Railway Company, as instructed by the Board at last meeting, relative to the change of the name of the railway station from "Consett" to "Blackhill for Consett;" and the receipt of his communication had been acknowledged. He expected word as to when the Directors could receive the deputation in a few days.

FINANCIAL.

The Finance Committee recommended the payment of the monthly accounts, representing a total of £217 13s 3d; and on the motion of Mr SMITH, seconded by Mr ELTRINGHAM, cheques were ordered to be drawn in payment of the several amounts.

LIGHTING THE STREETS.

The same committee reported that they had arranged for the lighting for the ensuing month.

Mr CARSS suggested that an oil lamp should be affixed at the corner of Tinmill Street, but as the lighting season was so far advanced, it was agreed to let the matter remain in abeyance until the next back end.

THE LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD'S PRECEPT.

The Finance Committee recommended the payment of the precept, amounting to £10 15s, demanded by the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board.

Mr MURRAY desired to have some information regarding this expenditure?

Mr ELTRINGHAM explained at length that the expense had been incurred in effectually stamping out the smallpox epidemic at Craghead, Hamsteels, &c.; the whole of the cost being about £120.

Mr CARSS observed that the official expenses in connection with the Board were going on in the same way as if they were in full operation and they were not obtaining for these expenses——

Mr SMITH: What do you mean by official expenses, Mr Carss?

Mr CARSS: There is the clerk's salary to pay, stationery and other incidental expenses; in addition to these cottages having to be furnished. Now, when the epidemic has been stamped out, the furniture and fittings are brought away, and are at present stored away somewhere in Lanchester. The result is that the whole of this money, amounting to something like £120, has been spent over two solitary patients.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: Who told you there were only two cases?

Mr CARSS: Oh, I heard so on good authority.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: Then your information is incorrect. Mr Brotherhood told us at the Board that there had been 25 patients treated.

Mr MURRAY (to Mr Eltringham): Have you had, as representing this Board, a voice in expending this money?

Mr ELTRINGHAM explained that the expenditure was sanctioned at one of the meetings when he was absent. The Committee appointed, however, reported to the Board from time to time the nature of their operations, and their action was confirmed by the members present.

Mr CARSS: Can you give the Board any idea as to the general cost of furnishing these cottages?

Mr ELTRINGHAM replied that at the last meeting of the Hospital Committee, they were not supplied with any definite particulars, inasmuch as several of the accounts had not been got in. Although there was not time to prepare a detailed statement, the cost is roughly estimated to be something like £120.

Mr CARSS: Even in this case, here's the money gone, and we are no further forward towards having a freehold or permanent structure being erected.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: The land is already bought, Mr Carss, for building upon.

Mr CARSS: Still there is no provision in this district in the event of an epidemic outbreak. I think our representatives should insist upon the building of the hospital being proceeded with at once.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: So it possibly would, if it had not been for unforeseen circumstances.

Mr MURRAY: As the representatives of this Board were consulted regarding this expenditure, I am quite satisfied, and shall not offer any objection to the payment of the account.

Mr ELTRINGHAM, speaking as one of the Board's representatives, thought that the Hospital Committee had discharged their duties exceptionally well, and he considered they ought to be thankful that the epidemic had been completely eradicated, otherwise the disease might have spread throughout the whole of the Union. The Committee acted perfectly right in opening and furnishing these cottage hospitals at Craghead and Hamsteels; the members endorsed the sub-committees actions, and they were empowered to take whatever steps that might be deemed necessary for effectually getting rid of the small-pox as speedily as possible. He held that, under the circumstances, the Hospital Committee could not have taken a better step than resort to cottage hospitals, seeing that they answered the purpose; and even if a permanent hospital had been erected in the Union he maintained that the working expenses in twelve months would have amounted to more than £120. Moreover, a permanent and substantial hospital would cost £1,500 or £1,600, and if the money had to be borrowed, there would have been the interest and the repayment of this sum; and besides, they would have been obliged to engage the services of a man and woman to take charge of the hospital. All things considered, this £120 had not been wasted.

Mr CARSS: I hear to-day that there has been another outbreak at Dipton, and I suppose this will cost us another £120 before we get rid of it.

Messrs SMITH, TURNER, and MURRAY, all expressed an opinion that the Hospital Committee had performed its duties remarkably well in treating 25 small-pox cases for the modest sum of £120, and the last-mentioned gentleman added that he was satisfied with Mr Eltringham's explanation.

Mr ELTRINGHAM observed that it would have been madness on the part of the Hospital Board to have put up a hospital on the site selected, and simply allowed the sturcture might have fallen down again. They had existed without an infectious hospital for many years, and they were no further off building such an erection now than they were when the Hospital Board was first formed, because they would not be called upon to build the hospital a second time. He was of opinion that the ground was not quite safe even at present.

Mr SMITH concurred, and submitted that the Committee had acted judiciously in allowing the ground to become fully settled before commencing building operations.

Mr CARSS: But the prior question is—Was it wise to purchase a site with the knowledge that the coal underneath was not worked out? I maintain it was not.

Mr MURRAY: No doubt the Hospital Committee acted to the best of their ability.

Mr SMITH: Nothing will take any harm in case the hospital is not built for another year or two. The ground is still sinking, and this is amply demonstrated by the fact that the highroad at this end of Leadgate is subsiding.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: And the top of Number One Bank as well.

The Surveyor: That road has gone down considerably.

The CHAIRMAN: Is not one of the vital questions to be discussed at the next Board meeting whether the Hospital Committee should not be dissolved?

Mr ELTRINGHAM: No; I think it is only a little jealously on the part of some members.

The Clerk: As it necessitated an Act of Parliament to constitute the Board, it will require an Act of Parliament to dissolve it. I think they will find it rather a difficult matter to do so.

Mr CARSS: It will be absurd to take this step, if it can be avoided, as we are in precisely the same situation now as we were prior to the Board being established.

Mr ELTRINGHAM did not think that either of the three Local Boards should complain of having to pay their moiety towards the expense incurred in eradicating the disease in the eastern division of the Union, because they were only contributing such a very small portion. In case a similar outbreak occurred in the immediate neighbourhood, the subscriptions any of the Local Boards would receive in return from the Lanchester Sanitary Authority would be considerably above the amount paid by the three Local Boards combined. Therefore, he did not think it right for any single individual to grumble or object to paying these precepts.

Mr SMITH: Yes; it might easily have been that we had the small-pox raging in our midst.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: I am sure I do not object to the expenditure.

Mr CARSS: I suppose every gentleman on this Board is entitled to hold his own opinions, and I presume I have a right to express my views. It is that the Joint Hospital Board has not carried out the object for which it was originally constituted, and is incurring expenditure from year to year. We are called upon to pay precepts now and again, and are not receiving benefit commensurate with the amount expended. That is my contention, and I think this Board, through its representatives, ought to urge the Hospital Committee to erect a permanent structure at a reasonable cost. It is outrageous and preposterous to talk about spending £1,600 in the erection of a hospital, when it is considered that four cottages will answer the same purpose.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: There is a wide difference between building a permanent hospital and taking a few cottages for a week or two, and utilising them as temporary hospitals.

The CHAIRMAN: You must remember that cottages are not always at liberty—especially in this neighbourhood.

Mr CARSS: That fact only strenghtens my argument that some provision ought to be made in case of emergency. Respecting the site near Leadgate, Mr Hedley has expressed his views that the ground is safe.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: But Mr Hedley will not guarantee it.

Mr CARSS: No person would guarantee such a thing.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: It is possible that the building might crack, although it would not fall down. When the site was first selected, Mr Hedley, when questioned, gave it as his own private opinion that he did not think the coal would be wrought out beneath, and it was on that gentleman's recommendation that the site was purchased. Mr Hedley's idea was that, as the Consett Company were such large ratepayers, they would not work the coal so as to damage the hospital. Mr Hedley subsequently explained, when he reported that the coal was to be got underneath the site, that he was not authorised by the Consett Company to state that the coal would be left intact; but was merely expressing his own views.

Mr CARSS: It would have been an easy matter to have bought the coal pure and simple.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: We considered that question, and found it to be a serious item indeed to buy coal below 1½ acres of ground.

Mr CARSS: But the hospital would not have covered that much space.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: But we did not know exactly where the structure was to be built.

Mr SMITH: And it would have been awkward if the men below made a little mistake.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: There are four detached erections to be built on this ground.

Mr CARSS: The Committee, I think, acted foolishly in purchasing a site where the coal stands underneath.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: Yes; but there are very few sites in that locality where coal is not to be found.

The Board eventually resolved to pay the precept.

THE NEW STREET AT BLACKHILL.

A letter was read from the Consett Iron Company, requesting the Board to proceed with making their portion of the street on the west side of Derwent Street, Blackhill, and charge the Company with the cost. Mr Douglas would kindly point out where they desired the crossings to be put in leading to the back streets.

The Surveyor also stated that the other two owners had consented to the Board making their portions of the streets.

It was thereupon moved by Mr MURRAY that the Surveyor advertise for tenders for performing the work.

This was agreed to.

THE BUILDING AND SANITARY COMMITTEE

Reported as under:—

Your Committee, along with your Medical Officer (Dr Renton), inspected the properties at High Snows Green, and also the cottages in the village, and recommend the following.—

Mr Relshaw's house drain to have 9in. gulley-trap to sink.

Mr Wilbsham's drain now emptying into the highway stone drain, and at the bottom of the stone drain running in the open channel at the roadside.

Mr Ramshaw's house and lodge are the same. We recommend that the sewerage from these properties be carried across the Park to the cesspool, that the cottages are drained into, belonging to Mr Charles Wilson; also that a proper 18in. sink and 9in. gulley-trap be provided to Mr Ramshaw's house. The cesspool in the Park to be cleaned out at once, as it is overflowing into the Burn.

Drains.—The six cottages at the high part of the village to have their drains connected with the main sewer drain leading to the cesspool at present. We were informed that they run into the Burn.

Ashpits.—The ashpit and privy belonging to these cottages to be reconstructed, and ashpit roofed in. At present, the water from the privy roof drops into the ashpit.

Back Street.—The Surveyor informs us that in summer time the water running from the grass field at the rear of these cottages into the back street becomes stagnant, and a nuisance; being wet weather at the time of our visit, we did not find any nuisance; but would suggest that a stone channel be laid up the field side of the street, to bring the water to the highway channel or drain, as it was spreading over the road in several points when we inspected the place.

(Signed) JOSEPH ELTRINGHAM (chairman).

Mr Chas. Wilson, of Shotley Park, having been invited to meet the Sanitary Committee on the spot, that gentleman wrote explaining that unfortunately he had forgotten the engagement, but urged that the Board ought to do something to remedy the existing state of things.

Mr W. WILSON thought it highly necessary that the work recommended by the Committee should be carried out.

After some discussion, Mr MURRAY proposed that the Committee's report be adopted; and that Mr C. Wilson be asked to do the work enumerated therein.

Mr WILSON seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr CARSS suggested that it would be advisable for the Sanitary Committee to again arrange to meet Mr Wilson at Snows Green, and then when the nuisances were pointed out to that gentleman, he might do what was requisite without any pressure being brought to bear.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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

To the Chairman and Members of Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the past month I have been employed on the several highways and streets in your district scraping and laying-in metal. There has been an extra amount of scraping done this month on account of the soft state of your roads.

Several of your footpaths have also been covered with coke-ashes. The stone-breakers are paid for the present season.

The apportionments of Wesley Street drain have been made, and the accounts sent to the several proprietors.

The ground-plan showing drains in connection with St. Aidan's New Church at Blackhill has been passed and has been stamped.

As instructed at last meeting, I have served notices on the several proprietors for the formation of new street at Blackhill. These notices will expire on the 21st of this month.

I have prepared an estimate for the next half-year's expenses, and the same has been laid before your Finance Committee. I have included in this estimate the kerbing, channelling, and cementing of footpath on Benfieldside Edge road from Highgate to Mr Heymer's house; cementing of footpath in Durham Road, near Mr Strachan's; kerbing, channelling, and cementing in front of the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Shotley Bridge; also kerbing, channelling, and cementing from Mr Brown's saddler's shop at Shotley Bridge. The whole of this work has already been passed by the Board.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN DIXON.

Shotley Bridge, Feb. 18th, 1885.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN.—During the past month I have inspected your district several times. I find the ashpits and privies on the whole in good order. Where requiring attention, I gave the parties notice to put the same right at once.

Your sanitary Committee and Medical Officer have inspected Snows Green, and will report upon it.

Your main drains are all in working order, and I consider your district in a good sanitary condition.

During the month I have collected and paid to treasurer the following sum, £23 5s 0d.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN DIXON.

Shotley Bridge, February 18th, 1885.

FOOTPATHS AND CROSSINGS.

Mr CARSS stated that he had been requested by several parties to bring under the notice of the Board the fact that the footpath in Ritson's Road had been terribly cut up in consequence of carts being driven upon it.

Mr ELTRINGHAM pointed out that that footpath had not been properly made.

The Surveyor said that carts were continually going on the footpath, but he had been unable to detect the offenders. If any of the ratepayers would quitely inform him of any person disregarding the bye-laws, he would institute proceedings against them.

Mr MURRAY said he had twice seen carts on the footpath, and on both occasions they were in charge of the Surveyor's own men. (Laughter.)

The Surveyor replied that he had cautioned the men, and he would summons them if he caught them.

Mr ELTRINGHAM explained that there were other footpaths in streets that required more attention. Ritson's Road was an exceedingly pleasant walk in summer time; but it was not suitable in winter.

Mr MURRAY reminded the Board that the footpath on the Church Bank was ordered to be repaired some time ago; and the Surveyor stated that he should obtain some edging from the Benfieldside footpath which could be put on the Church Bank.

Mr SMITH and Mr TURNER both averred that Durham Road footpath via Cutler's Hall was in more need of attention than the Church Bank.

Mr TURNER also remarked that the crossing at Highgate had not been put in; but the Surveyor said the road was so steep, that such a crossing would be extremely dangerous and slippery.

THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION.

The Clerk reported that the retiring members this year were Messrs J. Smith, J. Dowson, Wm. Telford, and H. Carss.

On the motion of Mr MURRAY, and seconded by Mr DOWSON, the Clerk was appointed as Returning Officer, and authorised to obtain the necessary assistance for conducting the election.

This completed the business, and the Board adjourned until the 4th proximo for the purpose of receiving and sealing the new rate.

LOCAL HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.—Braes of Derwent Foxhounds: Sat., Feb. 21, Hedley; Wed., 25, Ebchester Station—10·30. North Durham: Mon., 23, Tanner's Hall; Wed., 25, Burdon; Fri., 27, Langley Old Hall—10·45.

RE-ASSEMBLING OF PARLIAMENT.—Parliament re-assembled yesterday (Thursday), and there was a fairly full attendance in both Houses, it being but an Adjourned Session, there was no Queen's Speech to be read.

MAGNETISM AND HEALTH.—Mr D. Lamont has recently issued a new and enlarged edition of this book, in which is given many cases demonstrating the curative properties of magnetism. Mr Lamont's magnetic appliances are too well-known to require description here, suffice it to say that the reader will find on perusal of this handy book that many of the ills which flesh is heir to are speedily cured by the use of the appliances to be had at Mr Lamont's magnetic appliance depot, 44a, Blackett Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

CONSETT.—Pit Street, 14th inst., the wife of Mr Jos. Ward, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

LANCHESTER.—At the Register Office, 14th inst., Joseph Bingrose to Mary Maria Buck, both of Consett Grove.—Same date, William McCrum to Elizabeth Pyle, both of White-le-Head.—Same date, James Lee to Jessie Watson, both of Hedley Hill.

DEATHS.

CASTLESIDE.—Aged 62, George Davison.

DIPTON.—12th inst., aged 43, Thomas Rutherford, recently employed under W. Maddison, Red Lion Inn, Dipton.

EBCHESTER.—14th inst., aged 11, Michael, son of George and Mary Surtees.

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.—At her son-in-law's (John Armstrong), aged 88, Sarah Cousin, late of Barlow.

EAST TANFIELD.—12th inst., aged 69, Mary, widow of the late Joseph Robson, joiner.

BLAYDON.—Stella, 14th inst., aged 37, Joseph R. Ramsay.

Church Street, 17th inst., aged 3 years and 10 months, Maggie, child of James and Jane Potts.

18th inst., aged 73, John Hall, carpenter.

WINLATON.—16th inst., Mary, wife of Thomas Tweddle.

SPRINGWELL COLLIERY.—16th inst., aged 62, John Moon, joiner.

RYTON.—Crookhill, 17th inst., aged 72, Margaret, wife of James Mole.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—120, Rye Hill, on the 16th inst., aged 3 years and 8 months, Marian Janet, the beloved daughter of Donald and Hannah R. Bain.

18, Granger Street, 19th inst., aged 73, John Armour, late of Consett.

LANGLEY MOOR.—19th inst., aged 10 years, James, son of James Lawson, miner.

ROBERT BEALL,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR IN MARBLE, GRANITE AND STONE,
HIGH LEVEL WORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Special Designs and Estimates on application.
Inscriptions Cut in Town and Country. 510c

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