Printed and Published at 65 Clayton Street, Newcastle on Tyne, By the Proprietor G. Bradley

The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

No. 92. CONSETT, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1862. [PRICE ONE PENNY.]

TO ADVERTISERS.

The Circulation of the *Consett Guardian* IS NOW BETWEEN TWO AND THREE THOUSAND COPIES WEEKLY, AND IS STEADILY INCREASING.

☞ The Charges for Advertisements are less than in any other Paper in the North of England having the same extent of Circulation.

Additional Agents and Correspondents required in Districts where none have been appointed.

NOW READY, AN ELEGANT DOUBLE-TINTED ENGRAVING OF SHOTLEY TOWN HALL.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

☞ Subscribers' Names received by Mrs. Leslie, Bookseller, Shotley Bridge, and by Mr. Dufour, at the *Consett Guardian* Office, Consett.

Public Notices.

THE HARTLEY CATASTROPHE.

A LECTURE will be delivered by the Rev. G. WHITEHEAD, in the School-Room, Waskerley Park, on SATURDAY EVENING, the 15th inst., on "Odds and Ends of the Policy, Tragedy, and Comedy of Life," illustrated with splendid DISSOLVING VIEWS.

A Collection afterwards,—the net proceeds of which will be devoted to the bereaved ones at Hartley.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the BUILDING of a STONE BRIDGE over the River Derwent, at Ebchester. The Plans and Specifications may be seen at the House of Mr John Browell, Innkeeper, Ebchester, and further information may be obtained on application to Mr Fewster, Newlands, by whom Sealed Tenders will be received till the 25th day of Feb., 1862.

N.B.—The Committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

Newlands near Ebchester, Feb. 5th, 1862.

MISS ANN MUNRO begs to announce that she has OPENED the HOUSE lately occupied by Mr Whittaker with a good and excellent supply of first-class MILD and BITTER ALES, from some of the best Breweries in the North of England; and trusts, by strict attention to business, to merit a share of Public patronage. She most respectfully solicits all Friends and acquaintances to give her an early call, as she will make it her entire study to suit the comfort of her customers when they may please to patronise her establishment.

SPARROW SHOOTING.

A HANDICAP SWEEP will take place at the house of John Heads, Miner's Arms, Berry Edge. Restrictions—17 yards, and not below 14 yards, rise, and 40 yards fall; 1½ oz of shot. 1s 6d entrance, with 5s added. To come off on Saturday, February 8th. Shooting to commence at 1 o'clock, at Three Birds each.

SHOTLEY GROVE SCHOOL. PUBLIC LECTURES.

MR. M. BELL announces that he purposes delivering a Course of PUBLIC LECTURES in the above Schoolroom on the various Subjects, and at the several times as undermentioned, viz.:—

Lecture I.—On the Planetary and Stellar Universe, on Saturday Evening, February 8th, 1862.

Lecture II.—The Chemistry of Common Things, on Friday Evening, February 14th.

Lecture III.—The Physiology of Common Life, on Saturday Evening, February 22nd.

Lecture IV.—Elementary Geology, with special reference to the formation of Coal, and the Gases generated in Coal Mines, on Friday Evening, February 28th.

Each Lecture, commencing precisely at 8 o'Clock p.m., will be illustrated by suitable Apparatus, Experiments, Diagrams, &c.

Admission—To Day and Evening Pupils, FREE. Tickets for others for the Course, 9d; Single Lecture, 3d each.

Shotley Grove School, January 29th, 1862.

GRAND DISTRIBUTION of First-Class LINE ENGRAVINGS, &c., on the Principle of the ART UNION OF LONDON, in 1,000 Shares at 1s each.

The whole of the Prizes are now on View, at the Drapery Establishment of Mr John Smith, Leadgate.

		£	s
1. A magnificent Indian Screen	value	20	0
2. A fine Steel Line Engraving, "The Last Judgment," by Martin	"	8	0
3. Do. do., "The Great Day of His Wrath," by do.	"	6	0
4. Do. do., "The Plains of Heaven," by do.	"	5	0
5. Do. do., "Life at the Sea side," by Frith	"	3	10
6. Do. do., "Venice," by Turner	"	3	0
7. Do. do., "Eccentric Characters of Newcastle"	"	2	5
8. A Pair of Pictures	"	0	12
9. A Pair of Pictures	"	0	10
10. A Pair of Pictures	"	0	9
11. Stereoscope with Views	"	0	8
12. Magic Lantern, complete	"	0	6
		£50	0

The Pictures are all New and in splendid Oak and Gilt Frames.

Tickets may be procured from Mr G. Richardson, draper, Shotley Bridge; Mr M. Hetherington, draper, Blackhill; Mr T. Hetherington, innkeeper, Leadgate; and Mr J. Smith, draper, Leadgate and Dipton.

Business Addresses.

GEORGE HOBSON, MILLER, FLOUR DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT, GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDSMAN, HARPERLEY MILL.

FINE SPRING TARES, SEED PEAS, &c., &c.

Agriculturists Supplied with every Description of SEEDS, of the very best Quality, on the most favourable Terms.

A BOAR PIG, Bred by H. Marshall, Esq., of Durham, from his celebrated Breed, being second to none in England. Price paid in advance, Five Shillings.

ECONOMIC PRINTING BY STEAM POWER.

THE NEWCASTLE GUARDIAN OFFICE, fitted up with PRINTING MACHINES of the newest and best Patent kind, WORKED BY STEAM POWER, is prepared to EXECUTE ORDERS to ANY EXTENT for PRINTING CIRCULARS, CATALOGUES, CARDS, BILL-HEADS, POSTERS, BOOK WORK, &c., &c.; and in cases where Numbers, Accuracy, and Despatch are required, it offers facilities unsurpassed by any other Printing Establishment, and at Extremely Moderate Prices.

GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER, AND GENERAL PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT, WEST CLAYTON STREET, NEWCASTLE.

ELUCIDATION OF THE GREAT SOCIAL MYSTERY.

Just Published, Price 1s., Post-free from the Author for Twelve Stamps.

A MEDICAL ESSAY on the CAUSE and CURE of PREMATURE DECLINE, with Plain Directions for perfect Restoration to Health and Vigour. The result of Thirty-five Years successful Practice in the Treatment of those peculiar Nervous and Mental Diseases which tend to embitter and shorten Life. By Dr. Jacques, 27, New Bridge-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who may be consulted Daily, as usual.

The above Work may be had of France, Side; Barlow, Grainger-street; Crowther, Clayton-street; Mordue, 44, Pilgrim-street; Watson, Bottle Bank; and all Booksellers.

BLAIR'S GOUT AND RHEUMATIC PILLS.

Price 1s 1½d and 2s 9d per Box.

THIS preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind; for during the first twenty years of the present century to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance; but now, the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

These Pills require no restraint of diet or confinement during their use, and are certain to prevent the disease attacking any vital part.

Sold by all medicine vendors. Observe "Thomas Prout, 229, Strand, London," on the government stamp.

Sold at the *Guardian* Office, West Clayton Street.

Business Addresses.

J. DAVISON, IRONMONGER, FURNITURE BROKER, YOUNG'S PARAFFIN OIL AND LAMPS, &c. FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

JOSEPH OLEY, AUCTIONEER AND APPRAISER, GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT, WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

H. BROWN, AUCTIONEER, HOUSE AGENT, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT. HOUSES TO LET.

GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES, GUARDS, ALBERT CHAINS, &c., &c., WEDDING RINGS, ELECTRO PLATED GOODS, &c., &c. JOHN FLETCHER, LEADGATE.

P. T. CHAMBERS, SURGEON, ACCOUCHEUR, &c., &c., Removed Two Doors further towards Benfieldside, BENFIELDSIDE LANE, HIGHGATE, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

SOUTH PONTOP COLLIERY, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THE OWNERS of SOUTH PONTOP COLLIERY beg to inform the Public of Berryedge, Leadgate, Consett, and the Neighbourhood that they are now prepared to supply COALS, at the above Depots, at the following rates:—

Best Screened W. End, 14s. per Chaldron Waggon.
" Unscreened, 12s. ditto.
" Splints, 10s. 6d. ditto.

Also, Cart Loads at the same Rates.

S. P. Colliery Office, Dec. 18, 1861.

BLACK HORSE INN, CONSETT.

W. WHITTAKER, begs to acknowledge past favours, and respectfully announces to his Friends and the Public that he has ENTERED UPON THE ABOVE PREMISES, lately occupied by W. Featenby, and hopes by strict attention to the wants of his Customers to merit a continuance of their favours.

LEEDS, BURTON, SHEFFIELD, AND OTHER ALES. GOOD BEDS, STABLING.

TO THE LADIES.

IN making your purchases for the Laundry do not forget the GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH, so important an article in the getting up of Laces, Linens, &c. Her Majesty's Laundress states that she has tried many other Starches but has found none of them equal to the Glenfield, which is

THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED.

Sold by all Grocers, Chandlers, &c. In Packets of 1d., 2d., 4d., and 8d. each.

WHEN YOU ASK FOR IT, SEE THAT YOU GET IT, as inferior kinds are often substituted.

WOTHERSPOON & CO., Glasgow and London.

WELLINGTON ARMS HOTEL.

E. W. FEATENBY respectfully announces to his friends and the public of Consett and Vicinity, and commercial gentlemen visiting this neighbourhood, that he has REMOVED from the Black Horse Inn, to the ABOVE HOTEL lately occupied by Mr W. Pickering, with a choice selection of Wines, Spirits, Mild and Bitter Ales, and trusts by strict attention to business and the wants of his Customers, to merit a share of Patronage.

E. W. FEATENBY, WELLINGTON ARMS INN, CONSETT.

N.B. An Ordinary on Monday, Feb. 3rd, and every alternate Monday, at One o'Clock.

Well Aired Beds. Good Stabling.

NORTHUMBERLAND DYE WORKS. WILLIAM WATSON, AGENT FOR JOHN BRADBURN DYER, CLEANER, &c., 14. CLAYTON STREET WEST, NEWCASTLE. DYE WORKS, GEORGE STREET WEST.

WILL VISIT the undermentioned Places Monthly, to collect Parcels for the above First-Class Establishment, and will deliver them the succeeding month. Next journey will be

Leadgate	Wednesday, Feb.	19.
Berryedge	Thursday, "	20.
Blackhill	Friday, "	21.
Shotley Bridge	Friday, "	21.

☞ The following Parties have kindly consented to receive and take care of Parcels:—

Mr Matthew Hardy, Queen's Head, Leadgate.
Mr John Collinson, Berryedge.
Mr. Isaac Murray, Blackhill; or
Mr. Wm. Raw, Temperance Hotel, Shotley Bridge.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW PRINCIPLE IN DENTISTRY, FOR WHICH MESSRS. PARKER HAVE OBTAINED HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL SEAL.

THE BEST WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED, AND GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE.

MESSRS. PARKER, SURGEON-DENTISTS, of London, may be consulted daily, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., at their Residence, 61, BLACKETT-STREET, facing ELDON SQUARE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Messrs. PARKER have introduced an entirely NEW DESCRIPTION of ARTIFICIAL TEETH, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble Nature as not to be distinguished from the originals by the closest observer; they will NEVER CHANGE COLOUR or DECAY, and will be found superior to any teeth ever before used. This method does not require the extraction of roots, or any painful operation; will support and preserve teeth that are loose, and is guaranteed to restore articulation and mastication.

Messrs Parker beg to call attention to their CORALITE VULCANIZED SUCTION PALATE, protected by Royal Letters Patent, adapted to their Incorrodible Artificial Teeth; which for beauty, lightness, imperviousness to the acids of the stomach, render it the most successful Mechanical Appliance hitherto adopted. By this material and method, perfect self-adhesion is attained; it can be applied with certain success to the most tender or deformed mouth, is perfectly free from TASTE or SMELL, keeps teeth clean in the mouth, never requiring to be taken out, and its durability is warranted; supplied from a single tooth to a complete set.

First-class references can be given to the superiority of this new method for increasing the powers of Mastication and Articulation.

Messrs PARKER'S PEARL ENAMEL for FILLING DECAYED TEETH, is superior to any Composition hitherto used. It is applied in a soft state like a paste in the cavity of the decayed tooth; hardens into an Enamel, and becomes incorporated with the outer shell, thereby arresting the progress of Decay, converting a decayed tooth into a sound one, and preventing the approach of that dreadful malady, the Tooth Ache.

Loose teeth fastened; Extracting, Scaling, Children's Teeth Regulated, and every operation in Dental Surgery.

All *Consultations* free.

☞ Badly applied Teeth remodelled.

Messrs Parker may be consulted daily from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m., at their Residence, 61, Blackett-street, (facing Eldon-square), Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ATTENDANCE FOR 1862.

One of the Firm attends,

North Shields—On Monday, Jan. 27th, and every Monday following, at 12, Dockwray-square.
Sunderland—Every Thursday, at 14, Frederick-street.
Durham—The Second Tuesday in every Month; at 81, New Elvet, Feb. 11th.
Stockton—Every alternate Wednesday, at Mrs Bugan's, 161, High-street, Feb. 5th, and 19th.
Hexham—The First Tuesday in every Month, at Mr Straffords, Tailor, Market-place, Feb. 4.
West Hartlepool.—The Third Tuesday in every Month, at Mrs James's, Confectioner, 15, Church-street, Feb. 18.
Alnwick—Every Friday, at 13, Narrowgate-street.
Wooler—The First Thursday in every Month, at the Cottage, Feb. 6.
Berwick Every Saturday, at Mr Young's, Sandgate.
Coldstream—January 8th, and the Fourth Wednesday in every Month following, at the Newcastle Arms.
Kelso—January 7th, and the Fourth Tuesday in every Month following, at Mr Hardie's, cabinet-maker, 18, Square.
Morpeth—The Second Wednesday in every Month, at Mrs Blair's, Bookseller, Newgate-street, Feb. 12th.

☞ PARKER'S PAMPHLET on the TEETH Post Free for One Penny Stamp.

Inspection solicited.

Business Addresses

FASHIONS FOR THE PRESENT SEASON

NEW WOOL SHAWLS, the Latest Novelties.
NEW FANCY DRESSES and FRENCH MERINOES.
NEW ABERDEEN WINCEYS, Plain and Fancy.
NEW FRENCH and COVENTRY RIBBONS and FANCY GOODS.
NEW FELT HATS, Trimmed in the Latest Style.

AT BRODIE'S, BERRY EDGE.

GREAT SALE! GREAT SALE!! OF LINEN AND WOOLLEN DRAPERY GOODS, READY-MADE CLOTHING, &c. AT THOMAS POTTS', MIDDLE STREET, BERRYEDGE.

THOMAS POTTS in calling the attention of the Public of Berryedge, Blackhill, Leadgate, and the surrounding Neighbourhood, to his GREAT ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE, Previous to Stock Taking, for 28 Days only, commencing on SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1862, which is a little earlier this year than usual, in consequence of the fearful depression that this District has of late and is still labouring under, therefore considers this the most appropriate time to throw in the way of his numerous Customers and the Public in general the great advantages which are derived by them from his Annual Clearance Sales, and it is to him a great pleasure to inform them that he is in a position this year to give them one of the greatest opportunities for procuring some of the most wonderful Bargains, having been enabled, owing to the great distress prevailing in the Manufacturing Districts, occasioned by the American Crisis, to purchase several large Lots of Goods of various Descriptions from different Manufacturers, for a mere trifle compared with their original cost, which, in addition to his own large and valuable Stock, has resolved to clear all off at Cost Price, and many small Lots at a considerable deal less than bought for. The Stock has all been gone through and separately remarked, and such a chance was never before offered in this or any locality for People providing for themselves and Children comfortable and respectable Clothing, at such Prices as cannot but astonish any one, and which must come within the reach of all. T. P. therefore requests an early call, as Goods at such desperate prices will soon be picked up. The Sale will only last the 28 Days, as at the expiration of that time Stock Taking will commence.

The following are a few Quotations, as our space will not admit of more:—

	sold at		now reduced to	
PLAIN ALPACA,	6d per yard,	now reduced to	3½d	per yard.
DITTO	9d	"	5½d	"
FANCY LUSTRE,	9d	"	5½d	"
FIGURED DO.	6d	"	5½d	"
PLAIN COBOURGS	9d	"	3½d	"
SPLENDID QUALITY	11d	"	7½d	"

A lot Checked Lustres, sold at 9d, 1s, 1s 2d, now 5½d, 8d, and 9½d. All fine qualities in Cobourgs and Alpacas equally reduced.

Plain Winceys sold at 9d, now reduced to 5½d. Striped and Checked Winceys at 9d, now reduced to 4½d.
Fine Do. sold at 11d, now reduced to 8½d. Ditto ditto at 1s, now reduced to 7½d.

The New BROCHES and KNICKERBOCKERS checked at greatly Reduced Prices.

A SPLENDID STOCK OF FANCY DRESSES ALL AT COST PRICE.

T. P. would particularly call attention to a desperate Bargain in all Wool German Plaids sold at 2s 3d per yard, now 1s 1d. Wool, Cashmere, and Paisley Scarfs; Square and Long Mantles and Mantle Jackets, all re-marked Cost price. 100 Pieces Hoyle's Prints sold at 5½d per yard, now reduced to 3½d; 200 do. at 6½d, reduced to 4½d.

A Lot of LADIES' SCARFS sold at 2s 6d, now at 6d; also a Quantity of LADIES' SCARLET SLEEVES and SILK SCARFS, at the same Low Price.

White and Blue Flannels, Calicoes, Cotton Sheets, Rugs, Blankets, Green Quilts, Ticking and Hosiery, at the same Reduction

READY MADE CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Men's Moleskin and Cord Trousers, sold at 5s 6d a pair, now reduced to 3s 11d. Best Quality 7s 6d, now 4s 11d. Moleskin Vest sold at 3s and 4s 6d, now 1s 11d and 2s 9d. Gent's Cloth Trousers sold at 8s 6d per pair, now reduced to 4s 9d. Best Quality equally reduced. Gent's Cloth Vest, Black and Coloured sold at 7s and 9s, now reduced to 4s 6d and 5s 9d. Gent's Cloth Coats, Blue Pilot and Beaver Jackets, Top Coats, and Inverness Capes, all reduced in Price.

A nice display of Fancy Wool Shirtings and Fancy Wool Shirts, Hats, Caps, and all makes in Felt Hats, now at Cost Price.

☞ All Orders for Clothes punctually attended to, at the same Reduced Prices.

SHOW ROOMS—BONNETS AND MILLINERY.

All the beautiful Stock in this Department in Bonnets, Plain and Fancy Mixed Straw Hats, in all Shapes. Ribbons, Flowers, at unusual Prices, a Lot of Soiled Bonnets and Ladies' Dress Caps to be nearly given away.

BOOT AND SHOE DEPARTMENT.

1,000 Pairs Ladies' Kid Leather Boots sold at 4s 9d, now reduced to 3s 6d. 975 Pairs Ladies' Double Soled Boots, 6s 6d, now 4s 6d. Ladies' Cloth Boots, Shoes and Slippers, at Cost Price.

A large Lot of Remnants in Cobourgs, Prints, Hollands, &c., at a fearful Loss.

OBSERVE:—THOMAS POTTS, MIDDLE STREET, BERRYEDGE.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT of LADIES and CHILDREN'S BOOTS, LADIES' FELT SLIPPERS and OVERSHOES, and CHILDREN'S CLOGS, which for Price and Quality cannot be surpassed,

AT J. COWEY'S, THE BEE HIVE GROCERY AND DRAPERY WAREHOUSE, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Also, just received, a very splendid Lot of GENTLEMEN'S FELT HATS, New Style.

SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND A-YEAR.

61 538 POUNDS OF TEA SOLD IN ONE YEAR, and a firm determination to sell more. Yes, we intend to bring to and keep in the Provinces the Trade that belongs to the Provinces. Our immense Tea Sales have placed us in a position to compete with any House in the Kingdom. At the commencement of the Year we threw down the Gauntlet, and announced to the County Families and Large Buyers our willingness to compete with any London House on equal terms. The challenge has been accepted, and decided in our favour, as the following results will show:—

During 1856 we Sold 21,209 Pounds of Tea.		During 1859 we Sold 44,058 Pounds of Tea.	
" 1857 " 26,076 "		" 1860 " 53,670 "	
" 1858 " 36,424 "		" 1861 " 61,538 "	

We have proved that Judgment and Energy will Open any Door, and determine that our TEA SALES of 1862 shall Exceed those of 1861. We offer no other inducement except QUALITY and PRICE.

WILLIAM STEWART, The Tea Dealer, 133, GRAINGER STREET, AND 27, SANDHILL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

Telegraphic News.

B. JOSEPH AND CO.

HAVE this Day, December 28th, received a Telegram from their Buyers, stating that they have bought another WINTER STOCK of Jamerson & Wolfin, of Leeds, at

£8,000

WORTH AT LEAST

£12,000,

Part of which is already cut up into OVERCOATS and INVERNESS CAPES. Prices as follows:—

30s INVERNESS CAPE, for	21s
42s " "	32s
42s WITNEY SAG OVERCOAT, for	32s
55s " " "	45s

JUVENILE CLOTHING ALSO AT REDUCED RATES.

ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN IN THE BESPOKE DEPARTMENT AT THE SAME PRICE.

B. JOSEPH & CO., GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, 150, REGENT STREET, LONDON, 92, AND 93, QUEEN STREET, PORTSEA.

GENUINE PATENT MEDICINES, FRESH FROM THE PATENTEES, AT THE CONSETT GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT-STREET.

PRINTING.

POSTING BILLS of any size and in various Colours at the "Consett Guardian Office."

CIRCULAR LETTERS, At the "Consett Guardian Office."

ACCOUNT AND BILL HEADS, At the "Consett Guardian Office."

FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

☞ Orders received at LOWER PRICES, consequent on Repeal of Paper Duty.

REPEAL OF THE PAPER DUTY.

THE NEWCASTLE GUARDIAN, PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY, [THREE EDITIONS]

Bringing the News up to the Hour of Publication, is now REDUCED TO 2½d.

Price per Quarter, 2s. 9d. in Advance. Postage Stamps received in Payment.

On Sale by Mrs. Leslie, Shotley Bridge; Mrs. Maughan, Berry Edge; Mr. Turner, Blackhill; Mr. Grierson, Leadgate; Mr. J. Milburn, Burnopfield Colliery, will supply subscribers in that neighbourhood; and may be had (by order) of all News Agents.

Publishing Office: 65, West Clayton-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

☞ The *Newcastle Guardian* is the size of the London *Times*, and is the most popular journal in the North of England. Its news, brought by Electric Telegraph, is from 24 to 36 hours later than can be given in the Cheap London weekly press.

RICHARD SMITH begs to inform the Public of Berry Edge and surrounding District, that he has ENTERED upon the ALLIANCE HOTEL, Middle Street, Berry Edge, with a choice selection of Bitter and other Ales; Trueman and Hanbury's London Stout; and all the London and Provincial Sporting Papers taken in.

N.B.—Commissions executed on the Derby, Chester Cup, and all the principal Spring Handicaps.

R. SMITH & CO., Manufacturers of Potass Water, Soda Water, Lemonade, and the celebrated Champagne Cider.

Middle Street, Consett, Jan. 30, 1862.

TO HOUSEKEEPERS and LAUNDRESSES, "POLSON'S IMPERIAL PATENT STARCH" is prepared expressly for fine Linens and Muslins. It is thin, clear, and strong, and imparts to fine goods a clear, glossy finish, such as cannot be produced by any other Starch.

To prevent disappointment, ask for "Polson's Imperial Starch," as other qualities are made for common purposes.

WM. POLSON & CO., Paisley.

Wholesale Agent: Mr R. Turnbull, 37, Grainger Street, Newcastle.

GIVEN AWAY TO NERVOUS SUFFERERS.

DR. SMITH has just Published a FREE EDITION of 20,000 Copies of THE WARNING VOICE, or PRIVATE MEDICAL FRIEND. A New Work on the cure of Nervous Debility, Loss of Memory, Dimness of Sight, Lassitude, Indigestion, Dislike to Society, Local Weakness, Muscular Relaxation, Languor, Listlessness, Depression, &c., which, if neglected, result in consumption, insanity, and premature death; with plain directions for perfect restoration to health and vigour. Sent post free to any address, on receipt of a directed envelope, enclosing two postage stamps. Address: Dr Smith, 8, Burton-crescent, Tavistock-square, London, W.C.

CONSULTATION BY LETTER WITHOUT FEE.

DR. SMITH will, for the BENEFIT of persons suffering from NERVOUS DEBILITY, &c., on receiving a description of their case (enclosing a stamped directed envelope for reply) send his written opinion, with advice and directions for the most successful treatment and cure. Address: Dr Smith, 8, Burton-crescent, London, W.C.

Business Addresses.

TWENTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

JOHN A. HARRISON, Anatomist and General Bone Setter, 289, Brick Flat Row, Berry Edge.

Bone Setting in all its Branches successfully treated in every Case.

N.B.—Patients attended at their Residence if required.

DR. DE JONGH'S (Knight of the Order of Leopold of Belgium) LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

THE practical experience of numberless eminent Physicians and Surgeons has now conclusively established the fact that the invalid can alone realise the full beneficial effects of Cod Liver Oil by the use of Dr de Jongh's pure and genuine Light Brown Oil.

DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND CHEST.

The extraordinary virtues of Dr De Jongh's Cod Liver Oil in Pulmonary Consumption may now be considered as fully established. No remedy so rapidly restores the exhausted strength, improves the nutritive functions, stops or diminishes emaciation, checks the perspiration, quiets the cough and expectoration, or produces a more marked and favourable influence on the local malady. Dr Waudby, late Physician to the Hereford Infirmary, bears the following high testimony to its efficacy in Diseases of the Chest, from his own personal experience:—"I can take Dr De Jongh's Oil without difficulty or dislike, and with as little inconvenience as water alone. Not only in my own case, but in many others I have seen, it has caused an improvement of chest symptoms, and an increase of weight, so soon and so lastingly, as to be quite remarkable. I believe Dr De Jongh's Oil to be the most valuable remedy we possess for chronic and constitutional disease."

GENERAL DEBILITY.

The marvellous efficacy of Dr. De Jongh's Oil in cases of Debility, is thus described by Rowland Dalton, Esq., District Medical Officer at Bury St. Edmunds:—"The effects of Dr. De Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil are sure and most remarkable, especially in that broken-down state of health and strength which usually precedes and favours tubercular deposit. The Oil I have had from you was for my own use, and it has certainly been the only means of saving my life on two occasions; and even now when I feel 'out of condition,' I take it, and like it, unmixed with anything, as being the most agreeable way."

DEBILITY OF CHILDREN.

The following description of the wonderfully beneficial effects of Dr. De Jongh's Oil on weak and sickly children, is given by Thomas Hunt, Esq., Medical Officer of Health to the populous district of Bloomsbury:—"To badly nourished infants Dr. De Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil is invaluable. The rapidity with which two or three tea-spoonfuls daily will fatten a young child is astonishing. The weight gained is three times the weight of the Oil swallowed, or more; and, as children generally like the taste of the Oil, and when it is given them, often cry for more, it appears as though there were some prospect of deliverance for the appalling multitude of children who figure in the weekly bills of mortality issued from the office of the Registrar General."

CHRONIC RHEUMATISM AND GOUT.

Numerous medical men concur in extolling this remedy as far surpassing the most celebrated, in relieving and curing Chronic Rheumatism and Gout. Benjamin Clarke, Esq., a distinguished medical practitioner, observes—"I recommended Dr. De Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil to a friend, whose case of Rheumatism had baffled all the resources of medicine for more than fifteen years; and I have been very agreeably surprised by its effects. He has now laid his crutches aside, and, from his position in society, I should think he must have widely spread the report of the usefulness of Dr. De Jongh's Oil."

Dr. De Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in Imperial Half Pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.; Quarts, 9s.; capsuled and labelled with his stamp and signature, without which none can possibly be genuine, by respectable Chemists and Druggists.

SOLE CONSIGNEES, ANSAR, HARFORD, AND CO., 77, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

CAUTION. BEWARE OF PROPOSED SUBSTITUTIONS.

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July 3rd, 1861.

Sale by Auction.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, at Orchard Field, near Black Hedley, County of Northumberland, on Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 1862, the FARMING STOCK and HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., belonging to Mr Temperley.

Mr JOSEPH OLEY, Auctioneer.

The Stock comprises One powerful Bay Horse, One Milk Cow and Calf, Spring Cart, One pair Cart Wheels and Shafts, Two Iron Ploughs, One Scuffler, Stone Roller, Two Sets Plough and Cart Harness, Gripes, Shovels, &c.; also an excellent Winnowing Machine and a quantity of Seed Potatoes. The Furniture consists of Four Posted and Camp Bedsteads, Feather and Flock Beds, Mattresses and Hangings, Chest of Drawers, Kitchen Table and Form, Two Tea Tables, Eight Kitchen Chairs, One Arm Chair, Two Twenty-four Hours' Clocks, Fender and Fire Irons, Set of China and other Articles too numerous to mention.

Sale to Commence at One o'Clock precisely.

St. Valentine's Day. — We would that we knew more of St. Valentine (February 14th) than that he was a presbyter of Rome who performed the miracle of restoring a blind girl's sight, and was slaughtered by order of Claudius, A.D. 270, because such being, doing, and suffering is a generic attribute of nearly every saint in the calendar; and it may cause some little surprise that we have nothing novel to tell of him whose festival has such a material influence on the manufacture of lace-edged paper, and on poetic outpourings in which "thine" and "mine" rhyme pleasingly with the good priest's name, which has now become a synonyme for the object of one's affection in the month of February, and for the elaborate billets in which the *confessio amantis* is made. We may, however, interest our readers and defend the memory of a holy martyr from damaging aspersions by showing that we do not think that this ecclesiastic had anything whatever to do with the billing and cooing which is now carried on, as it were, under his protection; for, long, long before he was either born or thought of, "the Roman youth drew the names of girls in honour of their goddess Februata-Juno on the 15th of February," for which observance Christians substituted the festival of a less mythical personage, and transferred the day of rejoicing to the 14th. But it is just possible (is it not, young gentlemen?) that those converts from paganism who had not arrived at the dignity of "elders" did not see the wisdom of the change, but rather liked the old system, and "all that kind of thing," and so continued the lotteries, without, however, permitting them to have any connexion with the haughty queen of heaven. For many years after people still drew for *valentines*. Our old poet, George Turberville, tried his fortune—

"With others I to choose a Valentine
Address myself. Eche had his dearest friend—
In Scrole ywrit among the reast was mine."

And he adds—

"The Papers were in covert kept from sight;
In hope I went to note what hap would fall;
I chose, but oh, my Friend I could not light—
(Such was the Goddesse wil that wilde the Ball)."

Chatty Samuel Pepys had also much to say of his fortunes on *Valentine's Day*, although he had already enrolled himself in the ranks of the Benedicts. But the gifts which were bestowed on the chosen fair of the 17th century were not the sixpenny and shilling productions of speculating stationers which are so general in the present day, but really useful articles which might serve to keep the donor in remembrance—a hint which has not been lost sight of by the inhabitants of Norwich and the neighbourhood, who send very pretty presents to their friends on each recurrence on the 14th of February. Folk-lorists say, "You'll marry the man or woman—as the case may be—that you meet the first on Valentine's morn." This will remind the readers of Scott (and who does not read him?) of the opening chapters of the "Fair Maid of Perth."—*Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine (February).—Article, "Notes of the Month."*

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Thursday.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The Royal Speech was delivered by Commission at two o'clock, and finished ten minutes afterwards. The Speech was read by the Lord Chancellor.

My Lords and Gentlemen

We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that her Majesty is persuaded that you will deeply participate in the affliction by which her Majesty has been overwhelmed by the untimely and irreparable loss of her beloved consort, who has been her comfort and support.

It has been, however, soothing to her Majesty, while suffering most acutely under this awful dispensation of Providence, to receive from all classes of her subjects the most cordial assurances of their sympathy with her sorrow, as well as of their appreciation of the noble character of him, the greatness of whose loss to her Majesty and to the nation is so justly and so universally felt and lamented. We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that she recurs with confidence to your assistance and advice.

Her Majesty's relations with all the European Powers continue to be friendly and satisfactory, and her Majesty trusts there is no reason to apprehend any disturbance of the peace of Europe.

A question of great importance, and which might have led to very serious consequences, arose between her Majesty and the Government of the United States of North America, owing to the seizure and forcible removal of four passengers from on board a British mail packet by the Commander of a ship of war of the United States. But the question has been satisfactorily settled by restoration of the passengers to British protection, and by the disavowal by the United States Government of the act of violence committed by its naval officer.

The friendly relations between Her Majesty and the President of the United States have therefore remained unimpaired.—Her Majesty warmly appreciates the loyalty and patriotic spirit which have been manifested on this occasion by her North American subjects.

The wrongs committed by various parties and by successive Governments, in Mexico upon foreigners resident within the Mexican territory and for which no satisfaction or redress could be obtained, have led to the conclusion of a convention between Her Majesty, the Emperor of the French, and the Queen of Spain, for the purpose of regulating a combined operation on the Coast of Mexico, with a view to obtain that redress which has hitherto been withheld,—that convention and papers relating to that subject will be laid before you.

The improvement which has taken place in the relations of Her Majesty's Government and that of the Emperor of China, and the good faith with which the Chinese Government have continued to fulfil their engagements of the treaty of Tien-tsin have enabled her Majesty to withdraw her troops from the city of Canton, and to reduce the amount of her forces on the coast, and in those of China. Her Majesty is always anxious to exert her influence for the preservation of peace, and has concluded a convention with the Sultan of Morocco, by means of which the Sultan has been enabled to raise the amount necessary for the fulfilment of certain treaty engagements, which he had contracted towards Spain, and thus to avoid risks of a renewal of hostilities with that power. That convention and papers connected with it will be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she has directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. They have been framed with a due regard to prudent economy and to the efficiency of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that measures for the improvement of the law will be laid before you, and among them will be a Bill for rendering the title to land more simple and its transfer more easy.

Other measures of public usefulness relative to Great Britain and to Ireland will be submitted for your consideration.

Her Majesty regrets that in some parts of the United Kingdom, and in certain branches of industry, temporary causes have produced considerable pressure and privation, but her Majesty has reason to believe that the general condition of the country is sound and satisfactory.

Her Majesty confidently commends the general interests of the nation to your wisdom and your care, and she fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your deliberations and may guide them to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of her people.

Lord Dufferin moved an address in answer to the Royal Speech. His lordship alluded in feeling terms to the deaths of the Prince Consort and Lord Herbert, and then briefly adverted to the American struggle and the relations of this country with the Washington Cabinet.

The Earl of Shelburne seconded the address; and, having spoken in eulogistic terms of the course of conduct pursued by the late lamented Prince, he expressed his approval of the steps taken by Her Majesty's Government in the Trent affair.

The Earl of Derby concurred in the tribute of respect paid to the memory of the late Prince Consort; and, while approving of the course taken by the Government in its relations with America, he warned them to be cautious how they entered upon negotiations which contemplated an alteration in the principle of International Law. He hoped an explanation would be afforded of the convention entered into with Mexico by Spain and France, and of the Minute of the Committee of the Council on Education.

Earl Granville remarked that the Government of this country were animated with a desire to preserve strict neutrality in the American contest; and with regard to the Education Minute, the Government were prepared to modify the revised code.

Earl Russell having stated that all necessary papers would, at an early day, be laid before Parliament, adverted to the American struggle, and expressed a hope that the belligerents on both sides would be able to settle their own affairs without the intervention of a foreign power.

After a few words from the Earl of Carnarvon and Lord Kingsdown, the Address was agreed to, and their lordships adjourned at 8·15.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday.

Among the new members who took their oaths and seats was Mr Potter, for Carlisle. A new writ was ordered for Lincoln, its member, Mr Heneage, having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

Lord Palmerston laid on the table the convention for the Moorish Loan, the Mexican Convention, the correspondence with the Northern States of America, and other official papers.

Mr Lowe gave notice that on the 13th inst. he would lay on the table the revised code of the Committee of Council for Education, and make explanations with respect thereto.

Sir G. Grey laid on the table a Bill for the better Regulation of Highways.

Sir Robert Peel laid on the table a Bill to amend the law relating to Fairs and Markets in Ireland.

Mr Clive laid on the table a Bill to amend Parochial Assessments.

Mr Ayrton gave notice of Bill a to enable Workmen and Servants to recover Compensation for Accidents.

The Speaker having read the Queen's speech from the Chair,

Mr D. H. Portman moved the address in reply, and in so doing paid a most eloquent tribute to the memory of the late Prince Consort.

Mr. Wood in a maiden speech, seconded the Address, and highly eulogised the proceedings of Her Majesty's Government, which had established a firm hold upon the confidence of the country.

Mr Disraeli said the passage in the Royal Speech with respect to our foreign relations, must be satisfactory to all. The future, however, was still fraught with anxiety; but if wisdom prevailed in our councils, it might be regarded without apprehension. He approved of the course of neutrality pursued by the Government.

Mr Hadfield expressed his satisfaction at the result of the difference with America.

Mr M'Guire protested against Ireland being represented as enjoying a high degree of prosperity, and described its real position as very depressed and unsatisfactory.

Sir R. Peel protested indignantly against the imaginary sufferings of Ireland being paraded before Europe, as most distasteful to the feelings of the Irish people.

The right hon. gentlemen having referred to the Moorish loan, proceeded to speak on the great loss which this country had sustained in the death of the Prince Consort, of whose exalted virtues and personal character he spoke in laudatory terms.

Lord Palmerston briefly referred to some of the points touched in the speech of the hon. member for Bucks, and having justified the course taken by the Government in their relations with Morocco, he concluded with a graceful and feeling eulogium on the late lamented Prince Consort.

Mr. Scully said the chief secretary would have held a different opinion if he had a more intimate acquaintance with Ireland. He hoped that the Government would direct its attention to the improvement of the law in Ireland, which in many respects urgently required amendment.

The address was then agreed to, with the usual formalities, and the House adjourned at 15 minutes to 8 o'clock.

The *Gardeners' Chronicle* says that "a very great and wholly unexpected event has occurred in the history of English horticulture." The cocoa nut palm has flowered. At Syon this the most valuable of all the products of the vegetable world has expanded its flowers on a specimen of the pigmy breed from the neighbourhood of Galle, in Ceylon. "The trunk of the palm at Syon is not, we should say, above two feet high, and it is from among the magnificent leaves that form a bright green plume of unrivalled stateliness that the yellow blossoms have sprouted out. It must be highly gratifying to the noble Duke in whose celebrated garden this success has been achieved to find that he alone in Europe is the possessor of so rare a specimen."

THE HARTLEY CALAMITY.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST AND GOVERNMENT INQUIRY.

The inquiry into the circumstances of the late calamity at Hartley New Colliery was opened on Monday, in the Free Methodist Chapel, Seaton Delaval, before Mr. S. Reed, Coroner for South Northumberland. The time appointed for the commencement of the inquest was half-past ten o'clock, but at that hour there were only a few persons assembled in the pews of the chapel, which is the most convenient room in the neighbourhood for the holding of the investigation. Soon afterwards, the jurymen, who had met at the Hastings' Arms Inn, entered the chapel, the coroner walking in their midst, accompanied by Mr. L. M. Cockcroft, deputy-coroner. The jurymen were seated within the pale of the platform, below the pulpit, and in the right hand corner, immediately in front of the pulpit, and also within the pale, was a large table for the use of the Coroner and officers, and in the space between this platform and the pews, a table was placed for the accommodation of the reporters. A number of plans of the workings were on the coroner's table, for the inspection of the jury. Before the examination of the witnesses commenced, Mr. Kenyon Blackwell, the inspector sent down by Government to assist the coroner in the investigation, arrived in the chapel, accompanied by Mr. Matthias Dunn, Her Majesty's Inspector of Coal Mines for the northern district; and these officers took seats near the coroner. Among others present were Mr Charles Carr, mining engineer of Hartley Colliery; Mr T. E. Forster, Mr. G. Baker Forster, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. Edward Potter, Mr. Joseph Cowen, jun., Mr. T. M. Maynard, Mr. Humble, Mr. Coulson, Dr. Davidson Mr. Cram, Mr. Todd, Mr. Hurst, Cramlington; Mr. T. Jobling, Mr. Mallinson, Burradon; Mr. John Forster, and several mining engineers. As the examinatian of witnesess proceeded, the chapel became well filled with miners, but it was not inconveniently crowded. The following are the names of the jury:—Garwin Thompson, Seaton Cottage, (foreman); Wm. Crawford, Seaton Look Out; Joseph Pattison, Hartley; Robert Taylor, Crawhall; Roger Stobbs, Holywell; James Rogers, Holywell; John Warrior, Avenue Head; Jno. Alexander, Seaton Delaval; Alexander Cuthrie, Seaton Delaval; Jno. Bell, Seaton Delaval; Robert Banks, New Hartley; Robert Barrass, New Hartley.

The Coroner, on taking his seat, introduced Mr. Kenyon Blackwell, a gentleman who had, he said, been sent down by the Government to assist him and the Inspector of Mines in the inquiry. He read the following letter which he had received from the Home Secretary:—

Whitehall, 31st Jan., 1862.

Sir,—I am directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to inform you with reference to my letter of the 28th inst., that Mr Kenyon Blackwell, a gentleman of very extensive experience in the direction and management of collieries, and also in the manufacture of iron, and who has been recommended to Sir George Grey for this duty by Mr Warrington Smyth, will attend the inquest to be held before you on Monday next, the 3rd February, to inquire into the deaths in the pit at Hartley, occasioned by the late deplorable accident at that colliery. Sir George Grey has thought it right that this gentleman should attend the inquest in order to assist you and the jury in inquiring into the cause of this mysterious event, with regard to which it is on every account of importance that the investigation should be of the most searching and complete character. Sir George Grey trusts that, with this assistance, the inquiry will be the means of eliciting valuable information and practical suggestions, which may lead to effectual precautions being taken to prevent, as far as possible, the recurrence of such a lamentable and afflicting loss of life.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

S. Reed, Esq., Coroner, &c. H. WADDINGTON.

The first witness was then called.

Robert Stephenson was called, and the evidence which he gave at the inquest upon the bodies of the five men killed in the shaft was read over to him; and he deposed to its correctness.

Robert Taylor deposed in a similar manner to the correctness of his evidence upon that occasion.

The plans of the colliery workings of the shaft were here handed to the coroner.

Mr G. J. Bell, surveyor, of Newcastle, in answer to the Coroner, said: I prepared these plans. I got them from various sources, and from information I received. I have seen the Hartley Pit and the machinery; and the plans are correct so far as I am able to make them.

By Mr. K. Blackwell: The plans do not represent the state of things entirely of my own knowledge, but partly of my own knowledge and partly from hearsay. The shaft is represented from hearsay, as I have not been down it since the accident. The plan is in part from my own knowledge.

George Fryar, sworn, deposed: I live at Seaton Delaval; I was a banksman at the Hartley Pit at the time of the accident. The accident occurred a few minutes after half-past ten. I cannot exactly say the time; but it was about twenty minutes to eleven. I was standing at my post when it happened. I heard the crash of the beam when it broke, but I did not see it fall.

By Mr Blackwell: The other banksman was standing near me, on the other side of the shaft. There were two of us banksmen. I had just sent an empty cage down the pit. I cannot say what length of time occurred during the falling of the beam. I should say that I did not hear it for half a minute. I heard nothing in the engine house; the crash of the beam drowned everything else. I did not hear the least noise in the shaft itself before the beam broke. I was standing with my back to the shaft when the beam fell. I cannot, however, say in what position the other man was standing; he is not here to-day, but I can send for him. His name is Thomas James.

By the Coroner: The one cage was sent down empty; it was the west cage; the east cage was coming up at the time, full of men. It was the first shift. The first shift-men went down between two and three o'clock in the morning, I think. If this misfortune had not occurred, all the fore-shift men would have been out about eleven o'clock. The iron work of the cage was all bent and broken when it was got out. The lower rim of its lower deck was standing out further than it should have been. It was so far out that it would interfere with the side of the shaft, if the brattice had been in as it was before. The cage was all right, as far as I know, the last time I saw it, before I sent it down before the accident.

Mr Charles Carr here explained to the Coroner, Mr Blackwell, and the jury, the plan representing the section of the shaft. The pumps, it appeared, were lying broken across the shaft in a zig-zag direction, and they were resting upon an oak bunting at the yard seam. He also pointed out the exact places at which the eight men in the cage were discovered, five of them dead, and three alive. The pumps, from the yard seam to the bottom of the sump were unexplored, as Mr Coulson and his men were unable to reach further than the yard seam. The ladder up the staple, leading from the low main to the yard seam, was made of strong galvanized iron.

Thomas Watson, sworn, deposed: I live at Old Hartley Colliery. On the 16th day of last month, I was coming to bank at Hartley New Pit, in the cage, between half-past ten and a quarter to eleven. When I got into the cage at the bottom, everything appeared to be perfect and in working order. The brattice, as far as I could judge, seemed to be quite perfect. I saw nothing deficient in the spears; and the cage seemed to go smoothly up to bank at its regular rate of speed. The first notice we had of anything being wrong was a sudden crack. At that time we were above half-shaft, I think. When we heard that crack no part of the cage, to our knowledge, had interfered with the brattice. There was a tremendous crash in the shaft as soon as we had heard the crack.

By Mr Blackwell: We only heard one noise, and then the crash took place. A tremendous mass of stuff came down. We heard two separate noises. First, the crack, as if something was breaking; and then a tremendous rush of something past us, and around us, but we could not tell what it was. The cage was struck with something; but we did not know what it was. The crack did not appear to take place at the spot where we were, but we could not tell where; it seemed, however, to take place somewhere near about the cage, a few fathoms above it or below. I could not say whether the crack we heard was the breaking of the beam; my opinion is that it was in the shaft itself that the crack took place. It was certainly somewhere near the cage, but whether above or below, I cannot say.

By the Coroner: I would not like to say that the crack was caused by one of the pump spears giving way. I could not say that. The cage was stopped, and went down a short way—I could not say how far. A quantity of timber, and some stones fell into the cage, which appeared to have descended a little. When we came to our recollections, we were sure that the spears had broken, because the engine ceased working.

By Mr. Blackwell: There were four men in the cage altogether; one was with me, and two were in the upper deck.

By the Coroner: I made up my mind that the shaft was closed. After having found that the shaft was closed, the first thing we did was to count, in order to see how many men were in the cage. We were able to communicate with the two in the upper deck. There were two in the lower deck and two in the upper. After the first shock, we thought we had better have a light. I knew that one of the men in the upper deck had matches in his pocket; so I gave him a candle up, and we then got a light, and perceived that we were in a very bad state. The cage was very much crushed, though not so bad as the down one. She was knocked right round about. The first thing I did I tried the "rapper-ropes;" that was to give a signal to the top. They were all good; but I had not strength to pull them. I took a leather belt, and wrapped it round the two rapper-ropes. I knew we were above the yard seam, because I saw all the rapper-ropes perfect. I thought then that if the cage went away, I would try and pull myself on to them. I succeeded in doing this. The next thing that was done, was old Sharp, who made a great noise about the boy who was down below. He wanted to go down to him. I put my hand up, and he said it was broken. I told him he could not go down but I would go down myself, and stay with him if I found him above the yard seam. Old Sharp was in the upper deck. I slid down the rope, and caught hold of the boy by the back of the collar. I stayed with him there. He told me his leg was broken; he was resting upon some timber in the shaft. I told the father before I went away that if I did not find him before I got to the yard seam I would stop at the yard seam where they could find me. The boy was about eight or ten fathoms below the cage. We prayed together then. Three men were left upon the cage. The men upon the upper deck were very much hurt. There were four men altogether in the lower cage. Bewick and the younger Sharp were alive when I got down to them; the other men never spoke. In a short time the boy died. I was the last man got up; they sent a loop down, and I came up that way. The man who lighted the candle on the upper deck was the first got out. There were eight of us altogether when we went away from the bottom. Old Sharp was the first man that they tried to get up; a loop was sent down for him, but while he was being got up, he fell from it, and was killed. William Sharp was the next man they got up. He was cousin to the other Sharp. Ralph Thompson was the next one, and I was the last. Old Sharp had said his legs were broken; but when they got him home they found that they were not. They were only three of us saved, and five lost. These make together the eight men who were in the cage.

By Mr. Blackwell: We looked up the shaft after the accident took place, but the rock, or the smoke, all came out of the back shaft into the fore shaft, and we could see nothing. The water very soon put out our candle. I cannot say whether they were the pump spears or the guide spears that I heard crack.

Ralph Robinson, sworn, deposed: I live at Old Hartley; I am a miner, and worked at Hartley New Pit. I was coming up in the cage when the accident happened. I was in the bottom deck. After we had got about midway from the bottom, we heard a crash in the back pit. The sound was like a sudden, sharp crack. We could not tell where it proceeded from, nor whether it was from above us or below us, but we think it was near us, in the back shaft. It did not seem to be very far from us. After that, something came down, and struck the cage a heavy blow.

By Mr Blackwell: There did not appear to be any interval of time between our hearing the crack and feeling the blow. It took place directly, and we then saw that the shaft was closed in upon us. I cannot say the exact time; it might be one or two seconds that elapsed between the crack and the other noise. We heard something or other coming down from bank. We heard it distinctly all the way down from bank. It was after the crack. After this again, other things seemed to follow it, like stone or iron, or some such material. This stuff filled up the shaft, and closed it above us. We continued in the cage from the time the accident happened till twenty minutes or a quarter to nine at night, when a loop was sent down to us, and we were rescued.

Thomas James, sworn, deposed: I live at New Hartley, and am banksman at the colliery there. I was standing about three yards from the weighing machine when the accident took place. From the place where I stood I could see the working of the beam. I was not looking at it at the time. The weighing machine is about two yards and a half from the shaft. I was at the west side of the machine, and about three yards altogether from the shaft. I heard a noise; but I did not see the beam fall. That was about half-past ten. The sound I heard was like as if the pit was all going down together. There was a great clamour. I thought at first it was the pulleys had given way. When I looked up, I saw the beam was broken off; I had not seen it fall down the shaft. When I could not see it in the shaft, I thought it had gone down to the bottom of the pit. I had never expected that so ponderous a beam as that would give way. I do not know how long it had been up. I have been banksman about 12 months.

John Short, sworn, deposed: I live at New Hartley, and am engineer to the colliery. I am the enginewright; and had charge of the working department of the engine. I was sent for directly the accident took place, and then found that the engine beam had broken, and had gone down the shaft. The first thing done to relieve the men was to clear away the rubbish from the shaft—the broken timber, I mean,—to get the cap frames out. We heard some men calling in the shaft, and we went down the pumping staple with the crab. I was one of those who went down; there were two or three others with me. We went to the high main, and then found the wood of the brattice all broken up, and stopping up the shaft, so that it was impossible to get any further down than there. We did not examine the spears then. We went about thirty fathoms in the main shaft, and found that the spears were broken up. That was after we had been down by the staple; we went down there with a view of getting the jack-rope down to the men. We went down by the jack-rope and the crab ourselves. We found the shaft nearly closed up, and could get no further. We had to lower a line down to the high main, to the men who were there, for them to pull the rope-jack down by. The shaft appeared to be obstructed with brattice timber. We heard the men in the cage calling to us. We got the crab rope down to the high main; and then we lowered a line and a lanthern down to the cage. Nothing more was done till the men were got out. Then we bratticed the shaft over at the high main, and cleared away from the high main to the surface. We laid a few planks over the shaft at the high main, like a scaffold, to prevent the material in it from falling down.

By Mr. Blackwell: I was down myself, but there were three or four more down with me.

By the Coroner: As soon as we had got the shaft clear between the high main and the yard seam, we lost no time in proceeding to clear away below it.

By Mr. Blackwell: We rescued the men who were in the cages about ten o'clock at night. We then worked on all night. There were about twelve or fourteen of us altogether. The resident viewer was there all the time, and was assisting us in giving directions.

Mr. Charles Carr: The resident viewer saw that everything was done upon the surface.

Mr. Blackwell: It is important that we should have it upon record that no time was lost. I wanted to know whether the whole of the officers were at the pit at the time, and attended to their duty.

Mr. Carr: They were all there.

Mr. Blackwell: Yes, I have no doubt of it now.

Witness, continuing, said: We next went on clearing away the shaft from below the high main towards the yard seam. Before that, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Carr, and Mr. G. Baker Forster went down to the high main. Mr. Humble, the resident viewer, was at bank, arranging for the men to go down the shaft. They went down to the high main by the staple to see what was best to be done, and to direct the operations. The master wasteman was working in the shaft along with us. We continued to work all the night, and made every exertion possible to clear away the timber out of the shaft below the high main seam. We worked incessantly. Nothing fell from the sides of the shaft while we were working in it till we came to within five fathoms of the furnace drift. I thought I heard the men confined in the workings on the Friday morning, when we were within five fathoms of the furnace drift.

By Mr. Blackwell: We had got that far down in the course of the night.

By the Coroner: We continued to work incessantly.

By Mr. Carr: I will not make myself certain of the distance. I said five fathoms; but I have no means of arriving at it; it is my opinion that that was the distance. We got the cages out during the night, before Mr. Coulson came.

By the Coroner: Mr. Carr and the other gentlemen continued down the pit about three hours.

By Mr. Blackwell: We found timber chiefly during our work on the Thursday night. The brattice was all gone.

By the Coroner: The viewers who were in the shaft during the night were no way connected with the pit, except Mr Carr. They were volunteers.

By Mr Blackwell: The material we got out of the shaft during that night was all timber; we got no rubbish at all. We found that the sides of the shaft had given way. All the brattice in the pit was swept away. It was hanging at various places in the shaft down to the point we got to. The pump trees had also been all carried away in that part of the shaft. The buntings, gears, and everything were gone. The sides of the shaft had fallen in considerably above the point to which we got down. They had fallen in in many places. They had fallen in between the top of the shaft and the high main, but not much. When we got below the high main the shaft became dangerous. I could not say in how many places, however. It is difficult to say; but it was dangerous in many places. Falls took place from the sides of the shaft while we were in it; and they continued all night. The repairs of the cleating of the shaft were in my charge. The cleating was an inch and a quarter board batten. I could not say what walling there was in the shaft, as I never measured it. Mr Horsely was there before me; he is here to-day. I had been in charge about ten weeks. The cribs that kept the shaft side up were square, and were 4½ to 5 inches thick. The scantling was that thickness. During the ten weeks I have been in charge, I have not had occasion to make many repairs in the shaft. I was not sufficiently acquainted with the shaft to say how much is cleated with battens, how much is walled, and how much is neither lined nor walled at all. Since I have been in charge no falls have taken place in the shaft till the accident occurred. I have never taken any materials out of the shaft, and have never had occasion to repair it since I came, except, perhaps, a broken slide. A cage slide I mean. The pump spears were broken off at from ten to twelve fathoms from the surface; that was the main dry spear. After I gave up the charge of the working to Mr Coulson, I did not interfere with it again. It was about nine o'clock on Friday morning when the sinkers came and relieved me. Mr Coulson did not take charge at that time. He did not come till the afternoon. There was a bunting to every spear, and one to every other pump. The pump-trees were thrown across the shaft to the south side; they had been originally on the north side. This was at the top. At the bottom they kept their position, or thereabout. I cannot say how many bands there were in the pumps, as I did not take sufficient notice.

William Coulson, sworn, deposed: I live at Durham, and am a master-sinker. I heard nothing about the accident at Hartley Colliery till the day after it occurred. I was not sent for, and was going further north—but when I got to Hartley station I saw some of my men, and asked what the case was. They asked me to get out; and I therefore went and volunteered my services to do what was in my power to rescue the men. My first operation was to go down the pit, about five o'clock at night. I did not take my own men with me at that time. I found the shaft in a very shattered state. It was much filled up with timber. I got well enough down to the high main however. I saw on my way timbers hanging here and there at different parts. I did not stop to notice them, however. The shaft was in a very dangerous state; the collars, the dry spears, and the pumps were all gone. The whole of the main brattice was also gone, except some of the side planks, which were still attached to the cleating. I did not see any of my men here present. I went down from the main coal. I found the pumps lying across the shaft—the middle set of pumps. I saw the lower set of the dry spears, and I inquired of the people who were down upon the rubbish how far we were off the yard coal. I got the distances, but I found next morning we were about five fathoms and two feet from the standing set bunting in the middle set. That was at the yard seam. We continued to rid the stuff out. I got some of my men and took them down; some of them I had got at other collieries; they were used to the work. We continued to work at clearing away the stuff. We brought the timber to the high main and stowed it there, in order to gain time. During our operations up to that time, very little had fallen down. We also changed the men in the staple every two hours, in order that the work might be continued, and no time lost. During the Saturday night, we found the stone giving way very much by the shaft sides. A great deal had fallen down where we were working—a great many tons; and it was in consequence very dangerous to the men. We still continued our exertions.

By Mr. Blackwell: The falls were not taking place throughout the shaft, but only at one place, about four fathoms above the yard coal. There is a little wasted in addition to that; but it is not worth mentioning, it is so small. The falls did not take place throughout the whole of the depth of the shaft. Very little had fallen down to the level of the post above the high main coal. The post is standing without either cleating or wall. From the high main coal down to the point where my men were at work, there had been no fall save at that place where they were immediately working. About the top of the rubbish, heavy falls were taking place; and the shaft was at that point from 27 to 30 feet wide in some directions. A trouble had crossed the shaft at that point. On sinking through the rubbish, which we afterwards did, we found it to consist chiefly of timber, which had fallen in all directions. The apertures between the timbers were filled up with rubbish; but there was very little of it. As we pulled the large pieces of timber out, the rubbish fell down. Occasionally, we got a corf of stone, but very seldom. We had to timber up the shaft. That was absolutely necessary; and it took about twelve hours.

By the Coroner: When we got that secured, we commenced to work a small place down by the side of the pumps, in order to reach the yard coal. We expected the men to be in the yard coal, unless they had been shut in. We succeeded in getting the small place down. We pulled a large balk up about twelve feet long. When we got a communication to the furnace drift——

By Mr Blackwell: I began on Friday night, and spent twelve hours in securing the shaft. We were occupied from Saturday night to Sunday in doing that. The first twenty-four hours were occupied in clearing away a portion of the rubbish in the shaft. On Sunday morning, we began to try and get the hole down by the side of the pumps with the hope of reaching the yard seam. We now commenced to get down a small space beside the pumps, and we worked at that till Tuesday morning, at three o'clock. I had not heard anything of the men below myself, but the workmen said they had. On Wednesday morning, at three o'clock, we got a sudden discharge of gas, and several men were brought to bank speechless. I was down the shaft a short time before, when the gas was being discharged in great volumes, but I was not down at the time: my men were. The light would burn in that gas rather better than at an ordinary time.

By the Coroner: While I was out, my son took my place. I did not feel the effects of the gas much myself. I had a little headache. My son was one of the men brought to the bank, who were completely speechless for a time.

By Mr Blackwell: It was with getting out the large balk that the escape took place. A complete hole was made then.

By the Coroner: I went down myself about half-an-hour after my son was brought up. When I went down, the gas was about four fathoms above the high main. It filled the shaft that far up. We went to the high main coal through the gas. The pit was the downcast, and the staple was the upcast. When I came to bank, we had a consultation with several viewers, including Mr T. E. Forster, Mr Baker Forster, Mr Jobling, Mr Hurst, and several others whose names I do not exactly know. The determination was come to then to put in a canvass brattice. We continued to make the staple an up-cast; and the return air was taken up it to one of the boiler fires, which acted as a furnace. After we had got the brattice in, and it took up till Thursday night to do that, we had to commence to put in some timber at the same place further down. Before the pit was repaired, there was a space by the side of the pump, by which we could get down to the furnace drift. By this, Emerson got three yards into the furnace-drift. He was taken very ill, and I considered the shaft so unsafe that I would not allow him to go any more down by the pumps. Emerson brought away the tools that the men had been working with below. The tools consisted of an axe, a saw, and a hammer. We put in, after Emerson was down, two more fathoms of brattice further down. Mr Taylor came down to me at the main coal, and saw the state of air going through the staple. He went through the stopping from the shaft to the staple; and we consulted about the dangerous state of the shaft from the fall. The public were getting very uneasy; and I advised Mr Taylor to allow any of them to see the staple. Two men, who were pitmen, volunteered to go down; and they went down by the sides of the pumps where Emerson had been previously, entered the furnace drift, walked along it, and saw several of the bodies of the men lying dead. I then considered that the lives of all the men were lost; and I gave up all hope of saving any lives. There is no doubt that their deaths were occasioned by the gas.

The Coroner: Do you consider that every possible exertion was made to save the men? Yes, Sir. Everything was suggested that could possibly be tried.

Mr. Blackwell: You got down low enough to find that the standing buntings of the middle set of pumps were undisturbed? Yes, Sir. We tried to ascertain that at first, and we had some chains ready at the bank to secure them if they were injured; but we found them very little injured.—What proportion of the shaft did they occupy? They occupied nearly a half of it.—Then there is no doubt that it was the occurrence of these buntings there that caused the obstruction? Yes; the lodgment took place there.—If that enormous fall which you speak of in the shaft had not taken place, I suppose, nothwithstanding the impediments which had occurred in the timber, you would have been able to get down some days earlier? Yes; we would have been down a couple of days earlier.—Then the falling in of the shaft at the immediate point where you began to work created great delay? Yes, sir; about two days.—And also probably by filling up the openings between the timber, kept back this noxious gas from the men? Yes.—Such a fall, even under the circumstances of this accident, would not have occurred if the shaft had been well lined with brick? I do not know that; the wall had been very much cut from the top of the pit.—Yes; but nothing had come away there? Nothing but the walling stones.—No rubbish had come away from there where the wall was cut through? No; the wall still stood in its place.—You have had a longer experience than any other man in the kingdom in sinking? Yes, sir, both longer and more experience. I have been about 48 years a sinker.—This shaft is a 12 feet shaft, is it not? A 12 feet shaft, and it was equally divided except the breadth of the brattice.—Did you sink the shaft? I did.—How many years ago? Seventeen.—Has the lining of the shaft required much repair? I do not know that it has ever been repaired.—You know what the sinking of the shaft would cost? Yes; I know what the labour would cost.—And the materials I suppose? Well, I know the materials, if I was to go into it, quite well, to a £.—What, in your opinion, would be the difference in expense in sinking two nine feet shafts, instead of making one twelve feet shaft? Can you give some idea of the per centage without going into the figures? Yes; I can, if I take half an hour to calculate; but I can't give you it off-hand. I can give you it to-morrow.—You have sunk many shafts in other parts of the country? Yes; frequently. I have sunk about ninety-four shafts.—Have you sunk any shafts in South Wales? No.—You do not know the nature of the stratification there? No.—When you prepare that estimate, I will ask you to say, as far as you know, whether you can extend it to Durham and other counties as well as Northumberland? There will be a great deal of difference between this county and others.—You mean to say the expense of making the shaft would be higher here than in the midland counties? Yes, in general.—From the greater hardness of the strata here? Yes, and the water.—I will ask you to make your estimate for two eight feet six inches shafts instead of nine feet shafts? Very well, sir.—Witness, continuing his statement, said that the main spear and the pumps of the pit were broken about twelve or fourteen fathoms from bank, and the other spear about the high main coal. I consider that these broke first; the beam lost her weight, and that caused the accident.

By Mr Blackwell: Was there anything in the fracture of the spears which leads you to suppose that the fracture arose from a pulling strain? Yes; I think it was a pulling strain, from the character of the fracture.—Your opinion is decidedly then that the spears were not broken off at these points from the falling of the beam? No; my opinion is, that the spears were broken off first.—Then it is your opinion that the buckets got wedged in some way or other, and that that put such a strain upon the spears that they broke? That might be it. It may have been caused by a clack falling, which would cause the pull upon the spears.

Mr Blackwell: Mr Dunn suggested that it is desirable that, if it is possible to do so, the ends of the spears should be cut off, to be shown to the jury.

Mr Carr said he doubted whether the main spear could be got.

Mr Coulson: The low set spear is at the end of the plate, exactly opposite to the high main seam, and can be easily got. The other spear has the crab robe made fast to it. That can also be cut off and brought away.

Witness's examination was then continued.

By Mr Blackwell: You are not able to form any opinion as to whether the beam was broken by the great strain put upon it at the same time the strain was put upon the spear rods, or whether it was broken by the return stroke, the concussion? I think it was broken by the concussion. I think she would rest upon her catch pin, if she broke when she was in the down stroke; but when she made a stroke into the house, she had had all the distance of her stroke to fall. I think that she broke when she went into the house; if she had broken when she was out of the house, she would have no distance to fall upon the catch pins. My opinion is that she would rest upon the catch pin on the spearing and the pillar if she was out of the house.—Had you a nephew of your own in the pit who is lost? I had.

Mr Blackwell suggested, at the close of this witness's evidence, that some of the men who had assisted Mr Coulson and the others in the operations in the shaft should now be called.

Wm. Adams, sworn, deposed: I am a miner, and live at Cowpen. I volunteered to go down the shaft upon Wednesday afternoon with another man. We were the first to get into the yard seam. The name of the other man was Robert Wilson. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon that we went into the yard seam. We went down the shaft into the furnace drift. As soon as we got to the furnace, we found two men lying upon the top of the bars. We continued on till we came to a door. We went through that door till we came to another, and there was the dead body of a man keeping the second door open. We went about three yards through that door. We found bodies all the way. I believe I could see about one hundred in all. They were all dead as far as we went. Most of the men were lying on their sides, as if they had been fast asleep. Two men were lying on their faces. I did not see any boys. The gas took no effect upon me during the time I was in. I did not assist in removing the bodies. I offered my services but I was not wanted. When I came to bank, I told what I had seen. Wilson belonged to Backworth. I do not see him here. I was there on Saturday and Sunday, and saw most of the bodies brought up. I believe I saw some corn in some of the men's pockets, and there were some candles in one of the men's boxes, and some tobacco. I saw no water in my travels in the yard seam. I do not think that the men died from want. It strikes me it was the obnoxious gas that killed them. I could not see anything else that would kill them. The air took no effect upon me. The hole I went through to the surface drift was about three feet wide and nine feet long. I cannot, however, say exactly how wide or how deep it would be.

At this stage the Court adjourned for a short time. When it resumed,

Mr. Joseph Humble was sworn: He said I am resident viewer at Hartley New Colliery. When the accident happened, every possible exertion was made to get at the men. I went down the staple after the accident. I found the timber all lying on the high main, resting on the middle set of pumps, and the weigh. Mr. Coulson and his men did all that men could do to get through the obstructions to the yard seam. When they had got all cleared away, I went down into the yard seam. That was on the Wednesday night. After the other men who were down that day had reported to me, I went down myself. When I went down, I went on the pumps, and walked over the cistern. I found two men upon the furnace "asce." One man entirely upon the "asce;" and the other with his arms upon the bars. I walked over the bars and went down, and found several men sitting and lying immediately behind the fire, quite near to it. All were dead. I walked on to the end of the drift, and found more men, some sitting and some lying; and from the end of the drift I walked up to the separation doors, and found one man lying as if he had been in the act of coming through the outermost door; and, passing by him, I came immediately into the drift leading from the shaft. I walked down to the shaft, and saw the men sitting and lying near to each other as far as the shaft. They seemed to have lain down, and gone to sleep. I went on to the shaft, and spoke to the sinkers. I then went away from the shaft eastward, till I came to the first door, leading to the staple. I found the men still sitting by the wayside as I went along; and in going into the cross-foot, I found them lying so close that I was obliged to tread on them in order to get over them. I walked on till I came to another door, just before we come to the return, which was at the extreme end of the men lying in the pit. I walked on from there till I came within one hundred yards of the staple. I rested for half a minute, to see if there was any air circulating. Finding that there was none, and feeling it very difficult to breathe, I returned to the shaft. I found difficulty all the way along in breathing. Adams had told the people that the air was fresher the further he went; but I found that that was not the case. I had no difficulty in keeping my candle alight, not even when I was furthest in, although I was hardly able to breathe. I smelt a strong and peculiar odour, from the dead bodies I think. There was no particular smell at the staple, where I could scarcely breathe; but in coming back again, over the dead bodies towards the shaft, I felt the stench very strong. On Saturday morning I went down again, in company with Mr. Coulson, Mr. Baker Forster, and another man. That was somewhere about ten o'clock. They stopped a few minutes; then I asked them to get away to bank as quickly as they could, and to send us down men, in order to let us get the dead bodies away. The operation of taking away the dead bodies then commenced; and it was half-past two or three o'clock on the Sunday morning before I got them all out. We got 199 out. I have no reason to apprehend that any other bodies are left in the pit. The pit is quite shut up now.

By Mr. Dunn: I was in at the bottom of the double-air force, which is about eighty yards from the staple. I never was at the staple myself, but I think it would be bad. On Sunday morning, about seven o'clock, I got my head within the single course, and the air was very bad there.

By Mr. Blackwell: The air was usually very good in the pit. It was free from gas, and there was plenty of air. There were no complaints of it generally.

By the Coroner: I hardly know how the gas would generate. I fancy that the furnace smoke was going down the low main all the time that the men were shut up in the pit. I think that the men were all killed in the yard seam from the effects of the gas.

By Mr. Blackwell: The furnace would continue alight for some time after a current of air had ceased to pass over it. I think the heat of the furnace would so rarify the air as to draw it up the staple to it.

By Mr. Dunn: The water would stop the air-course at the bottom of the pit between 8 and 12 o'clock on Saturday night.

By Mr. Blackwell: If no fresh fuel were put into the furnace, and no air passed over it, I do not think that it would burn more than 20 minutes or half an hour. In addition to that, there was the breath from all the horses and ponies.

By Mr. Dunn: There were 43 horses and ponies in the pit.

By Mr. Blackwell: This gas seems, from all I have heard, to improve combustion. It made the candles burn brighter.

By Mr. Dunn: I was not afraid to take a candle into the yard seam; but, after receiving a note from you (Mr Dunn), I took a Davy lamp till I found it was safe for the candle.

By Mr. Blackwell: I was not much in the shaft after Mr. Coulson came. I had no charge in the shaft, but attended to the arrangements on bank, to see that the crab, jack, and gin were attended to, and to forward the work as much as possible. The repairs of the shaft were not in my charge. I have never examined it specially; but I never noticed anything wrong in it, or else I would have told the enginewright. The shaft was entirely in the charge of the enginewright. I never saw that it needed any repairs.

By Mr. Dunn: It has never required much repair.

By Mr. Blackwell: I have been resident viewer for more than four years.

Mr. Blackwell suggested, at the close of the witness's evidence, that it would be satisfactory if the person who cast the beam, and some other competent authorities upon the subject, were examined.

Mr. Carr said he would try to get Mr. Bell to attend and give evidence.

Mr. Blackwell thought they should take the scientific evidence next. They wanted to have the evidence of gentlemen engaged in engine building.

Mr. Carr said he would do his best to have Mr. Hoskyns, of Messrs. Hawks, Crawshay, and Co's, present next day.

Mr. Blackwell said he would rather have men who were well known examined, as the inquiry must be of the most searching nature.

The Coroner said he would now adjourn the inquest until next morning, in the same place, at eleven o'clock.

The inquiry was then adjourned.

TUESDAY.

Before the inquest commenced, Mr Blackwell (the special Government Commissioner), Mr M. Dunn, Mr I. Ramsay, Mr Hoskyns, and Mr Short carefully examined the broken beam, and the bottom of the pump spears, which had been cut off for the purpose. The first witness examined was

Thos. Watson, re-called by Mr Blackwell: You said, yesterday, when I asked you whether you could see the light about you, after the accident, that you could not, on account of the reek from the furnace? No, sir; we could not see the light, because the smoke was tremendous heavy upon us. We both smelt it and saw it. We struck a light, and then saw the volumes of smoke going up, and felt it besides.—You did not mistake it for anything else? No, sir; I am not mistaken at all; when I went down to the pumps I did not find any smoke; but after I went below the cage.—Was the brattice still there? No, sir; there was nothing there except the side planks that the bunting was lashed to. The pumps were standing upright then, for I went up to them. As the smoke proceeded from the furnace undoubtedly, and the furnace was below you, how do you account for the fact of there being so much smoke in the shaft when the accident happened, when you immediately afterwards found none at all down the shaft? I think it is because the furnace had been just made on, and the smoke carried away below us, the smoke had all come into the shaft together, and had ascended upwards—The shaft was all in one there? Yes, sir, there was nothing to obstruct it.—How long after the accident did you perceive the smoke? I cannot say, for a few minutes, or, perhaps, half-an-hour. There was no smoke upon the rubbish.—You got down to within seven fathoms of the furnace drift? I cannot tell the fathoms, but I think that was about it. I knew I was above the yard seam, because I saw the three rapper ropes all perfect.

By the Coroner: You say that smoke came from the furnace. Yes, sir.—Had it a peculiar smell? It had a very strong smell.

By Mr Blackwell: At that time, the furnace smoke escaped into the shaft then, you think? Yes.

Geo. Emerson, sworn, deposed: I live at West Sleekburn, Low Moor, and am a sinker under Mr Coulson. I commenced working at the shaft to get into the yard seam on Friday morning at half-past ten o'clock. It was 11 o'clock on Wednesday when we got fairly into the yard seam. The reason I went was to see if the standing set bunting was all safe. I found it so. After that, I went along to the cistern, to see if it was all right, and then I discovered two axes and a handsaw.

By Mr Blackwell: I went in just by the side of the pumps in the west side, into the furnace drift, and then got round by the furnace drift into the north side of the shaft.—When you began to work on Friday morning, what was there in the shaft? The first thing we came to was what we call cap-chock buntings.—Was it all timber? All timber.—How far was it down to the falls of stone? I believe about two fathoms below that.—I suppose you afterwards ascertained how far it was above the furnace drift when you began to work? As near as I could tell it was from seven to eight fathoms.—The furnace drift is two fathoms above the buntings? Yes.—The stone that you found then was immediately below the place where the shaft became so wide? Yes.—The shaft had fallen in to a great width all around there at that time? Yes.—Then you worked on through that stone? We worked on through the timber, and as we took the timber away, the stone fell in.—Was there much stone? Yes, a great deal of large stone.—What did the accumulation in the shaft consist of? Principally timber, after we got the stone secured.—When did you begin to work the small hole down? We began that on the Saturday night or Sunday morning, to try and get as far down as we could.—Could any air get through the accumulation of stuff in the shaft? I did not feel any.—It seemed so close wedged that none could come? Yes.—And that from time to time you got down to the stone? Yes.—When you began to get down the small hole, I suppose you selected that part of the shaft where the material seemed to be least wedged? Yes, behind the pumps.—Then I suppose you can't tell positively what the accumulation still hanging in the shaft consists of? No, I can't.—It may be stone and it may be timber? It may be.—Did you continue to work on the shaft till the bodies were brought up? Yes.—Had you been employed in this shaft on former occasions? No.—You were up and down it for more than a week, I think? Yes.—You would naturally, therefore, examine it carefully all the way down to see if it was safe for you to work under it? Yes.—Were there any unsafe places in the shaft above the place where this great fall had taken place? One or two.—Where were they? A little above the large fall.—Whereabouts were they? Perhaps two fathoms above.—How much had the shaft fallen in there? Very little; only small places, just where the cribs had been.—Was there another place higher up? No; they were both about the same place, on opposite sides.—Above those points you found the cribs and the outside boarding in good order? Yes, all round the pit.

Mr. John Taylor, sworn, deposed: I am a coalowner and viewer. I am the landlord's (Lord Hasting's) check-viewer. I have been down the pit two or three times within the last eight or nine months. I was apprized by a letter from Mr. Carr of the occurrence of this accident, and I went down the high main staple on the Thursday evening, about seven or eight o'clock. Mr. Carr, Mr. Humble, and Mr. George Forster were there with me. We then went along from the staple to the pit, and saw that the timbering of the shaft was all broken and destroyed at the high main seam. At that time, before Mr. Coulson's sinkers came, the shaftmen who were sinking were about four fathoms above the high main seam, and were engaged in bringing the loose timber away. The other viewers with me, knowing that men were lying in the shaft below, gave orders for a lot of planks to be placed over the pit at the high main seam, so as to prevent any of the debris from the shaftmen falling upon those below.

By Mr. Blackwell: The men who had been surprized by the accident in the cage were still in the shaft.

By the Coroner: The operations continued throughout the night, and the men in the cage were got out. The next morning, Friday, Mr. Coulson came to me, and inquired if he might go down the pit. I spoke to Mr. Carr about it, and he at once gave permission. After Mr. Coulson had been down, he explained to us the position of the pit, and Mr. Carr at once requested him to take the entire charge, and superintend the sinking. I was every day more or less at the colliery till the men were got out. I was once more down the shaft. The second time I went down to the high main seam, Mr. Coulson asked me a question, whether I thought the gas in which the men were working——

By Mr. Blackwell: That was the day the bodies were found.

By the Coroner: It was the sinkers who were working in the gas. Mr. Coulson asked me if it was carburreted oxygen. That somewhat alarmed me, and I went down the pit to the high main seam to examine the return air, which was coming up behind the canvas brattice. There was no indication in the candle that it was that. Carbonic-oxygen is a very explosive gas; but I perceived no indication in the candle that it was there. Very shortly afterwards the sinkers were compelled to come up, some of them in a very bad state.

By Mr. Blackwell: This was just about the time the first hole was made. Emerson had been in the hole previously. Mr. Coulson and I then came up, and advised some of the workmen, or some of the people on the heap, as they were complaining very much at the slow progress of the works, to go down, and see for themselves. Two men went down the shaft in consequence of this. I can't say how long they were down. They were the men Adams and Wilson, and were the first to see the bodies. They got over the furnace, and saw the dead bodies. I am quite satisfied that every possible exertion was made to get to the yard seam. I did not see the men myself, so I can't say whether they appeared to have been suffocated by carbonic oxide gas.

By Mr. Blackwell: You were present yesterday? Yes.—You heard Mr. Coulson's evidence? I did.—He stated distinctly that the gas which escaped through the crevices in the rubbish in the shaft did affect the candle? It made it burn more brightly.—Yes, well that was an effect upon the candle? That might be, but where I tried the return air I could perceive no effect upon the candle. It depends entirely upon where it is tried. You may perceive an indication of gas upon the candle at one spot, and not at another.—I am quite sure of that myself. I was going to say that you tried it at a different place; and, therefore, that the effects of the gas might not be the same at one place as at another? Precisely so. I can only speak of it at that particular point.—You have paid a great deal of attention generally to gas in mines? I have paid a good deal.—As a gentleman who has done so, have you formed any conclusion with regard to the nature of the gas which caused the death of the men?

By the Coroner: Can you arrive at any opinion as to the nature of the gas which killed the men? Of course, I can only give a mere opinion, but my opinion is, that when this beam fell down the shaft, both the intakes and furnace-drift at the yard coal seam were both blocked completely up.

By Mr. Blackwell: You have heard what Watson said to-day. He has distinctly sworn that the smoke penetrated into the shaft from the furnace for a time? That would be the smoke which was previously in the shaft.—He said distinctly it lasted so long that it could not be that smoke? Well, of course, that is merely matter of opinion. I am speaking of what I think the most probable cause of death.

Mr Blackwell: I do not at all dispute Mr Taylor's opinion. I only wish to call attention to the discrepancy.

The Coroner: As a practical man of great experience, I should lean very much in favour of Mr Taylor's opinion.

Mr Taylor (continuing): I think that, as a natural consequence, the furnace smoke would probably oscillate through the yard seam, backwards and forwards. I would pass through the furnace drift, and the whole of the working of the yard seam; and I think the air was thus partly exhausted, and the oxygen in the yard seam would be thus consumed. I would say further, that it is more a question for chemists than for viewers.

The Coroner: Certainly.

Mr Taylor: I merely wish to account for the presence of the carbonic oxide. I think I have accounted for the presence of the carbonic oxide, and that, mixing with the carbonic-acid naturally produced in the mine, would, I think, cause the death of the men.

By Mr Blackwell: You have had occasion to form an opinion with regard to the state of this colliery generally, I presume? I have. You consider it dangerous, I presume? The colliery? Yes. No; I can't say that I consider it a dangerous colliery at all.

The Coroner: Was there any gas in the colliery? Little or no inflammable gas was found, I believe.

By Mr Blackwell: You say it is not a dangerous mine; do you say that, when looking at an explosive mine? I am looking at it generally; I do not consider it at all dangerous.

By the Coroner: From what you know of the colliery do you consider that it was conducted with skill, and everything done that could be devised for the safety and protection of the men? I do.

The jury here went outside to view the broken ends of the pump spears. These were ponderous beams, which have evidently been pulled, not broken, asunder. The next witness examined was *Thomas Watson*, who was re-called, and asked if he was perfectly satisfied that it was the smoke of the furnace that he felt for about half-an-hour after the accident. He replied in the affirmative.

By the Coroner: There was no smoke below us.

The jury then adjourned for the purpose of obtaining refreshments. When they resumed,

The Coroner said: If there is any one among this audience that can give any information, or that wishes to ask any questions, I beg that they will not hesitate at once to come forward; for every one that presents himself before me shall have a patient and full hearing.

George Short was then sworn and examined by Mr. Blackwell: I want the general dimensions of the machinery throughout. The dimensions of the engine, the diameter of the cylinders, and all the information that you can give respecting the engine, beam, pumps, and all the machinery?

The Coroner: How much was the horse-power of the engine? 300 horse-power.—By whom was it made? It was fitted by Mr. Howley.—Who was the casting made by? The beam was made by Losh, Wilson, and Bell.—Now can you tell me what weight that beam was calculated to bear? I can't say; but I can give you an idea of what it was carrying. The weight the beam had to carry would be 43 tons 18 cwt and 16 lbs.—Do you consider the beam was equal to carry that weight? I should say it was equal to carry three times that weight, or more.—Was the beam of cast metal? Yes.

By Mr. Blackwell: What was the diameter of the cylinder of the engine? 86½ inches.—Working what stroke? A ten-foot stroke.—Inside? Yes.

By the Coroner: In a minute? No; seven strokes a minute.

By Mr Blackwell: And what outside? A 9 foot 3-inch stroke.—Now, what was the stroke of the pumps in the staple? A 6 foot 3-inch stroke.—What was the length of the beam? 34 feet 6 inches from centre to centre.—What was its vertical section in the centre? 8 feet 2 inches.—That was the place where it broke, I think? Yes.—It was formed of two separate sides? Yes.—How were they joined? By bolts and studs.—How thick were the sides? They were 9 inches in the beam; 4¾ to 4½ in the web; and 15 inches in the boss.—A model of the beam in wood was here produced, and handed to the jury for inspection.—What was the diameter of the piston rod? 9¼ inches.—You have not made any calculation of the weight of the piston, I suppose? Yes, I have; the casting was 4,186lbs. in weight, and the crossheads were 1,904lbs. They were of wrought iron.—What is the thickness of the wrought iron cap on the crossheads at the place where it is fractured? It is 3¾ inches thick on the top side, and 3¼ inches on the lower side. It was 22 inches deep.—That also is fractured? Yes.—The fracture extended horizontally round three-fourths of its circumference? Yes.—How was the fracture running down? It was running down on the top side of the east gudgeon, and the under side of the west gudgeon.—It commences on the top side of the left-hand gudgeon? Yes, the east gudgeon—And then it extends downwards, and passes out under the west side of the right hand gudgeon? Yes.—The dry spears on the pumping end were ten inches in diameter? The main dry spears were 14 inches.—What was the bottom of the dry spears? Ten inches square.—The top pumps were worked from the cylinder end: what was the stroke? A 6 foot 3 inch stroke.—They are not disturbed? No.

By the Coroner: Is the spear broken? We have not ascertained whether it is or not.

By Mr Blackwell: Below, the engine was balanced by a catch pin? Yes.—The steam was condensed on both sides of the cylinder? Yes.—What was the diameter of the bottom pumps? 24 inches.—What was the diameter of the middle pumps? The same.—What was the diameter of the top of the staple pumps? 30 inches.

Mr. Blackwell: I think we have got all the dimensions now.

At this stage, a person named *Thomas Nicholson*, a pitman at Hartley, volunteered to give some evidence. Being sworn, he proceeded, in a somewhat excited state, and with a very rapid delivery, to make the following statement:—I live at New Hartley, and am a miner. I have seen the pieces of the spears lying at the door. I saw that which the iron plates were upon last night, The day after the accident, about 8 o'clock, I saw the spear standing in the high main seam. I saw it broken. I could not tell how high the top end was above the high main seam; but it was broken close beside the middle set. This was the day after the beam had fallen.

By Mr. Blackwell: I saw the piece at the door broken off. It and another end were all in one piece. They were broken this way. On the Friday after the accident, I and some other men were down at the main high seam, working. The two cages were resting at that part of the shaft, and a man named Mitchell, who came from Cowpen, and who was working in the shaft, wished to have one of the cages brought up; but when he did so, he got one of them up, and the other fell right down the pit. Every man thought that the cage had gone to the rubbish where the shaft was closed, and when Mitchell got to bank he wished to reverse the machine; and when she started the rope was lapped round the spear, but we were ignorant of it till we saw fire from the block heads, and when the cage came up, she snipped the top of the spear off by the rope being round it.

By Mr. Blackwell: Do you mean to say that the machine, by pulling at one of the ropes, pulled the baulk in two? Yes, that's the case.

Mr. Short, the engineer, having received permission to do so, asked this witness whereabout the Y was when they hung the crab rope to it? The Y was above us.—It is possible for an iron rope to lap round, and how many turns were there round it? I can't say it was owing to the iron cage falling down the pit.—Do you mean to say an iron rope was turned round a 10-inch spear so as to grip or break it? Why, it had pressure upon it.

Mr. Baker Forster: Two of my men were here who saw the spear before this man saw it broken.

Mr. Blackwell: I think the jury will agree in thinking that this man's evidence is not to be relied upon.

The moment Mr. Blackwell gave utterance to these words, the strange witness disappeared; and although he was afterwards called for, he was not to be found.

George Short, the engineer, recalled, and examined by Mr. Blackwell: Do you believe that that piece of the spear was in its place after the accident? No; I believe that the spear was broken before the beam broke.—And you believe that since the accident that spear has not been there? Yes; that spear was gone when I went down first.—What did the fractured beam look like, immediately after the accident? It was bright all through, and showed no indication of a crack.

By the Coroner: In that portion of the beam where it was broken through there were two concave indentions, were there not? Yes, sir.—Supposing that part of the beam now down the shaft were recovered, would there be two convex pieces which would fill those cavities? No; there would be the same cavities.

Mr. Blackwell: These holes occur in the largest and thickest parts of castings, and are places where the metal has subsided away to fill up the diminution of volume which has occurred elsewhere. The outside skin growing hard before the inside is cool, the metal attaches itself to the outside, and leaves a hole in the body of the casting where it is the thickest.

Mr. John Hoskyns, sworn, was examined by the Coroner: You are chief director with Messrs. Hawks, Crawshay, and Co.? I am chief engineer.—Have you examined the broken beam at Hartley Colliery to-day? I have.—Did you examine it minutely? Yes.—Are you prepared to give any opinion as to the quality of the metal? The metal is of very fair quality.—You have heard the evidence given as to the weight it was calculated to carry? Yes.—Do you believe it was equal to carrying that weight? I estimated that it could bear considerably beyond that weight.—Would any sudden check given to the beam be likely to cause it to give way? That, operating with other causes, would.—But in the smooth regular motion with which a beam goes, it would bear a very great weight before it would give way? Yes; about four times the load that was reported to me to have been on it.

By Mr. Blackwell: You have been in the habit of making experiments upon the tensile strength of timber? I have.—Have you observed the weight at which timber breaks under tension? I have; but when I say tensile, it has not been direct tensile force; it has been loaded beams lying horizontally, not in their direct tensile strength.—You have examined the fracture of the beam

itself carefully? Yes.—Do you think it possible that the fall of the centre gudgeon, after it had been hoisted up a few inches upon brasses, could cause the fracture in the beam? No; I do not think so; or rather, if it had caused a fracture in the beam, my opinion is that it would have gone on to complete fracture before this: I do not think, however, that a fall of three inches would cause any injury to the beam.—Would it have shewn itself earlier? Yes. In confirmation of this I may mention that it has already been given in evidence that the fracture, when first seen, was perfectly bright throughout; had it been cracked, it would have been dull at that particular part.—How long is it since this fall occurred?

Mr. Short, interrupting: Thirty-three days.

Examination resumed: The two sides of the beam are what is technically called open sand castings? Yes.—The cavities in the beam above and below the centre gudgeon, at the point of fracture, have arisen from the contraction of the fluid iron in the process of cooling, when the casting was made? Yes.—Such cavities always occur when metal is not supplied during the cooling? When there is a large body of metal in the casting.—These cavities in the metal, caused by the cooling, are supplied by feeding? They may be prevented, to a certain extent, by the process of feeding.—Can you feed an open casting? No.—The large cavities are the result of not feeding then? To a great extent.—I hear this is a box casting? Well, it may be; I was informed it was an open casting, and I did not, therefore, pay much attention to that point.—It is now defined to have been covered with loam plates? Then I presume it will have been fed.—You will have observed the mode in which the centre gudgeon is wedged and keyed into a hexagonal hole in this beam? Yes. Those wedges have been driven in with very great force, have they not? Yes, with great force. So much so that their heads all shew marks of the sledges used to drive them? Yes. The effect of that would be to throw an enormous strain upon the cohesion of the metal surrounding the gudgeon holes? Yes.—And probably would have a tendency to cause the beam to break? It would be one of the causes in operation to break the beam.—I think there would be no question about that? No.—In addition to that, the angular shape of the gudgeon hole would be unfavourable? Yes; an octagon would have been better, but a circular hole would have been better still.—Two opposite angles at the top and bottom coincide with the line of fracture, do they not? Yes. To avoid the danger of such a keying and wedging of the centre gudgeon, is it not customary to put the gudgeon in in a different manner, and to form the hole in a different way? The modern practice is to bore a circular hole, turn the gudgeon so as to fit it well, and seam all with only one key.—Does not this mode prevent any tension being thrown upon the metal? It throws the least possible tension upon it.—From what you have observed of this breakage, what do you think was the original moving cause of the fracture of the beam? I think there have been two or three causes in operation; in the first place, I think the gudgeon had been unduly keyed—had been keyed up with undue tightness. In the next place, I think there has been a want of a more general distribution of the metal; there is too much metal in the centre boss, and then the ribs, coming down, instead of adding strength to the beam, have weakened it; by acting against the boss they would impoverish the metal between the two where the line of fracture has taken place. In the next place, I think it is possible that the gudgeon was warm: it has been represented to me that it was, and that would produce a slight expansion. This, with the previous tight keying, would be another operating cause.—You mean the gudgeons worked hot, I suppose? Well, that would be a better expression. This would be especially a cause at the time the fracture took place, as it was then a severe frost.—I think you will be aware, from your practice, that cast-iron is of itself more brittle during frosty weather? Yes.—Do you think that the beam has broken in consequence of the buckets becoming wedged in the working barrel? No; my opinion is that the bottom spear has given way, from the examination of the fractured end that I have seen.—Then, I presume, you suppose that the bottom bucket was fast, from some cause or other? No; I think it has failed from the weight that was on it; the wood does not appear to me to have been of the very best quality. It may have been very good at some time or other; but now it appears to me to be rather weak. The breaking of the spear would relieve the engine of her weight outside, and would cause her to strike violently on the spring beams inside, producing a severe shock, which, taken in combination with the causes I before referred to, would, in my opinion, be sufficient to account for the accident.—There's only one other question, and that is, whether a very slight engineering arrangement would not be sufficient to prevent a beam, under such circumstances, from falling? I think so.—Very slight, and comparatively inexpensive? Yes, comparatively inexpensive.—There are various arrangements which could be made; a sufficiently strong scaffold under the beam, for instance, or the beam itself might be secured by safety-chains? What I would recommend would be to fasten it with wrought iron bridles.—I would do this wherever there is a fear of the beam giving way, or wherever it is placed in such a dangerous position as this was—That will strengthen itself? Yes: I had a similar case a short time ago, where the beam was fractured, but fortunately the fracture was discovered in time. The crack had extended eight or nine inches from the centre. We prepared a king-post truss, and this has completely prevented the beam giving.—Yes: I have often known such things done; but it is easy, is it not, to prepare such a bed as to prevent the beam from falling away, which would not interfere with the machinery? I think that would be inconvenient in many cases, especially inside the house; the parallel motion would interfere; still, by having very strong spring beams, if it was to break, it could not possibly fall.—A beam working in such a position might be fenced or guarded in such a way that it could not go down the pit? Decidedly, it could be done.

By Mr Carr: Was the gudgeon so hot as to expand the metal? Well, if it was hot at all, there would be a certain amount of expansion.

The Coroner: I was going to make a remark which has been reported to me on very excellent authority. Some years ago there was an engine beam which was cast at the Birtley Iron Works, and in its removal from there to its destination, there was a trench cut across the road, and the cart in passing over that trench made a jerk or fell into it, and the consequence was that the beam was broken, and a fresh beam was cast from the same mould, and it has been working ever since. It only shows how very liable cast metal is to be fractured.

Mr Blackwell: Probably it was only one of the sides of the beam which was broken.

The Coroner: No, it was broken entirely through.

Mr Hoskyns: We have had an accident of the same kind lately to one of our own casts.

Thomas Clark, ironfounder, Rye Hill, Newcastle, examined by the Coroner: What do you consider the quality of the metal of the beam at Hartley Colliery to have been? I consider it very good.—Have you examined the fracture? Yes; and I think that it indicates the quality. When there is strength in cast-iron, it always shows irregularity in the fracture; and on looking at this beam, I observed a great number of fragments still hanging on, showing tenacity. They are not broken entirely off the piece.—From all those indications, you believe the casting to be very good? Yes.—And you also consider that the draw-holes in the fracture are indications of strength? I think, also, that the section of the beam is tolerably favourable as to its contraction; I saw it when it was first broken, and the colouring of the fracture indicates that it is good iron. I did not discover anything at all defective about it; and it did not appear to me that there was any undue contraction about it. It would have manifested discolouration if the fracture had taken place when there was any heat in it.

Thomas Hunter Murray, of Chester-le-Street, generally corroborated the preceding witnesses.

Henry Warence, of the Walker Iron Works, was next called, and produced an entry from their books, which showed that the metal of the beam was composed of a mixture of one-third Blenarvon cold blast, and the remainder of "O.M.O." Scotch. He did not know exactly how long it was since the beam was cast, but thought about six or seven years since.

At this stage of the proceedings the enquiry was adjourned.

WEDNESDAY.

Mr. Blackwell said he would like to call the engineer and the under-viewer of the colliery again, and he thought they had not called yet the man who was actually working the engine at the moment the accident took place.—The Coroner: He was examined at the last inquest.

Mr. Blackwell: Mr. Coulson also promised to give us certain calculations, which we have not received. I would also like to have Mr. T. E. Forster examined. There is another point on which I would like to know more; that is, the time at which the men in the pit were last heard jowling.

Mr. T. E. Forster: David Wilkinson was the last man who heard them.

Mr. Blackwell: Then it is desirable that he should be called. I would also like some evidence respecting the book that was found in Amour's pocket.—Mr. Forster here produced the book.—Mr. Blackwell suggested that it should be put in as evidence, in order that the record might be taken.

Mr. Forster accordingly read the inscription in the book as follows:—"Friday afternoon, at quarter-past one, Edward Armstrong, Thomas Gledson, John Hardy, Thomas Bell, and others, took extremely ill. We also had a prayer meeting, at a quarter to two, when Tibbs, Henry Sharp, J. Campbell, Henry Gibson, and William Palmer ——— Tibbs exhorted to us *again*. H. Sharp also."

John Short, re-examined, gave some further particulars relative to the engine.

William K. Horseley, sworn and examined by the Coroner: What are you? I am an engine-builder, and erected this engine.

By Mr Blackwell: Have you heard the evidence given by the last witness on the subject of the amount of pressure? Yes.—And the weight of the material which would descend on the in-stroke? Yes.—Do you agree with him in the correctness of his calculations? Yes; within a ton.—The effect of the descent of such weight under such pressure, with the momentum acquired in a distance of ten feet, would produce an enormous concussion upon the iron beam when it was suddenly stopped? Yes.

By the Coroner: How many years is it since you erected this engine? The engine was tried on May 22, 1855; it commenced pumping water at the high set on September 19, 1855.

By Mr T. E. Forster: Then you have known this engine from 1855 up to the time that the accident occurred? Yes.

By the Coroner: Have you ever made any repairs in it? Yes; but they have been very slight.

By Mr. Forster: What is the greatest number of strokes per minute that you have ever known the engine work at any period during the six years it has been working? The most, I think, will be about 8 or 8½ strokes per minute.—Assuming that it was going at the time of the accident seven strokes a minute, according to your account she has gone much harder? Yes.

By Mr. Dunn: With the same load? Yes.

The Coroner: We had it from a very intelligent witness yesterday, that the beam was calculated to carry a much greater weight than it was doing at the time of the accident.

By Mr. Forster: When you erected that engine, had you any doubt that the beam and everything about the engine was competent to lift the weight put upon it? I considered it could bear five times as much.

By Mr. Forster: During the time which the engine has been at work, have you ever had the main spear or any of the low spears broken? One main spear.—What was the effect upon the engine of that spear breaking? The effect of it was that two of the well spears broke in the high sit pumps.

By Mr. Dunn: The staple pumps? Yes; and damaged the key in the cross head of the engine. This was in 1858.

By Mr. Forster: How many strokes per minute was the engine going at that time? She would not be going more than 4½ or 5, to the best of my recollection.—What would the pressure of the steam be? She was loaded at about the same pressure as now, I think.

Mr. Blackwell: I would like to put a question to some of the men who were first in the pit. If they are not here, however, I would like to ask Mr. Humble a few questions.

Joseph Humble re-examined by Mr. Blackwell: There is a question involving the cause of the death of these men in some degree that I wish to ask you. You were one of the first persons that went into the pit after it was opened? Yes.

By the Coroner: That was into the yard seam? Yes.

By Mr. Blackwell: You found men lying on the bars, I believe? I found one with his arms round the bars, and his head on his arms.—Was the fire then out of the furnace? All taken down from the bars.—(A plan of the yard seam was here put in.)—Does that shew a correct representation of the position in which the bodies were found? It is quite correct, except that the man on the north side of the furnace should have been made resting upon the bars.—Was there any fresh water in the yard seam where the men were found? Not actually where they were; they were all lying quite dry.—No, but I mean was there any water which they could drink? They had access to water within thirty yards of them, and they could have got fresh water from the shaft, for it was falling from the high main.—How near to the shaft were they? Some of them were lying within three yards of it.—It was only in the low main, then, where the water was salt? Only in the low main. [A general plan of the low main workings produced.] Does this shew the workings in progress at the time of the accident? It does.—How many acres have been excavated from the low main? I cannot answer that question off hand. I could tell you if I had time to measure it.—How many years has the low main seam been worked? Four years to my knowledge, and it was worked before I came.—What was the output a-day? It was about 350 tons.—Can you tell me the extent of royalty which it was intended to work in this pit? I cannot say that exactly.—Can you if you had time to measure it? Yes.—How long would you take to measure it? Not long; perhaps twenty minutes or half-an-hour.—There was a staple from the low main seam to the yard seam, I believe? Yes.—With a ladder? Yes.—There was also a staple from the surface to the high main seam, I believe? Yes.—About 30 fathoms deep? Yes, between 30 and 40.—What was the distance from the high main to the yard seam? 32 fathoms.—What would be the expense of putting down a staple from the high main to the yard seam? I cannot answer that question; I have never thought upon the subject, and never had the question put before.—Has the pump been often cleaned? Not since I came; Short was speaking about having it cleaned about two weeks before the accident.—What sort of matter was collected in the pump? It would be chicky slack, that is, small coal.

By Mr. Forster: You have several dyke pumps, as you call them; were they ever cleaned out? Yes, regularly.—Were you making every effort, and pushing forward your workings as fast as you could, to get to the Mill Pit? Yes.—And if you had reached the Mill Pit, would not that have been a second shaft for the colliery? Yes.—How long did you expect to take to it? We expected to accomplish it in about four or six months.

By the Coroner: Was that suggested by the Inspector? No, sir; it was suggested by Mr Forster. Mr Horseley had been requested to give an estimate for an engine to be put up at the Mill Pitt, which he had done. Was there any fault found by the Inspector in the general conduct of the colliery? No.—Did he suggest any improvement? Nothing; except that he suggested we should get done what we were busy with.

By Mr Dunn: What dykes are between your workings and the Mill Pit workings? There would only be one of any importance, and it is already cut through by Mr Jobling.

By the Coroner: Had this drift been completed before the accident, would all the men and horses have been saved? Yes, they would have got through.—Do you know if there was anything going on at the Mill Pit for the same purpose? They were busy running the water off at the Mill Pit, through bore holes, for the same purpose.

Wilam R. Cole, sworn, deposed: I am a colliery viewer, living at Bebside. [Amour's memorandum book produced.] I recognize the book now produced. It was taken by me out of the pocket of the back-overman Amour, when I found him in the yard seam. I found it on Saturday afternoon, about half-past six. The writing in pencil was there when I found it.

William Coulson, re-examined by Mr Blackwell: There has been a remark made by some of the men about doing something which I believe was quite impossible; but I think it is desirable that I should have your authority to contradict it. It has been said that it was practicable to draw the spears from the middle set, and to break the bucket door open. What do you think upon the subject? I consider it was practicable to take the spears out; but it was impracticable to break the bucket door open.—What would the cost of a five foot staple have been from the high main to the yard seam? £300 at the outside.—How long would it have taken to have got it done? About fifteen weeks.—What proportion of the numerous winnings you have made, have been made with a similar shaft? A great number. I cannot enumerate them; but I should say something like twenty.—Out of eighty-four? Yes; out of eighty-four.—It is to a considerable extent practised in this country to make a single shaft winning, and then, at an after time, to make another shaft, at a considerable distance? It is.—Or speaking more generally, perhaps you would say, by the various circumstances which are discovered and brought to light by the first shaft? Yes; by the difference in the strata and faults.—There are various circumstances which are brought to light by the explorations from the first shaft? Yes.—Without a knowledge of which the position of the second shaft could not be properly determined? It could not be properly determined at all times.—I would ask you to give us some of the calculations you have made? Well, I have made some calculations in the immediate locality; but the wide difference is between being in one field and being in another. Now, in the case of Hartley, I sank the pit. We had 600 gallons a minute; in other cases further north we had no pumps in at all; we had a little water, but no pumps. In other two cases further north we had about 1,200 gallons a minute. I have one of these cases in hand just now.—What I would ask you to do is this: to give us such calculations as you think fit, founded on your great experience, and then to append to these calculations any explanation which you think fit? I can give you the cost of sinking the present colliery, as far as labour, wall, and cleading is concerned; and I can give you another colliery where very little water was met with in the same seam, in the same locality, about five or six miles north. I can give you two comparative statements in two different localities. The Hartley New Pit, to begin with, cost £3,600, including sinkers, banksmen, enginemen, gravers' charges, graving buckets, firemen, walling, cleating, cribs, and main brattice. Now, the cost at the same place of two 8 foot 6 inch shafts, for which you asked, is £4,500. Then, as to the other place, which is in a very favourable situation, it is a 12 foot 3 inch pit, and it would cost, including some materials, £2,600. Two 8 foot 6 inch pits, instead of it, would cost £3,100. That arises from the difference in the situation; in the one case, however, we have 600 gallons of water in a minute, and in the other we have very little. These pits are all supposed to be 100 fathoms deep. Hartley pit is nearly 100 fathoms deep; it is 100 fathoms to the bottom of the sump.—That cost would be greatly increased if tubbing were put in? Yes.

By Mr. Forster: Perhaps you could give us the extreme case where you had an immense body of water? I do not know that I could give you that very correctly. Well, you can give us an idea of it? It would cost £45 a fathom to put tubbing into the pit at the present day. When metal is very cheap, I have put in tubbing at 5s a cwt.; and I have put it in at 19s.—That is for a twelve foot pit? Yes, you may do it for £4,000, that is, supposing you get quit of the whole of the feeders.—And you calculate that if, from the quantity of water, it required tubbing, it would cost £5,800 more? Yes; but that does not take in the extra engine power for pumping the water, or for pumps and spears. I think that that is all I can give you; but before I am done, I think there is another question I would like to ask anybody, as to the bucket door. Now, the bucket door is about two fathoms and a half, or nearly three, from the top of the furnace drift. It is about four or five inches thick in metal, and with five or six cross bars on. I wish to ask anybody a question. I want to know how any man could go down those pumps and take that door off; or, again, I want to know what use it could be when it was off; for I happened to take it off when we got to it, and no man could live at the top of the pumps, let alone at the bucket door.

By Mr. Forster: That is, the gas was so bad that you could not live? Yes.—Then whoever went down the pit would have been lost? He would have stopped there. When the pit was cleared out, and the bucket door reached, I was obliged to take it off, by unscrewing the bolts, in order to let the gas go up the pump, and he brought to the main coal. I believe that if we had not had the pumps, there was not a space behind the brattice to deliver the gas which escaped from the yard coal when the opening was first made. When we fastened the cloth on to the main buntings, in order to shut off the furnace way, only giving it the back of the brattice and the pumps, the other part of the pit was occupied by the fresh air going down the yard coal to remove the gas. I believe the man is in the room who took the bucket door off. He took it off by my orders, and brought it up to the high main coal by means of the crab.

Joseph Humble, re-examined, deposed: The whole of the royalty is 1,200 acres; the pillars to be worked, 92 acres; left for standage and rolley-ways, 94 acres; coal not workable and thin, 719 acres; whole coal workable, 295 acres.

Mr. Blackwell: I think the only witness now to be examined is Mr T. E. Forster; and he might be brought before you to-morrow.

The inquiry was accordingly adjourned till next day, at one o'clock.

CONVICTIONS AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE, UNDER THE FACTORIES' ACT.

On Monday, Mr. John Moody, woollen manufacturer, of Ebchester Mill, near Shotley Bridge, was summoned before the Bench, at the latter place, at the instance of G. H. L. Rickards, Esq., Inspector of Factories for this district, for a series of infractions of the Factories' Act. The magistrates on the Bench were Mr. Annandale, Mr. Silvertop, and Mr. Kearney.

Mr. Rickards said the first omission on the defendant's part was, that he had not given notice to the authorities in London of the existence of his mill at Ebchester, for the manufacture of woollens. The consequence was that, until very recently, he (the Inspector) was unaware of its existence. The first charge he proposed to go into was that the defendant had not, within fourteen months, lime-washed the walls and tops of the rooms of his mill.

The Clerk of the Court to Mr. Moody: Did you whitewash all the wall? No.—Have you done the ceilings within 14 months? No.—Then you have acted contrary to the act, and the penalty is any sum not less than £3 and not exceeding £10.

Mr. Moody, in defence, said he knew nothing of the existence of the Factory Act, nor of any obligation under it. He had carried on business 27 years, and was not aware that a change of residence would subject him to such penalties. He was now endeavouring to comply with the act.

He was then convicted, the penalty being any sum from £2 to £5.

The next charge was that he had not hung up in his premises a notice of meal-hours; and to that he replied, "I knew not that it was my duty to do so."

The Clerk said the penalty in this was the same as that imposed in the last case; and the defendant was convicted.

The next charge was that of having neglected to hang up in his mill an abstract of the Factory Act. Defendant admitted the offence, stating, however, that he had, since this information was laid, complied with the section; and, further, that [illegible] he had been commencing a new mill, he would have looked into the provisions of the Factory Act. He was again convicted, the penalty being any sum not less than £2, nor more than £5.

The next charge was that of having neglected to provide a register, according to the forms and directions given in schedule B, sec. 27. The defendant admitted the charge; the penalty was the same as in the last case.

The defendant was then charged with having "employed a boy, named Andrew Moody, more than seven days, without a surgical certificate." The question in this case turned upon the age of the boy, whose mother was unable to speak to it with certainty. The Inspector, very much to her surprise, told her her maiden name and place of residence before she was married, her husband's name, and the place and time of her son's birth.—In answer to Mr Annandale, Mrs Moody said her son had never complained to her of having been overworked; and that defendant, who was his uncle, took him and his brother to relieve her of their charge, in consequence of her poverty. No wages were received by her for the boy's services. The charge was then admitted; the penalty being the same as in the previous cases.

The next charge was of the same nature, the only difference being the employment of John Moody without such medical certificate. Defendant denied that John Moody was employed by him, whereupon Mr. Rickards gave evidence to the effect that he found this boy "reeling" in one of the rooms. The boy was called. He said he had only been "reeling" five minutes when Mr. Rickards entered the room. He admitted that his uncle sometimes gave him a shilling. Might have received four or five shillings in this way.

Defendant said: This boy came to him from Calcutta to be put to school; and sometimes, when he was not at school, he would find his way into the work-rooms. He was never employed; and as to the money, why, he did sometimes give the boy a shilling for pocket money; but never for wages.—The Bench decided that the case was proved; the penalty being as before.

Defendant was next convicted of having employed George Moody without having registered him in his books. The penalty was as before.

He was further charged with having employed Sarah Moody without having registered her name on the books. The charge being denied, Mr. Rickards said he found the girl sitting beside one of the boys, he hands were very greasy, and she admitted that she had been reeling. John Moody, the boy, said his cousin Sarah had not been five minutes in the place when Mr. Rickards entered; she had only tied a thread for him. Mr. Moody consented to pay the costs, and the charge was withdrawn.

The defendant was then charged with having employed John Moody after six o'clock on the evening of the 8th January. This charge was also admitted, and the penalty was stated at any sum not less than £1, nor exceeding £3.

The next charge was that of having employed Andrew Moody in the same illegal way; and it was also admitted.

There was next a charge of the same nature, as to the employment of Sarah Moody, but it was withdrawn on Mr Moody consenting to pay costs.

There were two or three other charges; and the Bench having deliberated, their decision was read by the Clerk as follows:—"The Bench have decided to fine Mr Moody in the lowest penalty in all the cases, except the two last; and in those instances they will inflict the medium penalty of £2. In all cases there will be costs also."

Mr Rickards now stated that if the defendant felt himself aggrieved he could memorialize the Secretary of State, who would most probably remit some of the penalties.

The Clerk said the Bench would in consequence of Mr Moody's previous good character, join in such memorial.

It may now be considered as a settled matter that we shall, in a few days, have a general strike of the colliers employed in the coal pits of the Goldersome, Adwalton, Morley, and Churwell districts. The masters seem determined to insist upon the proposed reduction of ten per cent in wages and the miners show no less resolution to resist it. At a large meeting of the men from all the districts, held at Adwalton, on Saturday, the feeling was all but unanimous in favour of an immediate turn out, unless the masters give way and recal their notice. It was estimated that ten per cent taken from the wages of an adult collier would be equal to £7. 10s. a year.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Extensive Robbery at Scarborough.—On Sunday evening, the residence of Mr. William Graburn, Pelham Lodge, Westborough, Scarborough, was entered by thieves. The family had locked up the house and gone to church, and during their absence the robbery was committed. Near the villa are two unfinished houses, and these, it is supposed, afforded a hiding place to the robbers untill their time for "action" arrived. On Mr. Graburn's return home, it was found that every room in the house had been ransacked, and the furniture disarranged and thrown about so as to form a scene of complete confusion. The thieves have taken £60 in gold, a gold watch and valuable appendages, a silver watch a pair of gold bracelets, several valuable diamond and other rings, and some articles of plate. It is computed that, in money and goods, property to the value of £200 has been stolen. Two men, one taller than the other, and both of very suspicious appearance, are remembered to have been seen lurking about the unfinished buildings on Sunday.

Foreign Intelligence.

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

BATTLE IN KENTUCKY—VICTORY OF THE UNIONISTS.

The New York journals publish a despatch from Cincinnati, dated 20th ult., which says:—A battle took place at Somerset, Kentucky, on Saturday, between General Schoepfs and General Zollicoffer's forces. The battle lasted from early in the morning till dusk General Zollicoffer was killed, and his army entirely defeated. Our victory, continues the dispatch, has been very decisive, and will result in a rout of the whole force defending the right flank of Bowling Green.

A combined attack was made to-day on General Zollicoffer's entrenchments at Mill Spring, Wayne County, Kentucky, resulting in a complete victory. The stars and stripes now float over the fortifications. We captured all their camp property and a large number of prisoners. General Zollicoffer's head body is in the hands of the Unionists.

A Lexington Correspondent gives the following account of the battle:—

General Zollicoffer, learning that the Union forces had appeared in his rear, marched out of his entrenchments at three o'clock on Saturday morning, and attacked Gen. Schoepfs in camp. The pickets were driven in at an early hour and the attack was made before daylight. The battle is reported to have raged with great fury until three in the afternoon, when General Zollicoffer having been killed, the whole Confederate force fled in confusion to their camp. The loss is not stated, but is reported to be heavy.

A telegram from Louisville of the 20th, says:—The Confederates were in full retreat to their entrenchments at Mill Spring, with the Union troops in hot pursuit.

Gen. Thomas followed up the rebels on Sunday to their entrenchments 16 miles from his own camp, and when about to attack them he found their entrenchments deserted, the rebels having left all their cannon, quarter-master's stores, tents, horses and waggons, which fell into our hands. The rebels dispersing had crossed the Cumberland opposite their encampment at Mill Spring. Two hundred and seventy-five were killed and wounded, including General Zollicoffer and Balie Peytor, who were found on the field. The 10th Indiana Regiment lost 75 killed and wounded; nothing further of the Union loss has yet reached here.

A Washington despatch of the 20th inst., also published in the New York journals, says:—

"The Government has received a despatch this evening confirming the news of the glorious victory in Kentucky. The demonstration in Kentucky is the opening of the grand campaign, and which will result in a continuous movement until the rebellion is crushed out. This wipes the rebels out from Eastern Kentucky, and opens the way for Gen. Bull's grand army to march into Eastern Tennessee, where he will soon unite his forces with our forces from the coast."

There is great rejoicing in New York over the news from Kentucky.

THE INTERVENTION IN MEXICO.

La Presse says that the last despatches from Mexico have brought the details of the military agreement between the three Powers. There will be no nominal Commander-in-Chief of the expedition. The military commanders and the admirals will act according to the decisions of a council of a war. All the strategical points will be occupied in common. As regards Vera Cruz, it will be entrusted to the guardianship of the Spanish troops, who, from a long residence at the Havannah, are acclimatized, and will not suffer from the yellow fever or *vomito-negro*.

The Paris papers announce the departure from Cherbourg of the ship-of-the-line Turenne, and the steam frigates Amazone and Darien, with troops and materials of war for Mexico.

The squadrons of England and France are to meet off Cape St. Antonio.

La Patrie also publishes the following important announcements:—

"The allied troops, who will all be assembled at the end of February, will advance on Mexico (the capital) early in March, following the road from Puente National and Xalaph. Some opposition is expected from the guerilla bands, but they cannot hold out long before our troops, who are accustomed to mountain warfare. As soon as the road is cleared the following strategical points will be occupied:—Xalapa, Forte Perote, Puebla, the defiles of Rio-Frio, and then Mexico. The allies will also make sure of the other road which, starting from Vera Cruz, passes through Chiquite, Cordova, Orizaba, and San Martin, joining the former road near Puebla. As regards the command of the allied forces, it will be exercised equally by each General, and everything tends to the belief that the most complete harmony will prevail between the three Commanders-in-Chief, who will decide between them all questions relative to the operations to be undertaken. The system was followed in the Crimea and in China, and was attended with the most satisfactory results."

The *Morning Post* says: We believe that it is a probable result of this march of the allies on Mexico that that unhappy and distracted republic will re-appear to the world as a constitutional monarchy, and that the Archduke Maximilian, brother of Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, will assume the title of King of Mexico. At present, indeed, the Mexicans are really without a constitution. It would be a misapplication of terms to call the clique or usurpers who have been successfully ruling, or rather grinding down, that people as in any sense a Government. The republican constitution has, in point of fact, been long annulled. The inevitable result of the advance of the allies is the fall of existing tyranny. The people must then be consulted. And when we say the people, we can hardly go further than the European or semi-European races. There is every reason to believe that this community will cheerfully and thankfully receive a constitutional sovereign presented to them by the common voice of their deliverers. They have tried a republic, and it has sunk away under a succession of the most atrocious military tyrannies. They are believed to be completely convinced that a monarchy will give them public order, and that a constitutional monarchy will ensure them the only freedom they can possibly maintain. We believe that the Archduke Maximilian, both by character and by descent, will prove just the sort of prince that the Mexicans would desire. He is understood to be a liberal Catholic—a follower of the religious belief of his family, and inclined in politics to the wise and moderate counsels of his astute relative by marriage, the present King of the Belgians. This is certainly the sort of monarch for a Catholic people who wish to be free. The Archduke Maximilian is also the direct descendant of the Emperor Charles V. who was King of Spain and the Indies, and of Ferdinand and Isabella, the founders of the transatlantic dominion of Spain. He is, moreover, collaterally descended from all the German Kings of Spain, from the accession of Philip II. in 1556, to the death of Charles II. in 1709. The present ruling family, indeed, who acceded to the throne of Spain only in the age of its decrepitude, with the accession of Philip V. in the last-named year, are not associated with any of the traditions of Spanish colonisation in Mexico. It will not impossibly be found necessary to maintain an army of occupation in support of the new government until it shall have derived sufficient stability to stand alone. Meanwhile, we shall, of course, pursue our original scheme of indemnification at the ports on the Gulf.

SHOCKING FATALITY AT BEDLINGTON IRONWORKS.

We published in part of our impression last week a short account of a frightful accident which occurred on Friday at the Bedlington Ironworks, by which Mrs. Mounsey, wife of one of the proprietors, was instantly killed, and her body mutilated in the most shocking manner. It appears that some machinery in connection with the works had been set in motion on that day for the first time. Mrs. Mounsey accompanied by her children, and other ladies, had come from Sunderland to see the machinery put in operation; after standing awhile viewing a saw mill, the party of ladies went in the direction of a waterfall, at some fifty yards distance. To get to it, they had to cross the shaft which supplied the motive power to the mill; and which they proceeded to cross while in motion. A young lady and some of the children crossed the shaft, which was about half-a-foot above the ground, in safety; but, as Mrs. Mounsey was stepping across it, the fringe of her shawl was caught by it, and the unfortunate lady was immediately pulled down to the ground, and drawn beneath the shaft. One of her arms and one of her legs were torn from her body, and revolved round the shaft, and she was killed instantly. Mr. Dixon, one of the proprietors, who had been assisting the children to cross the shaft, saw what occurred, and ran to Mrs. Mounsey's assistance. An inquest was held on Saturday, before S. Reed, Esq., coroner for the district, when the following evidence was adduced:—

Thomas Nichol, Bebside, surgeon, said: Yesterday, about four o'clock, I was at Bedlington Ironworks, calling upon Mr. Dixon, one of the proprietors. I saw a party of ladies there. There was Mrs. Mounsey, some of her children, with the governess, and two other ladies there. They were standing looking at a sawing machine then at work. There was a long shaft [in motion; it might be about six or eight inches from the ground. It was revolving with great speed. I saw a young lady, with one or two children, step over the shaft with the intention of seeing the waterfall, about fifty yards off. Afterwards, I saw Mrs. Mounsey, the deceased, going in the same direction as the children. Immediately afterwards I saw her on the ground. Immediately after she fell, her arm and a leg were torn from her body, and taken round with the shaft, between the shaft and the ground. Her body was too large to pass underneath the shaft. It was partially disembowelled. Her death would be instantaneous. The machinery was stopped in a minute or two. I did not her shriek. There was no protection for the shaft. It was the first day the machinery had been set in motion.

John Dixon, Bedlington Ironworks, said: I am one of the proprietors of the works, and was present when the accident happened. I was standing by the saw which was driven by a belt from the shaft mentioned by the last witness. I saw some of the children and a young lady pass over the shaft; and at the same time I perceived Mrs. Mounsey and two of the young children going towards it. There was a quantity of workmen's tools, rubbish, and materials lying alongside of the shaft. I lifted the children over, and as I turned round, I saw Mrs. Mounsey, who had also stepped over the shaft. I saw her fall down, as the shaft had caught hold of the fringe of her shawl. I rushed to her, seized hold of her body, but all the exertion I could make was unavailing. She never shrieked, but appeared to be instantly killed. The shaft was not furnished; it was the first day it was put in motion, and had not been started half an hour previous. The shaft was out of the way of any thoroughfare; and the whole machinery was in an unfinished state. The jury at once returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

THE POET LAUREATE AND THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

A new edition of the "Idylls to the Kings" contains the following dedication:—

These to his memory—since he held them dear,
Perchance as finding there unconsciously
Some image of himself—I dedicate.
I dedicate, I consecrate with tears—
These Idylls.
And indeed he seems to me
Scarce other than my own ideal knight,
"Who reverenced his conscience as his king;
Whose glory was, redressing human wrong;
Who spake no slander, no, nor listened to it;
Who loved one only and who clave to her—"
Her—over all whose realm to their last isle,
Commingled with the gloom of imminent war,
The shadow of his loss moved like eclipse,
Darkening the world. We have lost him: he is gone:
We know him now: all narrow jealousies
Are silent; and we see him as he moved,
How modest, kindly, all accomplished, wise,
With what sublime repression of himself,
And in what limits, and how tenderly;
Not swaying to this faction or to that;
Not making his high place the lawless perch
Of wing'd ambitions, not a vantage ground
For pleasure; but thro' all this tract of years
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life,
Before a thousand peering littlenesses,
In that fierce light which beats upon a throne,
And blackens every blot: for where is he,
Who dares forshadow for an only son
A lovelier life, a more unstained than his?
Or how should England dreaming of *his* sons
Hope more for them than some inheritance
Of such a life, a heart, a mind as thine,
Thou noble Father of her Kings to be,
Laborious for her people and her poor—
Voice in the rich dawn of an ampler day—
Far sighted summoner of war and waste
To fruitful strifes and rivalries of peace—
Sweet nature gilded by the gracious gleam
Of letters, dear to Science, dear to Art,
Dear to thy land and ours, a Prince indeed,
Beyond all titles, and a household name,
Hereafter, throughout all times, Albert the Good,

Break not, O woman's heart, but still endure;
Break not, for thou art royal, but endure,
Remembering all the beauty of that star
Which shone so close beside ye, that ye made
One light together, but has past and left
The Crown a lonely splendour.
May all love,
His love, unseen but felt, o'ershadow thee,
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,
The love of all thy daughters cherish thee,
The love of all thy people comfort thee,
Till God's love set thee at his side again.

Miscellaneous News.

The Archbishop of York will in future hold three general ordinations in the year, in Lent, September, and at Christmas. His Grace's next general ordination will be on the 16th of March.

The Rev. Julian Young recently gave a reading of "Hamlet" in aid of the Torbay Infirmary, and for this offence he was prohibited by the Bishop from preaching in the diocese of Exeter. Numerous representations, however, having been made to the Bishop on the subject, he has, says the *Western Times*, withdrawn the prohibition.

The testimonial in commemoration of Mr. Milner Gibson's services in connection with the agitation against the "taxes on knowledge," was presented to the right honourable gentleman at a public breakfast, which took place on Thursday, at the Freemasons' Hall, London. Mr. Ewart, M.P. presided on the occasion; and among the gentlemen present were Sir S. M. Peto, Mr. Crawfurd, Sir C. Douglas, and several other members of Parliament.

A Thousand Chinamen Drowned.—The Californian journals, giving an account of the late disastrous flood with which they have been visited, state that the Chinese have been great sufferers. No less than 45 Chinamen were carried away in their cabins at Oregon Bar, in Placer County. The Chinese hongs in San Francisco have since received letters from the interior of the State to the effect that during the late freshet near 1,000 Chinamen were washed off from Long Bar and vicinity, on the Yula, and drowned. It appears that the poor fellows remained in their cabins on the bar, as they had done during the previous floods, until the raging waters rose about them and rendered their escape impossible.

Supposed Murder of Two Children.—In the village of Preston, situated about a mile to the south of Faversham a woman named Harriet Wright is suspected of having murdered her two illegitimate children by administering poison to them. It is also suspected that the death of another of her children some time previously was not the result of natural causes. The woman is cohabiting with a man named George Smith, the reputed father of the two children, twins (a boy and a girl). On Friday afternoon, the county coroner, Mr. T. T. Delasaux, held an inquest on the bodies, when Mr. W. N. Spond, surgeon, of Faversham, said: I have since made a *post mortem* examination of the bodies of the deceased. I opened the abdomen of the boy, and found the contents perfectly healthy, without any inflammation. I then examined the lungs and found them healthy. The heart was gorged with fluid blood, but from what cause I am unable to say. I next examined the head, and found the brain full of fluid blood. The windpipe and gullet were free. The child did not die from natural causes. I believe from my examination of the body, that death was produced from the effects of some sleeping or composing medicine; but I was unable to discover that any medicine of that kind had been given to the children. The female child presented the same appearance as the boy in every particular. The mother said she had only given the children a little magnesia. George Smith was then sent for, and the nature of the inquiry explained to him. The coroner cautioned him that he was not obliged to say any thing without he liked, but that if he did it might be used against him. He was not sworn, but he stated he was the father of the deceased children. They were quite well, with the exception of a cold, when they went to bed. They were awake when he went to bed, about two o'clock in the morning. One child slept on one side of its mother and the other on the other side. Did not hear anything of them again till between seven and eight o'clock, when they were both dead, but warm. Nothing but magnesia had been given to them as he know of. The coroner then pointed out to the jury the responsible duty the had to perform, and suggested that the stomachs of the children should be sent to Dr. Taylor for the purpose of being analysed. This was ordered to be done, and the inquiry was adjourned for a week.

Sir Edwin Landseer and his Tailors.—Amusing Scene.—In the Court of Exchequer, on Saturday, Messrs. Haldane, tailors, Old Bond-street, brought a curious action against Sir Edwin Landseer. The Counsel for the plaintiffs stated that they received an order from the defendant for a frock coat and a dress coat. When the coats were sent home for the purpose of being tried on the defendant appeared to be satisfied with the frock coat, and that one was left behind; but the dress coat did not fit, and the defendant suggested that the collar should be shortened. That coat was taken back, and an alteration was made. It was believed by the plaintiffs that both coats suited the defendant, but on the 8th July he sent a letter to the plaintiffs, with the dress coat, stating that it fitted so badly that he could not wear it. The plaintiffs saw the defendant, and he then suggested an alteration in both coats, and they were accordingly both altered again. They were returned to the defendant, but after the lapse of some time he sent them back to the plaintiffs, stating that they did not fit, they were very uncomfortable, and that he should expect the plaintiffs to keep them unless the coats were made to fit him. That the plaintiffs refused to do, and hence the present action—the coats being valued at £10 18s. During the examination of Mr. Haldane, the following letter from the plaintiffs to the defendant was read:—"We beg herewith respectfully to send you the two coats, having again altered them according to the directions you last gave. The alterations you speak of as being numerous and unsuccessful arise, we think, from your own faults. The coats when first tried on fitted remarkably well, but if you place your body into unreasonable positions it will require something more than human science to fit you.—(Laughter.) We have most unwillingly made the alterations you have required, believing them to be unnecessary, and we now find it impossible to please you. With reference to your desire that we should take the coats back, we cannot think of doing so. We beg, therefore, to enclose the account, and shall be obliged by an early settlement." Sir Edwin was placed in the witness box. He said the objection to the coats was that they were uncomfortable. He had offered to refer the matter to a customer, or to another tailor, in order that it might be arranged and kept out of Court. The defendant here, amid roars of laughter, in a full Court, tried both coats on, and one of the Jurymen being a tailor, by desire of the learned Judge, left the jury box, and inspected the coat on the defendant's back. The defendant said he was only one pound heavier now than in 1858. Both the coats appeared to be very bad fits, and the defendant said that had he gone to a dinner party in the dress coat he must have taken it off before dinner as he could not have sat down in it.—(Laughter.)—The jury found for the defendant.

The number of wrecks recorded during the month of January was 217.

A guinea subscription has commenced at Tattersall's for the sufferers by the Hartley Colliery accident.

A "Shipwrecked Pilot" has, through the Rev. C. R. Dallas, of Guildford, forwarded a donation of £10 to the National Lifeboat Institution.

A correspondent in the *Patriot* says a friend in London has offered the sum of £1,000 towards the "Pastoral Retiring Fund," on condition that £20,000 are raised during the present Bicentenary celebration.

At the Public-office, Birmingham, on Friday, an elderly man, of respectable appearance, named Thomas Wilcox, who resides in Hunter's-lane, in that town, was brought up on remand, before Messrs. Thornton, Malins, and James, charged with embezzling various sums, amounting to upwards of £1,500, the moneys of his employers, Messrs. Bateson, Jordan, and Co., woollen merchants, Leeds. The prisoner was committed for trial.

Extensive Robbery at Scarborough.—On Sunday evening, the residence of Mr. Wm. Graburn, Pelham lodge, Westborough, Scarborough, was entered by thieves. The family had locked up the house and gone to church, and during their absence the robbery was committed. Near the villa are two unfinished houses, and these, it is supposed, afforded a hiding place to the robbers until their time for "action" arrived. On Mr. Graburn's return home, it was found that every room in the house had been ransacked, and the furniture disarranged and thrown about so as to form a scene of complete confusion. The thieves have taken £60 in gold, a gold watch and valuable appendages, a silver watch, a pair of gold bracelets, several valuable diamond and other rings, and some articles of plate. It is computed that, in money and goods, property to the value of about £200 has been stolen. Two men, one taller than the other, and both of very suspicious appearance, are remembered to have been seen lurking about the unfinished buildings on Sunday.

Murder in Ratcliff Highway.—On Sunday evening, James Gardner, a seamen's boarding house keeper, of 1, Denmark-street, Ratcliff Highway, died from the effects of a wound inflicted by an Irish sailor named Patrick Devereux, on Thursday night before. He previously made the following statement:—I keep a boarding-house for seamen at No. 1, Denmark-street, St. George's-in-the East. Patrick Devereux (pointing to the prisoner) came to lodge with me on Sunday night, the 25th of January. He paid me £3 on Thursday afternoon last. He owed me more than that, I did not wish him to stop any longer. He wished me afterwards to return him the money, that he might pay a tailor and shoemaker. I refused to do so. He came in once and said. "Are you going to pay me that money?" I said I would not. He then went outside the door and said, "By Jesus, I'll let you see directly." I and Cohen were in front of the bar four or five minutes, and then we came out and began talking together. Patrick Devereux, the young Irishman, here stepped forward and said directly, "Are you going to pay me that or not?" I said, "Now, be off with you; don't come tormenting me any more." He had his right arm hanging down by his side. I scarcely had the words out when he said, "Take that," and made a plunge at me and struck me in the lower part of my belly. Cohen called out, "A knife! a knife!" I had not myself seen any knife, but I put my hand down at once and called out, "I am stabbed." I felt the blood trickling down my leg. I was anxious to see what the wound was, and I ran into the tap-room, pulled down my clothes, and found I had a severe stab, and my bowels were protruding. In two minutes a policeman returned with the prisoner. Gardner said he knew he was dying and had not many hours to live, and he most solemnly declared that he never struck the prisoner or gave him any provocation whatever. The prisoner said to a man before he stabbed him (Gardner) that he intended to rip his —— guts open. The prisoner made no answer to this, and Gardner then signed his deposition. The magistrate and his clerk then retired, and the prisoner was taken back to Clerkenwell Prison in charge of Inspector Allison and Sergeant Tighe.

Shocking Murder at Bridgewater.—On Saturday night, about twelve o'clock a deliberate act of murder was committed at Bridgewater by a man named Matthew Doyle. From the particulars gleaned on the spot it appears there was some quarrel between the accused and a man named Moses Anthony, the parties being working-men. On Saturday night the deceased was heard kicking at the door of the prisoner's house, in St. John-street, near the railway-station, and using foul language towards the prisoner, calling him a "—— Irishman," and other offensive terms. A man lodging in the house advised prisoner not to have any row, but the kicking and shouting continuing outside, the prisoner said he would put some shot into the legs of the man outside if he did not leave. He then went into his room, and took down a gun which it is presumed was loaded, fired through the door, and shot deceased, who fell to the ground. He was placed on a shutter by some persons who had been attracted by the noise, and heard the report of the gun, and saw the flash. He was conveyed to the Bridgewater Infirmary without delay, and attended by the house surgeon and Mr. A. Hanland, one of the medical staff of the infirmary. The wound, however, proved fatal, and the unfortunate man died in about three quarters of an hour after his admission to the infirmary. He was shot in the left breast, and the whole of the charge is supposed to have entered, wounding the heart, and passing through the left lung. The injury was inflicted with a gun loaded with buck shot. The prisoner must have stood close to the door, and placed the gun near it, as the whole charge went through within a circle of an inch and a half in diameter. Not a single shot struck the door inside; and as the deceased was close to it outside, he must have received the whole charge. The prisoner was taken into custody shortly afterwards. He was cautioned in the usual manner by Superintendent Sears, and said, "The man came kicking and knocking at my door, and I told him to go away, or I would fire. He would not do so, and I pulled the trigger of my gun and the charge went through the door and shot the man, but I don't know who he is." Both prisoner and deceased had been drinking, and the prisoner, when taken into custody, was under the influence of drink. Prisoner is an Irishman, about 28, and has a wife and child. The deceased is a Welshman, and said to be unmarried.

Curious Breach of Promise Case.—Telegraphing for a Wife.—Frankfort v. Barnett.—This was a writ of inquiry, before the Sheriff, in London, to assess the damages in a breach of promise of marriage, defendant having suffered judgment to go by default.—Mr. Patchett (instructed by Messrs. Keighley and Gethin), for the plaintiff, said this was one of the most cruel and heartless cases that had ever come under the notice of a jury. The plaintiff, Miss Rose Frankfort, had formerly resided with her brother, and the defendant had assisted his father, or was in business for himself as a cigar maker at Lower Whitecross-street. Early in the year 1861, plaintiff made preparations to join a married sister in South America, and a sum of £100 was expended upon her outfit. She proceeded to Liverpool to take passage for her new home, and while she was there, defendant, who had previously known the young lady, called upon the plaintiff's brother, and with some trepidation inquired after Rose. When informed of the projected voyage, he earnestly entreated Mr. Frankfort to recall the young lady, and having been satisfied as to the defendant's means, he telegraphed to the plaintiff not to depart. Following upon the telegraphic message arrived a proposal, and this being accepted by the young lady she returned to London. She was met at the station by defendant, who expressed his delight, and introduced her to his friends. Matters went on very comfortably for a few days, when upon one unlucky Saturday night plaintiff, defendant, and a party went to the Italian Opera, and then defendant expressing an intention to go to Paris, did go, and had not since returned. He had, however, sent a letter to the plaintiff, dated from Boulogne, in which he informed the young lady that, having "arrived from Gilleswelle on rhine, he writes to her to the efect that nither his halth of boddy nor means of support will alow him now to becom marred." Further he says, "he has been told by Doctors in England and on the contennant that his halth will never permitt him to marry," and "under thouse circumstences he considered the affaire at an end." Defendant had not returned, and plaintiff, who was an orphan, was compelled to seek at the hands of the jury compensation in damages for his conduct.—Plaintiff's brother proved the above facts, and said that he had been offered £3 to settle the matter. (Great laughter.) Defendant expressed himself well able to keep a wife, and declared that Rose knew his position.—The jury assessed the damages at £75.

Viscount Bury, M.P., on American Colonisation.—The other evening, Viscount Bury, member for the Wick Burghs, who in 1854 was appointed Civil Secretary and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Canada, addressed a numerous audience on the subject of British, Spanish, and French settlements in America, at the large drill room of the 29th North Middlesex Rifles, Old Barracks, Kensington. Captain West, of Palace Gardens, presided on the occasion, and briefly introduced his lordship to the meeting. Viscount Bury, in the course of his address, traced the history of colonization in America by the French, Spanish, and British Governments, from the earliest periods to the present time, dwelling on the peculiar policy adoped by each Government, and its results in the subsequent history of America. In conclusion, the noble lord said all those who were attached to the English rule at the time of the independence of New England settled on the shores of the great lakes of Canada, and that nation had really turned out the finest nation on the face of the earth; and if England ever did decline, he had not the slightest doubt that the Canadas would be the great power over the world. They had a responsible government, exactly like that under which we now lived in this country—(applause)—the price of food and general necessaries of life were very much the same. There an industrious and thriving population, recruited from the English, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh, and some Yankees, were just as loyal as England. The Irish were just as loyal as the rest. A native-born Yankee of influence in Canada wrote publicly the other day from Ottawa, saying he could answer for the loyalty of the Irish. Canada was his country now, and he for one was prepared to defend it; at that time all the Canadas were arming against the states on account of the Trent outrage. (Cheers.) They were now raising regiment after regiment of the finest volunteers he ever saw, and everything went to show that one and all were just as loyal and devoted to their country and our Queen as we were. 6,000 or 7,000 men had suddenly become armed, drilled, and equipped in the Canadas; and they had between 100,000 and 200,000 men also ready—not armed, drilled, and equipped, but enrolled in the militia. If the Americans should ever have the temerity to cross the Canadian frontier for invasion, Englishmen need not fear, for his lordship knew there was a good army in Canada ready to receive them. A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Drummond, was unanimously accorded to his lordship, and the proceedings were then brought to a close.

Mr Benedict's operatic "Colleen Bawn" is to appear shortly under the title of the "Lilly of Killarney."

Handel's "Deborah" was performed at Exeter Hall, on Friday night last, after an interval of nine or ten years.

A rumour is abroad that Madame Goldschmidt will visit Paris at the close of a musical tour in England, and that she will be heard in three concerts.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE:
FRONT-STREET, OPPOSITE MIDDLE-STREET.
RESIDENT AGENT: MR. DUFOUR.

Advertisements also received, and Wholesale Agents supplied, at the Guardian Office, 65, West Clayton-street, Newcastle.

Advertisers may send their favours to the Publishing Office, Front-street, Consett, or to the Branch Advertising Office, 65, West Clayton-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Charges for advertising in the Consett Guardian—now the only newspaper published in the locality—have been fixed at a scale so low as to render it the very best, but the very cheapest medium for every description of announcements. Tradesmen will find it the best interest to prepare advertisements for its columns.

The Consett Guardian is delivered by a Special Messenger at the following Places, viz:—
Colliery Dykes, on Friday Nights.
Whiteley Head and Tantobie, at 7 o'clock on Saturday Morning.

Tanfield at		8	o'clock.
Shield Row		9	"
Stanley Colliery	half-past	10	"
Oxhill		11	"
Kyo	half-past	12	Afternoon
Catch Gate	"	1	"
Greencroft	"	2	"
Annfield Plain	"	3	"
Quarry Houses	"	4	"
South Moor	"	5	"
Sykes	"	6	"

Lanchester and Neighbourhood early on Saturday Morning.

The Consett Guardian.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1862.

Local and District News.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT THE TURCHILL.—On Wednesday morning, a man named Phant was employed in loading or unloading a truck of rails, when a rail caught him across his thigh and smashed it in a fearful manner. He was immediately conveyed home, where the fracture was reduced by Mr Renton, and under his care is progressing favourably.

ANNUAL DINNER.—Messrs Ord and Maddison of Stanhope, gave their annual dinner to their friends on the occasion of the Lime Pay, at the house of Mr Hewitt, Miners' Arms, Highgate, on Tuesday. Upwards of 50 sat down to a most bountiful repast, prepared in the hostess' best style. J. Dixon, Esq., of Broad Oak, presided. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given, and the company separated at an early hour.

TYTHE RENT DINNER AT EDMONDBYERS.—On Monday, the Rev. W. Featherstonehaugh, M.A., of Edmondbyers, held his annual dinner at the house of Mr. Bainbridge, the Punch Bowl Inn. Upwards of 35 sat down to an excellent dinner, which did credit to the cuisine of the worthy hostess. The reverend gentleman stated that he was glad to meet his friends on that occasion, and that this had proved one of the best tythe-rents that he had received for some time. After a plentiful supply of punch, the company separated at an early hour.

HARTLEY CALAMITY.—On Sunday last, two sermons were preached by Mr. J. Dent, of Medomsley, in the Wesleyan Chapel, Leadgate, after which, collections were taken in aid of the fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of the sufferers at the late Hartley calamity. Upwards of £3 was collected, and as during the week and for some days previous, subscriptions have been collected from door to door, in case of collections in places of worship, it is almost without an exception a second donation from the congregations.

MISCHIEVOUS AND WANTON ACT.—Mr. Rea, of Blackhill, a few months ago had placed over his shop a valuable time piece for the accommodation of the public. On Sunday morning last, about two o'clock, some mischievous wretches destroyed the clock by throwing a stone or other missile at it, breaking the plate glass case which protected the works from the weather.—Mr. Rea has offered a reward for the apprehension of the miscreant, who it is hoped will soon be brought to justice.—The clock was a public benefit and its loss is now much felt.

NARROW ESCAPE AT THE TIN MILL.—On Monday last, a smith, of the name of Robson, employed at the Tin Mills, was in the act of putting a belt on a large driving wheel connected with the rives, previous to starting the engine, when a piece of spun yarn which had been used to tie the belt up got entangled with him. The engine was started and the man was dragged up to the wheel, severely nipping him. Just at this juncture the man's danger was perceived, and the engine backed, when the poor fellow was dropped into the wheel hole. The wheel is about 20 feet in diameter, with a deep flange on each side, between which the belt runs. Had the wheel made one revolution the man must inevitably have been cut in two. The poor fellow was carried to his residence at Leadgate, where he is now progressing favourably.

AN AWKWARD PREDICAMENT.—John Robson, horsekeeper to the Derwent Iron Company, Consett, was airing an invalid horse on Monday. In passing down the front-street the animal shyed and threw Robson, who, although on his back, held on by the body rein. The animal then set off at a furious rate, dragging the man through the mud and over a very uneven road as far as Mr. Stirling's, a distance of 200 yards, where it was, after some trouble, stopped. After Robson had recovered his feet and was proceeding to the stables, the horse made another bolt, and threw the man again. Although Robson had been dragged all that distance on his back and close to the horse's feet, he escaped with a few bruises, the main damage having been done to his clothes.

THEATRE, CONSETT.—This place of amusement is still open under the lesseeship of Mr Wild, but the business for some weeks has been of the most meagre description, and the pantomime expenses have scarcely been taken. This week, Mr Donald, a dancer, has been trying to increase the patronage bestowed on this place of amusement, but to little effect. Mr Wild in the most praiseworthy manner offered to give the entire receipts of a house on Wednesday night to the fund for the relief of the widows and orphans from the Hartley calamity, when the "Lost Ship" and "Gilderoy" were the pieces performed. Although this had been announced for the past week, yet strange to say at nine o'clock there was not 30s in the house.

CONCERT AT LEADGATE.—On Monday evening last, the Leadgate Wesleyan Methodist Choir gave a concert of sacred music in the Primitive Methodist Chapel of that place, the proceeds of which are to be devoted towards putting a stove into the chapel. Mr John Taylor, of Leadgate, conducted the devotional services, and at intervals delivered two short but interesting addresses on the practice of singing in ancient and modern times. The pieces sung by the choir were selected from the works of R. A. Smith, Mason, J. Jamieson, J. Whitfield, Kent, Dr. Crotch and Handel, and were most ably performed, the audience frequently showing their appreciation by hearty applause. Mr Taylor highly complimented Mr Whitfield for his zealous labours in calling forth the latent musical talent of Leadgate, that had been for so long dormant. Votes of thanks were then given to Mr R. J. Porteous, who had so ably presided at the harmonium, and to Mr J. Whitfield and his excellent choir. The doxology was then sung, the benediction pronounced, and the congregation, which was large and respectable, separated.

LANCHESTER.—HOW TO GET A NEW SUIT.—On Sunday night about 7 o'clock, six tramps applied at the Lanchester Union Workhouse for a night's lodgings, which they received—on the following morning, according to the rules of the house, they were required to turn out to break a quantity of stones, equivalent to the relief dispensed. Five of the men complied with the order, but on looking after the sixth, it was found that this worthy had employed himself in cutting up his entire clothing into "shreds and patches." This trick had evidently been resorted to for the purpose of getting a new or a better suit of clothes.—The worthy master of the house observing the proceeding got a large corn sack, at the bottom of which, he cut a hole and two arm holes, slipped it over the fellow's head, and set him "on his way rejoicing" not at getting an elegant suit, but at having escaped from the hands of the police, who, if he had remained much longer, would in all probability have had the honour of conveying him to their less comfortable quarters.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE TOWN HALL.—The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Shotley Bridge Town Hall Company was held on Monday evening, at eight o'clock. Mr. Renton presided, and on taking the chair stated that from an imperative engagement he must leave at nine o'clock, and at that time he was succeeded by Mr. Wilson. The accounts, which had been previously examined and audited, were then read over, after which a report of the proceedings of the committee was submitted to the meeting. Some dissatisfaction was expressed at the amount of the law expenses, which amounted to nearly £120. These expenses were satisfactorily explained by the lawyers, after which the report was received and passed unanimously. The following gentlemen were then elected directors for the ensuing year:—Messrs. Radcliffe, J. Wilson, G. Watson, G. Richardson, A. Tregellis, W. Wilson. Hon. Secs.:—Messrs. L. Bell and Jos. Brodie. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Thomas Wilson, for his gratuitous services as clerk of the works, in which capacity he had shown an untiring zeal in carrying out the building, which merited more than the mere thanks of the shareholders. After a vote of thanks to the chairman and the retiring directors, the meeting separated. It was announced that there was a surplus of money in hand arising from the proceeds of the concert.

Lanchester and other places in the neighbourhood have liberally contributed to the Hartley Relief Fund. The lists are not yet completed, and will be published in the Guardian next week.

RELIEF FOR THE HARTLEY SUFFERERS.—On Sabbath last the Hartley calamity was "improved" in most of the Primitive Methodist chapels in this neighbourhood and collections made for the sufferers. The congregations generally were large, the services impressive, and the collections good.

LEADGATE.—On Sunday last two deeply impressive sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Leadgate, by Mr Jacob Dent, Medomsley, after which the sum of £3 4s 10½d was collected in aid of the sufferers by the late disaster at New Hartley Colliery.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, HIGHGATE.—On Sunday evening the Rev. G. Whitehead preached from Luke xiii. 5, an impressive sermon, during which he took occasion to refer to the Hartley disaster, contrasting it with the slaughter of the Galileans, and the untimely end of those on whom fell the tower of Siloam. At the close a collection was taken on behalf of the widows and orphans of the deceased miners.—On Tuesday evening the Rev. G. Whitehead delivered his ninth lecture on "Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress," the subject being "Christian's Reception at the Palace Beautiful."

PARISH MEETING.—A meeting of the Ratepayers of Conside and Knitsley, convened by public notice, was held at the house of Mr. J. Seymour, Puddlers' Arms Inn, Consett, on Thursday. Mr. J. Gledston in the chair. The meeting was held for the purpose of taking into consideration the basis of the new county rate. It was unanimously resolved that the overseers be empowered to appeal against the rate levied for this county.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE WESLEYAN SABBATH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—On Sunday last, two excellent sermons were preached at the morning and evening services in behalf of the Sabbath School, by the Rev. J. Haigh, of Wolsingham, the lessons on each occasion being repeated by the scholars. On Monday there was a public tea, after which a meeting was held at the chapel, where the children recited several appropriate selections in prose and verse. The Rev. J. Bell, of Shotley Bridge, delivered an impressive and instructive discourse to the parents and scholars assembled. The collections on Sunday and the proceeds of the tea meeting realised £3 11s.

NUISANCE REMOVAL COMMITTEE.—The monthly meeting of this body ought to have taken place on Wednesday. However, some time after the hour fixed for the meeting the only person present was the inspector, who, after the lapse of some time, succeeded in getting together a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum (two members and the chairman). The minutes of the last meeting were then read. The reporting of a few cesspools and some dirty drains were talked over, and the business finished. There were present:—Mr. Marriage (chairman), Mr. Almond, and Mr. Seymour (the landlord of the house.)

THE DERWENT ANNUAL PLOUGHING MATCHES.—The annual meeting of the Derwent Prize Ploughing Association was held on Wednesday, in fields belonging to G. H. Ramsay, Esq., Derwent Villa Farm, Winlaton. The entries for the matches numbered about 53. Of these, in class 1st for men, 23 were engaged with swing ploughs, and 23 for wheel ploughs. In class 2nd, for boys under 18 years of age, 5 were engaged with wheel ploughs and 4 single ploughs. The judges were Mr. George Atkinson, Seaham Hall; Mr. Henry Brownlees, Hill House, Brancepeth; and Mr. Henry Swalwell; and the following is the result of their decisions, which imparted satisfaction:—"Class 1. — For men, for Wheel Ploughs. — 1st, a silver watch value £5, James Bonnickes, Hylton; 2nd, £2 cash, Thomas Eltringham, Croxdale; 3rd, £1, Thomas Hutchinson, Castle Eden. George Hunter, Medomsley, highly commended, also a prize of 10s for the best finish.—Swing Ploughs.—1st, a silver cup value £5, John Pigg, with Peter Annandale, Esq., Shotley Grove; 2nd, £2, Mark Armstrong, Hamsteels, Lanchester; 3rd, £1, Thomas Stoddart, Murton, North Shields. The following three were highly commended:—William M'Donald, Headley Hall; William Somers, Boldon; Jos. Beady, Bywell Hall. Class 2.—Under 18 years of age.—Wheel Ploughs.—1st, £2, Robert Richardson, Ouston Colliery; 2nd, William Walker, Swan Castle, Castle Eden. William Atkinson, highly commended.—Swing Ploughs.—1st, £2, Robert Stoddart, Murton, North Shields; 2nd, £1, Matthew Lennox, with Mr. Spraggon, Nafferton. The annual dinner was held at the house of Mr. Little, Commercial Hotel, Winlaton. Mr. G. H. Ramsay occupied the chair.

NEWCASTLE

The Earl and Countess of Durham have arrived in Grosvenor Square from their seat in Durham. The noble earl and countess contemplate a visit on the Continent at the end of the season.

BODY FOUND IN THE TYNE.—The body of a young man, named James Clarke, engine fitter with Messrs. Hawks, Crawshay, and Sons, was found in the Tyne, about three o'clock on Monday afternoon, lying across the foot of the shear legs that project over the quay of the above works. The deceased had been missing from six o'clock in the morning, and it is supposed that he had fallen overboard, about that time, in attempting to get on board a steamer lying alongside for repairs.

MINERS' MEETING AT SEATON DELAVAL.—On Saturday a meeting of miners, consisting of delegates from various collieries in the district, was held in the Hastings' Arms Inn, Seaton Delaval, for the purpose of considering the desirableness of forming an alliance with the National Association for the Relief of British Miners. Mr. Towers, one of the agents of the association, addressed the meeting, and after a good deal of discussion the following resolution was adopted:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the objects of the National Association has in view are worthy of our ability to co-operate with the Association."

MEETING OF THE COAL TRADE.—A general meeting of the representatives and owners of collieries vending coals from the rivers Tyne, Wear, and Tees, and from the ports of Amble, Blyth, Seaham, and East and West Hartlepool, was held at the Coal Trade Office, Neville Hall, Newcastle, on Thursday. After the usual business connected with the trade had been discussed, the late calamity at Hartley came under the consideration of the meeting. It was resolved, after some discussion, that instead of the trade subscribing to the Relief Fund in a body, as they did at the Burradon catastrophe, that each colliery owner should subscribe separately.

THE EDUCATION OF BOYS EMPLOYED IN IRON WORKS.—An association for the education of the operatives employed at the Chillington Company's Iron Works, Wolverhampton, have (through their president) put themselves in communication with Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools in the South Staffordshire district, suggesting that the lads employed at the various mills and forges in the different iron-producing districts of the kingdom should be compelled to attend school a certain number of hours per week, not exceeding ten. They say that, as now, works "even in brisk times," stand on Monday for repairs, there would not be any difficulty in the way, provided Government would subsidise national schoolmasters, or allow them to employ pupil teachers.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT HARTLEY.—Early on Sunday morning last, Dr. Bruce, Mr. J. B. Alexander, and other gentlemen from Newcastle, were found engaged in the good work of visiting the poor widows at New Hartley, distributing religious tracts, &c. In the afternoon of the same day, special religious services were held in the places of worship in the village. At two o'clock, a service was conducted in the New Connexion Chapel, by Mr Alexander, Mr Clark, town missionary, from Newcastle; and the Rev. F. Saxton, of Blyth. A similar service was conducted in the Primitive Methodist School Room, by Dr Bruce and Mr Johnson. At half-past five, the service was resumed in the New Connexion Chapel, by Dr Bruce and Mr Johnson; and in the School Room, by the Rev. L. Saxton, and Mr J. B. Alexander. The congregations were large, and both the speakers and the people evidently felt the solemnity of the circumstances in which they were placed by the recent providential dispensation.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE HARTLEY CATASTROPHE.—A series of excellent and admirably lifelike views, photographing every incident in connection with the sad occurrence at the Hartley Colliery, have been issued from Mr Parry's studio, Bigg Market, and by those who are acquainted with the locality, and the melancholy events which have there taken place, the photographic views are pronounced no less truthful in representation than chaste in design and finished in execution. The exceedingly cheap rate at which they are sold must, we are sure, bring them within the reach of all who are desirous of preserving some memento of one of the most calamitous and mournful accidents that has happened within the present century.

THE COQUET POACHING CASE.—At the Alnwick Petty Sessions, held on Saturday, before John Craster, Esq., Thomas Clutterbuck, Esq., and the Rev. R. W. Bosanquet, Thomas Boglass, James Boglass, William Boglass, and John Bryson, four pitmen belonging to Shilbottle, were charged by William C. Probert, Superintendent of County Police, with fishing and attempting to catch salmon in the river Coquet, near Brainshaugh, on the 11th January last, being during the annual close time. The case for the prosecution was conducted by Mr Middlemas, solicitor, Alnwick, and the prisoners were defended by Mr. Wilkinson, solicitor, Morpeth. The police succeeded in proving their case against the prisoners, who were fined £1 10s., and 10s. for costs, each. The same parties were afterwards charged with being concerned in an assault on the police, committed upon them, and having resisted them when in the discharge of their duty. The evidence proving the assault was of so conflicting and unsatisfactory a character that the magistrates dismissed the charge, but in doing so, administered a severe reprimand to the defendants, cautioning them as to their future conduct.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY.—Before M. KEARNEY and L. SMITH, Esqs.

CONTRAVENING THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS' ACT.—John Gibson, Richard English, and another were charged by Inspector Dodd with having committed breaches of the Licensed Victuallers' Act, by keeping his house open on Sunday morning for the sale of excisable liquors. Raw was fined last Court day for a breach of the Act. P.C. Caggill and Dunn gave evidence as to finding the men in Raw's house on Sunday morning, a little past 12 o'clock. They endeavoured to shake the officers' evidence, but without any success. Thomas Raw being called stated that the back door was left open, and by this means three men got in. The officers went to the house, and the men said they begged of them several times to go away, but they would not do so until they had got a bottle of rum. The men were drinking at his house previous to twelve o'clock, and left the house when the police came, but returned and were admitted by the back door, Gibson admitted being in the house. Fined 5s. and costs each.

BREACH OF THE BEER ACT.—Hugh Burns, of Consett, was charged with a breach of the Beer Act, by having his house open on Sunday afternoon, between 4 and 5 o'clock. P.C. Alderson deposed to finding 15 men in the house at the time mentioned. Superintendent Thompson stated that he had received information that a number of persons had been in Burn's house drinking; and complaints were made by the neighbours of the great disturbances which occurred in consequence. Fined 10s. and costs.—John Garroll was also charged with having committed a similar offence. Superintendent Thompson stated that he found eleven men in the house, and the house was open at 11 o'clock on Saturday night, he saw the defendant sell a man some beer. Carrol stated that he did not offer it to a man that was coming from work. Fined 5s. and costs.

LEAVING SERVICE.—William Hall was charged by Christopher Fairs with unlawfully leaving his employment at Burnhope Colliery. It appeared that the man had taken a bargain, which turned out a very bad one, and having a large family, he could not make a maintenance for them, therefore, and accordingly he left the place. The magistrates expressed a desire that Mr. Gray, the owner, should take the man back, but the case being pressed, the Bench, though taking a very lenient view of the offence, ordered the man to be imprisoned for seven days.

ASSAULT.—Michael Marron or Mann, was charged by his wife, Catherine Marron, with assaulting her on Monday night, at Blackhill. Mr. Compton appeared for the defence. It appeared that no assault had really been committed. It will be remembered that the defendant was bound over to keep the peace towards his wife, at Shotley Bridge, on Monday last. The case was dismissed.

STEALING STRAW.—John Maines was charged by George Smiles with stealing straw at Whitely Head. It was stated by Smiles that he saw Maines at half-past three o'clock in the morning of the 31st of December, when he said he would take a bit of straw, and he did so. Smiles did not attempt to stop him. Maines had worked for Mr. Joyce on a former occasion. The key was placed under the door and was easily accessible to any one. In defence it was stated that the defendant had been late out, and knowing that Joyce's man went to Newcastle early in the morning, he went to wake the man and asked the man for a handful of straw to clean his pony. The man Smiles said he might take it. The Bench was of opinion that the defendant had no intention of stealing the straw, therefore dismissed the case.

BASTARDY CASES.—Elizabeth Storey charged Robert Armstrong with being the putative father of her illegitimate child. Mr. Marshall, of Durham, appeared for Storey and Mr. Bush for Armstrong.

Mary Turpin charged Thos. Armstrong, brother of the above, with being the father of her bastard child.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY.—Before P. ANNANDALE, M. KEARNEY, and H. SILVERTOP, Esqs.

Owen Cherry was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Consett, on Saturday evening last, and was fined 5s and 4s 6d costs.

Philip Roe was also charged with being drunk and disorderly at Blackhill. The man appeared in Court in a very disfigured condition, with his head braced up in a napkin. The police officer stated that he had been fighting on Saturday night and causing a great deal of disturbance; he had set him on his way home several times, but he always made his way back again. The man, as usual, complained of being ill used by the police, and pointed to his disfigured face as evidence of their ill treatment. Another police officer stated that the man was in that plight when they took him into custody, as he had fallen and scraped his face with the rough stones. The Bench considered that the man had got severely punished, whether by his own act or by others they could not say, and he was therefore dismissed on paying the lock-up dues.

Several charges, preferred by the Government Sub-Inspector under the new Factory Act, against Mr John Moody, Ebchester Woollen Mill, Shotley Bridge, were heard. The case will be found fully reported under a separate head.

Wm. Carr was charged with doing damage to a sheep the property of Mr. Swinburn. Mr Taylor, of Hexham, for the defendant took an objection to the wording of the summons but ultimately allowed the case to proceed. The complainant stated that the defendant "hounded" his sheep off Muggleswick Common with a dog, thereby causing damage to the amount of 15s. The sheep had a right to be on the common, for both plaintiff and defendant claimed an undoubted right of estage on the common. George Hunter, who was called upon to assess the damage, stated that he thought the sheep would not be worth a pound, but did not think any one would buy it at that price. Here a long discussion ensued as to whether the defendant could be called a witness. It was decided that he could not, as this was bona fide a criminal case. The Bench decided in favour of complainant, 15s. damage and 10s costs.

Christopher Johnson was charged by Isaac Murray with an assault. Mr Murray did not appear, and it was stated by Johnson that they had "put it all right." The case was, therefore, dismissed, the defendant paying 12s expenses.

— Allison, of Edmondbyers, was charged under the Lodging House Act with receiving several lodgers into his house on the 14th ult. The parties lodging were seven vagrants or what are termed "potters" It appeared that Allison did not keep or profess to keep a lodging house, but he admitted that on other occasions he had given parties a night's lodging. He was fined 5s. and 8s. 6d. costs.

The wife of Michael Mann applied to the Bench for a warrant to apprehend her husband, as she was in danger of her life from his ill usage. The warrant was granted, and the man apprehended and bound over to keep the peace for six months, in two sureties of £10 each. The same night he was again taken into custody for ill treating his wife and threatening to murder her.

A BALLAD ON HARTLEY.

A beam of iron snaps asunder,
That hangs above the deep abyss;
And down the shaft it shoots in thunder,
Like cataract from precipice;
The brattice in its path destroying,
And choking up the only way
For them, the dreadful mines employing
To rise to life, to light and day.

Who shall describe the consternation,
As they, shut in that ebon cave,
Behold the work of desolation,
And dread the pit must be their grave!
But still there's hope to cheer their anguish,
And sturdy arms the way to clear;
In black despair they must not languish,
Nor sink with paralysing fear.

And well they labour, but th' endeavour
Is all in vain the shaft to free;
And then they sigh to see that never
They can their own deliverers be.
But hark! they hear that some above them
(A kind, heroic, noble band)
Are ceaseless striving to remove them,
With energetic heart and hand.

And long and eagerly they listen,
Alternately in hope and fear;
And many an eye begins to glisten,
To think of wives and mothers dear:—
And then in little groups they gather,
And friend to friend with kindness warms,
Brother and brother, son and father,
Are locked in one another's arms.

The noxious vapours what can sweeten?
They try the breath of fervent prayer;
And leaders of the village meeting
Are valued and respected there.
Jesus they preach—the old, old story—
His Cross, His mighty power to save;
While faith appears to light with glory
The solid darkness of that cave!

But soon, too soon, the stifling gases
Insidious choke each miner's breath;
Silent, o'erpowered, each spirit passes,
And leaves a hecatomb of death.
But oh! that men should thus be fated
To render their immortal souls,
By cruel Mammon suffocated,
Without escape, like rats in holes.

There's hope in battle's wild commotion,
Though cannon whole battalions sweep;
There's hope upon the stormy ocean,
Though vessels founder in the deep.
On land, on sea, by fire and water,
The soldier and the sailor die:
But air combines with these to slaughter
The victims that the mines employ.

Lay not the blame on dead abstractions,
Nor charge the "system" with their blood;
Each man must answer for his actions
(Not "systems"), be they bad or good.
But through the land let indignation
In every British bosom burn,
To think upon the tribulation,
And all the hearts it leaves forlorn.

Newcastle, 5th February, 1862. T. O.

Mr George Burrow, whose "Bible in Spain" and "Gipsies in Spain" have left many pleasant memories in the minds of their readers, has three volumes nearly ready on "Wild Wales: its People, Language, and Scenery."

THE HARTLEY CALAMITY.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

(Continued from our 2nd and 3rd pages.)

THURSDAY.

On the re-assembling of the Court, Dr. Davison, who had been in daily attendance at the colliery since the accident, was called, and in his evidence he attributed the deaths of the men to suffocation by carbonic oxide gas, and arrived at that conclusion from the highly red colour of their blood. Mr G. B. Forster stated it was his conviction that every available means was adopted for the recovery of the men, and Mr J. B. Forster, who is well acquainted with the pit, said the only danger he ever anticipated in connection with it was with water. Although in favour of the system of two shafts, he did not think that in this case, such a precaution was absolutely necessary either for the working of the pit, or the safety of the men, such an occurrence being beyond the contemplation of the keenest foresight. After hearing some further evidence from Mr T. E. Forster,

Mr. Blackwell said: I consider the quality of the metal in the beam to be good. I consider it to be much better than if it had been made of the mixture that witness [Mr. Lawrence] stated. He probably omitted to mention that a good deal of scrap iron had been mixed with the quantities of pig iron, which he mentioned. The quality of the iron would be higher than it could possibly have been made with two-thirds of No. 1, hot blast Scotch iron.—After a short pause,

Mr. Blackwell said: I will now read a portion of my report. "That the inquiry should be a searching one is not only due to the feelings of the large body of persons immediately affected by this melancholy event, and to the universal sympathy with them which has been so thoroughly evinced, but is demanded by the still higher consideration of the duty of ascertaining what precautions can and ought to be taken in order to guard as far as possible against a recurrence of such a lamentable loss of life. In inquiring into the immediate cause of the accident, the safety of the use of heavy cast iron beams will obviously demand consideration; but the most melancholy feature in the present case is the failure of the unremitting efforts made with great courage and perseverance, under circumstances of much difficulty and danger, to save the lives of any of the large number of persons shut into the pit by the closing of the shaft. In inquiring into the cause of their failure there are two points to which the attention of the jury will no doubt be specially directed. One is the condition of the shaft at the time when the accident happened with reference to the rule required by the 10th section of the 22nd and 23rd Vict., c. 151, to be observed for the securely casing and making secure working pits or shafts. The other and the most important is the means of communication between the working parts of the pit and the surface, involving the question of the practicability of enforcing a general regulation that communication with the surface should be provided by more than a single shaft. Sir George Grey has thought it right carefully to advert to those leading subjects of inquiry, confidently relying upon your being as sensible under a sense of the deep interest attaching to this inquiry, for an efficient performance of the duty."

The Coroner: Are there any more persons present wishing to be examined? If so, let them come forward. [No one appeared.] Perhaps it will only be right if you permit me to ask you (Mr. Blackwell) if you consider this inquiry has been satisfactorily gone through, and every means taken to come to the effects which caused this unhappy and melancholy accident. Are you satisfied that the inquiry has been such as you approve of.

Mr Blackwell: I beg to say that you have given every facility for the admission of evidence. I am satisfied in the utmost degree that you have enabled me to discharge fully the duties I am entrusted with.

The Coroner: Gentlemen of the jury, there does not appear any further evidence to be adduced, and I do not suppose it will be necessary to consider your verdict. Do you wish me to sum up? During your consideration of your verdict the court will be cleared.

The court was then cleared, and after a brief interval the doors were again opened, and the spectators admitted.

Mr Cockcroft read the following as the finding of the jury:—We find that the said John Gallagher, on the 22nd day of January last, was found killed in the workings of New Hartley Colliery, he having died there from the inhalation of gas, being shut up in the yard seam of the said colliery, on the 16th day of the same month, when the shaft was closed by the accidental breaking of the engine beam, which with other materials, fell into the working shaft of the pit, and there being no exit therefrom, the access to the deceased was cut off, and he perished from the cause above-mentioned. That the jury cannot close this painful inquiry without expressing their strong opinion of the imperative necessity that all working collieries should have at least a second shaft or outlet to afford the owners means of escape should any obstruction take place, as occurred at the New Hartley Pit; and that in future the beams of colliery engines should be made of malleable iron instead of cast metal; they also take occasion to notice with admiration the heroic courage of the viewers and others, who, at the risk of their lives, for so many nights and days, devoted their best skill and energies to rescue the unfortunate men who were lost; and that everything that human ingenuity could accomplish was done towards this humane object.

The inquiry terminated a few minutes after four o'clock.

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday afternoon at Lord Palmerston's official residence.

The aggregate weight of the three iron masts and bowsprit of the steam frigate Resistance is nearly 50 tons.

Messrs. Macmillan and Co. are about to add Bunyan's "Holy War," and Bacon's "Essays" to a series of works uniform with Palgrave's "Golden Treasury."

On Saturday, the Cunard royal mail steamer Asia was despatched from Liverpool, for New York, with the North American and United States mails, &c. together with a number of passengers and cargo.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT SELBY.—About six o'clock on Saturday morning, an alarming and destructive fire broke out on the premises occupied by Messrs. Goulton and Appleyard, Selby. The premises belong to the Rev. R. Brooke, of Gateforth House, and are used as flax-rotting and scutching works, to which has recently been added spinning machinery for working up tow, &c. The fire broke out in one of the two large sheds used for storing up the tow, and in a very short time both were on fire from end to end. The hose from the waterworks was got into play as speedily as possible, but the effect was too feeble to prevent the entire destruction of the sheds and their contents. The wind was in a favourable quarter, or the loss would have been very great. The position of some stacks of undressed flax, as well as of the main building, in which there is much valuable machinery, is such that the burning materials which were carried away by the wind, passed between them without doing any damage.

CHARGE OF FORGERY AGAINST A NOTTINGHAM MANUFACTURER.—At the Nottingham Borough Police-court, on Saturday, Mr. Wm. Henry Morrison, lace cap manufacturer, Castle-gate, Nottingham, was charged with uttering a forged bill of exchange for £27, on the 17th of August last. Evidence was given of a bill being sent to Messrs. Wright's bank, purporting to be accepted by a man named Smith, a lace dealer, of Great Lister-street, Birmingham. Since his apprehension, the prisoner has maintained his innocence, and thus accounted for the forgery:—The bill was sent to him by Henry Kirk, in payment of a debt, and bore the acceptance of Smith. Soon afterwards pecuniary difficulties forced him to go to America, and fixed suspicion upon him. Both Kirk and Smith were examined. Kirk, who has been placed before the magistrates previously on a charge of felony, admitted sending the bill with the signature of Smith, a man in his employ, and Smith did not deny signing the bill to accommodate Kirk. The magistrates considered this a case of conspiracy between Kirk and Smith, and Mr. Morrison was discharged.

SHOCKING OCCURRENCE IN A RAILWAY TUNNEL.—On Saturday afternoon, the 1st inst., a fatal accident took place in the tunnel on the Midland line, midway between Belper and Duffield. By the passenger train which is due at Belper at 3.49 p.m. there arrived four or five workmen, who resided at Duffield, and as the train did not stay at that station, they alighted at Belper, and walked down the line towards Duffield. A short time after they had entered the tunnel, two trains entered, one on each line of rails. Three of the men instantly prostrated themselves close to the wallside of the tunnel, the other two were in the "six footway" between the line of rails. When the trains had passed through, the three men got up, and a short distance off discovered a man named Fowler with his arm dreadfully shattered, and close by discovered the other man, named Gartan, half buried in ballast, and quite dead. He must have died immediately, from the violence of the concussion. It is supposed he must have stood erect and been knocked forward by the train with great violence. Garton has left a wife and three children. He was a platelayer on the line. It is hoped this event will stop the practice of the workmen walking through the tunnel merely to save them a few hundred yards walking. Garton was father-in-law to Fowler.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A fatal accident occurred on Saturday afternoon in a tunnel, half a mile in length, on the Midland Railway, situate midway between Belper and Duffield. Five workmen who reside at Duffield came from the north to Belper by the 3.49 p.m. train. As the train did not stay at Duffield, they got out at Belper station, and walked down the line towards Duffield by the tunnel. In a minute or two after entering they saw two trains, one coming each way. Three of the men immediately lay down against the side wall; the other two, named Fowler and Garton, are supposed to have lain down in the "six-foot way" between the two lines of rails. As soon as the trains had passed through, the three men who had lain down near the side of the tunnel got up and looked out for their companions. Fowler was found with his arm shattered in a fearful manner, while Garton was found half buried in the ballast between the two lines of rails, quite dead, he having evidently received a violent blow from one of the passing trains. The deceased has left a wife and two children. Fowler can give no account of how Garton or he stood.

Sporting Intelligence.

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Harriers will meet on Monday, February 10, at Washington; and on Friday, the 14th, at Fineapple. Each day at half past ten o'clock.

The Morpeth Foxhounds will meet on Thursday, the 13th, at Highley Gate; and on Saturday, the 15th, at Nunriding. Each day at a quarter before 11 o'clock.

The Durham County Foxhounds will meet on Monday, Feb. 10th, at Layton; on Wednesday, the 12th, at Butterwick; on Friday, the 14th, at Pasture House, Little Stainton; and on Saturday, the 14th, at Houghton Bank Top. Each day at a quarter to 11 o'clock.

The Tynedale Foxhounds will meet on Monday, the 10th February, at Whittington; on Wednesday, the 12th, at Healeyside; and on Friday, the 14th, at Dalton Village. Each day at a quarter before eleven o'clock.

THE NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD HARRIERS.

On Monday last, a splendid gathering took place at the residence of that noble sportsman, Dr Bates, of French Cottage, for a day's run with the above gallant pack. Just ten o'clock in the forenoon the harriers were thrown off, and in a short time the music of "Old Towler" told of "game in view." Soon the sportsmen were in commotion, and the full cry of the little pack resounded as they pursued at a rapid pace "poor puss," who ran for life before her voracious enemies. Hedge, gap, and ditches being topped by the noble steeds, mounted by a gallant set of equestrians as ever donned the scarlet. "Puss" was gallant game, and tried every advantage her inventive genius could suggest to mislead or elevate her from the noisy rabble behind; but the hounds kept close at her heels, and could not be shaken off. She rounded Throckley Fell, winding and turning her course in many a serpentine form, but still she could not succeed in sheltering her weary limbs from the fate which awaited her. She, however, struggled hard for life, but after a run of 35 minutes succumbed to the gallant pack. This is one of the finest runs that the Newcastle and Gateshead Harriers have ever had, and the sportsmen were highly delighted with the thought that their worthy patron had such tough and lasting game upon his demesne.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE.

NEWCASTLE CORN MARKET, Tuesday.—At this day's market there was a small supply of wheat from the growers, but a good arrival coastwise and a fair quantity from abroad. The trade ruled very dull, and the little business done in either English or foreign was at a decline of fully 1s per qr. on the rates of this day week. Rye, beans, and peas nominally unchanged. Barley was 1s lower, and very difficult to move. Malt very dull. Oats, with a large arrival, were a slow sale, at 6d decline. Flour was 1s per sack cheaper.

NEWCASTLE CATTLE MARKET, Tuesday—Our supplies from the north of Scotland was unusually small for the time of year, consisting of 35 beasts and about 150 pigs; also 349 pigs were from Ireland. The show of stock presented for sale here to-day exhibits an increase of 167 beasts as compared with that of last week. Respecting quality, both cattle and sheep were fully a seasonable average. The supply of beef comprised 1102 head. There is a decided change to note in the state of trade to-day, and all breeds moved slowly off at a reduction of 3d, and in some instances 6d per stone from the rates of last week. The south dealers exercised great caution, and bought sparingly. Towards the close sales became heavy, and part remained unsold. The number of sheep was 4,170. The mutton trade ruled inactive, and although a few pens of sheep made 8½d, yet the general top figure was 8d per lb, with a dull finish, and a total clearance was not effected. Pigs: 934 were shown. There was a fair good inquiry for all sorts, at a decline of 3d per st. from this day se'nnight, yet a large amount of business was transacted, and nearly all changed owners.

Prices: Beasts, prime heifers, 7s 6d to 7s 9d; second diary sorts, 7s 0d to 7s 3d; good steers, 7s 3d to 7s 6d; middling, 6s 9d to 7s 0d; inferior, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; cows, 6s 0d to 7s 0d; stags, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; pork, large, 5s 3d to 6s 3d; smaller weights, 6s 6d to 7s 3d; small dairy-fed, 0s 0d to 0s 0d per stone of 14lbs. Sheep, good, vendable wethers, 7¾d to 8d; middling, 7¼d to 7½d; tups ewes, &c, 7d to 0d per lb., sinking offal. Number of store cattle, 27.

Number and prices of the corresponding weeks in the three preceding years:

Date.	No. of Beasts.	Prices per stone.	No. of Sheep.	Price per lb.
1859	1013	5s 6d to 7s 9d	3,650	7d to 7¾d
1860	1,004	5s 9d to 7s 9d	4,460	7d to 7¼d
1861	266	5s 9d to 8s 3d	5,051	7¼d to 8½d

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW MARKET, Tuesday.—The following were the prices to-day:—New land hay, £3 6s 0d to £5 0s 0d; do. this year's growth, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d; clover hay, £3 0s 0d to £3 14s 0d; old land hay, £3 10s 0d to £5 4s 0d; do. this year's growth, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d per ton. Wheat straw, 1s 0d to 1s 6d; oat straw, 1s 2d to 1s 6d; barley straw, 0s 0d per thrave. Hay at market, 155 carts; straw, 37.

NEWCASTLE BUTTER AND BACON MARKET, Thursday.—Northumberland bacon, hams on, 8s 9d; hams, 9s 3d to 9s 6d; Butter, 56s 0d per firkin. Cumberland bacon, large, 7s 9d; small, 7s 9d to 8s 0d; hams, large, 9s 3d; do., small, 9s 6d per stone; Butter, 56s per firkin.

HEXHAM CORN MARKET.—Quantities and prices of British corn sold in this market during the week ended Saturday, Feb. 1st:—Wheat, 7 qrs, 0 bush, at £2 16s 6d; barley, 21 qrs, 2 bush, at £1 13s 2d; oats, 0 qrs, 0 bush, at £0 0s 0d; rye, — qrs, 0 bush, at £0 per qr.

NEWCASTLE HIDE, SKIN, FAT AND TALLOW MARKET.—FRIDAY.

Hides, 95lb and upwards, 4½d per lb, or 5s 3d per stone; 85lb to 94lb, 4d per lb, or 4s 8d per stone; 75lb to 84lb, 3¾d per lb, or 4s 4½d per stone; 65lb to 74lb, 3½d per lb, or 3s 11d per stone; 56lb to 64lb, 3¼d, or 3s 7½d per stone; 55lb and under, 3¼d per lb, or 3s 11½d per stone. Cows, 3d per lb, or 3s 6d per stone. Bulls, 2¾d per lb, or 3s 0¾d per stone; ill-flayed and damaged, 2½d, or 0s 3½d per stone. Calf, 17lb and upwards, 4d per lb; 9lb to 16lb with heads, 5½d per lb; under 9lb with heads, 5¼d per lb; 8lb and over, without heads, 5½d per lb; under 8lbs, without heads, 5¼d per lb; ill-flayed and damaged, 3½d per lb, per stone; kips, 3d to 3½d per lb. Horse hides, 3s 6d to 10s 9d each. Wool skins, 3s 7d, to 14s 4d each. Scots, 2s 1½d to 4s 6d. Mules, 5s 0d to 7s 11d each. Lambs, 3s 3d to 13s 9d each; Tallow, 4s 9d per stone do. Saturday, 4s 6d.

ROBERT STORY, BROKER, High Friar-street, Newcastle.

BIRTHS.

At Newcastle, in Victoria Terrace, on the 1st inst., the wife of Mr R. R. Redmayne, of a son.—At 9, Ravensworth Terrace, Westgate Hill, on the 3rd inst., Mrs Robert T. Bunn, of a son.—At 13, William Street, same day, the wife of Mr William Slaughter, of a daughter.—In Stamfordham Place, same day, the wife of Mr George H. Weddell, house agent, of a son.

At Wylam-Oakwood, Northumberland, on the 1st inst., the wife of Edward Algernon Blackett, Royal Navy, of a son.

At Tynemouth, at the Priory Parsonage, on the 3rd inst., the wife of the Rev. Thomas Featherstone, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At Whitley Chapel, Hexhamshire, on the 30th ult., Mr Edward Dixon Bell, of Aydon Shields, to Dorothy, eldest daughter of Mr Charlton Todd, of Blackhill, butcher.

At Hexham Abbey Church, on the 1st inst., Mr John Scott, attorney's clerk, to Hannah, third daughter of Mr William Stainthorpe, sheriff's officer, all of Hexham.

At Newcastle, in All Saints' Church, on the 1st inst., Mr John Aisbett to Ann Anderson, eldest daughter of the late Mr James Sheppard, farmer, Salisbury.—In St. John's, on the 2nd inst., Mr Francis James Towns, of Durham, to Miss Ann Kavannagh.—Same place and day, Mr George Wilde, hairdresser, to Agnes Robertson, daughter of Mr Imrie, provision merchant, Shotley Bridge.—In St. John's Church, same day, Mr J. Jobson to Miss Jane Coates, both of this town.

At Felling, in the Congregational Chapel, on the 5th inst., by the Rev. W. Loghan, Mr William Hutchinson, of Crow Hall Cottage, to Miss E. Maddison, of Felling Gate.

At South Shields, in St. Hilda's Church, on the 2nd inst., Mr Richard Hawkins, mariner, to Miss Elizabeth Emma Atkinson.—In the Wesleyan Chapel, on the 5th inst., Mr William Thomas Scott, butcher, to Miss Jane Ann Harrison.

DEATHS.

At Newcastle, at 9, Quality Row, on the 5th inst., Wm. George, infant son of Mr George Dixon.—At 4, Nuns' Street, on the 4th inst., in his 60th year, Mr George Rea, baker, deservedly respected.—At 12, Ellison Place, on the 2nd inst., aged 77, Margaret, widow of William Clark, Esq., of Belford Hall, Northumberland.—In Marlborough Street, same day, aged 26, Edward Douglas, only son of Mr John Milner, leather merchant, Newcastle, much and deservedly respected.—In Camden Street, Sandyford Lane, on the 1st inst., Eliza, infant daughter of Mr H. Newton.—In Oxford Street, on the 3rd inst., aged 69, Mrs Isabella Hunnam.—At Ouseburn, on the 1st inst., aged 15, Thomas, son of Mr Wm. McKay.—In Albion Place, same day, in his 61st year, Mr John Rose, for forty years the valued representative of the firm of Messrs J. and J. S. Harvey, tobacco manufacturers.—In Pilgrim Street, on the 4th inst., aged 61, Mary, widow of Mr W. McDougle, clothier.—In Lime Street, on the 1st inst., aged 15, Thomas, son of Mr W. McKay.—In Dock Lane, Swirle, Quay, on the 4th inst., aged 43, Mrs Bridget Longstaff.—In New Pandon Street, on the 4th inst., aged 2, Alexander, son of Mr Daniel McKenzie, cordwainer.—In Bailey Street, Arthur's Hill, on the 1st inst., aged 3 years and 6 months, John, son of Mr Lawrence Pearson.—At 46, Trafalgar Street, on the 5th inst., aged 57, Isabella, wife of Mr Thomas Noble, joiner.—On the 6th inst., aged 16, Mary, wife of Mr J. Walters.—In Cat Bank, on the 4th inst., aged 3, John, son of Mr William Rutherford, leather merchant.—In Havelock Street, on the 2nd inst., Philip, infant son of Mr James Wallace.

At St. Lawrence, on the 3rd inst., Mary Ann, infant daughter of Mr Robert Russell, innkeeper.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Colds, Coughs, Shortness of Breath.—These corrective Pills are the best remedy for those pectoral complaints, which, neglected, often end in asthma, bronchitis, or consumption. The Ointment well rubbed upon the chest and back, penetrates the skin, and is absorbed, and reaches the lungs, when it expels all impurities. Both Pills and Ointment [illegible] constantly ... obnoxious particles thoroughly, and ... ejected from the system. Holloway's Ointment and Pills perfectly accommodate ... and by the blood, thus cleansed, the ... reaches the remotest parts of the human body, and thus cure all diseased action, whether internal or external.

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