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The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER

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ALL CLASSES OF GOODS AT SPECIALLY LOW PRICES.

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IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.

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HALL'S for OIL CAKE and COTTON CAKE.
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HALL'S for FINEST NEW PROCESS FLOUR.
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HALL'S for MANNA CAKE.

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

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THE 2 W.'S FOR HATS.
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THE 2 W.'S FOR WOOL SHIRTS.
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6 DOZENS OF ALL-WOOL SHIRTS (Large Size) TO BE CLEARED at 3s. 6d. AT

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PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.

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

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

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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.

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For Lumbago, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Liver Complaints, &c.
INVIGORATORS for all Bronchial and Lung Complaints.
CHEST PROTECTORS for Colds, Coughs, Sore Throat, &c.
KNEE CAPS for Sore and Weak Knees.
SOLES for Cold Feet.
SPINE BANDS, WRISTLETS, ANKLETS, GLOVES, &c.

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

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MR. LAMONT has much pleasure in publishing the following Testimonials, recently received. Further particulars will be found in DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET, POST FREE.

CURE OF BRONCHITIS.

31, Weardale Street, Mount Pleasant, Spennymoor, November 7th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—It is now five months since I sent for one of your Magnetic Invigorators for my little girl. She was very ill with bronchitis, and we applied the Invigorator as soon as it came. I am glad to inform you the effect was marvellous. We had lost all hopes of her recovery, but thanks to your Magnetic Appliances, she is now as fine and as healthy a child as you could wish to see.

You will remember that I got one for our son, and he also is now quite strong. You can refer any one to me who disputes anything I have said. You can make what use you like of this, for we bless the day that we got the Magnetic Appliances for our children.—Yours truly,

Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN JEFFERSON.

CURE OF BRONCHITIS.

Board School, Arthurs Hill, Newcastle-on-Tyne, July 2nd, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—I can heartily recommend your Magnetic Lung Invigorators, my daughter having used one for the last six months. She has been subject to severe attacks of Bronchitis for the last 10 years, and I tried all sorts of remedies to relieve her before she began to use your Invigorator. It has removed all pain and suffering, and she has not had a cold since she began to wear it. I am in every way satisfied with it.—Yours truly,

Mr D. Lamont. GEORGE PRINGLE.

"IT HAS COMPLETELY CURED ME."

65, Eleanor Street, Cullercoats, March 9th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—It is with the greatest pleasure I write to inform you of the effect the Magnetic Invigorator I purchased from you has had upon me. Prior to purchasing it I was troubled with a weakness in my chest, also with indigestion, the accompanying evils of which I need not mention.

Now, I am not one to fly to any new remedy that may present itself to me, as some do, and aggravate the complaint. With my own conception of the value of magnetism as a curative, I resolved to try a Magnetic Appliance, which I have worn for twelve months, and the best proof I can give of its efficacy is by saying that it has *completely cured me*, and more than that, it has had a most wonderful effect upon the whole of my system. It is comfortable to wear and effectual in its operations. It causes no unpleasant sensation and can be "cast" with safety.—I am, yours &c.,

Mr D. Lamont. C. W. MASON.

THE SPECIAL MAGNETIC BELT at 21s., and SPECIAL LUNG INVIGORATOR at 21s., continue to give unbounded satisfaction. Sent Post Free on receipt of 21s.

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First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

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

GREAT BARGAINS! AT C. F. COOKE'S, NOTED CHEAP SHOP, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

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NEW DESIGNS IN MEN'S SUITS, FROM 14s. 6d., 30s., and 39s. 6d.

BLACK WORSTED SUITS, FROM 24s. 6d.

BOYS' SUITS, FROM 2s. 6d.

GRAND LOT OF MEN'S FELT HATS and CAPS IN ALL THE LEADING SHAPES, ALL AT LOW PRICES.

C. F. COOKE, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

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

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

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

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

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

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON AT 59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

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

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 1886.

POVERTY AND WANT OF WORK.

THE political crisis through which we are passing has great interest for the community generally, but the labouring classes throughout the country take a far deeper interest in work and wages, or rather the want of them. A very sad feature of the news of the day is the enormous amount of distress there is in town and country, in large manufacturing centres, in small towns and hamlets, and in our several districts. We believe that the aggregate amount of distress, allowing for increase of population, is not so large as during many winters in our history, but the perception of present distress is naturally far stronger than the memory of past suffering. We at any rate cannot ignore the existing scarcity of employment, and the consequent straits and difficulties of the working and labouring classes, and, to a great extent, even their destitution; and it is high time that we should seriously consider what can be done to remedy, or at least alleviate, the existing manufacturing and industrial depression. Among the working classes themselves there is a common impression that protective tariffs on our imports would improve trade, but it is a remarkable fact that each trade desires "protection" only so far as that particular trade is concerned, and that the working classes are generally in favour of free trade on principle when it is applied to other trades. We are firmly convinced that protective duties, whether on manufactures or food, though they might for a time artificially benefit particular trades, would be a serious misfortune to the country at large. They would materially raise the cost of living, which is already high enough. Our working classes would do well to bear in mind that in the United States, with their heavy protective tariffs, there is even greater distress than among ourselves. Protection always raises prices, and this means the temporary benefit of the few and the permanent injury of the many. Sections of our distressed working classes also indulge in another fallacy. They look for State-aid, either by Government" employing the unemployed or by direct pecuniary contributions in relief of distress. The former has always failed in every country where it has been tried, and the latter could be much better accomplished by private associations. There are, however, many things which might be done to relieve existing distress, and which might continue in operation when it has passed away or been greatly mitigated. A judicious scheme of assisted emigration on a large scale ought to be at once set on foot, with well known public men at the head of it, and with the co-operation of Colonial Agents who know the requirements of their several colonies. If our unemployed were thus aided in emigrating, with arrangements that money advanced should be refunded by instalments, our colonies and the mother country would alike be benefited and the distress among our unemployed would be much alleviated. A great deal also might be done by our Municipalities employing those now unemployed in labour for the benefit of their several towns. Money that is now unremuneratively expended on paupers might be spent on labourers, and ratepayers would have a return for their money in the permanent improvement of their towns and suburbs. Great reform is also needed in the disbursement of funds raised for the relief of the poor.

Parliamentary Summary.

MONDAY.

In both Houses of Parliament, the announcements respecting the political crisis were less exhaustive than had been expected. The House of Lords was well filled, many ladies being in the gallery, while the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge occupied their usual seats on the cross benches. Lord Salisbury briefly stated that the Queen had accepted the resignation of the Government, and that Mr Gladstone was at Osborne, and had undertaken to form a Ministry. He then moved that the House adjourn till Thursday. This was agreed to.

In the House of Commons, several Private bills were introduced, and new writs were ordered for Galway and the Ossory Division of Queen's County. Sir M. Hicks-Beach, in asking the House to adjourn till Thursday, said that Mr Gladstone had "kissed hands" on taking office as Premier.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY EVENING.

It is not twice even in Mr Gladstone's long and busy life that he spends the forenoon of a day in giving away a daughter in marriage and the afternoon in giving away post after post in a new Ministry. People who spitefully commented on Mr Gladstone for not stopping to dine with the Queen on Monday evening, forgot that he had to hasten back to his daughter's wedding next day. All that silly talk about the Queen's personal likes and dislikes is unconstitutional, and therefore unbecoming the Constitutional party. If they want personal Government of the Charles I type at least let them say so. Then we should give them credit for the courage of their convictions.

The basis on which Mr Gladstone forms his Cabinet is that it includes all Liberals who are open to an enquiry as to Home Rule, but excludes those who on this question are resolute that Mr Parnell must not be paltered with in any sense. The Whigs with backbone, or the Malignants as some would call them, are Lord Derby and Lord Selborne, Lord Hartington and Sir Henry James. That a lawyer should decline the Woolsack, as Sir Henry James has done, only shows that, like Sir Roundell Palmer on a similar occasion, he looks to Lord Hartington for a reward for his fidelity to plain Whig principles.

Several of the old Whigs are on the rampage writing to their constituents and explaining why they voted with and not against the late Government in the Jesse Collings' Amendment to the Address, and Lord Elrington, Sir Savile Grossley, Mr Albert Grey, Mr Barnes, and many others are all on their defence before their constituents, and a very lame business they make of it. The fact is that "Mugwumpery" is not yet elevated into a fine art, as in the United States. A man must here go with his party, and if he does not like the pace and gets into a cave he must at least explain it to his constituents and get their absolution as Mr Lowe did. If he shirks this, as the Whigs are now doing, so much the worse for him in the long run.

Place for Sir Inland Danvers, Secretary of the Works Department of the India Office, and now a Knight Commander of the Star of India. As Mr Danvers is Mr W. H. Smith's brother-in-law, it may be said that this is another case of the outgoing Ministry taking care of their friends on quitting office. But the record of Sir Inland is fair, his term of office long, and his social standing and position quite too well scored to make him care for so small a mark as mere Knighthood. It is a well-earned distinction, and does not deserve to be treated as a case of "take care of Dorob."

The "Outer Temple" was esteemed a likely undertaking. It was promoted largely by barristers and solicitors who were thought to know a thing or two. It is a handsome block of buildings just opposite the Law Courts, and actually communicating with the Temple as well as the Strand. It consists of the "Palsgrave," a restaurant in the sumptuous style of the "Holborn," a Legal Club, and suites of business chambers. The chambers have let pretty well.

THE SOUTH MEDOMSLEY DISPUTE.

So far there appears to be not even a remote sign of a pacific settlement at the South Medomsley Collieries. We are informed that on Saturday about 60 hands were employed in the pits, and more "blacklegs" are expected soon. The unionists, under the circumstances, conduct themselves in the most peaceable manner. They received on Saturday their second instalment from the funds of the Durham Miners' Association.

The Secretary and Treasurer have received the subjoined contributions:—Tradesmen and others, £33 2s 6d; I.U.O. Mechanics' Good Intent Lodge, Collierley Dykes, Dipton, £4 4s; Mechanics', Kyo, £1; Urwin and Barlow, £1; Hamsterley Colliery, £3; East Pontop do., £2 2s 6d; South Derwent do., £1 2s; Delight do., £4 6s 3d; Derwent do., £4; Lumley do., 10s; Auckland Park, £1; Brancepeth, £5; Washington, £1; Tanfield Moor, £5; Philadelphia, £1 5s; Marley Hill, £1; Hamsteels, £1; South Hetton, £1; Springwell, £1; Low Fell, 10s; Hebburn, £2; Silksworth, £3; Black Prince, £1; Langley Park, £1; Sleetburn, 10s; Witton Lodge, £1; Consett Tinmill, 10s 9d; Bewick Main, £1; South Pontop, 17s 2d; North Brancepeth, £1 7s 6d; East Hetton, £1; Leitch, £1; Chester Moor, £1; Page Bank, 15s; Elemore, £2; Kimbleworth, £2; Tanfield Lea, £2; Tudhoe Colliery, £2 10s; Pelton Fell, £2; South Pelaw, £1 4s; Townley Colliery, £2; North Biddick, £1; Medomsley, Busty, 15s; Sunnybrow, £1 17s 2d; Quarrymen, Windy Nook, £3; St. Helen's, £1; Thornley, Tow Law, £3; Pontop, £1 9s 7d.

SERIOUS AFFRAY BETWEEN UNIONISTS AND "BLACKLEGS."

BOMBARDING THE POLICE BARRACKS.

Serious rioting occurred at South Medomsley Colliery on Tuesday night, the disturbance having apparently been premeditated. About thirty "blacklegs" are now working at the pit at both shifts. Soon after five o'clock, a body of police escorted a batch of twenty-five "blacklegs" from the colliery to their dwellings. A crowd of at least 500 people—chiefly from the surrounding villages—had assembled at the end of the houses occupied by the unionists, where the "blacklegs" necessarily pass. This detachment of the "blacklegs" were safely seen to their dwellings. Later on P.C. Neesam followed in charge of five more "blacklegs," and as soon as the crowd was reached a collision occurred. On getting between that point and the houses inhabited by the "blacklegs," they were followed by the mob, who pelted them with stones and snowballs. On reaching the temporary Police Barracks, at the end of the row of houses at High Stables occupied by the "blacklegs," Neesam, who was struck by a snowball, seized the man who fired it and asked his name, which the latter refused. At that moment a stone hit Neesam, and a general *melee* ensued. The officer was thrown upon the ground, and Sergeant Tate, who went to his assistance, was also attacked. An attempt was made to rescue Neesam's prisoner, and the crowd was on the point of kicking Neesam when other policemen appeared. Meanwhile a free fight was carried on between the unionists and the "blacklegs," both parties being armed with sticks. Two other men were arrested, but one was rescued. One of the "blacklegs" was struck a violent blow on the mouth, his assailant being apprehended by P.C. Lawson. At length, however, after considerable difficulty, the "blacklegs" were safely escorted to their houses. A telegram was immediately despatched to Supt. Oliver, Consett, who forthwith set off, accompanied by a number of policemen. Half-an-hour afterwards an attack was made upon the police barracks, the upstair windows being riddled by the missiles. A portion of the crowd also ran accross some fields, and made a bombardment of the police barracks, attempting to break in by the front door to rescue three ringleaders under arrest. The police on duty outside were pelted and struck with stones, and the mob endeavoured to invade two rows of houses occupied by the "blacklegs," but the police succeeded in frustrating their designs. On the arrival of Supt. Oliver and a force of policemen within half-an-hour after despatch of messages the excitement quietened down somewhat, and soon afterwards tranquillity prevailed, only interrupted at intervals by screams and howls from the men, women, and children who were gathered together. The men apprehended are not connected with South Medomsley Colliery, their names being—Docherty, a hawker, belonging to Newcastle, who had only been in Dipton a few days; Lambert of Catchgate; and Dawson of the Beesom, near Dipton. The two last-named are quite young fellows. Docherty's face presented a frightfully bruised appearance, he having received several blows on the left side, which was literally covered with clotted blood. He had been engaged in a severe conflict with the "blacklegs," who, on being attacked, assumed a defensive attitude. The prisoners left the Police Barracks for Consett about nine o'clock, their removal being the signal for howls and hootings. One or two of the unionists, it is stated, were badly hurt in the affray. At half-past nine o'clock the place was exceedingly quiet, only groups of people being congregated here and there. Just before ten o'clock a strong reinforcement of police under Sergt. Tranmer arrived from Stanley district, and remained overnight. The police drew their truncheons during the scuffle. Now that the ground is covered with snow, it is singular where the stones were obtained.

At the Consett Police Office on Wednesday—before Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P.—*Hugh Docherty*, hawker, of Easington Lane; *James William Davison*, blacksmith, of The Beesom; and *George Lambert*, miner, of Catchgate, were brought up on charges of assaulting Hugh Quigley, a "blackleg," and P.C.'s Neesam and Lawson, during the disturbance at South Medomsley on Tuesday night.—After some formal evidence was given, prisoners were remanded, Davison and Lambert being admitted to bail.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.)

GAS FOR ANNFIELD PLAIN AND CATCHGATE.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—If the ratepayers of Annfield Plain, Catchgate, Greencroft, and Collierley, should consider it advisable at any future time to adopt "The Lighting Act of 1833," the mode of adoption is briefly as follows:—"Three or more rated inhabitants of a parish present an application in writing to the churchwardens requesting them to call a public meeting of the ratepayers for the purpose of determining whether the provisions of the Act or any of them should be adopted, and the churchwardens are within ten days thereafter to issue and publish a notice calling such meeting accordingly. At the meeting, after the appointment of a chairman (who must read the requisition upon which the meeting has been summoned) and any amount of speechifying pro. and con., the question of adoption of the portion of the Act selected must be put to the meeting in the usual way by the chairman. A majority of two-thirds of the ratepayers present at the meeting is necessary for the adoption of the Act, and any five rated inhabitants present thereat may (by notice in writing) demand a poll, when a majority of two-thirds of the votes polled is necessary. If the Act should not be adopted, then it cannot be made the subject of another meeting within twelve calendar months. If it should be adopted by the requisite majority at the meeting without a poll, the number of inspectors being not more than twelve nor less than three which may be determined upon, may be elected at the same time; but in case of a poll, it will be necessary to have another meeting called for the purpose of electing these persons who will have to carry the provisions of the Act into effect. Nine is a very convenient number, as one-third, or as near as may be are to go out of office every year, but are eligible for re-election. The inspectors appointed by two or more parishes may unite for the purpose of better or more economically carrying into effect the provisions of the Act of Parliament."—I am, yours, &c.,

Annfield Plain. LIGHT.

MR MARK NOBLE AND THE REV J. P. DE PLEDGE'S SPEECH.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—We cannot allow such lengthy and injudicious remarks to be made as were written by Mr Noble, of Blackhill, in a recent issue, in relation to the Rev J. P. De Pledge's speech without being moved to action. Mr Noble seems not to be afraid that the "abuse"—such we call it—will be able to mislead the electors of North-West Durham. I am sure that there was nothing embodied in the eloquent Satley Vicar's speech to mislead or injure any of the electors; but in a common way of speaking, what he said was nothing but downwright common sense and good logic. Mr De Pledge, in his remarks, said "we ought to have a Durham gentleman to represent us in the House of Commons." Well, sir, I think that we ought not to bring a man from London to become our member, such a one ought to be one of ourselves—not that I think Mr Jones will do injustice to us, I hold that Mr Jones is a good man, but his profession of a lawyer, and above all not being a native; there seems, in my opinion, to be too many lawyers in the House. I think, sir, that we ought to send men who have something to bind them to us, such as the Hon. Hedworth Lambton, who possess money and property. Working men and some of the leading officials of the Liberal Association advocate sending as many working men to Parliament as possible. I am afraid they will find out their mistake when too late. We want men of means and likewise of talent, so that they will be able to command trade and grapple with the dark and mysterious questions which comes before the legislature time after time. Labour is nothing without capital. Such men as the Right Hon. Hedworth Lambton are the men; and, sir, I think that if every elector had been personally canvassed previous to the adoption of the candidate, Mr Lambton would have gained the honour of being the man—in fact, he would have secured the seat unopposed by the Conservatives. I hope the time is not far distant when we shall have another opportunity of bringing the gallant soldier before the electors of North-West Durham. Some of the members of the Council objected to him on account of his not being such an eloquent orator as Mr Jones. It could not be expected, when one has served his time to talking and perhaps the other never thought about making a speech until called upon. Some men can do more good by being silent than others by their much speaking. Now, sir, I must bring my remarks to a close by asking you very kindly to allow it a space in your valuable paper.—Yours, &c., JOHN GUY WARD.

Greencroft, January, 1886.

EDUCATION AND "CRAMMING."

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—The history of great nations is rendered very curious, and oftentimes interesting, on account of the various crazes and fanaticisms which from time to time have agitated the people thereof. Arising from one hardly knows where, these crazes attain their height, then decline and finally disappear, leaving the nations wondering how they had been so wretchedly deceived. History has made known to us the "glory" craze, the "religious fanaticism," and now in these latter days our own England is troubled with what might be aptly named "The Educational Mania." A few alarmist individuals, not content with seeing that education had been made compulsory, must needs work upon the fears, selfish fears, of the nation by showing what immense strides had been made by the Germans, the French, or the Swiss in real learning, and at their behest a great rush has been made—an attempt to atone for the neglect of past generations. That which ought to have been done in calmness and with consideration has been done in a panic. *Inducation* has taken the place of education, and cram the place of good, thorough teaching. Teacher and taught have both been most unmercifully screwed, and school, which ought to be a place of steady growth, has become a hot-house for unnaturally forcing young minds. I had made up my mind to wait patiently until this tyranny had passed by (which it must), and I was consoled by the thought that those youngsters, who, enduring it now, can appreciate it would never permit their own offspring to endure the horrible grind. With regard to the teachers themselves, I can speak with certainty from my own experience, and that of my friends in the profession. Not a few of them have been ruined in bodily and mental health, and others I know who, with only thirty years, have the grey hair of elderly men. Our own district will furnish some fearful examples of the above. Are murdered Hope of Flint Hill, and Eden, of Iveston, entirely unknown? If so, they deserve a better fate. Both attempted honestly to work the Education Codes, and both found they were not able to turn the stones thereof into bread. I consider that now the tide is upon the turn. The fanatics are beginning to find that their charming is in vain, when, alas! their miserable work has been so well accomplished. The people won't dance to their tune. A Royal Commission is about to be appointed to consider the working of the Education Act. This is a wise step. May good results follow. But that Commission will not bring back to life the hundreds of martyrs who have died in the cause of *inducation*, nor will it provide the widows and orphans of those who struggled "not wisely, but too well," with bread. The educational Juggernaut has left a track of horror and death behind it, and yet would the fanatics say: "They fell in a good cause!" Without questioning the goodness of the cause would it be too much to answer: "We prefer to enjoy this life a little longer. We desire to remain to protect our wives and children from an ungrateful world, for if we fall in this 'good cause,' the nation which we serve will not see them provided for." One of the most grievous errors which our educational fanatics have fallen into is that they think the great mass of the English people are amazingly grateful for this system of compulsory cramming. Let those who know speak. Teachers and managers alike are aware that the most frivolous and laughable excuses are constantly made as reasons why Tommy or Mary Ann should stay at home and help to ruin both the health and reputation of their teacher. My own opinion is that should the Compulsory Act ever fall through, two-thirds of the parents who perforce send the children to school would prevent their offspring ever showing face inside a scholastic establishment, not because they cannot pay fees, not because they dislike education, but because they see that the present system of cramming from panic is pernicious. To conclude, let me give an example of how the nation was terrified into the present miserable state of affairs. A few years ago, Mr Mundella, in a speech made before a Scottish audience, gave a few reasons why children should be forced and drilled by a soulless and cruel system into perfect machines. He told his audience of the immense strides made in education on the Continent, and especially in Germany, and then perhaps unconsciously let the cat out of the bag, for he told a story of a certain French professor who, when he found his pupils becoming slack in their attention to study, brought out and placed upon his desk a German military helmet, that emblem of France's shame and humiliation, as a stimulant and warning. So, brethren of the profession, we Englishmen, at the command of Mr Mundella, must keep the German helmet ever before our mental vision, and bowing awe-struck endure a further term of penal servitude.—Yours, &c.,

Dipton. SIMONITE.

PRODUCTIVE CO-OPERATION: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE, IN ITS RELATION TO DISTRIBUTION.

A PAPER BY MR. JESSE HALL, OF CONSETT, and read at the Co-operative Conference at Newcastle last week.

"On all parts of the habitable globe the elements of human subsistence are scattered. They seem to be awaiting the coming of the first human being, in order to give him a fair start in the race of productive energy for which he is destined. Some articles of food are more difficult to obtain than others; the root would be harder to find than the berry; the animal than the vegetable; and the fish than the quadruped; but until he became a productive labourer he could have no influence on the supply of these elements of subsistence—they might be greater or less than his wants or wishes; but hunger would not increase the amount made naturally available to him; nor would satiety diminish it. When, however, he became a productive labourer the world to him changed its character; resources were opened which might appear inexhaustible; no direct limits lay in the way of the increase of the comforts and luxuries with which he might surround himself; and henceforth he assumed the character of the architect of his own fortunes; but as the race collectively increased in productiveness, a condition began to be attached to the individual man as forming a unit of the collective whole; his sustenance was no longer supplied to him by the free hand of nature; he required to be a productive man, working with the rest, and creating his share of the common produce, otherwise he might drop from the ranks and be left alone upon the barren earth. The risk of the unproductive savage is that from some accident, he may not find roots, berries or birds' eggs where he found them yesterday. The risk of the man of the industrial period is that he may fail to come up to the standard of productiveness, and so may not have a sufficiency to meet the wants of life, unless he be supplied by the charity of his more energetic brethren. Even in the most prolific soils, the means of human subsistence are scattered with a hand sparing in comparison with the fruits of civilisation; while in many portions of the earth the original produce must have been sufficient only to nourish, and that very sparingly or precariously, an extremely scanty population; but it was man's destiny in this world to "make his bread by the sweat of his brow;" and it was in places where this destiny was suggested by the sternest necessity that it has been most bravely and successfully pursued; where the sun has been dim and the earth sterile men's energies have been most fertile and prolific; in so far that using these bounties of Providence to supply the others of which they have been denied; they have learned so early and trusted so long to the extent of their own resources that they have formed themselves into productive, energetic races, quite distinct in character from those indolent tribes for whom nature has apparently spread her richest table, and destined in the balance of nations to stand towards them as the rich do to the poor, and the strong to the weak. We thus see before us, that widely as nature scatters her gifts over the world, the greatest and the least easily exhaustible gift is that prolific mind and that untiring energy with which she has endowed man; and that the great distinctiveness in the human race are doomed to arise, not from the relative fruitfulness of the soil, but from the relative productiveness of the men who live on it, but to the onward progress of productive energy there is, as we have already said, a condition attached. He who would securely enjoy its advantages must keep up with it, or he will be left behind in desolation and misery. Where nothing is produced, men may live on what they find on the earth, and the most indolent may find something; but when the slothful man appears in active industrial life, he finds everything appropriated—all things have been created by the productive powers of man, and all are retained by the producers or those whom the complex social institutions of society invest with some peculiar claim to their enjoyment. The farther the community has made industrial progress from the original unproductive habits of the savage, the more does it tax the energies of each individual member, and the less will any one, who is afflicted with the original indolence of the barbarian, be able to cope with its demands, or find himself a place within its privileged arena and the higher the standard of civilisation, so must the effort of the productive classes be above the effort of the savage in order to live. When once the human race begins to labour and produce, they must not cease under penalty of the direst calamities. There is no resting time—no folding the arms of nations or men—they cannot look back upon what they have done and be content—their destiny is still onwards, heaping above the labours of bygone ages other labours whose greater compass obliterates or dwarfs them. Now, from the foregoing it will be seen that in order to live, man must be a producer. His own tastes, desires, and wants has determined that this shall be so. The question to be solved by man is how best to carry out to perfection, or as near perfection as possible, and obtain the full fruits of all labour and energies required, in order that whatever is done may be done well and satisfactorily. The markets of the world are so near, the means of transit so convenient and cheap, that the day of a monoply in production is past, and anything now accomplished, or made a success, must depend on merit alone. And, again, competition is so keen, and customers so well acquainted with the different articles of consumption and use, and so many agencies are in operation for supplying them that any effort to be successful must have some advantage to recommed and support it, and, I think, gentlemen, we have all the elements of success represented in co-operative production for supplying co-operators with the different kinds and classes of goods wanted by them; but an organised system of co-operative production is meant here, not a competitive kind of production such as has in many instances characterised efforts at this kind of thing in the past by men, and classes of men, whose only claim to be called co-operators consisted in their being able to write the name of co-operation on their bills and invoices, and join their capital together to produce articles that co-operators did neither use nor consume. I think, gentlemen, it will be quite unnecessary for me to point out or define any one case; but you, who are at all acquainted with the history of the movement, will know of instances where men have banded themselves together to produce goods on the co-operation plan that had no claim on the movement, except by name, and found out perhaps when too late that co-operators did not require, and would not purchase, their goods. I dare say you will also know, that some of these productive concerns consider that the distributive movement has not done full justice to them, because the goods so produced has been of a class that all co-operators required, and were as good and as cheap as could be supplied in the competitive market by competitive producers. Well, I am afraid, gentlemen, that there is a certain amount of truth in this, and if an investigation was made, evidence might be produced that would, or should, cause the buyers and committees of distribution to blush for very shame for the way they have dealt with the genuine productions of co-operators in the past. The majority of store managers and committees prefer the competitive to the co-operative market. They prefer the competitive to the co-operative productions, because dividend, and that alone, seems to be the end and aim of their ambition and existence. They do not care to inquire how the goods are produced, or on what lines—they come to them if they are only cheap, and will sell. They never stop to ask themselves the question, when offered a cheap bargain in manufactured goods, how much of the life blood of my fellow creatures has been expended to produce this, nor yet how violent the oppression has been to enable this party to offer me this line. No; the the question is, how much dividend can I get out of it? Now, gentlemen, is this an overdrawn picture? Do you committees not, in solemn conclave, put it to your managers (where you allow them the privilege to buy) that they are not to purchase co-operative goods, or at co-operative establishments, unless the goods are as cheap and as good as you can get in the open market, as a dividend must be made of such and such an amount on account of that store, who is a near neighbour of yours, paying a dividend of 4s 4d in the pound. I wonder, gentlemen, what position some of your stores would be in if you were subjected to treatment like this by your members, and what would you think if any of your members were giving an invitation to the innumerable army of tally-men who are located in this district, to bring samples of dress goods to his house, as his wife wanted a dress to purchase. Why, I think I hear some of you saying, that man is not a consistent co-operator, he is wasting a great deal of his time, and submitting himself to the cupidity of a class of dealers that can barely afford to do him justice; and, besides, he is subjecting the store to a most rigorous competition, because he says he will only purchase our goods if the advantages are on his side and in his favour. Now, don't be too severe in your condemnation if you find one of your members guilty of conduct like what I have tried to describe, because he—the member—is as much justified in what he is doing as the committees of several stores are in doing what they are at the present time. Now, gentlemen, don't understand that what I have said is in condemnation of a judicious and consistent examination, selection, and purchase of goods; nothing of the kind. Nor can I, or do I, condemn the practice from my own knowledge of how it works, or whether it is beneficial or not; but I do hold that if we are what we ought to be, and are doing what we ought to do, that this practice of putting co-operation against competition, and store against store, and treating as some one foreign to ourselves the store or wholesale, or the genuine co-operative productive concern with which we are identified, we are doing a work that will in no way contribute to our success or benefit co-operators, and I would seriously urge committees and members to consider this conduct in all its bearings, as it relates to our well-being in the future—whether in relation to production or distribution—for depend upon this the charge is that the failures of co-operative production in the past has in no small degree been contributed to by the inconsistencies of the distributive movement. There is this question also to consider in looking over the past, and that is, how far are the efforts justified in claiming to be at all considered co-operative; and on what ground do they establish their claim to be co-operators, seeing that they of their own accord, and without in any way consulting the co-operative movement, commenced to be producers? We have a parliament and a union through which all enquiries ought to be made, and to which all questions of this kind ought to be submitted; so that conflicts of enterprise may be avoided, and a due regard to the wants and wishes of co-operators considered; and a bond of connection, as well as the question of success or failure chargeable to the whole movement, instead of a small part of it. I think, gentlemen, the past history of co-operative production will enable us to adopt this line of reasoning, and without passing any more strictures, or in any way bewailing what has been done, I would say take warning by the past, and be determined to act consistently and with reason in the future. The rigid and keen observation of our competitors are upon us; their ire is aroused at the success we have made in the distribution movement; and be assured that there will be no relaxation of any opposition at any point of vantage in the ranks of co-operators, whether it is in distribution or production. My advice is to be united, show a bold front, be courageous, be consistent, and success is sure. Take no advice of outsiders how to conduct your own trade. Listen to none of these charmers—charm they ever so sweetly; nor be alarmed at their threatenings, as we are beyond the line of their influence if they are kept outside the co-operation circle. I have thus endeavoured to show that man in a civilised state must be a producer, and that from collective or associated efforts of production must result the greatest success, no matter what the nature of that production is. See the peasant proprietor with his spade digging the ground, and his hook in reaping the crop. Compare this with the steam plough, the reaper and binder, the flail with the steam thrasher; and if you care to follow on through the whole of the industries of this country you will find that the individual efforts as individual are in all cases superseded by that of association and combination of machines and machinery; an individual or combination of individuals being the owners and directors, whilst the workers are the producers in every case. Now all wealth is stored up or accumulated labour; and it is a good thing for the working classes that in the absence of capital or stored-up labour, to be used in giving employment to themselves, there has been found in all parts of the country, and at all times, gentlemen who are in the possession of wealth and who have invested it in the different kinds of works and railways thus giving employment to thousands of workmen up and down the land, and building up a huge and complex system of industry and production such as no other country on the face of the earth possesses: and yet, although we ought and do feel grateful for all the assistance given to labour by capital and capitalists, a feeling of depression and humiliation comes over us when we think of the unswerving conflict that seems to rage between these two elements that are so depending upon each other, and when it is possible to get these reconciled, there is another factor that comes upon the scene, and that is the consumer, and I fail to understand any scheme doing doing any good except all these three are reconciled and made to work harmoniously and unitedly together. Capital, labour, and consumption must be organised and developed by the working classes if they want to reap all the advantages and bear the responsibilities of production. None of these three factors are independent of the other, and not one of them is, or can be used successfully without the other, so that the highest and best interests of all will be served by a true consideration of the claims of each. But as this forms a theme for debatable ground, and will take a considerable time to solve, I will content myself with this statement, that each must be considered before any well-devised scheme of co-operative production can be successful. I do this on the following grounds:

"1.—That human society is a body consisting of many members. Not a collection of warring atoms.

"2.—That true workmen must be fellow-workmen—not rivals.

"3.—That a principle of justice, not selfishness, must govern exchanges.

"It is worth while to be constantly reminding ourselves of the principles to which we are pledged, as we all know how strong the temptation is to use our organisations for the mere acquisition of wealth, after the example of the competitive world—to follow after the idols of false cheapness and larger profits, without a thought of how the pursuit affects anyone except ourselves. It is on these principles that we hope to see trade and industry reorganised; for it is a question between such a reorganisation and disastrous collapse and ruin. The present state of trade; the stagnation; the distrust; the strikes and the threatenings of strikes, which are weighing on us so heavily, and making men doubt whether the day of England's prosperity has not passed, are only the legitimate results of the fierce and purblind competition of a society bent before all things on the acquisition of wealth; and all these evils will only recur at shorter intervals and with greater intensity as time goes on and the struggle waxes fiercer and stronger. On the other hand, as the masses organise themselves on our principles, the prospect of the future will become clearer and brighter. I have no faith in any good coming to any class or to any man without much hard work and much self-denial; and the question still remains to be solved how much hard-work, how much self-denial are our working people prepared to throw into co-operation. Much has been done in the past, a goodly number of our countrymen and countrywomen are reaping the fruits of a well-organised plan of distribution in consumption, and what has been done for this limited number may be done, and is being done, for increasing numbers, and may ultimately be done for a nation. And if success has attended distribution, and who will question it? our opponents admit this; success may also attend production. The very thought of a nation whose industry is organised on co-operative principles fills the mind with visions of a time when the love of work, when the pride in the work of the hands as well as the brain, will take its proper place again (if, as we are told, it ever had its place there) in the lives of our people—when at last the great problem of the nineteenth century will be solved, and the union between labour and capital will stand out as a fact and not as a dream,—but it requires a poet to speak of such a time as that, so let me end with the words of a very great one:—

"Surely the wiser time shall come,
When this fine overplus of might;
No longer sullen, slow, and dumb,
Shall leap to music and to light.
In that new childhood of the earth,
Life of itself shall dance and play;
New blood in times shrunk veins make mirth
And labour meet delight half way."

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

A fortnightly meeting took place at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight, and was presided over by Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. The following Guardians were also present: Revs Canon F. Kearney, Monsignor C. Gillow, and J. P. De Pledge, J.P., Messrs Wm. Logan, W. H. Hedley, T. Siddell, G. Hobson, J. Buckham, W. Ratherford, N. Clark, W. Johnson, J. Eltringham, J. A. Curry, Wm. Brown, J. Collinson, W. Gumming, and the clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

AN APPLICANT'S ADVICE.

During the consideration of the relief cases an amusing scene was witnessed. An elderly woman, named McGowan, from the neighbourhood of Dipton, applied for some relief on behalf of her husband, who was temporarily disabled, but was expected to be able to follow his employment as soon as he became stronger.

The decision of the Guardians was that the husband should come into the House until he regained his usual strength.

Mrs McGowan indignantly spurned the offer, and poured out a long tirade of abuse into the ears of the Guardians, several of whom appeared to be highly amused at the incident, whilst others exclaimed, "That'll do," "Go out," &c. On making her exit, the woman, with an exultant smile upon her face, bade the Guardians to go into the Workhouse themselves. (Laughter.)

Mr SIDDELL: "There is no need. We are all there now." (Loud laughter.)

[This is the same woman, we believe, who a few years ago behaved in an insolent manner towards the Guardians, and had to be escorted out of the room.]

THE GATESHEAD WORKHOUSE.

A communication was read from the Clerk to the Gateshead Union, intimating that his Board accepted the offer of the Lanchester Guardians to provide accommodation for a number of their inmates, owing to the crowded state of the Workhouse. The Gateshead Guardians proposed to send to Lanchester 20 adults and 10 girls.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Newcastle Guardians were receiving 7s for the adults, whilst they were only getting 6s.

Mr LOGAN suggested that, before the paupers were transferred to Lanchester, their Workhouse Master (Mr W. Brotherhood) should be instructed to visit the Gateshead Workhouse, and ascertain whether the inmates were properly equipped.

This was agreed to.

THE MINERS' PERMANENT RELIEF FUND.

An interesting discussion arose respecting the payment of grants by the Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund to those members who become chargeable to the Union, or enter the Workhouse.

Mr RUTHERFORD, having been deputed to institute inquiries, announced that the question of paying the weekly grant of 4s to old people who are admitted into the Workhouse was left by the council of the fund to the discretion of the Executive Committee, who declined to pay the money. The Board possess two inmates in the Institution at the present who are members, and have been accustomed to receive 4s weekly from the fund, but as soon as they were admitted to the Institution, these grants were stopped.

Mr RUTHERFORD stated there were hundreds of old members living with their relatives and friends who managed to subsist on this weekly contribution; but it appeared these two individuals were friendless, and could not eke out an existence on their 4s weekly.

Mr SIDDELL pointed out that in ordinary cases the Board only allowed 2s 6d a week out-relief to adults; and if these people could not live on 4s, he felt certain they could not live on 2s 6d per week.

Mr RUTHERFORD explained that when those parties quitted the House they would receive from the Permanent Fund all arrears due, which had accumulated during their sojourn in the House; and it was eventually agreed to ask these men to go out and make an effort to live on this grant of 4s with some little assistance.

INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE.

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

Week ending Jan. 20th	176
Corresponding week of last year	—
Week ending Jan. 27th	175
Corresponding week of last year	—
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	4
,, corresponding fortnight last year	6

There was no further business of importance.

SERIOUS FIRE AT DIPTON.

THE POST-OFFICE IN FLAMES.

On Monday night, between eight and nine o'clock, a fire of a destructive nature broke out in the premises of Mr Emanuel Maddison, a grocer and draper, carrying on a large business at Dipton. The establishment, which is situate about the centre of the village, is fully 50 feet in length; and consists of a grocery and drapery establishment at the west end of the building, with a postal and telegraphic office at the other extremity. The fire is supposed to have originated at 8·30 p.m. in a small room containing whisky and other spirits stored up in casks (the shop having been closed as usual at eight o'clock), and the heat must have melted a gaspipe, and ignited the whole place, causing the flames to spread rapidly. Mr Maddison's private dwelling is a separate building at the east end of the shop, and the occupants were unaware of the appearance of the conflagration. The fire was first observed by a passer-by, who immediately raised the alarm, and sent word to the temporary police barracks at South Medomsley, and Sergts. Thornton and Tate, with a staff of constables, at once went to the spot. The fire seemed to confine its operations to the post-office and the drapery department, which were soon developed in flames. A large band of willing workers rendered valuable assistance in carrying pails of water, which were thrown over the burning mass. A small hose was also fixed to a tap, but it was found that a sufficient pressure of water could not be obtained. The buckets were filled at the nearest taps, where there happened to be a plentiful supply of water. At the outset a strong wind was blowing, and imparted fresh vigour to the blaze; but the gale suddenly collapsed, thus affording a splendid opportunity for effectually extinguishing the conflagration. After working industriously for about a couple of hours the fire was put out. The east end of the premises are partially gutted; the windows having burst owing to several gaspipes being demolished. After the fire was got under, the shop floor was immersed in two feet of water. The leakage of gas was stopped by turning off the meter tap, and thus an explosion was averted. Mr Maddison was away at Tow Law that day, and had not returned home at the time of the occurrence. The Consett and Shotley Bridge Fire Brigades were summoned; and the former had travelled as far as Leadgate when information was received that the blaze had all but subdued. Supt. Oliver also drove through from Consett; but was not called upon to perform active duty. The damage to stock and property is estimated at about £600, which is covered by insurance. The shop fixtures, shelving, &c., suffered to a great extent; and slight damage was done to the walls, ceilings, and flooring. Happily a large portion of goods and stock-in-trade was removed beyond the ravages of the fire, and the telegraphic apparatus and the safe containing a large amount of stamps, money-orders, and other important documents belonging to the Post-Office authorities were saved. A few papers, such as telegram fares, &c., were destroyed. The shop was shut up on Tuesday, men being busily engaged in re-connecting the instrument; and at night the apparatus was again in working order.

CONSETT COUNTY COURT.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 3rd. — Before His HONOUR E. J. MEYNELL, Esq., Judge.

A WIDOWER'S TROUBLES.

BROWN v. CARR.—Sarah Brown, a single woman, sued David Carr, employed at the Consett Iron Works, for 24s, being eight weeks wages due. Mr T. W. Welford defended.—Plaintiff stated that in October last, she was engaged by defendant as his housekeeper, her wages being 6s per fortnight. She received 2s for the first month's wages, when defendant and herself had a "few words," and he gave her a fortnight's notice to leave. Defendant, however, used her badly before the expiration of the notice; he struck her upon the eye, and eventually turned her out of doors one Sunday night. He gave her notice on the 29th December, and put her out on the 3rd January. Carr told her that he would give her wages when she needed them.—By Mr Welford: She was engaged on the 17th October, and she got 6s on the 31st of that month. On the 4th November Carr gave her some money for housekeeping purposes; it might be £2 16s, but she could not distinctly remember the amount. Whatever she received went towards paying butcher's and grocer's bills; also milk, insurance, school pence, &c. He might also hand her £2 14s next fortnight; and the same amount the succeeding fortnight. He did not give her the wages due; he knew that himself if he would only speak the truth. He never told her when he handed her the money that she was to deduct her wages therefrom. She did not tell Mrs Thompson anything about Carr requesting her to take the money out of the housekeeping money; nor did she say anything to defendant's daughter.—By His Honour: She never took anything out of the money for her wages.—Defendant deposed that he paid defendant 6s on the 30th October for wages; and on November 4th he gave her £2 16s, asking her to pay all outstanding bills, and to keep the money due to herself out of the "change." She paid 10s 5d to the butcher; £1 10s 8d to the grocer; and the milk, insurance money, and school pence came to 2s 8d, leaving her 12s 3d in hand. On November 17th, defendant gave the plaintiff £2 14s, and after payment of butcher's and grocer's bills, &c., she would have a surplus of 10s 2d. On the succeeding fortnight, she got a similar sum from him; and after meeting his outstanding debts, there would be a balance of 3s 2½d left. At the time he gave plaintiff her notice, she had received £1 15s 7½d from him which was unaccounted for; leaving a surplus of 11s 7½d after deducting her wages.—In answer to His Honour, defendant stated that he was only speaking from memory when he stated the various amounts paid to the woman, as he destroyed his time bills, lighting his pipe with them. (Laughter.) The rent for the house was kept off at the offices. He informed plaintiff before he sent her away that he had already paid her her wages, and she retorted, "You have no witnesses to prove that."—Ann Thompson, married, who used to accompany the plaintiff to Consett on "pay" Friday nights to do "shopping," spoke to Mrs Brown telling her that Carr had asked her to keep her wages out of the "change."—His Honour said it was unnecessary to proceed further with the case, and gave judgment in favour of the defendant.

SINGULAR COW TRANSACTION.

OLIVER v. ROUTLEDGE.—In this action, Henry Oliver, farmer, of Hurbuck, near Consett, claimed £12 from Roger Routledge, a miner and cowkeeper, balance of account owing in respect to the purchase of a cow by the defendant from the plaintiff for £14. Mr Welford prosecuted, and Mr McCarten appeared for defendant, who admitted the purchase of the animal, but put in a set-off for an alleged breach of warranty.—Defendant was sworn, and explained that he was in the habit of keeping a cow, and unfortunately he lost one last spring. On May 11th, 1885, he attended the stock sale at Benfieldside, when Mr Oliver came up to him and said he was sorry for the loss he had sustained, also telling him that he "had a cow that would just suit him." She was in her second calf, and would calve about three weeks hence, adding that he would not be bound to a week. He asked plaintiff if she was all right, and an affirmative reply was given, Mr Oliver observing "I put her into your hands simply to do you good." He did not see the cow that day, however, but the price was settled to be £14. Defendant accepted plaintiff's word that the animal was in good condition, and promised to go for her on the following Wednesday. His wife accordingly accompanied him down to Mr Oliver's farm, and on entering the yard they saw the cows just coming from the fields. Mr Oliver pointed out the particular animal to him, and drove her into the byre. where he and his wife looked at the beast. Mr Oliver said, "Now, Mr Routledge, this cow will do you good. I promised to compensate you." He replied, "All right; me and my wife will take her away." Just as the cow was leaving the byre she gave a cough, and he enquired if she had been ill. Plaintiff rejoined, "Not at all." Defendant then said, "If she has not been ill, I'll take your word for it." On the way home, however, the cow constantly coughed. Upon the Monday following, he sent for Mr Geo. Harrison, butcher, Consett, to examine the cow. A week later, she was coughing regularly. The third week, defendant invited Mr Hardy, farmer, Knitsley, to see the animal. The second week after he got possession of the cow, he told Mr Oliver at the Auction Mart that Mr Harrison had said the cow was ill. Plaintiff denied that there was anything the matter with the animal, and declared that if Harrison said so he was a liar. Plaintiff did not go over to see the cow. Defendant saw Mr Oliver frequently at the Stock Sale, and repeatedly informed him that the beast was ill and did not suit him. The cow was "clyred" (a sort of disease), and after keeping her for six weeks he parted with her. Mr Crawford, butcher, Consett, exchanged with him for a little cow, on condition that Mr Crawford should have the calf and £1 to boot.—By Mr Welford: He told Mr Oliver to take the cow back again. He paid the £2 in September, and informed plaintiff that that was all the money he would get from him, as he had had two cows from him, and he had received £16 for both animals. The cow did not calve whilst in his possession; but he believed she calved shortly after he turned her over to Mr Crawford.—Mr McCarten said they did not complain about the calf.—Further cross-questioned: He did not know what Mr Crawford did with the cow. When he and his wife visited Mr Oliver's farm, there was no person attending to the animals. There was not a mark upon the cow's back; and he did not ask if she had been "blistered." Defendant remembered being in the Number One public-house on the 29th June, plaintiff and Messrs Murray, Crawford, and others being present. He would swear that he did not say these words to Mr Oliver: "I bought the cow for £14, but I have not paid for her yet; but you shall not lose one half-penny by me, because you have always behaved like a gentleman to me." He told Mr Oliver on the second Monday after the purchase that the cow was unwell, but he did not ask him to take her back until the fourth Monday. It was not the first occasion he demurred to paying the money when Mr Oliver applied to him for the £12 owing. His wife was present when the bargain was struck. The cow was to be paid for out of her profit—that is, he would not make any payments until she commenced to produce.—Mr Welford: Then Mr Oliver gave you the cow, and as soon as she made you £12 profit you were to pay for her? —Defendant: I was to give plaintiff so much per fortnight; but the sum was not named. (Laughter.) —Continuing, he stated that he had a sow in "pig" then; but he never consented to find the money for the cow out of the sale of young pigs. He did not state, as his reason for not paying more than £2, that he had sold some of the pigs to Mr Ritson and a party at Castleside, and had not received his money. He did not make the first complaint last December when Mr Oliver sent in his account, and threatened to sue him if he did not pay at once.—Being re-examined by Mr McCarten, defendant admitted that Mr Oliver was to have the litter of pigs providing the cow was all right.—Mrs Routledge was called to corroborate her husband's testimony. When the bargain was struck, Mr Oliver told defendant that the cow was a young one; and the latter said he would accept her on the plaintiff's word. Not a word was mentioned as to the terms to be paid.—By Mr Welford: On driving home with the cow, they passed Mr Towns's farm, but she did not hear her husband tell that gentleman that the cow was a good one, and likely to suit him. She was positive that the cow was out in the fields along with the others.—George Harrison, Consett Store, a butcher of 35 years standing, said he was acquainted with both keeping and killing stock. He examined defendant's cow, and told Routledge that she was not right, and that the sooner he got rid of her the better. His opinion was that the cow was "clyred"—a sort of thin covering upon the inside of the stomach. This was a disease which many cows died from, and very few got better. Could not say whether the disease was of recent date. He looked into the animal's mouth, and thought she would be about eight years old. He prescribed for her.—By Mr Welford: He had not seen the cow neither before nor since that visit, and could not tell whether it was the same animal or not. Defendant told him that she came from Butsfield; but never stated that he got her from Mr Oliver. She was a roan cow, and of pretty good size.—George Hardy, Knitsley, a farmer of long experience, who was also asked to inspect the cow, expressed his belief that the animal was suffering from bronchitis, but did not form any opinion as to her age. Some cows recoved from bronchitis and others did not. He never observed any marks upon the animal. He prescribed a remedy for bronchitis. Could not say if she was a "clyred" cow.—Cross-examined by Mr Welford: If the cow had been kept in the byre, and was suddenly turned loose into the fields in a cold month like last May, it would possibly give her bronchitis.—John Crawford attested to the exchanging of defendant's cow, as he saw she was not quite right. Did not form any opinion as to the disease she was suffering from—whether she was "clyred" or affected with bronchitis he could not tell. He thought her to be 10 or 11 years old. He "swapped" the cow again, and afterwards got her in exchange back once more. (Laughter.) She calved when in his possession. He kept her for some time, and once offered her to Mr Oliver for £5. At length, however, the cow died.—In reply to Mr Welford, witness said he did not think the cow was ill when he exchanged her. He got another cow and 10s to boot. He "swapped" her for another beast weighing about 30 stones.—His Honour, at this juncture, remarked that the evidence of any breach of warranty was exceedingly shadowy.—Mr McCarten said he held it to be a breach of waaranty when plaintiff averred the cow to be four years old, and was in her second calf, whereas her age was stated to be from eight to eleven years.—His Honour: Is that the only warranty you go upon?—Mr McCarten: No; plaintiff also certified that the cow was all right.—His Honour: There is no evidence to show that anything was wrong with her on the Monday, when the bargain was struck.—Mr McCarten denied that the cow was sold on the Monday, but His Honour submitted that she was; but even if she was not actually purchased till the Wednesday it did not matter. He had no evidence to go upon to indicate there was a warranty; and if so, the proper course for the defendant would have been to have asked the plaintiff to take her back, or to offer her for sale by auction, and sue for the difference in the sum paid for her and the price realised at the sale. Now the defendant had exchanged the cow, it was impossible for him (the Judge) to arrive at any estimate as to the value of the animal.—Plaintiff, on being called, attested that when the cow was sold to the defendant for £14, it was arranged that he should pay in the following August, when he had realised the money. Defendant said the cow was likely to suit him and was all right. The cow was not actually sold on the Monday; the sale did not take place until the Wednesday. When the plaintiff bought the cow from Mr Robt. Hall, Butsfield, in January, 1884, she had given birth to her second calf, but she never calved whilst in his charge. The animal was tied in the byre when defendant and his wife came to see her. The beast was perfectly sound when sold. Seeing a blister on the back, Routledge inquired if the cow was all right, and he assured him that she was. The cow never coughed on being released from the byre. Defendant paid £2 on his purchase on the 27th September, and never uttered a single complaint to him touching the animal until he threatened to sue Routledge for payment last December. The latter then told plaintiff that Ritson had got some young pigs from him and had not yet paid him; and likewise some person at Castleside.—Cross-examined by Mr McCarten: He did not see defendant at the Mart on the following Monday, nor for several months after the transaction. Never heard a single word from Routledge that the cow was ill; but he learnt this fact from another source. When he knew that defendant had disposed of the cow, he was afraid he would have some trouble in getting his money. He said the cow was five years old. He told defendant she was a "nice, young cow, likely to suit him, and would do him good." Plaintiff paid £19 for the cow when he bought her, and sold her because he did not find it to his advantage to retain her and be always buying hay.—Isaac Warnall, byreman in the service of Mr Oliver, testified that the cow was perfectly right and in good condition when sold. Never heard her cough on leaving the byre. —By Mr McCarten: He was not at Newcastle hirings on the 13th May, when Routledge and his wife came to see the cow; he was present in the byre.—His Honour regarded the plea as an utterly untenable defence, and gave a verdict for £12, with four witnesses' costs, &c., in 14 days.

THE LOCAL DISTRESS.

STANHOPE.

Seventy loads of coals have recently been distributed amongst the poor of Stanhope, the cost being defrayed by subscription.

CROOK DISTRICT.

The prolonged severity of the weather is daily bringing to light more clearly the deep poverty which prevails throughout the extended district. Men and women, whose appearance indicate that they have experienced better days, may be seen daily issuing from this distressed district in considerable numbers. The committee are continuing their weekly half-day sittings, and devoting all their energies to cope with the distress, but for want of funds they are incapable of carrying out their work as effectually as they desire. The increased intensity of the weather has compelled them to go more largely into the distribution of clogs and clothing. Between 1,400 and 1,500 dinners are given per week. The tradesmen and those who are doing a little work are continuing to the extent of their ability to subscribe weekly towards the fund.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

There is at present a good deal of distress amongst the poorer classes of this town, which, in different ways, has been greatly relieved by some of the tradesmen. Mr J. W. Lucock distributed 100 tickets to the deserving poor on Monday. Each ticket will have an order for 1 stone flour, ½ lb. tea, 2 lb. loaf sugar, 2 lb. bacon, and 2 oz. yeast, There is also a probability of a soup kitchen being commenced, which is much needed.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white, or falling off, use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it *will positively restore in every case Grey or White hair* to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemist for "THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER," sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere at 3s. 6d. per Bottle. Wholesale depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road London.

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.

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

WEARDALE GUARDIANS AND SANITARY AUTHORITY.

An ordinary meeting of the Weardale Board of Guardians was held in the Workhouse, at Stanhope, on Friday morning—Dr Livingstone presiding.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Clerk read the annual statement of accounts, which showed that the rates raised within the district had amounted to £7,971, and the expenditure had amounted to £8,053. There had been £550 borrowed within the district during the year.

WORKHOUSE STATISTICS.

The Workhouse Master reported that there had been 16 tramps admitted during the first week and 6 during the second week, against 121 in the corresponding fortnight last year. There were 74 inmates, an increase of 1 on the preceding fortnight. The casuals have been scarce, the hill roads being almost impassable and extremely cold.

THE HEALTH OF THE UNION.

The Guardians afterwards sat as the Rural Sanitary Authority—Mr Wooler presiding. The report of the Medical Officer for the Derwent District of the Weardale Union was read, which stated that the health in the district had been very good during the past year. There had been 11 deaths and 54 births registered within his district during the year. The Medical Officer for St. John's District reported that there had been 77 deaths and 101 births in his district during 1885. There had been no deaths from zymotic disease. The Medical Officer for Wolsingham reported that there had been 122 births and 48 deaths registered within his district during the year. The only cases of mortality from infectious diseases occurred from typhoid fever in the first quarter of the year, the result of the outbreak in December, 1884. The percentages for the several districts are as follows:—Derwent, 12·88 per 1,000; Weardale, 19·4; Wolsingham, 14·5; and Stanhope, 10·5, the rate for the whole district being 14·4 per 1,000 per annum, the total number of births being 331, and of deaths 146.

Several members expressed satisfaction at the very low rate of mortality shown by the reports.

THE FROSTERLEY SEWERAGE.

The Local Government Board intimate that they will give due attention to the case of the Frosterley sewerage workmen, who, owing to circumstances of an unforseen character, have asked the Board to discharge a claim for wages.

PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY IN THE DEARNESS VALLEY.

A third meeting in favour of petitioning the North-Eastern Railway Company to connect Waterhouses and Crook by a locomotive line was held on Thursday se'nnight at Waterhouses, the two other meetings having been held at Crook and Stanley respectively. Notwithstanding the severe weather, there was a very large attendance, showing the interest taken in the movement. The chair was occupied by Mr T. Douglas, West Lodge, who was supported on the platform by the Rev J. Roscamp, vicar of Stanley; Major E. Leadbitter Smith, Flass Hall; Messrs W. Burnip, G. Wearmouth, J. Gill, and M. Taylor, of Crook; Messrs Allison and Barron, Hedley Hill; and Messrs Binns and Bowes, of Waterhouses. Letters approving of the proposal were read from several gentlemen in the neighbourhood who were not able to be present.

The CHAIRMAN said the object of the meeting was to establish a better means of communication with Crook. If they wanted to go to Crook the nearest train service was round by Durham and Bishop Auckland. There were some important difficulties to overcome. They could not move the very high hill that lay between there and Crook, but he believed a locomotive line could be made. Crook and Waterhouses were much on the same level—some 500 feet above the sea—while the top of the hill was about 800 feet. There was only a distance of something like three miles, and it was this gap they wished to bridge over.

The first resolution was proposed by Mr W. BURNIP, manager of the Crook and Waterhouses Co-operative Stores, as follows:—

"Seeing that Waterhouses and the district comprising Esh, Hamsteels, Quebec, Cornsay, and Hedley Hill, with a population of about 15,000, are without any direct railway communication with Crook, Bishop Auckland, and the South; and that Crook, Stanley, Wooley, Sunniside, &c., comprising a population of over 24,000, are without any direct communication with Durham, Sunderland, and the North, this meeting unanimously urges upon the directors of the North-Eastern Railway Co. the advisability of making a new railway from Crook to Waterhouses by Hedley Hill and Stanley Engine."

This was seconded in a telling speech by the Rev J. ROSCAMP, and supported by Major SMITH, who said he hoped the railway connection would soon be an accomplished fact.

The second resolution was moved by Mr BINNS:—

"Seeing that the immense amount of road traffic which passes from Crook to Stanley, Hedley Hill, and Waterhouses, and *vice versa*, would at once be transferred to the new railway, and the additional facilities which would be given to so large a population for passenger traffic, this meeting is of opinion that a substantial profit would be guaranteed to the North-Eastern Railway Company by granting this new connection."

The third resolution was as follows:—

"That the foregoing resolutions, together with a plan of the scheme, and such other particulars as are found necessary, in a tabulated form be embodied in a memorial to lay before the directors of the North-Eastern Railway Co, as early a date as possible."

All the resolutions were unanimously carried.

"THE EMANCIPATION OF LABOUR."

A lecture on this subject was delivered in the New Town Hall, Consett, last Saturday night, by Mr Henry Rowley, of London (the secretary of the Labour Association for Promoting Productive Co-operation), on the subject of "The Emancipation of Labour," the gathering being held under the auspices of the Consett Co-operative Society. Although the weather was somewhat unfavourable, there was nevertheless a tolerably good attendance, the audience, with the exception of a few ladies, being exclusively composed of working men. The chair was filled by Mr Geo. Lowes, president of the Consett Store.

The CHAIRMAN briefly introduced the lecturer by speaking of the great work achieved by the Consett society by means of its reading-room and its extensive library; and ventured to assert that the members of no other store in the immediate locality were so far advanced as those connected with the Consett Society. (Applause.)

Mr ROWLEY, who was well received, delivered a most stirring and eloquent address. After speaking of the progress made in England towards the emancipation of its people religiously, politically, and socially, he said he hoped the working classes would exercise the franchise to their advantage and credit, and send to Parliament representatives who would give another blow to landlordism. He regarded labour as a means whereby all wealth was created. He urged that the condition of labour was not satisfactory. It was not right and just that the masters should reap the large proportion of wealth which is created by labour. They wanted equity; men should receive just reward for labour performed, and a fair proportion of the wealth they created. The reason trade was bad was because people had not got anything to demand for trade manufacture; because the wealth of the country had got into the hands of a few, who had not the means of spending it so easily as if it were distributed generally amongst the population. If they received more money for the labour created, they would of, course require more necessaries and luxuries of life. As to over-production, there could be no such thing, as long as there was one human being in the world wanting a thing which was essential. The lecturer then proceeded to speak of the benefits of association and co-operation; and advocated the extinction of the ground landlord, who had robbed the State, as the land and its products were intended for the people.

The lecturer was repeatedly applauded. At the close he answered a few questions bearing on the subjects dealt with in his address.

A hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr W. A. HOE, Blackhill, seconded by Mr T. CARR, Consett, was accorded to Mr Rowley, and the proceedings terminated with an expression of thanks to the Chairman.

THE SNOWSTORM.

CONSETT.

As far as this neighbourhood is concerned, there is no material change in the weather. A great quantity of snow is still lying on the streets of Consett, &c., although it is being carted away by degrees.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT.

The severe winter weather still continues in the neighbourhood of Annfield Plain. The frost is most keenly felt, and especially where people are not comfortably clad on the back and feet. The poor sparrows are not much seen at present. The severe storm in Weardale is no doubt driving the moor game off the fells in search of meat, as large flocks have been seen in the district so near that some of the birds have been observed in the stable yards feeding on what they can get at Annfield Plain. Several moor birds have been picked up dead in consequence of flying against the telegraph wires.

TANFIELD.

The recent snowstorms have played great havoc amongst the grouse which have been driven from the moors in large numbers. On Saturday morning, a most unusual scene was witnessed near Tanfield, large number of grouse being observed hovering about the fields and roads. They went at least 10 miles from the moors, and it is feared that many will be unable to find their way back.

ROWLANDS GILL.

On Friday, three coveys of red grouse, doubtless owing to the severity of the weather, were driven from their native moors, and were seen near Rowlands Gill and on Barlow Fell. On Saturday, several in one flock were seen flying over Winlaton going east. This is, we understand, the first visit this kind of bird has made to this locality for over 40 years, when one was shot on the Hallgarth Farm by the late Mr Joseph Laycock.

TOW LAW: THE RAILWAY BLOCKED.

Another snowstorm visited Tow Law on Sunday, and owing to the strong wind roads were soon considerably blown up. The railway between Tow Law and Consett was blocked again on Monday. A good deal of snow is still on the ground in this district. A strong wind prevailing most of the day on Sunday drifted the snow into the various cuttings to a great depth. Several passengers travelling up by first train had to return on reaching Tow Law, and were sent to their destination *via* Durham. About 100 men were employed in cutting the snow, but owing to several heavy showers during the day they were not able to make much progress. The reports from Waskerley state that the storm is exceedingly severe there, the snow in some places being six feet deep, and effectually preventing the engines and plough getting more than a short way from the sheds. The Consett and Tow Law line got opened late on Monday afternoon, but in a few hours the road was again stopped with snow. A train left Consett, containing passengers for Tow Law, on Monday night, but did not accomplish half its journey, and stuck fast at Burnhill. Another engine was despatched from Consett, and the train was brought back again. On Tuesday, no traffic could be sent beyond Tow Law, and passengers had again to be sent *via* the Bishop Auckland and Durham route. A number of snow-cutters are going over the same ground as on Monday. At Waskerley, the engines and men are still snowed up. The snow there on Monday night drifted to a surprising extent. The great breakage of railway and postal wires which occurred on Sunday has now being remedied. The Tow Law and Consett branch was opened at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and the regular service to and from Consett and Newcastle was established. The imprisoned engines at Waskerley also got released.

WEARDALE: SNOW-BOUND SHEEP IN THE FELLS.

During Saturday evening, a further fall of snow took place on the high lands of western Durham. About three inches fell at Stanhope, and the fall was so heavy at Tow Law that the telegraph wires were broken. The sheep farmers who have their flocks on the Weardale Fells are feeling severely the great snow storm which still prevails on the surrounding hills and the upper reaches of the Wear Valley. The intervening thaws which have carried off the snow in floods in the lower part of the valley and eastern Durham have scarcely touched the Weardale Fells, where a most wintry and severe January, with frosts and snowfalls, have accumulated an immense quantity of snow. On the level ground it lies several feet deep, the by-roads are blocked, and the principal thoroughfares and mountain passes have had to be cut in some instances for several miles, and owing to the drifting and falls of snow it is with great difficulty that they are kept open. The mineral line at Weather Hill has not yet been opened, though cutting has been proceeded with for several days. The position of the sheep farmers in the midst of such a storm at the close of January is something serious. When the wintry weather culminated in a great storm last week end, many flocks were on the fells. A flock in Bolihope could not be approached for several days, and when reached the owners had to travel along the tops of the stone walls and get fodder at the nearest farm to the Fell. In some cases the flocks cannot be brought into the farms owing to the great depth of snow; consequently fodder, with considerable difficulty is carried to them, and as the sheep cannot scratch off the wintry covering so as to crop the ling or heather the animals stand or lie about, and consequently starve. Where it can be done, sheep are brought home and fed, but a few hundreds of sheep eat up hay so fast that the winter fodder is fast becoming scarce. The largest sheep farmer in the Rookhope Valley, anticipating short fodder and the remote prospect of getting hay to the farm being out-lying, has, we understand, transferred a few hundreds of sheep to a lower lying farm in the Wear Valley to be fed on board wages. It is anticipated sheep farmers will suffer heavily. Showers of snow fell on Sunday, and the aspect continues wintry. During the whole of Sunday the storm raged in Weardale with unabated violence. Large drifts were formed in the main roads, making them in the higher part of the dale impassable for either horses or conveyances. On Monday the mails had to be despatched from Keshope Burn to the post-offices at Wearhead and Conshill by a messenger on foot, and the return mails are to be sent in the same manner. The snow continued to fall on Monday night. In the gale and snowstorm which raged, blocking the bye and main roads, the post carrier from Stanhope to Lowshill had a narrow escape from being smothered at Treshope Burn. Finding the roads impracticable for his post gig, the post carrier (James Wilkinson) mounted one of the horses to carry the bags to the above terminus. On leaving Treshope Burn he dismounted to lead his horse through a deep snow-wreath which took both overhead. The animal rolled over and sprang forward, knocking Wilkinson underneath it. Fortunately, Mr Thos. Walton, farmer, Riggs, witnessed the occurrence, and ran and pulled him out from under the horse, which plunged wildly to regain its footing. Mr Walton caught the bridle and brought the animal back to the village, Wilkinson going forward on foot much exhausted. On Sunday and Monday, in consequence of the heavy and severe storm, some hundreds of moor birds from the Weardale Fells were driven by stress of weather into the village of Etherley, Witton Park, and vicinity. The unprecedented severity of the weather is now giving the gravest concern. The heavy cost incurred last week in opening all the roads has been useless, as all are again closed. No horses can get further than Ireshope Burn, the post being only conveyed to Cowshill by making a detour on foot through the fields, the tracks being filled as soon as cut by the strong winds. About 300 men have been thrown out of employment through the frost and snow, and the managers of the mines fear that all will have to cease work. Should a speedy change in the weather not take place, the unemployed will thus be increased by an additional 500 men. Distress is beginning to manifest itself, fuel and food becoming scarcer daily. The schools above St. John's are still closed. Small birds and grouse are dying in scores, and hay is almost done.

CROOK DISTRICT.

The intensely bitter weather in this locality shows no signs of abatement. At the High and Low Beechburns the snow has drifted to great depths, blocking the roadway between these places. The same state of things has prevailed in another extreme and equally bleak part of the district, at Wooley and Stanley, and extending away to Waterhouses and Cornsay, where the roads have been impassable and farmers blocked in. Hands have been busily employed clearing the roads.

BLANCHLAND.

During the past fortnight, extremely wintry weather has prevailed in the Blanchland district, heavy and repeated falls of snow alighting, covering the ground to the depth of three or four feet, and rendering vehicular and other traffic exceedingly laborious and difficult, the principal thoroughfares remaining for a considerable time impassable with any kind of conveyance. The Blanchland and Riding Mill messenger, being stopped with his mail cart, obtained an additional horse, and succeeded in paddling the journey for some days a mounted messenger, whilst the carrier to Hexham was prevented from travelling his bi-weekly journeys. Although some of the roads are now open others remain totally blocked. To the west and south-west of the village, the storm is of unusual severity in this direction as far as Park Head depots, a distance of six miles. Across the moor the road, from end to end, is a mountainous block, which all attempts to open, by a strong force of shovellers, have proved ineffectual, the successive blasts causing them to retreat and abandon their work, notwithstanding the anxiety to approach the station for the removal of long detained farm stores, as well as coal—the want of which is much felt. Many of the hillside farmers make doleful complaints of the unfortunate position they are in, large quantities of sheep being held in the snow at a considerable distance from their holdings, without a particle of food to get. Not a top of heather or vestige of grass can be seen, and the flocks have to depend entirely upon hard feeding—which is attended with extreme hardships to the owners and their shepherds, the hay being carried by themselves in bundles of a few stones each, it being impossible for horses to travel in the deep lying snow, which is not sufficiently frozen to bear them. In this way one farmer alone carries over 100 stones of hay to his sheep daily. Should the storm continue much longer, the hay being so rapidly consumed, there will be a serious outcry, as the scarcity of hay in the country is great. Other instances of the extreme severity of the winter are noticeable. Numbers of partridges are daily seen in the village—a most unusual thing—and several dead ones have been picked up, perished with hunger and starvation. The carcases of hares and rabbits also are met with in various districts. To the beasts of the field, birds of the air, and human being alike, the winter, in this part at least, is a most dreadful one.

FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

Fashion seems at a standstill as regards ordinary costumes or outdoor garments: the attention of ladies, also our leading modistes, seem entirely given over to the study of toilettes for evening wear or smart afternoon costumes. For ball dresses, fancy costumes have been the rule rather than the exception; while the rage for fancy costumes continue, very charming toilettes constantly appear. Some of the most in favour are easily followed, the suggestion of a few characters may be of use to our readers. "Grace Darling" is a costume suitable for quite little girls or grown-up young ladies, and can be carried out with little expense. The short skirt should be of red cashmere trimmed with black velvet, polonaise of blue serge tucked up and secured with red and blue bows, large gold anchor at the side, and wooden oar in the hand, sailor hat with striped ribbon, grey woollen stockings and shoes. Another costume, of an Indian woman, is also very picturesque, and easy to copy. The long full trousers of thin silk are drawn in at the ankle, and should be of some bright colour. The tunic may be of any printed material, either silk or cotton; the cloak, of silk, secured at the waist and thrown carelessly over the left shoulder. A sequin necklace, bangles on the arms, embroidered leather slippers, and basket of trinkets on the arm. "Queen of the Roses" is very easily carried out: the skirts, very full, should be of pale pink tulle, ornamented with garlands of roses, the low satin bodice edged with roses and buds closely set together, wreath of roses in the hair.

Nearly all ball dresses this season are made with low bodices, and flowers are profusely used as a garniture. Sleeves are merely an apology, simply a strap over the shoulder with small festoons of beads and lace, as may be fancied. For those ladies who do not affect low bodices there are one or two pretty styles, looking almost as dressy: for instance, with a lace dress, the bodice of satin could be cut low or square, and the lace carried up to the throat, and lace sleeves to the elbow over short satin ones. Again, with plush or satin bodices, the collar can meet in the centre, the bodice cut away from this point into a broad square bust; this is most becoming to slight figures. Tulle and net skirts are much affected by young girls. These are worn with satin or plush bodices, a sharp peaked basque both back and front, but only reaching the waist on the hips. Lace skirts are very general. The newest have panels of plush edged with pearls or iridescent beads, and made to be taken off and on at pleasure; this is very convenient when a change of colours is desired. A flight of small birds arranged on a panel, a corresponding flight, only smaller, for the bodice, is another pretty change on these lace toilettes.

Elderly ladies are wearing black lace skirts enlivened with jet or steel embroidered panels; the bodice in the cuirasse form, entirely jet, and outlined with large jet beads. The same style for a mourning toilette was embroidered with lead beads, with outline of cut jet beads; the skirt of grey satin, with black lace draperies.

Moiré is likely to gain favour for a time. At present it is only used for the panels of skirts or for plain petticoat and long flowing trains, which are again adopted for receptions, but are, of course, quite out of the question when dancing is intenhed.

Materials for walking dresses continue to be of the roughest description for ordinary wear, and made in the most simple style possible. Striped and plain materials are made up together, with this difference, that the stripes now go round the skirt, instead of down; and the same idea is carried out in the arrangement of trimmings. such as bands of plush, broad galoons and fancy braids, which now so frequently trim the under skirt; bands of astrachan are employed in the same way with excellent effect. A short jacket of the same material, and trimmed to correspond, makes a smart and inexpensive costume for young girls.

There is very little variety in the shape of hats or bonnets. Young ladies are wearing self-coloured felt hats, with high crowns, the only trimming being ribbon of the same colour set up in fans immediately in front. Similar shapes are covered with plush, and more elaborately trimmed. Small bonnets find most favour with ladies of all ages. They are in all cases close fitting to the head, with the small brim more or less open like a diadem or small coronet. Plush ribbon or purl-edged ribbon is used for strings, and a variety of small birds. A very inexpensive kind is now made in chenille in the brightest colours, and of most natural appearance.—*Mrs Leach's Practical Family Dressmaker.*

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."

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

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

Trade Notes.

Owing to the continued depression in the coal trade, the owners of Hamsteels Colliery have paid off 52 of their employés.

WAGES IN THE DURHAM COAL TRADE.—Messrs Monkhouse, Goddard, and Co., chartered accountants, have obtained and verified returns from the collieries in the Durham Coal Owners' Association, and certified that the net average selling price of coal for the three months of October, November, and December, 1885, was 4s 7·62d. per ton. The prevailing rate of wages will therefore remain unaltered.

THE LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS.—Mr Burt, M.P., has re-introduced his Employers' Liability Bill in its old form. This would prevent employers from contracting themselves out of the Act of 1880, but contracts already entered into would not be effected. Moreover, in determining any compensation, the court is directed to take into consideration the value of any payment made by the employer for the injured person, and also of any contribution paid by him to any insurance or compensation fund; and this is to be considered to the extent to which compensation has been actually received out of this payment or contribution. Where the amount claimed does not exceed £100, the action is not to be removed into a superior court except by consent. Some relaxation is also given to the stringency as to notice of an injury or of death, the Court being empowered to amend a notice or to dispense with it altogether. The court may act thus if it thinks it just, and if it appears that within the time limited for giving notice the employer or his agent or representative had knowledge of the occurrence of the accident and of the workman being injured, or that there was reasonable excuse for the defect or omission.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IRON TRADE ARBITRATION BOARD.

On Monday, the annual meeting of the Board of Arbitration for the North of England Iron Trade was held in the Central Buildings, Darlington. Mr W. Whitwell (chairman) presided, and Mr Cullen occupied the vice-chair. Besides the secretaries (Messrs Trow and Winpenny), there was a good attendance, Mr T. Siddell and Mr J. Heymer attended on behalf of the Consett Iron Company, and Messrs T. Williams (Consett), and Mr Nugent (Consett Tinmill), for the operatives.

Mr TROW read the annual report, which reviewed the proceedings of the year. The Standing Committee deplore the continued depression which prevails throughout all branches of the finished iron trade, whereby large numbers of operatives are altogether without, or are only obtaining partial employment. They would hope that the lowest point of the depression has been reached, and that at no distant date some improvement be manifested, and that there may again be full employment for the labour of the operative and the plant of the employer. Competition at the present time is most severe, and it behoves both workmen and capitalist to earnestly co-operate in reducing the cost of production, so that a full share of such orders as are from time to time given out may be secured for execution in the district in which the members of your Board are more particularly interested.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report, and alluded to the depression as remarked upon in the report, which called for their serious sympathy—he was going to say consideration, but he feared any consideration that the Board could give to it would not be of any avail. They deplored the depression, and only hoped that the time would soon arrive when the deterioration of prices and reduced production would cease. At the same time, he feared that there was no present better prospect for the future, and no rift presented in the clouds. The difficulty had been increased and the depression argumented by the strike of the shipbuilding operatives in the Tyne, Wear, and Tees. It was very deplorable that when things were so bad in the country and so little work to be got, that matters should be made worse between employers and operatives, and he would only express the hope that before long there would be in the shipbuilding trade an association something like that they had there which had been of such great advantage to the North of England. Although the operatives at one time, and the employers at another, had sometimes expressed dissatisfaction at the decisions of the arbitrators, there was no doubt that the Board had worked well and been of immense good, and they hoped it would continue to benefit the district in the future. The employers would do all they could to endeavour to share the small amount of work they had amongst the men, and so do the best they could under the circumstances.

The adoption of the report was duly seconded and, with the financial statement, was carried.

A vote of thanks was passed to Dr Watson for his services.

The president, vice-president, and officers were re-appointed for the year, and after some discussion the question on the plate-mill rollers was adjourned.

WOLSINGHAM PETTY SESSIONS.

TUESDAY, Jan. 5th.—Before C. J. BACKHOUSE, Esq., and C. ARNISON, Esq.

A TIPSY EXCURSIONIST.

William Humble, of Wolsingham, was charged by Sergt. Rispin with being drunk at Wolsingham Railway Station, on the 17th ult.—Mr Petty, stationmaster, said defendant was helplessly drunk.—Mr Wooler, for the defence, called several witnesses who swore that defendant was perfectly sober.—Rev G. P. Wilkinson said they all were aware how easy it was for a person to get drunk in a railway train. He alluded to those horrible things called "tots," and said these was a great amount of drinking in third-class carriages.—The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant 9s.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

James Brighton, Thomas Calvert, Joseph Curragh, George Parnaby, Ralph Humble, and *Thomas Nattrass* were charged with doing wilful damage to coke, the property of the Weardale Iron and Coal Company, at West Thornley.—Nattrass and Brighton were fined 6s, and the other defendants 5s each.

THEFT BY A GIRL: PAINFUL CASE.

Ruth Grant (15) was charged with stealing some underclothing, on the 72th inst., belonging to Thomas Peckie, of Tow Law. On Monday last week, Mrs Peckie took prisoner into her house, from which the girl disappeared two days afterwards.—Prisoner, who went freely, admitted the charge.—Mr Devey, for the defence, said the case was a sad one. Defendant, having an uncomfortable home, several persons had instructed him in the interests of the girl to look after the case, and ask the Bench to give defendant another chance, as she had hitherto borne an exemplary character. He asked for mercy, a friend having offered to take her in and educate her.—Mrs Peckie said she did not wish to press the case.—The Bench, reluctant to taint her with gaol associations, warned her against crime, and discharged her.

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

The Housewife for February contains an immense amount of information pertaining to home matters, and will amply repay a diligent perusal by females.

Mrs Leach's *Family Dressmaker* is to the front, as formerly, with intelligence regarding the fashions, and also with much excellent guidance concerning domestic matters generally.

Mr H. Nicholson, M.I.M.E.—under whose superintendence the pipes, &c., for the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks, Vyrnwy Supply, amounting to over 60,000 tons, have been manufactured—has been appointed chief superintendent of the ironwork required for the Thirlmere Aqueduct of the Manchester New Waterworks, for which extensive contracts have already been let.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Coughs, Influenza.—The soothing properties of these medicaments renders them well worthy of trial in all diseases of the lungs. In common colds and influenza the Pills taken internally and the Ointment rubbed externally are exceedingly efficacious. When influenza is epidemic this treatment is easiest, safest, and surest. Holloway's Pills and Ointment purify the blood, remove all obstructions to its free circulation through the lungs, relieve the overgorged air tubes, and render respiration free without reducing the strength, irritating the nerves, or depressing the spirits. Such are the ready means of saving suffering when afflicted with colds, coughs, bronchitis, and other complaints by which so many are seriously and permanently afflicted in most countries.

Business Announcements.

FOURTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

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

ESTABLISHED 1830.

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

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J. W. DAVISON,
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HAS ON SALE, CHEAP,
SEVERAL
THREE AND FOUR-LEAF SCREENS.

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CLEARANCE SALE IS NOW GOING ON PREVIOUS TO STOCK-TAKING.
ALL CLASSES OF GOODS WILL BE SOLD AT GREAT REDUCTION.

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

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

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

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

For further particulars regarding Passages, Land Laws, and Resources of the Colony, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL, & Co., 109, Leadenhall Street, London, and 12, Renfield Street, Glasgow; or to WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, Queensland Emigration Office, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; or to the Local Agent,
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529v Town Hall, Consett.

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FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.
☞ HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Milner's Dandelion and Podophyllyn Pills, excellent for the Stomach, and all diseases of the Liver.
Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture.
HOP BARK AND TONIC BITTERS IN 6d. PACKETS.
FINEST COD LIVER OIL. TASTELESS ITALIAN CASTOR OIL.
ORANGE QUININE WINE. QUININE AND IRON TONIC, &c.
CHOLERA AND DIARRHŒA MIXTURE, 1s. per Bottle.
MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON WINE MIXTURE, 1s. PER BOTTLE.
BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.
HAIR RESTORERS' PERFUMES, POMADES, TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.
SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.
TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.
Agent for Mr LAMONT'S Magnetic Belts, Chest Protectors, Knee Caps, &c., &c.
OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, AND CLEANING REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
MILNER, CHEMIST,
OPPOSITE THE POST-OFFICE CONSETT. 984u

VIOLIN.

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

JAMES NIXON, CARRIAGE PAINTER.

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

MAGIC ARIZONIC SOAP.
NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

OWING to the great increase of Business, the Proprietor has been compelled to REMOVE from RAGLAN STREET, to LARGER AND MORE COMMODIOUS PREMISES at
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

☞ Sole Agent for the Magic Washing Fluid.

MISS E. A. SLOANE
(Organist of St. Mary's, Blackhill),

HAVING recently finished Musical Studies under W. REA, Esq., R.A.M., Newcastle-on-Tyne, is now prepared to give LESSONS IN HARMONY, also on the PIANO, HARMONIUM, and ORGAN.
ADDRESS:—
POST OFFICE, BLACKHILL. 485v

Public Notices.

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

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF LEADGATE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

THE MONTHLY MEETING will be held on Saturday, February 6th, 1886, when a recommendation from the Committee to give Assistance to the South Medomsley Men will be considered.—By order,
629v J. GRAY, Secretary.

RICHARD GIBSON, DECEASED.

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

MICHAEL PATTERSON, Deceased.—Pursuant to the Statute 22nd and 23rd Vic., cap. 35, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that all Creditors and others having any Claims against the Estate of MICHAEL PATTERSON, late of 157, Bow Road, London, but formerly of 4, Bright Crescent, Edinburgh, Engineer (who died on the 16th day of December, 1885, and whose Will was proved by ANN PATTERSON, Widow of the deceased, on the 20th day of January, 1886), are, on or before the 10th day of March, 1886, to send in the particulars of such Claims to the undersigned Solicitor, and in default thereof the Executrix will proceed to administer the Assets of the said deceased, and will not be liable for such Assets, or any part thereof, so distributed to any person whose Claims she shall not have had notice.
Dated this 3rd day of February, 1886.
HENRY DOBELL, 9, Knightrider Street, Doctors' Commons, London, Solicitor for
669v the Executrix.

COUNTY PALATINE OF DURHAM.
CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ANIMALS ACT.
THE TEMPORARY SWINE FEVER DISTRICTS ORDER OF FEBRUARY, 1886 (No. 3369).

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

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

Public or Private Sales of Fat or Store Swine may be held without License in places free from disease, if the Swine be themselves also free from disease, and if each Animal has been for 28 days on the Farm or Premises where it is offered for Sale.
Dated this 28th January, 1886.
RALPH SIMEY,
651v Clerk of the Peace.

DURHAM BISHOPRIC ESTATES.

ALL those from whom small Freehold and Copyhold Rents, and Rents for the Allotments upon the Division of Commons, are due to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, are hereby informed that the COMMISSIONERS' AUDITS will be held at our Offices, 81, BONDGATE, Darlington, on MONDAY, the 1st of February; at the VANE ARMS HOTEL, Stockton-on-Tees, on WEDNESDAY, the 3rd; at the TALBOT HOTEL, Bishop Auckland, on THURSDAY, the 4th at MEW'S, in Stanhope, on FRIDAY, the 5th; at the KING'S ARMS INN, St. John's Chapel, on SATURDAY, the 6th; at the BLACK BULL INN, Wolsingham, on TUESDAY, the 9th; at GREENWELL'S, Hamsterley, on WEDNESDAY, the 10th; at MAUGHAN'S, in Evenwood, and LEE'S, in WEST AUCKLAND, on FRIDAY, the 12th; at the BLACK HORSE INN, West Boldon, on MONDAY, the 15th; at the QUEEN'S HEAD INN, Lanchester, on TUESDAY, the 16th; BURN'S LAMBTON ARMS, in Chester-le-Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 17th; at the CROSS INN, in Ryton, on THURSDAY, the 18th; and at the EXCHEQUER OFFICE, in Durham, on SATURDAY, the 20th of February, 1886, for the purpose of receiving the same: and it is particularly requested that all such Rents be paid on the day named for the respective districts.
SMITH & GORE,
Receivers to the said Commissioners,
16, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.,
656v And 81, Bondgate, Darlington.

Public Notices.

WILLIAM TEMPERLEY, Annfield Plain, and JOHN McLOUGHLAN, Catchgate, won the GEESE, raffled in aid of the South Medomsley men, now locked-out resisting tyranny. 652v

BANQUET TO COLONEL WILBRAHAM.

A PUBLIC BANQUET will be given, and an ADDRESS PRESENTED to COLONEL WILBRAHAM, on Wednesday, the 24th February next, in the New Town Hall, Consett.
Dinner will be served punctually at 6 o'clock p.m.
Tickets, 3s. each, may be had on application to
Mr. R. L. ARMSTRONG, 21, Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.
„ J. LAX, Shotley Bridge.
„ J. S. MURRAY, Blackhill.
„ GEO. FREEK, do.
„ ED. SLOANE, do.
„ WM. RAW, do.
„ WILLIAM SHELL, Consett.
„ JOHN W. DAVISON, do.
„ JOHN HARKNESS, do.
„ R. WINTER, Leadgate.
„ G. NICHOLSON, do.
„ W. ELTRINGHAM, Catchgate.
Dr. MANTLE, Stanley.
Mr. ROBERT REED, Lintz Colliery.
„ WILLIAM WELSH, South Moor.
„ RALPH WALTON, Lanchester.
„ HENRY HORNSBY, Hamsteels Colliery.
„ ROBERT MOFFITT, Medomsley.
Or the Honorary Secretaries.
An early application for Tickets is desired, as the number will be limited to the accommodation.
GEORGE J. CHRISTOPHER, Consett,
J. J. THOMPSON, Lanchester,
623v Honorary Secretaries.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

PERSONS desiring to join this Association may do so on application to the Secretary of any of the Polling Districts as follows:—
Benfieldside—Mr. JOSEPH ELTRINGHAM, Blackhill.
Burnopfield—Mr. B. MASON, The Hobson.
Castleside—Mr. THOMAS DUCKWORTH, Castleside.
Catchgate—Mr. R. TINDALE, South Pontop.
Consett—Mr. C. ROUTLEDGE, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.
Cornsay—Mr. EDWARD HANDY, Cornsay Colliery, or Mr. J. W. COOK, East Hedleyhope.
Dipton—Mr. J. W. TAYLOR, Wesley Terrace, Dipton.
Edmondbyers—Mr. HENRY BELL, Edmondbyers, or Mr. WM. PEARS, Jeffrie's Rake.
Stanley and Holmside—Mr. WM. INDIAN, West Stanley.
Lanchester—Mr. HENRY DIXON, Lanchester.
Langley Park—Mr. JOHN CLARK, Esh Road, Langley Park.
Leadgate—Mr. THOMAS HALL, East Castle Colliery, or Mr. THOMAS BARRON, Leadgate.
Medomsley—Mr. WILSON CLAYTON, Allendale Cottages.
Ushaw and Quebec—Mr. ERNEST FOSTER, Esh Winning.
Satley—Mr. ROBERT HEDLEY, Satley Villa.
Tanfield.—Mr. WILLIAM BULMER, Tanfield Lea.
West Kyo—Mr. J. W. MACKAY, Catchgate.
White-le-Head—Mr. WILLIAM HARDY, White-le-Head, or to
ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Town Hall, Consett, Secretary and Registration Agent. 676v

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Sale of Book Debts.
Re John Jenkins, late of Trafalgar Street, Consett, in the County of Durham, Auctioneer and Furniture Dealer, deceased.

MR. ADAM BRODIE is instructed by the Executors of the above-named deceased, to offer for SALE BY AUCTION, in his Office, Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, February 10th, 1886, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon, the whole of the current going BOOK DEBTS belonging the Estate, and amounting to £112 19s. 11d. or thereabouts.

Schedules of the Debts may be seen, and further particulars had, on application to the Auctioneer, at his Office, Town Hall, Consett. 668v

Important Sale of Shop Fixtures and Fittings.
Re D. Bain & Co., of No. 4, Middle Street, Consett, in Bankruptcy.

MR. ADAM BRODIE is instructed by J. M. WINTER, Esq., Trustee of the above Estate, to SELL BY AUCTION, without reserve, on the Premises, No. 4, Middle Street, Consett, the whole of the SHOP AND SHOW ROOM FIXTURES AND FITTINGS, including Excellent Mahogany and other Counters, with Panelled Fronts, from 11 to 20 feet in length; Shelving; Moveable Office; Counter Desk; Superior Gas Bars and other Fittings; Writing Table, with Drawers complete; New Fire-proof Safe, by Philips; Copying Press; 4 Japanned Sample Cases; 100 Feet of Brass Rods and Brackets, for Windows; 2 Umbrella Stands; 2 Pairs of Steps; 8 Austrian Bent Wood Chairs; Window Fittings, and other Effects.
Date of Sale and full particulars in Posters.
The attention of Drapers, Grocers, and others is especially directed to this Sale, as the whole of the lots are nearly new, and in excellent order. 667v

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

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

16, Oxhill.—Saturday, February 6th, 1886.
MR. A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr. JAS. LUMLEY, who is Emigrating to Australia, will SELL BY AUCTION, as above, all his Valuable Mahogany Household FURNITURE, comprising—2 Chests of Mahogany Drawers; Mahogany Bookcase; Mahogany French Bedstead; Half-Tester do; Down Beds; Carpet; 6 Mahogany Chairs; Splendid Kitchen Fender, Steel Top, on Pillars, &c.; Patent Wringer; and a host of other lots. See Bills.
Sale to begin at One o'clock.
N.B.—Furniture, &c., up to the mark, and well worthy of Public attention. 646v

Wood Houses, Dipton.—Saturday, February 13th, 1886.
MR. A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr. PARKER, who is Emigrating to Australia, will SELL BY AUCTION, as above, all his Valuable Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS. See Bills.
Sale to begin at Half-past One o'clock. 653v

CHEAP EMIGRATION.

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

Liverpool to America, £3 16s. and £4, by the best Lines.
To Australian Colonies at the Lowest Rates.
For reliable information, apply to
269u A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer. Dipton.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

WEEKLY SALE, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 1886. Present Entries—
18 Dairy Cows and Heifers.
5 Geld Cows.
12 Prime Fat Cattle.
110 Fat Sheep, including 60 prime H.B. Hoggs.
Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs, &c.
Cob Horse, 6 years old, 15 hands, quiet to ride and drive.
Whitechapel, and Set of Silver-mounted Harness, nearly new.
1 Ton of Old-land Hay.
2 Tons of Wheat Straw.
1 Ton of Myer's Royal Cattle Spice.
New Shovels, Gripes, &c.
Entries to day of Sale.
Sale at 12-30.
Trucks at Station.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Grove Villa, Tow Law. 670v

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.
Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

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

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. Joseph Oley.

No. 11, St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside.
Important Sale of Modern Household Furniture.

MR. JOSEPH OLEY, instructed by Mrs. R. SMITH, who is declining Housekeeping, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the above Residence, on Monday, February 8th, 1886, her very Valuable and Elegant HOUSE FURNISHINGS, and other EFFECTS, viz:—

SITTING-ROOM.—Handsome Suite, in Walnut and Crimson Plush, including Sofa, 6 Single Chairs, Lady's Chair, Gentleman's Chair, Oval Centre Table (Inlaid), What-not, and Lady's Work Table; Ornamental Pier Glass, with Pannels and Side Brackets, in Black and Gold Frame; Splendid Open Brass Fender and Resters for Tile Hearth, and Fireirons to Match; Coal Waggon, with Brass Scoop and Mountings; Brussels Carpet, 30 yards; Wool Skin Mat; Wool Skin Hearthrug; 4 Pairs of Lace Window Shades; 4 do. Blinds; 5 Pictures, in Massive Gilt Frames; Majolica Flower Stand, &c.

No. 1 BED-ROOM.—Ash Bed-room Suite, consisting of Single Wardrobe, with Plate Glass in Front; Dressing Table and Swing Mirror affixed; Wash-stand to match, with Marble Slab and Tile Back; 4 Single Chairs; Pedestal; and Cornice Pole and Rings; Set of Chamber Ware; Metal Fender Magnificent Iron and Brass French Bedstead; Quilted Head and Straw Mattress; Tapestry Carpet, 25 yds.

No. 2 BED-ROOM.—Splendid Half-Tester Iron Bedstead, Brass-mounted, with Cretonne Canopy and Hangings; Elegant Wash-stand and Dressing Table, in Painted Maple, and Flowered String Work; and Oval Swing Glass; 3 Single Cane Chairs; Folding Chair to match; Towel Rail; Set of Chamber Ware; Slop Pail; Cornice Pole and Rings; and Small Fender; Tapestry Carpet, 18 yards.

PASSAGE AND ATTICS.—Large Mahogany Press; Hat Rack and Umbrella Stand; Mahogany Cornice Pole and Rings; 14 yards of Brussels Stair Carpet; 17 Brass Stair Rods and Eyes; 4 Cocoa Nut Mats; 3 Woollen do., and Passage Oilcloth.

KITCHEN.—Kitchen Table, with Drawers; 2 Large Snap Tables, on Pillars; Ash Couch, in American Leather; 3 Single Chairs and Rocking Chair to match; High-back Arm Chair; Smoking Chair; Stool; Eight-days' Clock; Strong Kitchen Fender and Fireirons; Beautiful Sewing Machine, by Taylor; Linoleum, 14ft. by 12ft., and Hearthrug.

SCULLERY AND PANTRY.—Kitchen Table, with Drawer; Patent Wringer and Mangle; Poss-tub and Staff; Clothes Horse; Coal Scuttle and Dust Pan; Foot Bath; a number of Pans and Cooking Utensils; Box and Flat Irons; Kettle; Bake Board; Carpet and other Brushes; 2 Trays; Gasogene; Garden Tools; and a great variety of Dinner, Tea and Glass Ware.

Sale to commence at One o'clock in the Afternoon precisely.

The above Furniture is all new, of chaste design and good workmanship, and has been but a short time in use.
Wood Street, Shotley Bridge. 627v

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

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 1886.
18 Prime Fat Cattle.
125 Fat Sheep.
8 Cows.
2 Veal Calves.
Finger Calves, Pigs, Poultry, &c.
2 Tons of Well-won Old-land Hay.
20 Sacks of Bran.
1 Handsome Pony Trap, vaanished, no worse than new.
1 Butcher's Cart, with top, &c., complete.
1 Powerful Sausage-chopping Machine.
1 Light Whitechapel.
A Quantity of Horse Sheets.
Whips, Harness, Hams, Bacon, &c.
Sale at One o'clock.
674v NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

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

By Mr. March.

Lintz Colliery.
MR. MARCH has received instructions from the Owners, to SELL BY AUCTION, at the Low Lintz Farm, near Lintz Green Station, on Wednesday, February 10th, 1886, the HORSES and PONIES working at the said Colliery, on account of it being laid in, comprising—
Brown Horse, "Major," 9 years old, about 16h. 3in. high.
Brown Horse, "Nelson," 11 years old, about 15h. 2in. high.
Bay Horse, "Star," 8 years old, about 14h. 3in. high.
Black Horse, "Sultan," 9 years old, 13h 3in. high
Bay Horse, "Star," 8 years old, about 13h. 2in. high.
Black Horse, "Doctor," 9 years old, about 12h. high.
Chestnut Horse, "Lion," 8 years old, about 13h. high.
Brown Horse, "Squire," 8 years old, about 12h. high.
Chestnut Horse, "Paddy," 10 years old about 11h. 3in. high.
Brown Horse, "Billy," 10 years old, about 11h. 1in. high.
Black Horse, "Rattler," 9 years old, about 11h. 8in. high.
Bay Horse, "Punch," 12 years old, about 11h. high.
Black Horse, "Smoker," 4 years old, about 12h. high.
Black Horse, "Bobby," 10 years old, about 11h. high.
Brown Horse, "Bob," 6 years old, about 12h. high.
Bay Mare, "Bessy," 4 years old, about 12h. high.
This Pony has been used with Children.
The above Horses and Ponies are all quiet, good workers, and in good working condition.
Sale at Half-past One p.m.
Houghton-by-Wylam, February 2nd, 1886. 660v

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

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket.
The Oldest Established in the City.
SALES BY AUCTION OF HORSES, CARRIAGES, and SADDLERY, EVERY TUESDAY, at Two o'clock.
Entries respectfully Solicited.
A. T. CROW, Auctioneer.
JOHN PEEL, Proprietor.

Business Announcements.

SAFETY BICYCLES! SAFETY BICYCLES!!

THE Latest Novelty in Safety Bicycles is the—"NORTHERN,"
Manufactured by the NORTH OF ENGLAND BICYCLE Co., 44, High Bridge, Newcastle. Send for Price List FREE. Second-hand Bicycles from £2 0s. 0d.

We are Clearing out our present Stock to make room for our New "Northern" Bicycles and Humber Pattern Tandem and Crypto Tricycles. 416v

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.
Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed periods.
428u ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

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.

Business Announcements.

SKIL-BECK.
(RUN)
FOR DRUGS, PATENT MEDICINES, TOILET ARTICLES, PERFUMES, SOAPS, HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, & all FAMILY REQUISITES, at *Startling Reductions.* See Windows and Prices. A Special Consignment of Pure Honey, 7d. per pound.
84, CLAYTON STREET, NEWCASTLE. 637v

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Businessin the North of England.
Established 1780.
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET),
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold & Silver GUARDS, ALBERTS, &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.
MR. T. C. CAMPBELL
SURGEON DENTIST,
8, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE.
☞ ARTIFICIAL TEETH AT REASONABLE PRICES.
COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET
From 30s. to £4 10s.
PARTIAL SETS OR SINGLE TEETH
From 3s. to 10s. per Tooth.
Every Set is adapted to the mouth on the most improved principles, without extraction of Stumps or other painful operation, guaranteed to fit perfectly and warranted.
Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrou Oxide Gas.
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

DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES.
"ROBERTS,"
NEW BRIDGE STREET, AND
97, CLAYTON STREET,
NEWCASTLE.
DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES. 373v

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

"A PIT LAD."—Your long letter respecting the South Medomsley dispute will be published next week.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 1886.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

According to announcement the annual general meeting of the Shotley Bridge Floral and Horticultural Society will be held in the Temperance Hall, to-morrow (Saturday) night. The Committee are to be congratulated on the success attendant on the efforts put forth during the past year. Not a few popular concerns have found the balance on the wrong side of the books in these times; but happily better fortune follows the working of this flourishing association in the valley. There can be no doubt but modern flower shows have done much to encourage the higher cultivation of flowers; and among the inexhaustible treasures in the vast domain of nature there are certainly few objects so well calculated to delight the senses. Most people love flowers, and in every age and clime they have been indissolubly associated with the celebrations and festivities of the nations. It is well to promote a love for "the stars of earth," as the poets have, not inaptly, termed the flowers. Every man cannot command "three acres and a cow," even in these days of rosey expectations; but the very poorest may invest a few coppers in the cultivation of flowers. Our Shotley Bridge friends did a good stroke of business last year by bringing out the military, and having done so well it is not improbable that the deliberations to-morrow evening may turn on the desirability of repeating the programme.

These stormy days have afforded me a new, and to me, very entertaining source of pleasure. Life is made up of that sort of thing you know, my reader, and men and women have followed the phantom—for it often turns out such—in all generations. I do not suppose that pleasure is to be found in any one of its manifold forms without alloy, for, as the saying goes, there is no rose without the proverbial thorn. It will be seen, however, that the thorn in my latest case is not a very prickly one. The circumstances are as follows: I have latterly devoted about half-a-minute every morning to feeding a few hungry sparrows; and while the nimble little fellows have no doubt been the chief gainers by the arrangement, I have in turn had my share of satisfaction, although my new-found friends fell somewhat in my estimation when I learned that they were actually so evil disposed that they could not partake of a free breakfast without winding up with a free fight. They looked like veritable objects of pity as they hopped about in quest of a crumb for break fast; but a closer acquaintance revealed the fact, that they are both pugnacious and thievish. I have endeavoured to reform them, and have partially succeeded on the same lines that a large section of temperance advocates proposed doing with their weaker fellows—removing the evil. I found that in the case of my sparrows, the main cause of intemperance—for what is greed and disputations culminating in fisticuffs but intemperance!—was owing to the large crumbs with which I supplied them. Some sparrow with a stock of more impudence than his fellows essayed to carry hence a piece as large as his body, and his incensed companions interposing to prevent the thief, there was a scene. I put a stop to this little game by cutting the bread into small pieces, for it is a good thing to preserve the peace—even amongst sparrows.

Have the members of the Consett and District Parliamentary Debating Society gone into the *pros* and the *cons* of the Bachelors' Relief Bill, or has the question been again postponed till the return of warmer weather? There are not many bachelors in the House, nor in the district, although the time was when Consett boasted a bachelor's association of some sort; and there are those in the neighbourhood who remember the time when the single gentlemen observed an annual gala day, on which occasion they repaired to the country and danced, like Robin Hood, under the greenwood tree. The district bachelors lead more prosaic lives now-a-days, and rarely indulge in what has been termed "close bossomed whirlings." It is said that not a few really sensible fellows are bachelors, simply because they cannot obtain possession of that particular fair one their souls long for. That may be; but in most instances it will be found that the love-sick swain never put his fate to the test. Did every bachelor care to tell his story, there would be no lack of parallels to Tennyson's "Edward Grey":—

"Shy she was, and I thought her cold,
Thought her proud, and fled over the sea;
Filled I was with folly and spite,
When Ellen Adair was dying for me."

Should any of my bachelor friends at any time find themselves in such a dilemma, I would advise them to make themselves understood, for as Shakespeare has it—

"Our doubts are traitors,
And make us lose the good we oft might win,
By fearing to attempt."

The dispute at South Medomsley is still rampant, but funds seem to be flowing in pretty freely; and the men and their families ought not to be suffering very much, at least not so much as people in similar circumstances have often to submit to. I am not in a position to express an opinion on the merits of the case, because there is always two ways of telling a story. I may say, however, without fear of contradiction, that if any man, more than another, deserves to be well remunerated for his labour, it is the coal-hewer. I do not think that the veriest miser would grudge to pay a good price for his coals were he sure that the miner pocketed a fair share of the profits. The influence arising from these social and industrial jars are baneful; and it would do one good to learn that this disagreeable affair was settled.

There is still no change for good in the strike among the shipyard men; and the contending parties show little disposition to come together. Private councils among the masters, and mass meetings among the men have borne no good fruit; and both agencies have been at work during the present week. The men seem determined to resist the reduction; and although the masters are less demonstrative, deeds are as expressive as words. In some yards hardly a single official or man of charge is left; and men who have been in permanent situations for years now find themselves paid off, or suspended, which is much about the same thing. This portends evil, for did employers not mean to make a long stand they would never go the length of parting with men who have served them faithfully and long. But for the current trade depression, the masters would not, of course, have been in a position to make so determined a stand; but the ball is at their feet, and it looks as if they meant to kick it.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

The directors of the North-Eastern Banking Company (Limited) recommend the payment of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of £5 8s 4d per centum per annum.

On Monday morning, as Mr Jos. Allison, Consett, was proceeding to Medomsley with a horse and cart, they became imbeded in the snow and had to be dug out.

THE DISTRESS IN THE IRON TRADE.—We have pleasure in intimating that the Executive Council of the Malleable Ironworkers' Association have resolved to continue the grant of 7s 6d to each member out of employment.

CONSETT SPANISH ORE COMPANY, LIMITED.—The directors of the Consett Spanish Ore Company, Limited, have resolved to pay an interim of 4s per share on the 15th inst., to the members registered in the company's books on the 5th inst.

CONSETT WATER COMPANY.—The directors of the Consett Water Company recommend a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. The Company are now actively engaged in laying pipes for the supply of water to Chester-le-Street and Chester Moor. Mr J. Goldsborough, Chester-le-Street, has obtained the contract, and a commencement has been made.

READING AND RECREATION ROOMS.—The election of 12 committee-men took place by ballot on Saturday night, under the presidency of the Rev F. Steggall, and resulted as under:—Messrs Wm. Aynsley, 24 votes; J. Oliver, 33; R. J. Brodie, 32; J. Pescod, 31; Jos. Murray, 29; Wm. Almond, 28; N. Elsdon, 28; R. Foster, 28; John Laidler, 25; T. W. Welford, 24; C. W. Almond, 22; and M. Brodie, 21.

WESLEYAN HOME MISSIONS.—Last (Thursday) evening, a public meeting, in support of the above, was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Consett. Mr Jesse Hall presided. Rev W. Booth (York) attended as deputation from the Parent Society; and the meeting was addressed by the Revs H. Parkes (Consett), W. Douglas (Shotley Bridge), and other gentlemen.—The report presented by Mr Douglas showed the income, ending at Conference of 1885, was £37,788 2s. The expenditure had been £37,901 13s 10d—a deficiency on the year of £113 11s 10d. The total balance due to the treasurers, on the current account, is £480 18s 3d. The juvenile associations sent a portion of the sums collected by them to the Foreign Missionary Society. They had this year sent more than £6,500 to the Home Mission Fund.—A collection was made at the close.

BAND OF HOPE ENTERTAINMENT.—The members of the Wesleyan Band of Hope held their monthly meeting in the Nelson Street School-room, Consett, on Saturday night. Mr F. Jones ably filled the chair, and there was a capital programme gone through. The Band of Hope choir was in attendance and, as usual, rendered some glees in splendid style. The songs given by Misses Spencer and Harwood were much appreciated. The pleasure of the meeting was also much enhanced by readings given by Messrs W. Foster and J. R. Maxwell. During the evening, Mr Robert Brown, Consett, delivered a stirring address on "The evils of intemperance," and he also condemned smoking in strong terms.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.—At the last sitting of the House, Mr J. G. Redmayne, York (Treasurer and Foreign Secretary in the last Parliament), gave notice of the following motion:—"That this House congratulate the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone on his return to office, and looks to him with unabated confidence for the solution of the Irish difficulty."—This motion being in effect a vote of censure on the Conservative Government will take precedence as such, and come on at the next sitting of this House. We understand the division is likely to be very close.—At the same sitting, the special debate took place respecting the "Taxation of Bachelors," the proceeds being in aid of the relief of the distress in the town.—A lively and amusing discussion ensued.

BLACKHILL.

BENFIELDSIDE STATION AUCTION MART.—Messrs Nicholson and Murray had a larger consignment of stock than usual, and despite the heavy storm, there was a large attendance of both buyers and vendors. Fat cattle, which numbered 27, were sold from £9 10s to £18 2s 6d. 178 sheep sold from 22s 6d to 50s 6d. Cows, £7 7s 6d to £19 5s. Hay, £4 per ton. Swede turnips, 27s. Hams, 5d per lb. Trade was considered good in all classes.

FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 370TH STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.—The thirtieth appropriation of this society took place on Monday evening, Jan. 25th, in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill. Mr M. Noble having been voted to the chair, Messrs J. J. Allan and R. Smailes were elected scrutineers, and a boy selected to draw the ballot balls. Register number 486 was drawn, owned by Mr J. T. Henderson, Watling Street, Leadgate, who, holding two shares, becomes entitled to an advance of £280, free of interest, for 12½ years.

LANCHESTER.

In consequence of workmen being engaged in improving the heating apparatus in the Police Court Buildings, the usual Petty Sessions at Lanchester took place yesterday (Thursday) in the Guardians' Board-room at the Workhouse.

Mr Thomas Gee (son of the late Richard Hill Gee, of The Lodge, Lanchester), of Tynemouth, who served his articles of clerkship with Mr Geo. Armstrong, solicitor, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Messrs Pattison, Wigg, and Co., of 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., has successfully passed the final examination of the Incorporated Law Society, held on the 12th and 13th ult., previous to being admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature. 667v

BURNOPFIELD.

An outbreak of sheep scab has been reported on the farm of Mr Matthew Adamson, butcher and farmer, Middle Friarside, near Burnopfield. A flock of 22 contains several infected animals.

In our list of the officers elected on the Divisional Liberal Council for the Burnopfield Polling District, an error occurred owing to the transposition of three names. Mr Watson is the chairman of the district; Mr H. C. Wood, vice-chairman; and Mr Mason secretary.

TOW LAW.

A stirring temperance lecture was given on Monday night in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Tow Law, by Mr J. Wrathall, deputation from the Grand Lodge of England I.O.G.T. Mr G. Watson presided.

LOCAL BOARD.—The Tow Law Local Board held their monthly meeting on Tuesday night.—Neither Mr Hillary (surveyor) nor Mr W. Garraway (inspector) had any report, on account of the snowstorm.—The monthly accounts were passed, and it was agreed to plant some trees round the cemetery.—Some disputed gas accounts were under consideration.

AUCTION MART.—The ordinary weekly sale was held at Tow Law, on Monday. There were forward and sold—22 cows, £10 10s to £22 15s; calving heifers, £10 2s 6d to £12; 16 fat cattle, £14 2s 6d to £20 10s; 60 fat sheep, 25s to 48s 3d; 40 store cattle, £5 10s to £10 12s 6d. Also calves, young pigs, old land hay, blocks, shovels, gripes, backbands, &c. Notwithstanding the railway northward being blocked and several of the roads being almost impassable, a good company assembled, and the tone of the bidding indicated a slight improvement in prices. Consignments by rail were again unable to reach the mart, owing to the storm on Sunday evening blocking up the railway. Traffic westward did not get opened out until Wednesday evening.

PRESENTATION TO MR J. W. SCHOFIELD.—A crowded meeting was held on Saturday night in the Mechanics' Hall, Tow Law, for the purpose of presenting testimonials to Mr J. W. Schofield, late head-master of the Wesleyan Schools. Rev E. Blair-Allen (Presbyterian minister), on behalf of the scholars and junior teachers of the school, presented Mr Schofield with a valuable art table, and Mrs Schofield with a satchel and workbox. On behalf of the "Beacon of Hope" Lodge of Good Templars, of which Mr Schofield is a member, the Rev T. C. Hughes (curate) presented a beautiful illuminated album in a very appropriate speech. The evening was made very enjoyable by the efforts of Messrs Hughes, Ayton, Dobson, Raine, Robinson, and Miss Hepple, who provided an excellent programme of songs, recitations, and music, and the large meeting was very enthusiastic throughout. Mr J. Wrathall, of Barrow-in-Furness, gave an address. The chair was occupied by the Rev R. Gillender.

SWALWELL.

FAREWELL TEA AND PRESENTATION.—On Saturday evening, a farewell tea and presentation were given to the Rev Wm. Fairweather, who is leaving Swalwell (where he has laboured successfully for five years) for Marytoun. Mr J. Gilchrist, chairman of the Whickham School Board, presided.—The Chairman, Rev R. Stewart, M.A., and Mr J. Davidson having testified to Mr Fairweather's genial disposition and ability, Mr W. Spears, in the name of the subscribers, presented the rev. gentleman with a purse of gold, and expressed the great sorrow that they felt in parting with him. He had endeared himself by many ties to the people of Swalwell district during his sojourn amongst them, and they revered and honoured him as a man, and trusted him as a friend. He ever took an active interest in education, temperance, and other movements which had for their aim the amelioration and improvement of the people, and they wished him and his wife and family every blessing.—Mr Fairweather suitably replied.—On Sunday, Mr Fairweather preached his farewell sermons to crowded audiences.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

ACCIDENT TO A BOY.—On Thursday in last week, a number of boys in their teens were thoroughly amusing themselves by building a show house at Clavering Place, the structure being from six to eight feet high. One of the boys, whose name is John Hetherington, aged 13, was inside giving the house what he considered the "finishing touch," and while in the act the snow building fell in upon him, and broke his thigh bone. His parents had the injured limb attended to immediately, and the boy is doing well.

SOUTH MOOR.

PRESENTATION TO MR EDWARD WILKINSON.—On Saturday evening, there was a large gathering at the house of Mr Dixon, South Moor, to present Mr Edward H. Wilkinson with a small testimonial on the occasion of his leaving Newacres Farm to take the management of the Ouston Colliery Farm. Mr James Low occupied the chair, and Mr Nicholas Willis the vice-chair. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been duly honoured, Mr Joseph Gray, manager of South Moor Colliery, proceeded to present Mr Wilkinson with a splendid address, gold watch and albert, gold scarf pin, and a meerschaum pipe (from the establishment of Mr J. D. Caris, Gateshead). Mr Gray, having known the recipient of these tokens of good-will since he was a boy, made the presentation in very appropriate and feeling terms. Mr Wilkinson (who deeply felt the kindness shown him) having replied in suitable terms, the remainder of the evening was spent in a harmonious manner.

WOLSINGHAM.

Wolsingham Polytechnic Exhibition is proving almost locally unprecedented success, and will remain open to the end of next week.

POLICE ITEMS.—The following minor cases were disposed of at Wolsingham, on Tuesday—before Rev G. P. Wilkinson and C. J. Backhouse, Esq.—*Dayman Patterson*, cartman, for drunkenness at Tow Law, 2nd ult., was fined 7s 6d including costs.—*Peter Dowd*, miner, drunk at Tow Law, 16th ult.—Fined 7s 6d including costs.—*Thomas Armstrong*, miner, drunk at Tow Law, 24th ult.—Fined 7s 6d including costs.—*Emerson Allen*, miner, drunk at Tow Law, 23rd ult.—Fined 8s 6d including costs.—*Martin Murphy*, labourer at the steel works, drunk and disorderly at Wolsingham, 24th ult.—Fined 7s 6d including costs.—*John Thomas Robson* and *James Spence*, miners, charged with committing a breach of the peace by fighting at Tow Law, 25th December, were each bound over for three months, and pay costs.—*Robert Manless* and *John Wilson*, miners, were charged by P.C. Colling with setting fireworks off on the highway at Tow Law, on the 5th November last.—Dismissed with a caution.

GREENSIDE.

STEALING FOR A LARK.—At Gateshead County Police Court, on Tuesday, *Robert Eltringham* was charged with stealing 17lbs. of beef, the property of Edward March, butcher, Greenside.—On Saturday last prosecutor was out with his cart, and in the afternoon he went into the Fox and Hounds public-house, leaving his cart standing at the door. When he came out he missed the beef, and complained to the police-officer, who went along with him to the prisoner's house, where they recovered the beef.—Prisoner's version of the case was that he merely stole the beef for a lark. Previous to taking the meat, he and the prosecutor were in the bar of the public-house, and had a class or two each, and when he came outside he took the beef from the cart, intending to return it when the butcher came past his house.—A policeman stated that when he charged him with the offence he denied taking the meat, but afterwards admitted it.—Prisoner was under the influence of drink at the time.—Fined 10s and costs.

LEADGATE.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—A meeting of the members of Leadgate Co-operative Society is to be held on Saturday evening first (6th inst., and not 26th inst. as stated in advertisement last week), to consider a recommendation from the committee to give assistance to the South Medomsley miners.

ENTERTAINMENT.—A highly-successfully entertainment was given by the members of the Annfield Plain Primitive Methodist Sunday-school Band of Hope in the School-room, Leadgate, on Saturday night. The meeting was ably presided over by Mr D. Reid, of Leadgate. The programme consisted of melodies, songs, recitations, speeches, and dialogues, which were given by Messrs Iceton, J. Mordue, Henry Herdman, J. Dunn, J. Bainbridge, T. and R. Pearson, P. Reay. Mr Robinson presided at the harmonium. It would be invidious to select for special praise any single member of such an efficient band, suffice it to say that several of the pieces were *encored*, and all were gone through in a manner reflective of credit to each member, and their able conductor, Mr Thos. Pearson. The meeting terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

WEST STANLEY

FREE METHODISM.—The Rev T. B. Saul, of Gateshead preached in the United Methodist Free Church, on Sunday, and also lectured on Monday evening, on "Palissy, the Potter; or The Struggles and Triumphs of a Working Man." The chair was occupied by the Rev J. Waite, minister.

BEAMISH BRANCH.—C.E.T.S.—Although the success of a society or meeting is not always to be gauged by the length of the member's roll, or the numbers attending the meeting, yet in estimating that success these are not unimportant elements. The Beamish C.E.T.S. is just now exhibiting some significant indications of an inherent vitality, of a kind very encouraging to all who have the Society's interests at heart. Anticipating the budding of plant life, and the spring of the year, whilst yet the winter storms do howl, and earth lies slumbering in her down-like snowy bed, this vitality is springing forth afresh in a new vigorous, hearty, and harmonious co-operation of the committee with the choir to effect the objects of the society in the work of temperance reformation. Monday evening saw the Stanley School-room well filled, to listen to a programme which called forth an unbroken series of hearty, and at times, of quite boisterous expressions of appreciation. After the usual opening, Mr J. Robson caused much merriment by reading "Betty's experiences with a telephone." Mr J. Simpson succeeded with a pathetic song, entitled "I have no mother now." Miss M. Gibson then emphasised the terrible evils of drink by reciting "The three bars," a story of the way in which the public-house bar led a man whilst under the influence of liquor, to murder his wife. This resulted in his being brought to the bar of an earthly judge, but only to be transferred in his condemnation and execution to the more awful Bar of the Judge of all men. The choir next sang in stirring strains "Vote it out," after which the Curate gave another of his addresses on "Alcohol: its value, and physical effects." Here came the piece of the evening in a dialogue, "Muddles at home make husband's roam," which was listened to with closest attention. This dialogue shews in a striking manner the great influence a wife may exert by habits of tidiness and orderliness in making home attractive to her husband. The performers in it played their parts remarkably well. Mr Lily then kept the the risible organs of the audience in constant exercise while he read "Hamilton's hair restorer." Next followed a trio by Messrs J. W. Kelly, R. Grundy, and J Robson, "While topers must keep drinking," which was so well applauded that it might—without great stretch of the imagination—have been mistaken for an *encore*. And now to close the programme, the vicar, the Rev J. Crennell, gave a reading, which may be described as holding that place, and fulfilling that purpose which, in a feast is usually assigned to, and accomplished by plum pudding. The piece was, entitled "A leap-year's wooing," and it very wittily and humourously describes the experiences of a young woman-scorning philosopher. wounded by Cupid's shaft, yet too bashful to make the final plunge, and how he was helped out of his difficulties by the happy license conferred on the fair sex by leap-year, in the matter of matrimonial proposals. The meeting was then closed, when six new pledges were taken. The improvement in the choir is matter for special congratulation.—On Saturday last, Mr Robert Lumley, of Oxhill, shewed his appreciated of the valuable work of the choir, by generously giving them a most substantial supper at his own house. About 31 members were present, and after feasting on their host's bountiful provision, they passed the rest of the evening in a concert, extemporised it is true, but none the less enjoyed on that account. And after an evening well and pleasanly spent, the party repaired to their homes, we trust, with the bonds of mutual friendship more closely cemented, and with a more earnest determination to throw themselves heart and soul into this truly Christian work.

MARLEY HILL.

THE LATE MR. JOHN BOWES.—A movement has been originated to connect a memorial to the late John Bowes, Esq., with St. Cuthbert's Church, Marley Hill, which is situated on the Gibside estate, and to the erection of which, as a late partner in the Marley Hill Coal Company, he so munificently contributed. The church is a very plain edifice, and having been originally designed as a mission church, no sufficient parish vestry was built. It is proposed, therefore, to build a Bowes Memorial Vestry, and to beautify the interior of the church, and thus make it more worthy of the worship of God. The appeal for subscriptions is signed by the Rev. S. White, vicar, and Mr. J. Gilchrist and Mr T. Eltringham, churchwardens, Marley Hill.

WEARDALE.

IRONSTONE.—The sub-contractors employed by the Weardale Iron Company have been informed that at Wearhead Pasture their services will not be required until probably the end of March, when, if a speedy change in the weather takes place, the Company hope to be able to again resume operations. This news will be gratifying to the large number of men engaged in the transit of the mineral to the depôts at Westgate, it being evident that the stop is only temporary.

WEST PELTON.

A concert of vocal and instrumental music took place on Saturday night at Waldridge Fell, by the Primitive Methodist choir and string band, of West Pelton. The place was crowded. Mr. Wm. Cummings, conducted, Mr. W. Simpson, accompanied, and Mr. John Simpson presided.

GRANGE VILLA AND WEST PELTON PRIMITIVE METHODIST BAND OF HOPE.—On Saturday night, the above Band of Hope gave another of their grand and successful public entertainments in the Primitive Methodist Chapel. Mr James Haddon presided, and Mr Joseph Charlton officiated at the harmonium. Songs were sungs were sung by Messrs J. Grundy, S. Cook, G. Straughen, Misses A. Golford, and M. E. Charlton. Readings and recitations were given by Messrs A. Patterson, W. Kay, J. Lee, G. Straughen, and Misses J. A. Foster, E. Taylor, R. Golden, and S. Haddon. A dialogue, entitled "The Prodigal's return," by three characters was also creditably performed. There was a good attendance, all the items on the programme being loudly applauded, and the entertainment was a complete success. We have great pleasure in saying that this Band of Hope is prospering surely and steadily week by week.

CASTLESIDE.

UNIVERSITY HONOURS.—Amongst those who took their Master of Arts, the M.A. degree at Cambridge on the 28th January, we notice the name of the Rev Herbert William Farrar, B.A., Queen's College, Cambridge, and now chaplain of the Missions to Seamen Society at South Shields. Mr Farrar is the third son of the Rev W. Farrar, M.A., the respected vicar of Castleside.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, BENFIELDSIDE.—The Bishop of Pretoria, Transvaal, gave a most interesting address in St. Cuthbert's Lecture-room, on Thursday se'nnight, and a sum of over £6 was collected for his difficult mission in the hostile country of the Dutch settlers. The frank, manly address of this most apostolic Bishop made a very favourable impression. The Bishop's palace is a rude waggon drawn by oxen, in which he spends many months during his visitation of a diocese as large as France, suffering many privations.—A meeting of the St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside, branch of the Young Men's Friendly Society was held on Monday evening in the same room, and an able and most instructive lecture on "Robert Burns" was delivered by Mr Joshua Lax, who will also lecture at the next meeting on February 15th, to the great satisfaction of the members of the Y.M.F.S. Mr C. Stephenson, choirmaster of St. Cuthbert's, sang a Scotch song with much taste, and the lecture on Monday week will be similarly illustrated. It will be open to members and their friends. The society last year was much indebted to Dr W. M. Renton for his lectures. The office-bearers of the Benfieldside branch are:—President, Rev G. H. Ross-Lewin, M.A.; treasurer, Mr R. Marshall; secretary, Mr J. Kirsopp.

TANFIELD.

C.E.T.S.—On Tuesday last, a meeting of the above society was held in Flint Hill School-room. After the opening hymn and prayer the following programme was gone through:—Reading by Master R. Arkless; song, "Killarney," Miss M. A. Hinckley; reading, Mr W. Holmes; song, "Silver charm," Rev C. H. Newman; reading; song; "The gipsy's warning," Miss M. A. Hinckley; recitation and song, Master Nicholson; recitation, Mr M. M. Wilkinson; short reading, Mr W. Holmes. The audience, composed mostly of the juvenile members, was fairly numerous, and the meeting was closed in the usual way by the Rev C. H. Newman.

ESH COLLIERY.

NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—This useful structure at Esh Colliery—of which the foundation-stone was laid by Mr Arthur Pease last year—was formally dedicated to public worship last Saturday afternoon by divine service, at which the sermon was delivered by the Rev Arminius Burgess (chairman of the district). A public tea was afterwards held in the old Iron School, where, during a public meeting, selections of music were performed by the choir, and addresses given by friends from the district—Peases West, Hamsteels, &c. Rev S. Adcock preached on Sunday in behalf of the building fund. The chapel, of which the site was given, cost £450. The style is Gothic, the dimensions 51ft. by 36ft., and the accommodation for 350 persons. Mr R. H. Oughton was designer; and Messrs Lister, of Crook, builders.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

THE OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX AT BIRTLEY.—At Birtley, near Chester-le-Street, two deaths from small-pox have already taken place, and to prevent any further spread of the disease precautions are being taken by the authorities. Workmen are at present engaged in fitting up the Literary Institute as a temporary hospital. Beds, clothing, &c., have arrived, with a sufficient number of nurses, and as soon as the arrangements are completed patients suffering from this dangerous malady will be removed to the temporary hospital and carefully attended to. By this action it is hoped that the disease will be stamped out of the village.

WITTON GILBERT.

ODDFELLOWSHIP.—"The Queen Bee" Lodge of Oddfellows, M.U., held their anniversary dinner at their lodge-room, Mr W. Hunter's, Three Tuns, on Saturday se'nnight. The host and hostess had prepared an excellent repast, which was heartily enjoyed by the guests, the only regret being that the numbers were not larger to partake of the good cheer. After supper, N.G. J. Dawson and V.G. W. Parkin were called upon to preside over the proceedings. After the patriotic toasts had been duly honoured, the vice-chairman proposed the "Manchester Unity," and spoke of the great benefits it had done to relieve the widows and orphans and alleviate the sick in their time of need.—The Chairman proposed "Prosperity to the Queen Bee," a branch of the M.U., coupling the toast with the name of their respected secretary, who, after thanking them for their good wishes, gave a short statement of the good the lodge had done in assisting the members in time of sickness, and gave an invitation to all others to "come and help us." During the evening's proceedings several capital songs were sung by Messrs Parkin, Turner, Hall, Nicholson, and Patterson. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought the proceedings to a close.

CROOK.

The Rev. H. Hawley, Crook, who was accorded an almost unanimous invitation to the Willington superintendency, has declined, and also a call to Halifax Circuit as third man.

AN IMPOSTER.—For some time an ill-clad man furnished with a black bag containing a few weekly periodicals has been enlisting sympathy and aid in the Crook district by pretending to be both deaf and dumb, and, in pursuance of his scheme of imposture, he entered a house in Church Way, Crook, where the occupier was entertaining a few guests. Among them was one gentleman who is an adept at the dumb language, and who, with a few rapid passages, asked a series of questions from the supposed dumb man. These, however, evidently not being understood, the fellow was driven into a corner, and was compelled to acknowledge that he could both hear and speak. He was then conducted to the door with a parting admonition.

CORBRIDGE.

WATER SUPPLY.—On Thursday week, the Corbridge Parochial Committee, in accordance with the resolution come to a short time ago, visited the grounds of Mr W. B. Carr for the purpose of inspecting the source of the present supply to the village. They were met very cordially by Mr Carr, who conducted them over the ground, and agreed to do all he could to help them.—On Monday, a meeting of the ratepayers was held in the vestry of the Parish Church, Corbridge. The Rev. G. C. Hodgson occupied the chair. It was unanimously decided that a petition be drawn up by the chairman, objecting to the loan being sanctioned by the Local Government Board for carrying out what they called the Shaw Well Water Scheme; and that the said petition, after being signed by the ratepayers, be forwarded direct to London.—Messrs. J. Fairless and W. Robson volunteered to undertake the work of getting the petition signed in Middle Street, Water Row, and Market Place, the remainder of the village being undertaken by Messrs. Green and Turnbull.

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST BAND OF HOPE.—A meeting in connection with the Hamsterley Colliery Band of Hope was held in the chapel on Saturday night, when the members of the Derwent Cottages Band of Hope gave an entertainment. After the opening hymn and prayer by Mr W. H. Stonehouse, Mr A. Dobson took the chair. The following programme was admirably gone through:—Melody, "What do all the birds say?" the party; reading, "The one-legged goose," Mr J. Harbottle; solo, "Who will care for mother now?" Miss M. A. Kay; melody, "When the drink is in," Misses A. Dixon and A. Urwin; reading, "The three cats," Master W. Robinson; solo, "The lighted valley," Miss E. Pattison; recitation, "The doctor's mistake," Master W. Irwin; melody, "The teetotal car," Mr A. Dobson; dialogue, "Dare to do right," Masters I. Robinson and W. Irwin; melody, "My happy home," Misses A. Pattison and E. Pattison; reading, "Reasons for total abstinence," Master W. Robinson; solo, "Sign the pledge for mother's sake," Miss M. A. Kay; reading, "No grumbling," Master W. Irwin; melody, "Oh, have you heard the news?" the party; a medley by Mr J. Harbottle, who also presided at the harmonium. After the usual vote of thanks to the performers, a very pleasant meeting was brought to a close by singing the doxology.

DURHAM.

COUNTY HOSPITAL.—The annual meeting of the governors of the Durham County Hospital was held on Monday afternoon, the Rev. A. D. Shafto presiding. The annual report showed that the new wing being added to the institution would be completed about midsummer. The income for the year amounted to £2,268 9s 6d, and the expenditure to £2,856 11s 5d. There was a balance due to the treasurer of £1,229. There had been paid from the building fund the sum of £3,425 13s 4d, leaving a balance in hand of £2,527 5s 8d.—On the motion of the chairman, the report was adopted.—Mr Ald Fowler was elected on the committee in the place of the late Ald Ferens. The other canditates nominated were the Rev H. E. Fox and the Mayor of Durham (Mr Holdsworth). The latter retired in favour of Mr Fowler.—Complimentary votes of thanks terminated the business of the meeting.

BLAYDON.

DERWENT RIFLE CLUB.—On Saturday, the usual fortnightly handicap sweepstake competition took place at the club range, Bucs Hills, Blaydon. The ranges were 200 and 500 yards. Although the weather was very unfavourable, the shooting was very good. The following were the highest scores:—Sergt. A. Forsyth, Felling, 63 points; Sapper S. Dodds, Gateshead EV, 63; Col.-Sergt. Rumford, 3rd VBNF, 56; Pte. T. S. Magnay, 3rd VBNF, 55; Col.-Sergt. Marley, Felling, 54; Pte. C. Forsyth, Felling, 53.—On Saturday evening the annual meeting of the members of this club was held at the Alliance Temperance Hotel, Newcastle, the chair being occupied by the chairman of the council, Lieut. J. B. Furneaux.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—The quarterly meeting of this society was held at Blaydon on Saturday. The 108th quarterly balance-sheet was read and adopted. The total profits, including the balance of £134 1s. 7d. from last quarter's accounts, amounted to £8,013 1s. 1½d., which enables the society, after providing amply for depreciation, interest, &c., and carrying £168 to the educational fund, and £100 to the reserve fund, to pay a dividend of 3s. 2d. in the pound on members' purchases, leaving a balance of £311 4s. 1½d., which was proposed to be carried forward to next quarter's accounts. The president, treasurer, and secretary were re-elected. Two members of committee for Blaydon were elected, viz.:—Mr. John Shotton and Mr. G. J. Ogilvie, other officers being elected for Educational Committees, &c. It was resolved that the society establish branches at Winlaton and Throckley. Having already built 16 houses at Lemington, 16 at Blaydon, and 6 at Burnopfield, it was resolved on the recommendation of the committee that the society invest £3,500 more in cottage property.

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

A monthly meeting took place at the Parliament Street Buildings, Consett, on Wednesday night, under the presidency of the Rev F. Steggall. Members present: Messrs W. R. Taylor, John W. Davison, T. Siddell, J. Calvert, W. Aynsley, Jas. Palliser, Hy. Carss, the Clerk (Mr Welford), and the Surveyor (Mr Rippon).

THE NEW RAILWAY BETWEEN CONSETT AND ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Mr AYNSLEY drew attention to the fact that the directors of the North-Eastern Railway Company, in their half-yearly report to the shareholders, announced that the deviation line between Consett and Annfield Plain had been completed. If so, the railway was certainly not finished to the satisfaction of the Board, as the Directors always led the deputations from that Board, who interviewed them at York in respect to the *locale* of the station, to understand that the line was to be opened for passenger traffic. He suggested that the present moment was opportune for that Board making a further move in regard to the question of passenger and goods stations.

Mr DAVISON also stated that the railway was not completed according to their expectations.

Mr CALVERT explained that the railway was only constructed by way-leave, and not sanctioned by Act of Parliament, and could not therefore be used as a passenger line.

Mr CARSS expressed his belief that the railway company possessed, by virtue of a recent Act, the requisite powers for converting it into a passenger line.

Mr CALVERT adhered to his statement.

The CHAIRMAN, and Messrs SIDDELL and TAYLOR were of opinion that it was originally the intention of the railway authorities to make this a passenger line, as they had already constructed a station approach and platforms at the terminus at Annfield Plain, and entailed considerable expense in building new bridges.

It was decided to keep the subject in view to take further action in due course.

THE WATER FOR THE URINALS.

In response to the Board's application last month, the Clerk read a letter from the Consett Water Company's Secretary, stating that they adhered to the terms mentioned in his previous communication for a supply of water to the public urinals, and could not make any less charge. The Clerk explained that the Company wished to charge the Board 10 per cent. on the cost of the meter for rent; and to specify for payment of a minimum quantity of water, whether used or not.

Mr CALVERT said the Company were compelled to make this charge, because the taps had been tampered with, and a good deal of water wasted.

Mr COLLINSON pointed out that even if the water was wasted, the Board would have to pay for it when it was registered at the meter. He certainly protested against the Board paying for water whether they used it or not. He was quite willing to pay for the quantity of water consumed.

Mr CARSS considered it to be an "outrage upon justice" to compel the Board to pay for water they did not use. He suggested that the Clerk should look into the Act and ascertain what powers the Water Company actually possessed.

Mr SIDDELL desired to know the object in the change of system?

Mr DAVISON: It appears the Company want to treat us as they do other people.

Mr SIDDELL: Never mind other people; let them look after themselves. We are standing up on behalf of the Board.

Mr CALVERT: The reason for the change is because so much water is wasted.

Mr SIDDELL: If it is wasted, then we have to pay for it. What matter does it make to the Water Company?

Mr COLLINSON: Are the Company acting the same towards the Leadgate and Benfieldside Boards?

Mr CALVERT: I expect so.

The Surveyor and Mr CALVERT, in answer to the CHAIRMAN, both stated that water had been wasted at the old urinals, in consequence of children tampering with the taps.

Mr CARSS said the taps should be properly locked and not open.

Mr COLLINSON thought it strange that the Water Company should compel the Local Boards to have meters, whilst the same privilege was refused to a private consumer, even if he desired to pay for the *quantum* of water he consumed.

Mr Carss' motion was seconded by Mr SIDDELL, and agreed to.

THE LATE FIRE AT CONSETT.

The agent for the Northern Insurance Company wrote informing the Board that their bill of costs in connection with the fire at Mr Batchelor's shop at Consett was excessive—10s having been asked for about 20 men. After quoting the rates paid at Newcastle, Sunderland, Shields, &c., the writer stated that the Board really had no claim upon the Company. He was, however, prepared to recommend payment of a sum of £10 by the Insurance Company.

The Clerk explained that that reason the rates were so low at Newcastle, &c., was because the brigade-men were paid by the Corporations.

Mr CARSS said the Board were not bound to maintain a fire engine and brigade for the benefit of Insurance Companies; and if they demurred to paying their bill of costs, they had better let the next fire burn the whole place down.

The Surveyor stated that the helpers at the fire had saved the Insurance Company about £2,500 worth of stock, and they could not reasonably object to paying a moderate bill of costs.

Mr CALVERT: The agent says we have no claim upon them. I think we should not allow ourselves to be snubbed in this fashion.

Mr SIDDELL: If the Company will not pay, we ought to sue them for the money.

The Clerk: We have not the power.

Mr SIDDELL: Their conduct is exceedingly shabby.

The Surveyor observed that the night was bitterly cold, and the water, as soon as it splashed the men's clothes, froze immediately. He was sorry to say that Mr Lumsden, the captain of the brigade, had been unwell since that fire, and was now in bed.

Mr DAVISON suggested that a letter be sent from that Board to the Directors, pointing out the reasons for the claim.

This was seconded by Mr SIDDELL, and carried.

A BRAY'S LAMP AT BLACKHILL.

A letter from Mr W. Smith, of Ridley Street, Blackhill, was to hand, suggesting that a Bray's lamp was much needed at the corner of the Rose and Crown Inn, and as such a boon would do away with three ordinary lamps in that locality, perhaps the Board could see their way clear to place one of the smaller lamps at the bottom of Ridley Street, where it was exceedingly dark at nights.

Mr W. Jenkins (chairman) also wrote stating that a Bray's Lamp would doubtless be exceedingly convenient in that neighbourhood; but he suggested that they should consult with the Benfieldside Board before granting such a concession.

Both letters were referred to the Lighting Committee to submit a report thereupon.

ALBERT ROW.

The Surveyor, having examined these premises, recommended certain improvements being effected at the back of Mr George Brown's, Railway Hotel, Consett.

This question was relegated to the Highway Committee.

THE DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

The Local Government Board wrote approving of the appointment of Dr Renton as the Board's Medical Officer for another twelve months, and reminded the Board that if they allowed any period to lapse between the expiration of the doctor's term of office and his re-appointment, they would run the risk of loosing the grant from the Government.

The Clerk was requested to bear this in mind.

THE BRICKFLATS' OFFICES.

The Building Committee reported that they had examined these offices, which are about to be converted into a dwelling house, and recommended the plans already submitted to be passed.

THE PUBLIC PARK SCHEME.

The further consideration of the Consett and Blackhill Public Park and Recreation Ground Scheme evoked a protracted and lively discussion. The Clerk announced that Mr Booth (clerk to the Benfieldside Board) and himself had made certain alterations in the draft agreement, which he read over, and the same was apparently received with satisfaction by the majority of the members, Messrs SIDDELL and CARSS remarking that there was nothing unreasonable in the agreement. The Clerk forwarded the amended lease to the Consett Iron Company, and Mr Jenkins, in whose hands the agreement had been entrusted, forwarded a copy of a letter which he had addressed to Mr Booth, which was to the effect that he could see no objection to the conditions named.

Mr CARSS suggested that the Clerk notify to Mr Booth that he is instructed to call a meeting of the joint Boards of Consett and Benfieldside, together with the representatives of the Consett Iron Company at an early date, for the purpose of accepting the agreement.

Mr DAVISON enquired if it would be for the Board or the Consett Iron Company to deal with the present tenants, who had made improvements on the land?

Mr CARSS said the Consett Company would of course deal with their own tenants. They granted the ground pure and simple as it stood, for the use of the public, and the Board had nothing to do with any tenants.

Mr AYNSLEY thought they were "prospecting" a little in entering into such details.

Mr SIDDELL said they ought to discuss the matter fully, so as to come to some distinct understanding. The land would have to be properly fenced and drained.

Mr COLLINSON told Mr Siddell that in making such assertions he was talking wildly. He hoped the ratepayers would never spend any money in fencing or draining the ground.

Mr SIDDELL: Then you will never get it.

Mr AYNSLEY: We are not asked to submit any scheme for the improvement of the land.

Mr SIDDELL: We know what the intentions of the Consett Iron Company are.

Mr AYNSLEY pointed out that originally, the intention of the Consett Iron Company was to lay out the ground properly as a park. If it had not been for that proposal on the part of Consett Co. the scheme would not have reached the stage it had that day.

Mr SIDDELL: If you think that the Consett Company is going to hand over the ground to you to lie dormant and without expending any money, you will find out your mistake.

After considerable discussion, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr CARSS, seconded by Mr AYNSLEY, that the Clerk write to Mr Booth asking him to convene a meeting of the joint Boards and also the representatives of the Consett Iron Company for the purpose of signing the agreement.

Carried unanimously.

Mr SIDDELL jocularly suggested that the meeting should be called early in the day, as they would have a long sitting.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT: THE SNOWSTORM.

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

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the early part of the past month, your workmen were engaged in improving Castleside Road, Leadgate Road, Howdon Road, Pasture Drift Road, Tinmill Road, and Taylor's Lane. The latter part of the month has been exceedingly stormy, and we have had to use our best endeavours to keep the roads open for traffic.

On Saturday, 23rd ult., I deemed it advisable to bring out the snow-ploughs, and open the most of the roads in the district. The next morning we were compelled to make an early start, owing to the quantity of snow that had fallen during the night. On the Monday we had some difficulty to force a way through with seven horses, owing to the banks of snow on each side which had been removed on the previous days. As the storm had the appearance of continuing, I employed a number of men to widen the principal roads sufficiently to allow two conveyances to pass with safety. I have also had a quantity of snow carted out of the public streets, as the most of them were completely blocked after the footways had been cleared. Since Saturday night last, the loose snow which fell has drifted very much in exposed places—so much so that Knitsley Lane and Taylor's Lane have been almost blocked, notwithstanding the efforts of a gang of men at each place to keep these two roads open.

On Monday night last, about nine o'clock, a mounted messenger arrived at Consett and reported that a fire was raging at Mr Maddison's property at Dipton, and requested that your brigade with the hose and reel and other appliances for extinguishing fires be sent at once. I interviewed Mr Egglestone, the Consett Water Company's foreman, as to the situation of the fire-plugs in that district, and he informed me that there was one not far distant from the fire, and that there would be a good supply of water. I ordered a horse out for the reel, and gathered a few of the brigade men together, and started for Dipton. On arriving at Leadgate we met Supt. Oliver returning, who informed us that through the active exertions of the police and the inhabitants of the district, the fire had been got under. On receiving this information we at once returned to Consett.

I shall require instructions from you with regard to attending fires outside your district in future.

I have ordered from Messrs Ord and Maddison 100 tons of rough limestone, four trucks of which came to hand before the railways were blocked. Edward Goodwin has signed the specification for breaking the rough limestone, and Dan Donnelly has signed the specification for team work.

The following amounts have been paid to treasurer:

	£	s.	d.
From the Local Government Board one-half of your Inspector's salary	30	0	0
Market Tolls	1	0	9

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
Feb. 3rd, 1886. WM. RIPPON.

The Surveyor was directed not to bring out the engine and brigade for any fire occurring beyond the limits of the Board's district, unless the persons who requested that such be done were duly authorised by the owner of the burning premises.

THE FINANCES.

The Finance Committee recommended for payment accounts representing a total of £346 6s, this sum including £239 2s for the gas bill. After paying this amount, there would be a balance of £89 left to meet three payments. About £15 was still outstanding to be collected.

The necessary cheques were signed, and the Board arose.

Market Reports.

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

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

NEWCASTLE MEAT AND POULTRY, Saturday—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Prime large beef	0	9	to	0	11
Prime mutton	0	11		1	0
Small Pork	0	9		0	11
Veal	0	8		0	9
Lamb. per lb	0	10		0	11
American beef	0	2½		0	6
" mutton	0	5		0	9
" lamb	0	0		0	0
" veal	0	7		0	9½
" pork	0	8		0	9
Hens, each	1	0		1	9
Ducks, per couple	6	0		7	0
Ducklings, per cp.	0	0		0	0
Chickens	5	6		6	6
Wild ducks, brace	0	0		0	0
Quails, per couple	0	0		0	0
Grouse, per couple	0	0		0	0

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Pigeons, pr couple	1	6	to	2	6
Turkeys, per lb.	1	2		0	0
Turkeys, poults	0	0		0	0
Partridge, brace.	2	6		3	0
Pheasants	7	6		8	0
Geese, per lb	0	10		0	0
Goslings, each	0	0		0	0
Hares, each	3	6		4	0
Leverets	2	6		3	6
Rabbits, couple	2	6		3	6
Ptarmigan, couple	0	0		0	0
Black Game, brce	5	0		6	0
English fresh butter, per lb.	1	3		1	6
Fresh eggs 12 for 1s					
Salmon, per lb.	0	0		0	0
Do. trout	0	0		0	0

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRICES FOR THIS DAY SINKING THE OFFAL.

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

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

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

Stations.	Week Days. A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE Dep.	6.10	9.40	11.0	12.20	2.30	5.25	7.30
Scotswood ,,	6.17	9.47	11.7	12.27	2.37	5.27	7.37
Swalwell ,,	6.24	9.54	11.14	12.34	2.43	5.32	7.44
Rowlands Gill ,,	6.24	10.4	11.21	12.44	2.53	5.49	7.54
Lintz Green ,,	6.40	10.10	11.30	12.50	2.59	5.55	8.0
Ebchester ,,	6.53	10.20	11.40	1.0	3.12	6.5	8.13
Shotley Bridge ,,	6.59	10.24	11.44	1.4	3.18	6.9	8.19
CONSETT ... Arr.	7.5	10.30	11.50	1.10	3.23	6.15	8.25
CONSETT Dep.	7.10	10.32	...	1.12	3.25	...	6.33
Knitsley ,,	7.21	10.43	...	1.23	3.36	...	6.44
Lanchester ,,	7.30	10.53	...	1.32	3.45	...	6.53
Witton Gilbert ,,	7.38	11.1	...	1.40	3.53	...	7.1
Aldin Grange ,,	7.45	11.9	...	1.47	4.0	...	7.9
DURHAM ... Arr.	7.50	11.15	...	1.52	4.5	...	7.15

	A.M.		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
DURHAM . Dep.	7.25		11.45	2.35		5.25	8.10
Aldin Grange ,,	7.32		11.52	2.41		5.32	8.17
Witton Gilbert ,,	7.40		12.0	2.48		5.40	8.25
Lanchester ,,	7.50		12.10	2.54		5.50	8.35
Knitsley ,,	8.2		12.20	3.8		6.0	8.45
CONSETT ... Arr.	8.12		12.30	3.18		6.10	8.55
CONSETT ... Dep.	8.15	9.10	12.33	3.25		6.15	9.2
Shotley Bridge ,,	8.20	9.15	12.38	3.30		6.20	9.7
Ebchester ,,	8.24	9.19	12.42	3.34		6.24	9.12
Lintz Green ,,	8.34	9.29	12.50	3.44		6.33	9.22
Rowlands Gill ,,	8.39	9.34	12.55	3.50		6.39	9.28
Swalwell ,,	8.47	9.42	1.3	3.57		6.48	9.36
Scotswood ,,	8.54	9.49	1.9	4.4		6.53	9.43
NEWCASTLE Ar	9.5	10.0	1.20	4.15		7.0	9.53

SUNDAYS.

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE ...	7.30	7.20	CONSETT ...dep.	8.35	8.20
Scotswood	7.37	7.27	Shotley Bridge	8.40	8.25
Swalwell	7.44	7.34	Ebchester	8.44	8.29
Rowlands Gill	7.54	7.44	Lintz Green	8.54	8.39
Lintz Green	8.0	7.50	Rowlands Gill	8.59	8.44
Ebchester	8.13	8.0	Swalwell	9.8	8.53
Shotley Bridge	8.19	8.4	Scotswood	9.14	8.59
CONSETT ...arr.	8.25	8.10	NEWCASTLE ar.	9.25	9.10

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.
NEWCASTLE ..	7.10	4.15	DURHAM ...dep.	7.55
Scotswood	7.17	4.22	Aldin Grange	8.1
Swalwell	7.24	4.30	Witton Gilbert	8.9
Rowlands Gill	7.34	4.40	Lanchester	8.20
Lintz Green	7.40	4.46	Knitsley	8.32
Ebchester	7.53	4.59	CONSETT and a	8.45
Shotley Bridge	7.59	5.5	BLACKHILL d	8.50
CONSETT and a	8.5	5.12	Shotley Bridge	8.55
BLACKHILL d	9.20		Ebchester	8.59
Knitsley	9.32		Lintz Green	9.9
Lanchester	9.41		Rowlands Gill	9.15
Witton Gilbert	9.50		Swalwell	9.22
Aldin Grange	9.59		Scotswood	9.29
DURHAM ...arr	10.5		NEWCASTLE dp	9.40

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

NO MORE WITH TEETH.—A short time ago, the people who reside in W—— r suffered intensely through the depression of trade; and had it not been for the aid which was lent them by a Dutch pawnbroker, who resided in their midst, some cases, no doubt, would have terminated fatally. One poor, but honest man, having pledged almost everything he possessed, for the purpose of obtaining food for his family, was bothered, and, finally, persuaded by his wife, to try and pledge their pig, (at that time being very small). The kind-hearted pawnbroker, knowing the position the man was in, very readily consented to take in the curious pledge. About four months after, trade having revived, the man came to redeem his pledge (which, of course, had grown larger), but he was sternly refused. A law suit followed, and, the Dutchman having lost the day, he was compelled to give up the pig. Not long after this, the poor man met with an accident which rendered him incapable of following his employment. Of course, he could not live without money, and once more called on his kind friend (the pawnbroker) this time taking with him a carpenter's saw. But the Dutchman, on seeing the article the man brought, was filled with wrath, and, raising up both his hands, indignantly cried "No, no!—no more mit teeth—no more mit teeth!"

Football.

FIXTURES.

Feb. 6.—Medomsley v. Jarrow Swifts, at Medomsley.
„ 6.—South Moor v. Edmondsley, at Edmondsley.
„ 6.—Shotley Bridge v. Newcastle Rangers, at Newcastle.
„ 6.—Tantobie 2nd v. Medomsley and SS. James and Mary's, at Tantobie.
„ 13.—Beamish v. Hebburn, at Hebburn Quay.
„ 13.—Tantobie v. North-Eastern, at Newcastle.
„ 13.—Tantobie 2nd v. North-Eastern 2nd, at Newcastle.
„ 13.—South Moor v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, at South Moor.
„ 13.—Crowgate Rovers v. South Moor Rovers, at South Moor.
„ 13.—Consett v. Bishop Auckland, at Bishop Auckland.
„ 13.—Tantobie 2nd v. Hobson Wanderers, at the Hobson.
„ 20.—Medomsley v. Jarrow Swifts, at Jarrow.
„ 20.—South Moor v. Cornsay, at Cornsay.
„ 20.—Dipton Rovers v. Shotley Bridge, at Dipton.
„ 27.—Consett v. Henderson's Wanderers, at Blackhill.
„ 27.—Tantobie v. West End, at West End.
„ 27.—Medomsley v. Middlesbrough Swifts, at Middlesbrough.
„ 27.—South Moor v. Edmondsley, at Edmondsley.
„ 27.—Beamish v. Gateshead Association, at West Pelton.
„ 27.—Crookgate Rovers v. Catchgate Red Stars, at Catchgate.

Esh Stags v. Cornsay Raggy Lads.—Played at Esh, when the stags won by two goals to nil.

St Bernard v. Westwood Royal Blues.—Played at Ebchester on Saturday, and after a well-contested game resulted in a win for the St. Bernard by one goal to nil.

Greencroft Black Watch Juniors.—This club will be glad to play any junior team a game. They have any dates vacant.—Samuel Armstrong, Greencroft Cottages, Annfield Plain.

Crook Excelsior v. Sunnybrow St. John's.—Played at Sunnybrow, a most exciting game resulting in a draw, each side scoring a goal. The visitors left the field a few minutes before time owing to a dispute.

Prudhoe Rovers Juniors v. North-Eastern Juniors.—At Prudhoe on Saturday, in the second round of the Junior Challenge Cup Competition, when a very evenly contested game resulted in a draw of one goal each.

Ryton v. Gateshead Institute.—The return match between these clubs was played on Ryton Willows on Saturday afternoon, and a good game ended in favour of the home team by two ties and four minor points to one minor point.

Gloucester Star A. v. Tantobie 2nd.—This match was played on Saturday, on the ground of the former, when a very pleasant game was experienced. Both teams played very hard, but the Gloucester succeeded in winning by one goal to nil, which was kicked by J. Anderson.

Pelton Fell Harriers v. Chester-le-Street Excelsiors.—Played on Saturday in a field near the station, Chester-le-Street, kindly geanted by Mr T. Burns. There was a large number of spectators, and a well-contested game, in two periods of 45 minutes, resulted in a win for the Harriers by three goals to nil.

Crookgate Rovers v South Moor Rovers.—The latter team journeyed to Crookgate on Saturday to play off their engagement with the home team. The home team captain winning the toss elected to play uphill, and against the wind. The visitors kicking off soon took the "sphere" into the home team territory, but were unable to score. On ends being changed the home team soon scored their first goal, and a little later on again scored. South Moor then scored their only goal, time being called shortly after. The visitors, however, not being content with their defeat the home team agreed to play them an extra ten minutes, during which they scored their third goal, the home team thus winning after a pleasant game by 3 goals to 1. The goals for the home team were kicked by N. Keith (2), and J. Nevil (1), Neesam scoring for the visitors.

Sporting Items

Cornsay "Raggy Lads" Cricket Club.—The members of the "Raggy Lads" Cricket Club held their annual meeting at the House of Mrs Lakey, Royal Oak Hotel, Cornsay Colliery. The following officers were elected for the ensuing season:—President, Mr Henry Stott; vice-president, Mr Matthew Morallee; captain, Mr William Appleby; vice-captain, Mr Henry Morallee; treasurer, Mr Robert Barren; secretary, Mr Frank Hardy, 238, Union Square, Cornsay Colliery, Durham.

Draughts at Pelton Fell.—On Saturday, the second round of the draughts handicap was held, the following being the result:—M. Summers beat M. Gordon, M. Pringle beat W. Horsley, H. Horsely beat D. Connor, J. Taylor beat T. Gray, H. Amble beat J. Jennings, Cousins and Maltby tied.

Pigeon Shooting at Stocksfield.—The pigeon shooting promoted by Mr E. Chapman, Bywell Inn, was resumed on Saturday, in a field kindly granted by Mr J. B. Lee, Stocksfield Hill Farm. There was a large attendance, the entries numbering 93. It has now been made into a handicap sweepstakes, the sum to be divided in prize money amounting to over £20. The shooting, which took place out of two traps, was exceptionally good. Mr M. Robson was referee, and Messrs Haliburton and Hawdon trappers.

Pigeon Shooting Handicap at Witton Gilbert.—The All-England pigeon shooting handicap was brought off on Tuesday. Mr W. Hunter, the promoter, added £2 to a sweepstake of 5s, usual conditions, with 60 yards fall. A good class of birds were supplied, and the shooting was fully up to the average, considering the severity of the weather. Mr Hunter trapped, and Mr Gill was score-keeper. The handicap ended in a division amongst five—Old Calabar; Tommy Hind; Findon Hill; Rambler; and Langley; who killed 7 birds each.

Sparrow Shooting at Dipton.—A large company assembled at the house of Mr J. Oates on Saturday to witness a sparrow-shooting at Hill Top, Dipton. Score:—Hill Top, 110; John Watson, 100; 2nd lot, 1110; W. Thompson, 0; 2nd lot, 110; G. Charlton, 0; R. Morgan, 111111; 2nd lot, 111111; Annfield Plain, 111111; W. Pace, 101; J. Oates, 11110; Storey, 110; 2nd lot, 0; Peggy, 0; 2nd lot, 110; No. 1, 111110; No. 2, 110; J. Atkinson, 110; T. Dodds, 111111; Black Diamond, 1110; T. Lamb, 0; F. Heslop, 11110; J. Kirkup, 0; Royal Thomas, 11110; Stag, 0; Hill Top (second lot) 0; Waugh, 0; Thompson, 0; T. D. 0; T. Lamb, 11110; The Mug, 110. Stake divided. A second sweep was shot. Score:—W. Pace, 111; Robt. Morgan, 0; 2nd lot, 110; Storey, 110; J. Watson, 110; W. Watson, 10. A third sweep resulted as follows:—Annfield Plain, 10; R. Morgan, 111; second lot, 111; No. 1, 0; Dodds, 110; Jenny, 10.

Rabbit Coursing at Flint Hill.—A sweep promoted by Anthony Harrison at Mr John Bennet's, Flint Hill, near Dipton, was run off on Saturday afternoon with the following results:—First round—Kate Monkey, 17½, beat Bitter Beer, 16½; Ratepayer, 17½, beat Peggy the Tout, 18; Champion Charley, 18½, beat Little John, 18½; Little John, 18½, beat Polly, 17½; Sawdust Jack, 18½, beat Cobbler Lass, 16½; Prop, 16½, beat Master Peace, 19½; Win if you Can, 16½, beat Roger, 19½; Champion Charley, 18, beat Master Peace, 19½; Cobbler Lass, 16½, beat Ratepayer, 17½; Peggy the Tout, 18, beat Kate Monkey, 17½. Second round—Ratepayer beat Kate Monkey, Champion Charley beat Little John, Prop beat Sawdust Jack, Win if you Can beat Champion Charley, Peggy the Tout beat Cobbler Lass. Third round—Ratepayer beat Champion Charley, Win if you Can beat Prop, Peggy the Tout a bye. Fourth round—Peggy the Tout beat Ratepayer, Win if you Can a bye. Final—Win if you Can beat Peggy the Tout and won. A. Harrison was pistol firer, and E. Reay judge.

The Season for February contains sixteen richly illustrated folio pages of dress and needlework, one supplement, three coloured plates, and a large sheet of full-sized patterns and designs of embroidery. Ladies who are interested in dress, whether of the present day or of 100 years ago, have only to consult the pages of *The Season* for the fullest information. Full instructions for making children's dresses and for fancy work of every description are to be found in its pages.

LADIES' COLUMN.

If we could only feel quite certain that the worst part of the winter had come and gone, that no more sudden snow-storms need be apprehended, no more dense yellow fogs come to try delicate lungs, what a comfort the thought would bring! The days are already very perceptibly longer, and the light is clearer even at noon. Those who believe that Mother Nature is wiser than the scientists and the philosophers, ought to look at all the snowdrop and crocus shoots that rashly put up their heads above the mould a fortnight ago. Their appearance was welcomed as only the first garden growth in the new year is greeted—with acclamation. Apparently these foolish roots regret their precipitancy, as for 10 days past no further growth is perceptible. What are the crocuses waiting for? Have the snowdrops a prophetic instinct that the world is not yet quite ready for them? There also lurk in some suburban gardens, in the corners of many fields, three strange little patches of snow that the country children say wait for more snow to come and take away. Yet that last snow-storm was partial in the distribution of its favours, and did not fall with equal severity on every part of London. As an instance of the visitation, take but one street only in the suburbs, High-street, Kensington. The snow began to fall at 5 a.m., and ceased at 12 noon. The snow ploughs were set to work, and 1,000 carts of snow carried away. Yet the aggrieved householders rushed into print with complaints of how indifferently the authorities had discharged their duties.

The Queen's visits to London are so rare that we shall not have done talking of this one for a long time to come, the most disappointing part of it all being that as Buckingham Palace is so near Westminster the route was necessarily a short one. There is much talk of a new State coach, which is to be built by a firm of coachbuilders in Long Acre, for use next year at the Queen's jubilee. State coaches are of comparatively modern institution, that is to say, about the middle of the last century. All the royal processions went by water in olden times, and what were called coaches were merely the carriages used for travelling by wealthy people. Hackney coaches were vehicles of the same order, only less in size and comfort. The first Lord Mayor's coach was used in 1757, and four years afterwards the royal State coach was finished. The great architect of the last century, Sir William Chambers, designed the coach. Nothing artistic was thought of then, could be even tolerated, without the approval of Sir William Chambers. He was the architect of Somerset House, in the Strand, and King's College, with the fine front looking down upon the river. In his early days Chambers was only a supercargo to vessels for the Swedish East India Company, and made frequent voyages to China. Very little was then known of the Celestial Empire. A general idea prevailed that the Chinese were barbarians, for a knowledge of foreign countries was confined to scholars and rich people. Books were not abundant, nor within reach of the great mass of the people. Chambers brought over to England furniture, china, bronzes, and, above all, ideas. He introduced an Asiatic style of ornament to England which became the rage, very much as we, a century later, have found out that Japan is a rich mine for art productions, and that the nation of which we knew so little and even valued less can teach us many arts to which we are strangers. To Sir William Chambers may be ascribed the mania for making collections of china, which died out for about forty years, and came to life again in our time. Chambers brought over china cups and china bowls, which were imitated by English makers. Huge china bowls, many of which are still in preservation, used to be made in England and sent out to China to be decorated. These are never of as delicate paste as the real Oriental bowls, but they have the arms and initials of the people for whom they were made. Some of them were christening bowls, intended to hold that dreadful decoction known as caudle, now almost out of date. Oaten meal or groats, boiled and strained, rum, sugar, and nutmeg added, used to be served out to the gossips who came to call on new babies and congratulate the mothers. Chambers settled in London, set up as an architect, and became the fashion. Many of the articles of furniture made by Chippendale were designed after the models in Chambers' book of designs, published after he took up his residence in England. The English State coach, designed by Chambers, was painted and decorated by Cipriani, an Italian artist, whose designs are best known to English people through Bartolozzi's engravings of them. The Queen is known to have a dislike to the State coach. As an art work the new one is scarcely likely to excel the old. The design of the latter is eight palm trees, which branch out at the top, and sustain the roof; four angular trees are loaded with trophies allusive of the victories of England over the French. These trees are supported by four lions' heads. On the centre of the roof stand three boys representing the genii of England, Scotland, and Ireland, supporting the Imperial Crown of Great Britain, and holding in their hands the sceptre, sword of State, and ensigns of knighthood, their bodies being festooned with laurel. The body of the carriage is supported by four braces covered with red morocco leather with gilt buckles, which are held by as many large tritons, two in back, and two in front. The panels and doors are enriched with emblematical devices, and the inside is lined with scarlet velvet embossed. The great size of the coach—24ft. by 8ft. 3in. wide—makes it unwieldy and troublesome in the streets. The new one will be very much smaller, and less elaborate.

The new cab, the Devon four-seated hansom, is the excitement of the cabstand, and the delight of idlers, who stand round it and stare at it by the hour at a time. It is a four-sided box with windows at the sides and in the front, and is mounted on two wheels. The door is behind, so that the vehicle can be backed against the footway and a clean climb is secured. The driver's seat is at the back, at the right hand side, perched above the door hinges. Inside, the cab holds four persons, two on each side facing each other, like a shortened waggonette. In Ireland, the covered car, an old institution, somewhat similar to the new cab, is still in everyday use, but it is hung lower and is heavier. The Ulster covered car is much smaller as a rule, than the Munster. Some of those still in use in the County Cork are only protected at the sides by leather curtains suspended from a roof. Others are enclosed with wooden panels. The northern car has only two small windows in front; the southern has in some instances small side panes, somewhat resembling the new hansom cab, recently put on the London streets.

The great authorities on fashion assert that we are on the eve of great changes in hair dressing. At the private view of the Royal Academy, where the first dawn of changes in taste may always be noted at the commencement of the new year, it was impossible to shut one's eyes to alterations. The friz on the front of the forehead, contemptuously alluded to as "a barmaid's fringe," is still worn by a great many ladies, but not by those of undoubted position. By the latter the style of Sir Joshua Reynolds and Gainsborough is favoured. The front hair is turned up over a cushion, or without it if the hair has natural crispness, and coiled on the top of the head. The back hair is twisted in a rope, thrown across, forming a figure 8, and tied with a ribbon. This is the catogan, as worn by Mrs. Langtry, though she has not yet adopted the toupee. Lady Wolseley was one of those ladies who had her front hair dressed in last century style. The catogan, as at present worn, does not fall down on the shoulders as the old cataracts used to do. It springs from the top of the head, and merely touches the nape of the neck behind. The worst of the catogan for those ladies whose locks are scanty is that it obliges them to introduce artificial rolls to supplement the meagre supply of their own hair. At this the hairdressers will rejoice, and these have certainly a fair prospect before them of a long reign of requirement by fashion of their services.

TWO CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

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CHAPTER I.

I envy people their children, Susie!"

"Then you envy me mine, I suppose?"

"Yes. And I really think, joking apart, that you might give me one of your little ones. Little Jackie say! You have another boy."

"Jacky is my baby."

"One of the little girls then?"

But the young mother shook her head. Four little ones she had; nevertheless, she could not think for a moment of parting with one of them, even to her dear and only sister.

How wonderfully and mysteriously we sometimes mark and shape out our own destinies, and even the destinies of others, by a few unthinking words, which are, it may be, never remembered again.

It was a lovely afternoon, late in summer. Laura Ashburnham and her sister had been standing by the open window of a good-sized sitting-room. The window was gay with abundance of flowers—belonging, however, to the landlady—and the house itself was a very pretty one, situated close to the high road, at the entrance of the country town of Malling. In this house Miss Ashburnham rented three rooms, and kept a day-school—her sole means of support.

She was two-and-twenty years old, rather above middle height, fair, with brown hair, and deep and tender blue eyes. Thoughtfully she sat down now, and leaning her arms upon the window-board, looked out upon the little patch of garden, her face set in a frame of fuchsias and pelargoniums. And her sister had grown thoughtful also, and was looking not at the garden, but at her.

And neither of them had noticed a stranger, sitting with disconsolate face, in lazy attitude on a bench in the shadow of the old elm that grew by the gate. He could see them; but he had not been observing them, or attending to them in any way, and rising with a half-sigh, he had been about to depart, when Laura's words had arrested him. And then, indeed, he had looked at her earnestly, and presently had fallen back upon the bench again, lingering to hear more.

"You may marry, you know, Laura, and have children of your own," remarked Susie, after the silence had lasted some minutes.

"I *might* have done if dear Willie had lived, but now"—and Laura left her sentence unfinished, while absently she plucked a withered leaf from one of the pelargoniums.

"My dear, it is nearly two years since he was drowned, poor fellow. And, after all, he was nothing to you; you were never really engaged."

"No; but it would have come to that, for he loved me, and I him," returned Laura steadily.

"But you are only twenty-two, Laura. You surely would not think of remaining single for the rest of your life for his sake?" And Susie almost laughed.

"No, dear; I do not know that I have any wish even to remain single; but then, on the other hand, neither do I wish to marry, unless——"

"Well, unless what?"

"Unless I see exactly the man I could wholly love and respect."

"Ah, you will never see him, dear, depend upon it. You expect perfection, and that is of no use, you know, in this faulty world. John remarked, only the other day, that you had set your standard far too high."

"I certainly do not expect perfection, though," retorted Laura. "If I saw a man I could really love, I should love him only the better for his faults."

You are most unsatisfactory, Laura dear; and I must own I cannot exactly see what you are driving at, as John says."

"One of your babies," smiled Laura, "for my very own. I should be happy then."

"Dear, I cannot spare my babies; and if I would, John would not. You have your school—all your little pupils—make pets of them."

"School-keeping is my work, and work I like, but it does not bring me heart-happiness, do you see, Susie? I want something upon which I may spend my heart. I wish sometimes that I had a hobby—writing, or painting, or something of that kind—into which I could throw myself; though I do not suppose that it would satisfy me long; it would be all dead work."

"Ah!" responded Susie, meditatively. "I shall be afraid to trust you after this, Laura. You will be begging a baby from the first gipsy woman who passes."

"Not quite so bad as that," smiled Laura. "But," and she rose, "I want my tea, Susie. It is actually a quarter after five. I don't know how it is I always contrive to be later on half-holidays. Stay and have a cup with me, dear?"

"Oh, you must excuse me, Laura. John and the babies will think that I am lost as it is, and will be running all over the town after me. I did not tell them I was coming in here. Good-bye!"

But before she could reach the door, the watcher outside had arisen from the old bench; and as he moved away, he said to himself, emphatically—

"There is a woman I could *love!*"

He was a young man, apparently not more than seven or eight and twenty; rather tall, and very handsome, with pale clear complexion, and black curling hair, and dark eyes full of feeling and expression.

He walked quite away from the town, to a tiny village, which seemed to be made up of about a dozen houses, and there he stayed. And on the following morning he might have been observed standing in the ivy-covered porch of the village church, very nervous-looking, very carefully dressed, and waiting, in fact, for his bride, who appeared in due time—a little dark energetic-looking personage—whom he had chosen for her fortune, and not for any affection he bore her.

CHAPTER II.

More than sixteen months had passed away, leaving little outward trace on Laura Ashburnham's life. All around her, life's strange mixture of tragedy and comedy was for ever being enacted—joy coming of sorrow, light evolving itself out of darkness, and darkness again quenching the light that perchance had been just arisen. All around her, histories were progressing, adding either to their successes, or to their failures, and she alone, she sometimes thought, had taken no onward step. She was in good health, her school prospered, she was comfortably off, she had a sister very near, who loved her, and whom she loved. What more did she want? Something still, as she had said, upon which she might spend her heart.

Christmas was very near. She would not go away for her holidays, but the whole of Christmas Day she expected to spend with her sister.

"Come early, dear," Susie had said. "John told me to give you his love, and to say that he should expect you to breakfast. He does not often take the trouble to send messages to people, so mind you come."

* * * * *

It was Christmas morning, and the ground was carpeted with snow. It was early, and not a streak of dawn was yet visible in the east. The sky was heavy, as if with more snow, and a cold north wind was blowing.

A man clad in a great-coat, the collar pulled up about his neck, and with a large but apparently not particularly heavy burden in his arms, was making his way quickly towards the little town of Malling. It was too dark as yet for a feature of his face to be discerned. He was very quiet, no sigh, no sound, or half-uttered sentence escaped his lips; one heard only the quick firm footstep.

On he went, till he reached the house in which Laura Ashburnham lodged. Then swiftly and silently he lifted the latch of the little iron gate, softly he trod the snow-covered pathway, on the step of the door he deposited his burden, and in a moment was gone again.

* * * * *

Laura Ashburnham was an early riser, her landlady a late one. Mrs. Lee, Laura's sister, breakfasted punctually at eight o'clock, and Laura was up and dressed and ready to start at half-past seven, just as her landlady, in an old dressing gown, ran down-stairs to light the fire. Having exchanged Christmas greetings with her ledger, the landlady disappeared into the back regions, and the next moment Laura heard her making a great clatter with the fire-irons, as she herself opened the door, and was about to pass out.

But, uttering an exclamation, she paused abruptly. What was that on the door-step? A large dark parcel—dark, at any rate, against the white snow—with a ticket pinned conspicuously on the top of it, on which Laura read—

"*To be left in the sole care of Miss Ashburnham!*"

"A Christmas present, perhaps," laughed she. "One of John's tricks, I shouldn't wonder—though the writing is not his. And how odd the address is!"

She lifted the parcel. Then, with a curious look of surprise and doubt, immediately put it down again. The outer covering was loose. She raised it—and uttered a second exclamation, while a rich colour, as of joy and uncertainty mingled, crept slowly into her face.

There lay, wrapped in soft furs, a little babe—a tiny creature of only a few days or perhaps a week old. For a minute Laura stood irresolute; then again she lifted the little one, and carried it, coverings and all, swiftly up-stairs to her own room.

It had been wrapped round and round in an immense fur cloak. Divesting it of this, which she locked for the present in an empty cupboard, and folding it carefully and gently in a warm shawl of her own, she quickly made her way down-stairs again, and was soon on her way to her sister's house.

The child was asleep, and she wished to keep it so for the present.

Lightly she trod the snowy pathway, her heart beating with a pleasure that would not be suppressed. Nevertheless, her mind was occupied in thinking deeply upon what had happened; and anxious thoughts would arise. It was a grave charge; she saw that, despite all her wish to take it upon herself.

She stood at her sister's door, which was immediately opened by Susie herself.

"A happy Christmas to you, darling. I saw you coming. But what *have* you got there?"

"I do not suppose that you need ask, Susie! I found it on the door-step, but I have scarcely had time to look at it yet."

Laura was by this time seated by the parlour fire, engaged in taking the little one out of the shawl, Susie meanwhile standing by in unqualified amazement.

"*I* think I will thank you for your present, Susie."

"On the door-step!" exclaimed Susie, suddenly. "Oh, Laura, how *could* you take it? My present, indeed! Can you suppose that either John or I would do such a thing, now, Laura?"

Susie was quite in earnest, and almost angry. There was a pause.

"It is all the more puzzling, then," returned Laura at length. "Look here, Susie!"

On the little band of the child's dress was written the name "*Louise.*"

Susie looked without speaking.

"Isn't she a little darling?" Laura went on. "I almost wish she would wake up. Just see what lovely little black curls she has!"

"And, what a dark skin!" rejoined Susie discontentedly. "A little stray gipsey, I daresay!"

And now Laura's brother-in-law entered, a short florid man, with easy agreeable manners; and he had to be told all.

"Imagine," Susie wound up, indignantly, "being burdened in that manner with the care of a strange child! Who can have done it? Some one who knows you, and your peculiar ideas, evidently, Laura!"

"But, my dear Susie, you need not look like that! If I *can* take good and sensible care of the dear little mite, it will be my delight to do so."

"Yes, but the thing is whether we can allow you to do so, Miss Laura," put in John, magisterially. "I should advise you to let me see a lawyer about it, and to give it up to somebody or other as quickly as may be."

"If you all advise me together, I will not give it up!" returned Laura, with rising warmth.

Little feet were now heard coming down the stairs.

"Oh, well," said Susie, "a wilful woman must have her way. Here, children, come and look at Auntie Laurie's wonderful Christmas-box."

CHAPTER III.

And so change came to Laura, as it comes to us all.

The little one throve well, and Laura grew to love her dearly. She was two years and a half old now—a pretty little lively toddling creature, with sloe-black eyes, and crisp black curls, and bright sprightly ways, that were Laura's pride and pleasure every hour of her life.

And she, Laura, no longer looked grave and quiet, not to say sad, as she had once done; but almost as bright as the child. She had long debated as to what the little thing should call her, but had finally decided that her simple Christian name would sound better and pleasanter to her than anything else.

It was a warm and lovely summer evening, and Laura had been invited to spend it with her sister.

School was over. During the past eighteen months Laura had found her duties rather a tie and a weariness at times, with the child; and she had, moreover, lost a few of her best scholars, solely on the little Louise's account; but she trusted that the worst was over now, and pushed bravely on.

With pride she brushed out the pretty black curls, and arrayed the little one in a tiny rose-coloured frock, miniature white cloak, and little sun-hat.

"And now," said she, in sweet loving tones, "Louise shall go with Lottie, to take tea with little Jackie and the rest."

Upon which Miss Louise screamed out in silver tones of delight, and then said, in voice of baby music—

"Put on pretty dress, Lottie!"

And Laura, who had now eyes for the little one, but not always for herself, smiled at the reminder, and changed her simple alpaca for a soft grey silk, with pink bows; and tiny Louise clapped her little hands in glee, and touched first the bright bows, and then her own small frock, as if to express her recognition of the likeness of colour. And Laura caught her in her arms, and kissed her heartily; and then, being ready to depart, ran down-stairs with her.

Arriving at Susie's house, she entered without knocking, as she always did, and made her way to the parlour, the little one chatting all the time. She pushed open the door, expecting to find Susie alone, she having told her the day before that John would most likely be out on business. But there sat her brother-in-law, and with him two gentlemen, and no Susie was to be seen.

And there stood Laura in the doorway, with the tiny child at her side; and one moment she felt the little face hiding in the grey silk skirt, and the next she saw it peeping out again, half laughing, half shy.

It was altogether a pretty picture, and no doubt the gentlemen thought so.

John would have her come in, and then directly introduced the strangers as Mr. William Rogers, an old friend, and Mr. Carl Rogers, his brother, a new one.

"We are all going to Malling, as soon as we have had a cup of tea, to attend an important meeting at the town hall, so you won't be troubled with us long, Laura. Susie is with the children, but she'll be down in a minute."

At tea, both strangers seemed to observe the little animated child with interest, and also they looked at Laura a good deal, Susie thought. But in perfect unconsciousness of herself, all Laura's care was given to the child, and she did not so much as know that two pairs of dark eyes were every now and again fixed upon her.

The brothers were much alike as regarded appearance, and the same description would have done for both. But in air and manner there was a decided difference. William Rogers was very talkative, and there was a twinkle of mischievous merriment in his searching eyes, from which Laura somehow shrank. Carl, on the contrary, was grave and quiet, and his glance soft and gentle.

They had all gone off to the meeting. Susie's children were in bed; the little Louise was asleep in Laura's arms; and the two women were sitting by a pretty work-table.

Susie was sewing busily upon tiny frocks and pinafores.

"Laura," she began, suddenly, "Mr. William Rogers seemed greatly interested in you and your adopted child. We told him the whole story, John and I, while you were playing with the children. I certainly like Mr. William Rogers much better than his brother; *he* scarcely noticed a word that I said of you, while William was all politeness and attention."

"And I like the brother!" rejoined Laura energetically—"Mr. Carl Rogers, I mean—and I don't care for the other one bit. He is one of those busy chattering people who always make me nervous."

A long pause. Then Susie, with a sort of sigh, began again, glancing as she spoke at the sleeping child in Laura's arms.

"I am seriously afraid, my dear Laura, that that child will ruin all your prospects in life. You ought never to have kept her."

Laura looked down with intense love at her "pretty little waif" as she sometimes fondly called her.

"She has brightened all my prospects in life, say rather, Susie! I have something to live for now."

A little further argument, and then—

"Well," said Susie, "if you are satisfied, that is everything, I suppose."

"But I will say, dear," Laura went on, presently, in another tone, "that I cannot help wondering at times how I shall get on in years to come. I am worried and anxious about my school, whenever I set myself seriously to think of it. I can only just contrive to live comfortably now, and three or four of my scholars will soon be leaving me—not on account of Louise; I do hope that *that* is all over at last. But what shall I do when she gets older, dear child? She will cost much more then. I might take a situation as governess, and perhaps do far better so; but I could never bear to go away and leave her."

There was silence for a few moments, and then Susie put down her work, and gently laid her hand on Laura's.

"Forgive me, dear sister, but now I do indeed think you in the wrong. If you feel so strongly that you did well to take the child, and that a Providence put it in your way—very well, then, the same Providence can take care of both it and you. People are always talking of faith and trust, and how much of either do they show? And believe me, dear, I am speaking to myself quite as much as to you. My faith fails me every day."

"Go on, Susie."

"And we assert our belief, too, do we not? over and over again, in a wise God and heavenly Father who over-rules for good, and in love, the most trifling actions of our lives. And we *say* that this guidance for love can never fail, that from hour to hour, and from year to year, it is still the same. But do we act up to what we profess to believe? Work on, dear Laura, and trust on, and be sure that all will be well."

CHAPTER IV.

Five—six—seven years passed away. Laura's little adopted daughter grew in beauty, health, and intelligence, and was more than ever the source of her joy and happiness.

Laura still kept on with her school, though it had long ceased to be prosperous. A more pretentious establishment had been started close by, and that had soon taken all her best scholars, and the rest were gradually leaving her.

Her sister, also, had moved away from the adjoining village in which had been her home for so long, and had gone to a distance; and this had been a great blow to Laura's love and also to her comfort. She had no one to go to now, in her little troubles, no one to show her any sympathy.

She had often after that first meeting seen the brothers Rogers at her sister's house and beween Mr Carl Rogers and herself had grownup quite a pleasant friendship. But, as Susie had prophesied, nothing further had come of it. For one thing, Carl Rogers was poor. He had speculated, and lost money; and then, just as they were becoming really well acquainted, he had had an advantageous appointment offered him abroad, which he had at once accepted, and Laura had neither seen or heard of him for more than three years.

* * * *

Christmas was very near once more.

Laura was in great trouble. Her school had failed entirely at last, and she had given up her pleasant lodgings, and was now on her way to her sister's new home; John and Susie having cordially invited her to stay with them until she could decide upon what was best to be done.

And very dark and dreary indeed did the future look to Laura.

Arriving at her journey's end, she was soon resting by a bright fire in Susie's own cheerful room. Louise had already run off to play with the other children.

"Mr. Rogers is here, dear," remarked Susie, as she stood thoughtfully stirring the fire—"Mr. Carl Rogers. He very unexpectedly walked in with John last evening. He directly asked after you, and seemed pleased to hear that we expected you to-day."

But Laura scarcely made any reply.

"You are very tired, I am sure, dear," said Susie again, in her kind-hearted way; "and you have had a dull miserable journey, have you not?"

"Yes, and *I* have been dull and miserable for so long," returned Laura with an effort. "It has been such uphill work, Susie, for the last six months, and now everything looks terribly dark and dismal."

"Never mind, dear; try not to think about it more than you can help. Trust still. God can make it light, and He can give prosperity and happiness again when he pleases. And did you ever happen to read, Laura, that 'our uphill difficulties are the way to the greatest comforts?' and that 'burdens are more felt when comforts are near at hand?' But, oh! I wish ——" and Susie paused.

"Well, Susie dear?" and Laura looked up with a weary smile.

"I ought to say so, perhaps, but if only you had not got that child!"

"Do not wish that, Susie, when she is all the pleasure I have!" and Laura burst into tears.

Louise ran in, in bright warm dress, and ribbons to match—Laura always contrived to dress her nicely.

"Why, Lottie! oh, my darling Lottie! whatever is the matter? I cannot bear to see you cry! Oh! what has anybody been doing?" and the child's arms were round her neck in an instant, and little loving lips and fingers fondly caressed her.

"It does not signify, my darling," and Laura at once dried her eyes. "Lottie was only crying because she was afraid that she might be obliged to——"

"Leave you," she would have added, but she could not bear to pain the dear little heart, and so left the words unspoken.

All that evening Carl Rogers' eyes were upon her. Susie had told him of the failure of the school. Laura's face was full of patient sadness, and as her glance followed merry Louise about the room, she was trying to make up her mind to give her up, after all.

Susie's new home was a cosy little nest of a place, and Laura's heart warmed to the love and kindness shown her by all. But only a few weeks she might rest there, and then she must start out into the cold lone world again, and make a fresh beginning.

"What a thing it is to be watched!" exclaimed Susie, as she came to sit in Laura's room for a few minutes, before going to her own. "Mr. Rogers has done nothing but look at you for these three hours, Laura!"

"Nonsense, dear; I am too old to be watched."

* * * * *

It was Christmas morning; a bright glad day, as far as outside weather went, but it could not cheer Laura. Her heart was heavy yet.

She was walking to church, with Carl Rogers on her right hand, and Louise on her left.

"And so that nice young lady was your Christmas present, nine years ago to-day?" observed Carl, when Laura had been silent for some time. And then, after a moment's pause, he added—

"I wonder if you would take another Christmas present—from me—to-day, if I were to offer it?"

Laura looked up. Something in his tone, or manner, or both, surprised her.

"Run away, dear child," said grave Carl now to Louise, "and ask Aunt Susie to keep you for a few minutes, while I speak to—Miss Ashburnham."

Louise was gone. Laura had not uttered a word. Carl touched her arm, and looked at her with eyes of love.

"Would you be willing to give up that child, Laura—Miss Ashburnham?"

The colour rushed to Laura's face.

"No, oh, no! I could never give her up." But her voice was full of pain.

"But would you give her to *me!* She is mine, really. I am her father. And will *you* be my dear wife?"

Laura was too much astonished to speak.

"*Yours!*" she uttered, at length. "Louise *your* child?"

"Yes; the child of a woman whom I married—I am ashamed to say it—for her wealth. She died a week after Louise was born."

"And how came you to think of sending her to me?"

And Carl told her of the conversation between her and her sister which he had chanced to overhear.

"I threw away happiness once," he concluded. "But now—will you be my wife? You have not answered me yet. The worthless present I would offer you is myself."

Louise ran up again, but Carl held out his hand. Laura put hers into it and the compact was sealed.

They entered the pretty country church, decorated with ivy and ferns, beautifully done, Laura thought. And she thought also that she had never attended a happier, heartier service in her whole life.

And she murmured when she was alone again—

"There is a Providence that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will."

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MRS. PHILLIS HUMPHREYS.
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GORDON'S EXTRACT.

A SONG.

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

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

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

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

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GORDON'S EXTRACT.

A CASE.

They said that he was dying.
I watched him day and night.
I fancied every moment
The spirit would take flight.

His life was hanging merely
Upon the faintest breath,
Physicians told me sadly
It was the approach of death.

But a dear friend I cherish
A medicine famed did bring:
He soon began to flourish,
To bloom as flowers in spring.

'Twas "Gordon's splendid Extract,"
Which I now gladly bless,
Restoring life and health to him,
To me true happiness.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

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1 pkt Couve Tronchuda	1 pkt Vegetable Marrow
4 ozs & 1 pkt } Cress	4 pkts Herbs, Sweet & Pot
2 pkts Cucumber	1 pkt Tomato
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13th August, 1885.—Started from Central Station, Newcastle, at 11·10 p.m., arriving in Finsbury Park about 6·30 a.m. Having an hour to wait, we went and had some refreshment; got a cup of coffee and, what our hostess termed a rasher of bacon. We enjoyed it very much, for we were hungry and exceedingly cold with our ride. At 7·30 got a train for Blackwater, arriving about 8. We found the hotel very easily, as it is quite close to the station. Two porters carried our luggage for us at the rate of twopence per box. We found the depot all in a tumult; so many fresh arrivals—about 500; the hotel quite filled up; and we, with scores more, had to be content with a make-shift sort of place fitted up much the same as the ship, thin partitions of boards, and curtains separating the married couples. The single men and women have a place to themselves. You should hear the young men going to bed; their tramp, tramp, tramp is perfectly deafening. We have breakfast here at 8, dinner at 1, and tea at 5; and every night at 7 o'clock, two or three preach the gospel outside; and when dark, the large room is lighted up and filled, and the preaching continues till 9 o'clock; doors locked at 10. After getting our boxes put away, we had the joy of seeing Rochester and Easton, and went with them to the Zoological Gardens and British Museum.

On Saturday, I spent most of my time hunting the boxes sent by goods rail, and found them at last down at the ship.

On Sunday, we broke bread at Baker Street, and I had the privilege at night of preaching the Gospel at the door of the depot to about 600 people.

August 17th—We passed the doctor.

August 18th.—We left Blackwall by steamer, at 10·30. to embark at Gravesend on board of the "Duke of Sutherland," Rochester arriving just in time to accompany us on board. We got on board the "Duke" about 2 p.m., a large screw-steamer over 3,000 tons burthen and 420 feet long by 38 feet wide. Set sail at 5·45 p.m.; dropped anchor in English Channel at 8·30 p.m.; set sail again at 4 a.m.; passed Dover at 8·30 a.m.; sea rather rough; felt rather squeamish.

August 20th.—Beautiful morning. Sighted the coast of France at 12 noon; entered the Bay of Biscay at 10 p.m.; sea very calm; shoals of porpoises sporting in the ocean.

August 21st.—Fine morning. Great swell; ship rolling very much, and poor me sick as a dog, but not all by myself; many in the very same condition.

August 22nd.—Ship still rolling; sighted Cape Finisterre in Spain about 3 a.m.

August 23rd.—Beautiful weather. Sea calm as a lake; fine view of the coast of Spain; shoals of porpoises diving under the ship and coming up at the other side; see Cape St. Vincent and Trafalgar Bay at 2·30 p.m.; at 6·30 p.m. had a gospel meeting.

August 24th.—Beautiful morning. Sea smooth as glass; sighted coast of Africa on one side and Spain on the other; got a charming view of the town and Rock of Gibraltar; houses all flat roofs. We are now in the Mediterranean; the sea the most beautiful blue I ever saw. It is now delightful sailing; the sun very hot.

August 25th.—Still fine weather; 85 degrees in the shade. We have got an awning now over our part of the ship.

August 26th.—Still hot.

August 27th.—Arrived at Malta, a beautiful island; all along the coast are forts, barracks, and lighthouses. We reached the harbour about 10 a.m.; the sight was grand, magnificent buildings reaching down to the water s edge, and fortifications on all sides. There are few a ships of war lying in the harbour, and as we take our place there are scores of fruit and trinket vendors in their boats coming off to give us a welcome. Many of them were not allowed on board, but it made no matter, baskets with strings attached did service for all sorts of wares: grapes, lemons, melons, cocoa nuts, tobacco, tea, milk, sugar, jewellery, lace, dogs, &c. We took on board upwards of 1,500 tons of coal. You should have seen the black coolies getting them in, the noise they make is something terrible. Little black boys quite naked came alongside to dive for coppers; if you throw them a penny into the sea they will dive to the bottom for it. We left Malta at 6·10 p.m.

August 29th.—Weather splendid.

August 30th.—One of the black sailors died and was thrown overboard; about 40 Hindoos at the burial, all praying and had some stuff burning on a shovel. Same morning we had a birth in the married quarters—a boy—he will be called after the ship "The Duke of Sutherland." We had a gospel meeting at night, and we had a very blessed time.

August 31st.—We got our boxes up to-day; such a bustle and noise with many of the boxes broken to pieces.

Sept. 1st.—Just passing Alexandria, but can only see the ships in the harbour; can make nothing out of the city. Dropped anchor in Port at 3.30 p.m., a most curious place. There were ships of war belonging to France, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Holland, and England lying here. Took 1,400 tons of coal on board to serve us till we reach Colombo. Lay here all night, as we are not allowed to go through the canal after sunset.

September 2nd.—Beautiful morning. Started at 5 a.m. and enter the Suez Canal; the country very flat; we pass droves of naked Arabs, some with camels others trudging on foot. We threw a lot of stale bread to them which they eagerly clutched, wading sometimes up to the waist in water for it. There are stopping stations in the canal every five miles where ships are allowed to pass each other; the canal being made wider in these parts; passed the Palace of the Khedive this afternoon at Ishmalah, also the battle ground of Kasshsaan. The heat is now 11 degrees in the shade, and over 130 in the sun. We are travelling now between banks of burning sand; it is almost suffocating. We pass numbers of large steamers, war and passenger, on their way home. At 6·40 p.m. we dropped anchor in the canal along with four or five other steamers. The sunsets here are glorious, I never saw anything like them.

September 3rd.—Lovely morning; nice cool breeze blowing. Start again at 7 a.m. and enter the Bitter Lakes at 8·30 a.m. We have a splendid view of the country; see a train with about 40 carriages running from Port Said, which we are just entering. We do not stop here, but proceed at once to the Gulf of Suez and then on to the Red Sea.

September 4th.—Fine, cool morning. We passed Mount Sinai before daylight this morning. We are now in the Red Sea; see several small islands off the coast of Arabia; have seen several Flying Fish, they shine like silver, flying in droves. I took them for birds at first; they fly for two or three hundred yards, and then drop into the water.

September 5th.—Weather splendid; and sea calm.

September 6th.—Fine weather still, but awfully hot; 130 degrees in the sun. Gospel preaching in the evening. The most of us sleep on deck now, it being impossible for to sleep below.

September 7th.—Hot as fire, the sea itself is 95 degrees, not a breath of air; the whole atmosphere seems stagnant. Five sharks are following the ship. Several are ill with the intense heat. We have passed the islands called the Twelve Apostles. A baby has died to-night, and a young woman, from over exerting herself, together with the heat, is just on the point of death.

September 8th.—Baby buried this morning. Still terribly hot. Schoolmaster got his purse stolen with several valuable papers; several of the girls have lost things as well. The young woman spoken of died this evening, and several more are dangerously ill, causing a cloud to come over the whole company. Passed through the Straits of Babel Mandeb; all glad to be rid of the terrible Red Sea.

September 9th.—Beautiful morning, nice breeze blowing, and thousands of porpoises sporting in the water around us; some of the sailors were saying that there must be some sharks chasing them.

September 10th.—We are now in the Indian Ocean, a strong gale blowing, the sea washing over the ship. I am sick and can do nothing but sit. At night the gale increased, and as we rolled about like "onions" in our bunks, we could hear the seas breaking over the ship. The young men's hatches were all battened down, and all the moveable houses were tied down with strong ropes. A large whale was seen about 5 p.m.

September 11th.—Gale abated.

September 12th.—Fine morning. A concert given by the officers to-night.

September 13th.—Beautiful morning. Ship still rolling. Service held this morning by the doctor; Gospel preaching at night.

September 14th.—Fine morning; this is the fourth day since we saw land or a sail, nothing but water.

September 15th.—Beautiful morning, but rather hot. Passed a small island.

September 16th.—Beautiful morning.

September 17th.—Fine morning. Got into Colombo at 7 a.m.; it is a beautiful place, and we saw the residence of Arabi Pasha. We could buy fruit and lots of other things off natives that came on board. There were coals and cargo taken on board, and two snake charmers came on board also, for the amusement of the passengers. To post letters there cost sixpence. There were two passengers taken on board. We sailed again at 8 p.m.

September 18th.—Fine morning; strong breeze blowing, and no land to be seen.

September 19th.—Lovely morning, and there were some Flying Fish flew on board and were caught. There were a few waves came on the deck.

September 20th.—Fine morning; a fresh breeze blowing. We crossed the line about twelve o'clock. It has been raining very heavily this afternoon.

September 21st.—Very dull and still raining. Never seen land since we left Colombo until this afternoon. There was a very heavy thunderstorm, the lightning lit all the sea up for miles around, it was awfully grand, the rain too fell in bucketfuls.

September 22nd.—Still in the thunderstorm, the lightening, such as no English people have any conception of, all the flood gates above seem to be drawn aside to let it come down at once.

September 24th.—Still stormy.

September 25th.—Quite a change; sea quite smooth; we sight the island of Samatra; a beautiful lighthouse on one of adjacent islands; get a sight of Java with its volcanoes, one especially put me in mind of a huge ballast heap, it is so much burned away, the most of them, however, with other scenes and sights of interest; we pass the night; we now come to the Straits of Sunda, about 36 miles from Batavia. Rockets are sent up for a pilot, and in the morning,

September 26th,—We sail into the wonderful harbours of Batavia, which is really a breakwater in the form of a horse shoe. The town itself lies a distance of 8 miles from the harbour; the land all about is very flat, much of it, I should say, is under the level of the sea. The natives look like Chenese of a copper colour, flat noses, and eyes anything but straight; we take in coals here, also some beef; a few miserable-looking creatures they call sheep, with a number of chuckies, or what we call at home cocks and hens. We sail again at 4·30 p.m, with a strong head wind blowing.

September 27th.—All sail set and a grand breeze blowing; we are going along at a fine rate. I find we have got our numbers augmented, 2 saloon passengers taken at Batavia for Brisbane. We pass several sailing ships, full rigged and every sail set, a magnificent sight truly; we have the coast of Java always in sight, with here and there a beautiful island; we also see several sea serpents, they are striped with black and yellow, whales and dolphins, with flying fish in great abundance.

September 28th.—Weather very fine; we pass several ships and fishing boats.

September 29th.—Weather very hot; sailing close to the land, splendid scenery—lofty mountains, nearly 5,000 feet high, rising almost perpendicularly out of the water.

September 30th.—Fine weather and still very hot.

October 1st.—Going along splendidly with magnificent scenery, mountains whose tops are piercing the clouds with every variety of landscape; two whales are blowing away about three miles off.

October 2nd.—All the boxes taken up and sorted preparatory to landing at the several ports.

October 3rd.—Still fine.

October 4th.—Head winds blowing, keeping us back a little.

October 5th.—Still head winds.

October 6th.—We sight the coast of Australia and enter the harbour of Thursday Island, and anchor alongside an old hulk of a ship, kept there for receiving stores of every kind, a sort of store house for the entire island. A strange place this island is, from our point of view at least. Whether it has streets or not I cannot say, but the houses look very funny all standing on posts, built one story high with verandahs, some of them back and front. We saw a Methodist chapel standing among the lot, and it struck me forcibly that it felt its situation keenly, for there was no attempt at order among its neighbours, it was "here am I, where are you?" One of the young men, a carpenter, got a job here, £10 per month, board and lodings. We left the island at 6 p.m., passing through the strait of Torres at 12 p.m.

October 7th.—We are now on the Queensland coast, the most dangerous in the world, but we have a good pilot on board, over 1,500 miles a coral reef extends, forming a complete breakway all that way, shielding us from the force of the South Pacific Ocean. The coast, which is very hilly, is anything but inviting, being ragged and barren looking from the sea.

October 8th.—Fine weather; we expect to arrive at Townsville about 2 p.m. to-morrow; we passed Cook Town this afternoon; we shall have land in sight all the way to Brisbane; the young baby born on the ship died and was buried this afternoon. This makes, all together, 4 deaths since we left.

October 9th.—We arrive in Townsville at 5 p.m.; we anchor 7 miles from the town in a large bay. The town has a strange appearance from where we are, but we are not in a position to pronounce upon it. We discharge a lot of engine rails, &c., here, taking us till Monday.

October 12th.—Weigh anchor at 5 a.m. and enter the same day at 4 p.m. into Bowen, a great agricultural district; the town is 6 miles from where we anchor. A meat preserving company have their works at the landing; great numbers of sheep are driven down from the interior, slaughtered, and then sent to England. Bowen is one of the best parts for farmers. Land is much cheaper here, and as good as any part of Queensland. Capitalists are expending a great amount of money on machinery at present, and everything seems to be thriving in that line; farms too can be purchased cheap and on easy terms, with every facility for getting rid of the produce. We weigh anchor at 2 a.m.

October 13th.—After a little tossing we arrive at Rockhampton.

October 14th.—At 9 in the morning, we take leave of a great many of our friend here, over 100. We are 45 miles from the town and they go by one of the coasting steamers. The agent general, who is a doctor as well, has paraded us all before him, and goes with this batch to Rockhampton, it will take all day and greater part of the night delivering machinery and other goods, locomotive engines, &c. We start again at 12·30 for Maryborough, expecting to arrive about 6 p.m. to-morrow.

October 15th.—Rough weather, heavy showers, no shelter on deck. So have had to improvise one with one of our blankets, so tied as to break the force of the wind; about 3 p.m. we pass the town of Blunderburgh. The children are highly amused at a shoal of porpoises that are gambling and jumbing in high glee after each other; it seems to be a high day with them. The sea here is full of sharks; the doctor caught three young ones last night, about 4 feet long; he caught a young sword fish as well.

October 16th.—We entered Harney Bay for Maryborough about 5 a.m., took leave of 50 more passengers; we were honoured with a visit from two of the natives of Australia. They are very course-featured and very black. They dress when they visit any of the town but strip again as soon as they go back to the bush. I really could not say they were good looking, their mouths are anything but small and well-formed, and, their noses are almost flat; they sailed in a piece of bark which they called a canoe. You should have seen them handle it. One had a thin piece of stick, and the other his hands, with which he did more service than his friend with the stick. On the shore of the bay their is a quarantine with hospital and telegraph office, about 4 houses in all. It looks so cosy to us by the wood side. We notice at the end of the hospital a grave stone marking the last resting place of some emigrant who had no doubt left home with high expectations as to the country of their adoption. We can only trust they knew the Lord and entered into his presence which is far better, oh! how far better. We weighed anchor for Brisbane at 2 p.m. hugging the land all the way. We arrived in Moreton Bay for Brisbane on Saturday afternoon.

October, 17th—About 4 p.m.. all was hurry and bustle getting ready to land; but when the steamer came alongside we were told that only a few were to go that night, the rest on Sunday morning. I can assure you that we were right glad to hear our names called out and so ranged among the privileged few. We took a trusty leave of our friends, with his Grace the Duke, and all his precious cargo; and, entering the tug, we steamed off with high expectations. It was dusk when we entered the river Brisbane which is 25 miles from the town; a beautiful, broad, an very serpentine river it is—its banks crowded with villas built of wood, all having verandahs, and of every conceivable style; the sight was most refreshing, and quite novel to us. We landed at the wharf about 8 p.m., and with one or two more were making the best of our way to the depot, which by the way is an awful place, full of vermin of every kind. Well, on our way, I was accosted by a young man with "Are you Mr McIntosh!" It turned out that he was sent by our brother, Mr Tunley, lately from Wolverhampton, a very nice and gifted servant of the Lord. We were taken to his house and after having some tea and a chat, we had the extreme pleasure of resting on a bed without being rocked to and fro, as we had been for nearly nine weeks. There was quite a large gathering of the Lord's people in Brisbane. Two meetings, one—the principal—in George Street, the other in Bulimba. There is quite a number of Gospel preachers. Mr Tunley is the only one qualified to edify the saints. but strange to say the Lord has taken him home since we came; six days ill. He leaves a widow with eight children, and the assembly feels the breach made very much. However, He doeth all things well. On the Monday morning we were out house hunting, but could not get one to suit. They are dreadfully dear. As Tunley's were very much inconvenienced with our being there, we had to look out for a room to stay in. We were at this for over a week; and at last succeeded in getting a house at the rate of 12s 6d per week. I may say I like the place well. There are no—what we call in England—poor people here; there is plenty work, and good wages. At the present time things are a little dull, but that is entirely owing to the long run of dry weather. There has been little or no rain for the last nine months, yet, taking all this into account, there is still a great and ever-increasing demand for all classes of trade. Another thing I notice here, there is no riding it over workmen by their masters. One man seems to be as good as another and, as Pat says, "a long way better." Masters and men seem to be on a level, all Tom, Jack, and Harry. I have not got a situation as yet, but one may turn up at any time. The weather is still very hot, over 90 in the shade, and getting hotter every day. We expect to have it over 120 in the shade at Christmas. Still we have it cool, at nights and mornings. A nice breeze springs up about 4 o'clock, and we are quite refreshed after the extreme heat of the day. There is really no dull weather here, it is always sunshine, bright blue sky and burning sun. All feel the want of rain; a good well sinker would make his fortune here. Water runs up to 2s. or 3s. a barrel of 30 gallons in some places. The most of people are going mad after land. It is running up to a frightful price, plots of 16 perches as far as £150, and up to £360 in many instances; hundreds of workmen buying it up and building what they call a hampy on it (a cabin of one room) until they pay off the amounts, then enter the building society giving them the deeds and building a stylish four or six room house and so in a short time live rent free. Almost all here are property owners and then they have not the heavy rates to contend with that they have in England. I believe it to be the best country in the world for the working man. I don't mean poor man, I mean rich and poor, who will work. It is no country for idle people; all are at work and in earnest.

Now the crafts most in demand at present—1st, are carpenters, the demand for all in that line is very great; then plumbers, tailors, and tailoresses all kinds of labourers, especially farm labourers, painters, grocers, engineers, and bakers. The fact is a man cannot go wrong, he is sure to find something to do, and he is well paid for doing it. One thing I must say as to gardeners. I believe there are few of them required, as John Chinaman does all that sort of work, and in selling his produce. Englishman can't compete with him. Any community out from England might just bring their ordinary wearing apparel with them. There is really not so much difference after all, only in the extreme three months, and even then cool at night. Food is very reasonable, and butcher meat is the cheapest thing we can get; fancy, getting a prime leg of mutton 7lb weight for 2s 11d. Now, I do not say this for the purpose of inciting anyone to come here, that I would not try to do; but what I have written, you may depend upon as being strictly true and within the mark. I could say a good deal more, but will desist, for the present, with best of wishes and love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

J. McIntosh.

THE SOUTH MEDOMSLEY DISPUTE.

ANOTHER CHARGE OF INTIMIDATION.

At the Lanchester Petty Sessions, held yesterday (Thursday) in the Workhouse Buildings—before M. Kearney, Esq. (chairman), A. H. Talmadge, Esq., Rev J. P. De Pledge, Geo. G. Taylor Smith, Esq., Geo. Hedley, Esq., and Lieut.-Col. Wilbraham—*John Kelly*, a Unionist, now locked-out at South Medomsley Colliery, was summoned for wrongfully and unlawfully intimidating Robert Bessford, a coal-hewer, now employed at the colliery, contrary to the 7th Section of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875. Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) prosecuted on behalf of the colliery owners; and Mr H. Forrest (Durham), who was instructed by Mr T. Foreman, president of the Durham Miners' Association, conducted the defence.

Mr Forrest desired the charge to be tried before a jury, if there was sufficient evidence; but as the defendant elected for to be dealt with by the Bench, the investigation of the case was proceeded with.

After Mr Welford had briefly enumerated the facts, prosecutor was sworn, and said he was one of the new hands at South Medomsley. On the 27th January, he was proceeding to his work, about 9·30 a.m., when he met Kelly standing on the footpath, and the latter said he would like to give him a "b—— good hiding;" and would also "knock his soul out" for going to work. He went past the defendant to his work. On returning home with other workmen, about 5·30 the same evening, being accompanied by policemen, they were followed by a crowd of about 500 people, who were congregated at the end of the row of houses occupied by the strike hands. The crowd followed them, shouting and bawling, and pelted both the "blacklegs" and the police with snowballs. Kelly appeared to be the ringleader of the fray. He (complainant) was struck with a snowball. He was afraid to go to work, and was living in bodily fear of the strike men.

By the Rev J. P. De Pledge: They had always to be escorted to and from work by constables.

Cross-examined by Mr Forrest: This had been the case ever since the dispute commenced, an extra force of police being stationed at the colliery. He came from Thornley, where the pits were lying idle; but he had never been a Unionist. Soon after complainant and one or two more came to South Medomsley, they went up to the miners' lodge. He said that he did not like to "blackleg," and if they could get their railway fare they would go back again. Accordingly the Unionists assembled subscribed a few coppers amongst themselves to take him home; and he received 14d as his share. He did not receive 4s.

Mr Welford objected to these questions, as they did no affect the present case; but Mr Forrest rejoined that he intended to show that the complainant did not comply with the conditions of the gift.

The Chairman observed that these questions would not injure the case.

Cross-examination resumed: Complainant stated that they were forced to go to the lodge room, as they had previously been threatened. It was left to the option of the Unionists to give them some money. They did not ask for it. After receiving the money, he re-started work, although he had been advised to get out of the way. He could not say whether his companions again wrought at the pit. He would swear that Kelly, when he met him on the day in question, did not demand the return of 3d which he had subscribed towards the expense of sending him home by rail. Defendant never said anything about the money. He did not know the secretary, and could not say whether the latter handed him the money in a lump sum.

By the Bench: They had worked at the pit before they visited the lodge-room; but they had been told that they were incurring a great responsibility in remaining there, and would be killed. He could not state if defendant contributed towards the fund to induce them to leave.

Henry Turner, another fresh hand, was standing near the gateway of the Police Barracks, about a quarter to 10 o'clock on the day in question, and heard Kelly say to Bessford that he had a "good mind to give him a good hiding," and threatened to "knock his b—— soul out," because he was going to work. The men were escorted by the police to and from their work. On coming home the same evening, a gang of 400 or 500 persons assembled, and snowballs were flying about.

By Mr Forrest: Kelly lived somewhere near to the Police Station.

Sergt. Tate, of Consett, at present on special duty at South Medomsley, deposed that on the night in question, he was in the Police Barracks when Bessford came to him and complained that he had been threatened by Kelly. About 5·30 the same evening, as a number of constables were escorting the workmen home, they were pelted with snowballs, Kelly being the ringleader. The police had the greatest difficulty in getting the men from the colliery to their homes. Witness had noticed on several occasions lately that in every hostile demonstration against the workmen, Kelly was always head and chief.

This was the case for the prosecution.

Mr Forrest said he would call evidence of quite a different character that would throw some light upon the case. His witnesses would prove that Kelly merely asked complainant to return the 3d he had subscribed towards his fund. If their Worships believed this statement, he asked them to dismiss the summons. He submitted, moreover, that there was no case whatever, neither of molestation nor intimidation, within the meaning of the Act.

Joseph Cooke, a strike man, remembered being in company of the defendant on the 27th ult., when Bessford passed them on the road. He asked Kelly if he knew that fellow, and the latter replied "Yes;" afterwards shouting to the man, "Give us my money back, you scoundrel, you got from us." He was present the whole of the time, and never heard Kelly make use of the language attributed to him.

By Mr Welford: This happened at 9·30 a.m., Kelly being standing in the gateway of his house, and witness was stationed four doors higher up the row. Forsyth was also standing in his own gateway. Afterwards Bessford went into the Police Barracks, and witness walked towards the Delight Pit. He could not say if Kelly spoke in an angry tone to the complainant—he seemed to be calm and collected.

By Mr De Pledge: He was not amongst the crowd of 500 at the corner end. There would be Kelly, Bessford, Forsyth, and himself standing close at hand.

Henry Forsyth averred that Kelly shouted to Cooke (when Bessford went by) that he was the man he wanted his money off. Defendant never spoke to Bessford at all.

John Speeding, secretary of the South Medomsley Miners' Lodge, adduced that three men who did not belong the Union visited the lodge-room one day. On being asked their business they said they had travelled from Thornley to work at South Medomsley, and did not intend to start if only a subscription was got up to send them home again. Accordingly the Union men assembled collected 3s 7½d, which witness handed to Bessford. He offered to pay them if they would return home.

Mr Welford: Why did you offer to give them money if they would go back home?—Witness: The men asked for some relief, and we found them their railway fares.

Is it usual for tor to give every man some relief when he asks for it?—No.

Why did you give it in this instance, then?—The men said they had no money to pay for their lodgings.

Mr Welford: Oh; it was for lodgings, not the railway fare. You know very well that if the men were working at the colliery, houses would be provided for them.—They asked for their train fares, and we gave it to them.

For what purpose did you give the men the money. To induce them to cease working at the pit?—No; that was not the reason.

Well, for what other reason did you hand it to them?

Mr Forrest: He has given you an answer.

Mr Welford: Don't interrupt, Mr Forrest. I did not stop you. (To witness): Is it usual for you to subscribe money to any man who asks for it?—Witness: No.

Why did you do so in this case?—Because the man was a long way from home.

Mr Welford demanded an answer, but the Chairman pointed out that he need not press the question further. The magistrates would make a note of the fact, and draw their own inferences.

Being further interrogated, witness attested that the whole of the 3s 7½d was presented to Bessford; but he would not swear that the other two men did not receive a portion of it from him. Complainant and his comrades left the room together.

Mr Welford: Was the money given with the intention of inducing the men to leave the colliery?—Witness: Yes; to pay their railway fare.

Was it your intention that the men should quit the place?

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr Granger): Never mind the intentions. We want the actions.

Bessford was re-called, and swore that only Turner was present at the time of the threat—neither Cooke nor Forsyth were there. Some men were standing at the top of the rows, but they could not hear what transpired.

Kelly declared that Turner was not there at all.

Turner, being re-examined, explained that a group of men were standing at the row ends, but he could not tell who they were. They would perhaps be half-a-dozen yards away, and could possibly overhear what passed.

The Chairman, after one minute's consultation with his colleagues, said the magistrates unanimously considered the charge of intimidation proved. Kelly would be committed to gaol for one month's hard labour, and ordered to defray the costs.

The decision produced great consternation amongst the miners assembled, such exclamations as "Never mind, Jack," "Cheer up, man," "He's me brother; and aw's a Union man," being heard. The Bench ordered the Court to be cleared.

Mr Forrest gave notice of appeal.

THE RECENT RIOT.

At the same Court, *Hugh Docherty*, a hawker of flowers, &c., from Easington, was brought up on charges of assaulting Thomas Quigley, a Non-unionist, and P.C. Lawson. *James Wm. Davison*, blacksmith, The Beesom, and *George Lambert*, miner, Catchgate, surrendered upon their own recognisances to answer charges of assaulting P.C. Neesam. The cases arose out of the affray at South Medomsley last Tuesday night. Mr Welford again prosecuted, whilst Mr Forrest defended.

The case of Docherty was heard first. Prisoner appeared with his head covered with a large bandage.—Quigley stated that he was a putter, and had worked at South Medomsley a week. At 5·30 p.m. on the 2nd inst., the men were being guarded home by the police, when Docherty rushed up to him, and without any warning struck at him and knocked him down. There would be between 500 and 600 people round about, and a disturbance ensued. P.C. Lawson came to his assistance. The crowd rushed down upon the force of policemen. He (complainant) never interfered with any man that night.—P.C. Lawson, constable on special duty, saw Docherty hit Quigley, knocking him upon the ground, and he took the man into custody.—Cross-questioned by Mr Forrest as to how prisoner came to receive the wounds upon his head, the officer said he could not say how they were inflicted. He noticed the scars visible, and blood trickling down Docherty's cheeks, when he was taken into custody. Was positive the man was not roughly handled in the Police Barracks. A general *melee* took place, and the mob tried to rescue the prisoners. He did not draw his truncheon during the affray. He was still at South Medomsley. Whilst conveying the prisoner to the Barracks, Docherty turned round and knocked the officer down, and kicked him more than once on the chest whilst he was down. The crowd also attacked him.—P.C. Lindsey, another special constable, observed Docherty hit Quigley on the breast.—Sergeant Tate testified that Docherty received his injuries whilst participating in the affray. He was the ringleader; sticks being freely used by both factions. The man was knocked down and kicked several times. He swore that the prisoner was in no way injured when inside the Police Barracks.—Supt. Oliver informed the Bench that he brought Docherty to Consett the same night and had his injuries examined by Dr Renton. There was an ugly wound on the left side of the face, cut almost to the bone, and was nearly two inches in length. The other marks were bruises or scratches. The medical gentleman was of opinion that the wounds were inflicted by some blunt instrument—they could have been produced by a boot toe. The doctor certified there was no danger, providing erysipelas did not set in.—Docherty stated he was a stranger to the place, and had been very simply led into the affray.—The Chairman believed the prisoner had been considerably abused by some means or other. However, the Bench intended to punish him severely. He was committed for one month's hard labour for the assault upon the police. With regard to Quigley's case, it was dismissed.

Concerning the offences committed by Lambert and Davison, the former pleaded not guilty, while the latter admitted tossing a snowball at the police.—P.C. Neesam said that the crowd commenced to toss snowballs at them. He saw Lambert pick up a lump of hard snow and hit him upon the ear, causing it to smart. The same man afterwards struck him with another ball. The officer caught hold of prisoner, and asked his name, which the latter refused to divulge, the crowd shouting "Don't tell." On reaching the new church, stones were fired at them. The missiles were obtained from the material laid about the building. One of the stones alighted with considerable force upon his shoulder. It was only with the utmost difficulty that the prisoner was taken to the Barracks.—Mr Forrest: You don't mean to say that a snowball would hurt a great, big fellow like you?—Officer: Yes. There were a great many snowballs shot from all sides.—Mr Forrest: Why did you not produce the stone?—Neesam: We had quite plenty to do to get the men to the Police Station.—P.C. Bain spoke to seeing Davison firing a stone at Neesam. He did not notice Lambert do anything except throw a snowball. Davison endeavoured to rescue Lambert from their custody. He apprehended Davison, and the mob pressed against the police, and then tried to release both prisoners from their grasp. Both stones and snowballs were flying about in all directions. The mob afterwards made a raid upon the Barracks, by making an effort to break in the front door in order to release the prisoners, and likewise smashed the upstairs windows with stones. Davison had told several parties since that it was he who tried to effect the escape of Lambert from his custody.—Mr Forrest reminded the justices that both these were trival assaults. Davison admitted throwing a snowball, but Lambert denied taking any part whatever in the uproar. He would call witnesses to prove this statement. With respect to the other prisoner, he was a young man bearing a respectable character, and he considered the justice of the case would be met by the Bench dealing leniently with him, and only inflicting a fine.—Wm. Glenwright, a strike hand, stated that he was along with Lambert, on the night referred to, and did not observe him throw a single snowball. He never saw anybody firing snowballs that night.—Alex. McGurk and David Stobbs gave similar evidence.—The Chairman said the fact of throwing a snowball was not a very grave offence; but considering the circumstances surrounding the present case, the Magistrates felt inclined to punish Lambert. However, they would take a lenient view of the case, and discharge prisoner with a severe reprimand. Davison was sentenced to undergo 14 days hard labour, and bear the costs.—Col. White, Chief-Constable, was present during the hearing of the foregoing charges.

There is nothing of any consequence transpiring at South Medomsley this (Friday) morning. In consequence of Tuesday night's disturbance, thousands of people flocked to Dipton on Wednesday evening, but all was calm and quiet. Two of the Unionists, who received a fortnight's notice, have quitted the colliery houses.

We have just received the fifth number of Mrs Leach's *Fancy Work-Basket*, and have been assured on the most undoubted feminine authority that the contents surpass the former issues. In it are given clear instructions for making all kinds of useful and pretty articles for ladies', gentlemen, and children's wear, and for ornamenting the home. It should prove a valuable adjunct to the work-table. Money prizes are offered for fancy work.

Sons of Temperance.—The annual session of the Newcastle Grand Division was held on Saturday in the Church Institute, Percy Street, Newcastle, under the presidency of Bro. J. G. Tinkler, of Bebside, G.W.P. of the district, when about 80 representatives were present. The officers reported that the Order is making steady progress. The number of members on December 31st was 2,358, the Benefit Funds £6,796, Grand Division Funeral Fund £1,117, Contingent Fund £96, Cadet Funeral Fund £171, and the Management Fund about £700. After disposing of the digest business, the following were elected to office for the next twelve months:—G.W.P., Bro. C. W. Davenport, Newcastle; G.W.A., Bro. Matthew Hall, South Shields; G.S., Bro. James Gibson, Newcastle; G. Treasurer, Bro. W. Campbell, Shotley Bridge; G. Chaplain, Bro. Alfred Carr, Consett; C. Con., Bro. Joseph Tinkler, Bebside; G. Sent., Bro. W. Stobbs, Blackhill; P.G.W.P., Bro. John G. Tinkler, Bebside; Committee of Management, Bros. George Lowes, Consett; John Twentyman, South Shields; Thomas Dixon, Gateshead; John Johnson, Newcastle; and W. C. Tyrie, Gate-head. Trustees, Bros. R. J. Bird, Jarrow; Matthew Smith, South Shields; and Thomas Veitch, Newcastle. Auditors Bros. John H. Joplin, Howdon; and Thomas Noble, Jarrow. Bro. A. Richardson, of Blackhill was appointed G.W. Patron of Cadets, which now number 273. It was decided to hold the next session at Leadgate.

Convocation.—The usual convocation which takes place on the second Tuesday of the Epiphany term, was held last Tuesday. The meeting was presided over by the sub-warden (Rev. Dr. Pearce), and the other members of the convocation present were the Rev. Dr. Plummer, Master of University College, Rev J. T. Fowler, Canon Farrar, Archdeacon Watkins, Rev A. Bealands, Dr Philipson, Rev R. Redmayne, the Rev A. Robertson, and Rev W. Hooper. The following appointments of examiners were made:—For the examination of the degree of B.C.L., Rev C. L. Shadwell, M.A., B.C.L., Oriel College, Oxford, and Rev E. A. Whitlock, Oriel College, Oxford; for the final examination for the degree of B.A., Rev C. T. Crutwell, M.A., Merton College, Oxford; for the certificate of proficiency in general education, the Professor of Mathematics, Rev A. Robertson, Principal of Hatfield Hall, Mr F. B. Jevons, M.A., and the Rev W. Hooper; for the preliminary examination in Arts for the degree of M.B., Dr Plummer, D.D., and the Rev J. Morris, M.A. The University seal was affixed to a certificate of proficiency in sanitary science, has been awarded to Charles Pope Walker, M.B., M.S.

"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.

Late Advertisement.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

On MONDAY, February 15th, an Excursion Train will leave CONSETT at 5·30 p.m. (with bookings from Shotley Bridge, Ebchester, &c.), for NEWCASTLE.

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

See Bills.

THE MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS.

There was a good attendance in the House of Lords last (Thursday) night; but after several Peers had taken the oath, Lord Salisbury moved the adjournment of the House, which was at once agreed to.

The sitting in the House of Commons was only short. Several private bills, including some from Tyneside, were read a first time, and Sir T. Brassey to his seat. Mr Arnold Morley then moved new writs for the following members of the Ministry:—Mr Gladstone, Premier; Sir William Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Mr Childers, Home Secretary; Mr Campbell-Bannerman, War Secretary; Mr Chamberlain, President of Local Government Board; Mr G. O. Trevelyan, Secretary for Scotland; Mr Mundella, President of Board of Trade; Mr Chas. Russell, Attorney-General. No writ was issued for Newcastle. The House adjourned till Saturday.

Mr Gladstone yesterday (Thursday) issued an address to the electors of Midlothian, wherein he expressed his ideas in regard to the Irish difficulty.

Savings Bank.—A meeting of the trustees and managers of Stanhope Savings Bank was held on Friday at the bank—Mr C. Arnison, J. P., presiding—when the annual balance sheet was passed. The report shows that the amount standing to the credit of the depositors has increased during the year, now amounting to £11,709 10s 1d. This bank was established sixty-five years ago.

"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), Picadilly, London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell an imitation of our Moc-Main. J White and Co. have not any Agents.

An only child, a little boy of six years, feeling dull in the house, and naturally anxious for the companionship of children of his own age, one day said to his mother, "Oh, mamma, do let me go out into the street and play! There are thousands and thousands of boys there to have games with—do please let me go, mamma!" His mother rebuked him, saying that there could not possibly be thousands of boys in that small village, and that it was very wrong to use such exaggerated expressions. The urchin gravely returned, "But, mamma, I heard you tell Aunt Mary the other day that my new boots were miles too large for me!"

What sort of a servant have you now?" asked a lady of a friend whom she was visiting at Bayswater.—"Oh, splendid!" she enthusiastically exclaimed. "He's a Chinaman, and he's so methodical in his work that I can tell exactly what he is doing at any hour of the day."—"Dear me! What do you suppose he is doing at this moment?"—"Let me see, it's now nine o'clock. Well, he is probably putting away the dishes and clearing up the kitchen. Come, and I'll show you. No more of your girls for me. He's worth ten of them." The lady led the way to the kitchen, quietly opened the door, and there sat John Chinaman in the middle of the floor washing his feet in the dishpan, the dishes patiently awaiting their turn!

A convict at a French penal settlement who was undergoing a life-sentence desired to marry a female convict, such marriages being of frequent occurrence. The governor of the colony had no objection, but the priest proceeded to cross-examine the prisoner. "Did you not marry in France?" asked the clergyman. "Yes." "And your wife is dead?" "She is." "Have you any documents to show that she is dead?" "No." "Then I must refuse to marry you. You must bring proof of the death of your wife." There was a pause, during which the prospective bride looked anxiously at the would-be bridegroom. Finally he said, "I can prove that my former wife is dead." "How can you prove it?" asked the priest. "I was sent ehre for killing her," answered the convict.

CONSETT HEARSE & MOURNING ESTABLISHMENT.

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In tendering their best thanks for the liberal patronage bestowed upon them since they commenced the Cab and Funeral Business, begs respectfully to inform the Public that they have BOUGHT THE UNDERTAKING AND FUNERAL FURNISHING BUSINESS belonging to the late Robert Jackson, Raglan Street, for the Manufacture of Coffins of every description, in the most approved styles, and at prices suited to meet the requirements of all classes; and at the same time assures them that they have spared neither capital or labour to render every branch of the Establishment in Material and Equipments superior in every respect to any other. Orders received day and night.

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MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS IN MARBLE, STONE, AND GRANITE, CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL, AND BURNOPFIELD.

Inscriptions neatly executed in Town or Country. Special Designs Estimates on application.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Stocksfield.—Hindley Hall, 2nd inst., the wife of Alfred J. Foster of a son.

Haydon Bridge.—Tofts' House, on the 30th ult., the wife of J. W. Hetherington, C.E., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Lanchester.—Register Office, 3rd inst., William Hoyle, Consett (late of Leeds), to Mary Nicholson, Consett (late of Barthomley, Cheshire).

Stanley.—Primitive Methodist Chapel, 31st ult., Mr James Gradman, of West Pelton, to Miss Elizabeth A. Welsh, of East Stanley Pit.

Stanhope.—Wesleyan Chapel, 30th ult., Mr Thompson Fairless to Miss Elizabeth Fairless, both of Wearhead.

Wolsingham.—Wesleyan Chapel, 1st inst., Mr John Atkinson Johnson, of Wolsingham, to Miss Elizabeth Sedgwick, of West Mill, Wolsingham.

Register Office, 3rd inst., Mr George Robinson to Miss Mary Armory, both of East Lane, Stanhope.

Ryton.—21st ult., by the Rev Canon Chesters, T. Burdon, South Shields, to J. Dixon, Ryton.

DEATHS.

Blackhill.—2, Tinmill Place, on the 3rd inst., aged 80 years, Elizabeth, widow of the late Michael Elsdon. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Sunday, 7th inst., at half-past two p.m. Friends, please accept this intimation. 663v

Langley Moor.—30th ult., Sarah Edith, infant daughter of Geo. Oyston, joiner.

Waterhouses.—30th ult., Thomas Orton, miner, aged 29.

Frosterley.—31st ult., aged 50, Margaret, widow of the late Walter Turnbull, joiner.

Blaydon.—Townley Terrace, Summerhill, aged 76, John Wilson, waterman.

Mickley.—Blue Bell, 2nd inst., aged 20, Edward, second son of Francis Best.

Winlaton.—31st ult., aged 81, George Ewart, grocer.

Cross House.—30th ult., Sarah, daughter of the late H. Lamb, Esq., of Ryton House.

Newburn.—Almshouse, aged 24, Henry Dunn.

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