COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINES.
BOSTON'S Coal Boring Machines [illegible] and 34/
BOSTON'S All Steel [illegible] 25/
BOSTON'S with Drills and Handles [illegible]
BOSTON'S Stone Boring Machines, with [illegible]
STEEL PICKS, HICKORY SHEFT
COPPER STEMS [illegible]
COPPER SCRAPERS, &c.
THOS. BOSTON,
Wholesale Ironmonger and [illegible] Manufacturer,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

ROBERT JACKSON'S
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY
ESTABLISHMENTS,
59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
Agent for Dipton:—MR. THOMAS CLARK, South Medomsley Cottages.

No. 1,487. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, February 8th, 1889. PRICE ONE PENNY

Contracts

TENDERS are required for the ERECTION OF TWO HOUSES and SHOPS at Blackhill (Masons, Slaters, Plumbers, and Plasterers only). Plans and Specifications may be seen at Mr S. Grabon's, 102, Durham Road, Blackhill. Tenders to be delivered on or before February 13th, 1889. 754

Wanted.

WANTED a Respectable GIRL as General Servant.—Apply at *Guardian* Office for reference. 8

WANTED, a Respectable and Intelligent LAD as an Apprentice to the Printing Business.—Apply at *Guardian* Office, Consett. 605

WANTED, a Working HOUSEKEEPER by a young bachelor, at Consett.—Apply by letter to Office of this paper. 600

WANTED, a good SHOEMAKER (at once) for repairing and strong work.—Apply, Alliance Boot Co., Tow Law. 820

GROCERY.—WANTED, a YOUTH who has been a year or two at the trade.—Apply to R. Willey, Grocer, Consett. 824

AGENTS WANTED to push first-class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission. Box 31, Post Office, Liverpool. 684

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

Under Distinguished Patronage.
MISS ANDERSON, Register Office for MALE and FEMALE SERVANTS, and GOVERNESSES, 9, Ridley Place, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 265w

WANTED, Ladies' and Gentlemen's CAST-OFF CLOTHES, &c. Personal attendance in Town or Country. Letters of call immediately attended to.—Mrs. J. Quigley, 14, John Street, Consett. 396v

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

BEFORE GOING ELSEWHERE TO BUY,
TRY
A. E. TURNER
ALBION HOUSE,
BLACKHILL,
FOR OVERCOATS AND SUITS.
SPECIAL LINE IN MILLINERY FOR ONE MONTH. 676

To Let.

TO LET, a HOUSE, at Iveston.—Apply to Henry Whitfield, Durham Road, Leadgate.

BICYCLES and TRICYCLES ON HIRE or FOR SALE. Machines taken in exchange. Repairs done on the shortest notice.—Apply to E. Wardhaugh, Blacksmith, Shotley Bridge. 872z

TO LET, a HOUSE, containing Six Rooms, Bath Room, and Scullery, situate in St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside.—For particulars, apply to Mr. Peter Gibson, Boot-maker, 57, Durham Road, Blackhill. 261z

TO LET, DYKE NOOK FARM, in the Parish of Lanchester, near Consett, comprising 166 Acres more or less, about two-thirds Arable Land, remainder Meadow and Pasture. Entry next May-Day.—Particulars, apply H. Wardrop, 19, Rutland Square, Edinburgh. John Dalton, Gamekeeper to Mr. Taylor, will show the boundaries. 807

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.
TO LET, the CO-OPERATIVE HALL (capable of seating 500 people) for Concerts, Lectures, &c. Also, ROOMS suitable for Clubs and Friendly Societies.—For Forms and Conditions, apply to the Secretary Jesse Hall, Consett. 55z

For Sale.

WORKBOXES WRITING DESKS, and ALBUMS (all prices), suitable for Presents, at the *Guardian* Office.

FOR SALE. Two STOVES, BARS two COILS, and a quantity of IRON PIPES, for Heating Purposes.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office.

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

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

FOR SALE: What offers for a Four-roomed HOUSE, pleasantly situated, at Templetown? A good Garden and Greenhouse attached, at a small Rental.—Apply to Joseph Parker, Templetown. 804

TO BE SOLD by Private Contract 2 Substantially-Built DWELLING-HOUSES, Nos. 6 and 7, Tinmill Place; also 2 COTTAGES, Nos. 2 and 3, Turner Street, all situated in Blackhill. For particulars, apply to Wm. Turner, 7, Tinmill Place, or to John Booth, Esq., Solicitor, Shotley Bridge.

Business Announcements.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GASCOMPANY.

ANY Person Removing, Altering or Tampering with any Meter, Pipe, or other Property of the above Gas Company, or Consuming Gas upon any Premises without first having obtained permission from the Secretary to the said Company, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.—By order,
M. RICHLEY Secretary

MISS CAIRNS,
5, WEST VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT,
HAS a few remaining Vacancies for Pupils in Music.
Thorough training in Practical and Theoretical Music.
Special attention paid to the Teaching of Theory.
Pupils attended at their own residence if required.
TERMS MODERATE. 316

ENGLISH LEVER WATCHES AT MANUFACTURERS' PRICES.

MESSRS. ROTHERHAM & SONS, Coventry, who were awarded Medals for excellence and cheapness at the International Exhibitions in London in 1851 and 1862, and were appointed Jurors at the Inventions Exhibition, 1885, have during the past ten years erected the largest Steam Factories for the manufacture of Lever Watches in England, and are thereby enabled to offer Watches of English manufacture throughout, and of the highest quality, at prices hitherto unknown to the public.
Gentlemen's standard Silver crystal glass Watch, sunk seconds, jewelled 2 holes rubies, £3 3s. 0d.
Lady's standard Silver crystal glass Watch, enamel dial, ¾-plate movement, jewelled 4 holes rubies, £3 15s.
Gentleman's 18-carat Gold Keyless crystal glass Watch, sunk seconds, ¾-plate movement, jewelled 8 holes rubies, compensation balance, £12 12s.
Lady's 18-carat Gold Keyless open face Watch, ¾-plate movement, jewelled 4 holes rubies, compensation balance, £8.
SOLE AGENT FOR THIS DISTRICT:—
DOBSON GRADON, Watch and Clockmaker Jeweller, Silversmith and Optician,
DERWENT ST., BLACKHILL, CO. DURHAM.
All Repairs done on the Premises.
The Best Workmanship guaranteed.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. 709

Business Announcements.

MUSIC.

E. J. SLOANE,
PRACTICAL
PIANOFORTE TUNER,
DEALER IN
PIANOFORTES, AMERICAN ORGANS, HARMONIUMS, VIOLINS,
And other Musical Instruments, from the Best Makers, also in Classical and Sheet Music,

HAVING obtained Certificates and passed with First-class Honours (Senior Division) at the Theoretical and Practical Examinations, under the supervision of Dr. Lott (Principal of the Musical International College, London), is now prepared to give
LESSONS ON THE PIANOFORTE AND HARMONIUM;
Also in HARMONY, COUNTERPOINT, &c.

PUPILS TRAINED FOR THEORETICAL and PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS.

E.J.S. is prepared to supply Musical Instruments on the Easy Payment System.

Note the Address:—
76, DERWENT STREET,
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BLACKHILL, Co. DURHAM. 154

THE GREENOCK KNITTING WORSTED AND KNITTED HOSIERY
ARE THE BEST AND CHEAPEST
IN THE MARKET,
And can only be had from
FLEMING, REID, & CO.,
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Write for Samples and Price List, sent Post Free.

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

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

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G. AND W. PAIRMAN, 113 and 115, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Scale and Weighing Machine Makers, Grocers' and Butchers' Fitters, Tin Plate Workers, and Japanners. Grocers' Canisters, Baths, Toilet Cans, &c., re-japanned equal to new. Coffee Mills Re-cut. Bicycles, &c., Enamelled and Lined. Agents for Silent Sausage Machines, American Choppers and Fillers. 995z

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

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T. W. PESCOD,
9, SHAKESPEARE STREET, next door to Post Office,
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THE CHEAPEST HOUSE IN THE NORTH
FOR
CHINA, EARTHENWARE,
AND
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THE NOTED ICE CREAM SHOP.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION.
CONCENTRATED MANURE.

MADE from Human Excrement, BLOOD BONES, FISH &c., analysing about
38·66 per cent of Organic Matter, containing
3·60 ,, of Ammonia.
5·08 ,, of Alkaline Salts, containing
0·90 ,, of Potash.
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Delivered in Bags at any Railway Station within 50 miles of Manchester in not less than Two Ton Lots, and within 150 miles in not less than Four Ton Lots.—Special quotation beyond 150 miles.
£3 PER TON.
Will be sold by Analysis if written application be made.
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First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.
Accommodation for Passengers equal to any European Line.
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Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE & CO., 19 and 22, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, via Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; W. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law; J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; JAMES POTTS & SON, 26, Sandhill, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 217z

R. H. BURTON,
FROM
W. LISTER AND SONS,
Begs to announce that he has Opened his Premises,
2, CLOTH MARKET,
(Opposite the Cathedral),
Where he has now on Sale an entirely New Stock of Goods of the Latest and most Fashionable Designs, comprising—
DIAMOND ORNAMENTS, LONDON-MADE JEWELLERY, MODERN SILVER PLATE, ENGLISH and GENEVA WATCHES, CLOCKS, &c., and ELECTRO-PLATED GOODS,
ALSO, A
FINE COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE SILVER PLATE.
Gold Bracelets from 20s.
Silver Cream Ewers, 16s. 6d. each.
Antique Silver Teapots from £8 8s.
323 English Silver Lever Watches from £3 7s. 6d.

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE
AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWART AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 16lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 8lbs. of INDIAN TEA the Finest Tea in the World. Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.

WILLIAM STEWART & SON,
83, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

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

DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE, 1889.
GEORGE RICHARDSON'S
ANNUAL
CLEARANCE SALE OF DRAPERY STOCK
WILL COMMENCE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 26th, AND CONTINUE FOR THREE WEEKS.
The Stock will be Re-marked and Reduced to effect a Clearance.

A Large Consignment of SILK FINISH VELVETEENS, in every colour, will be cleared out at 11½d. Regular Price, 1s. 6d.
A lot of 44-inch COLOURED CASHMERES at 9½d. BLACK CASHMERES during this Sale will be greatly reduced.
WOOL SERGES, CLOTH MELTONS, from 3½d. per yard.
And all the remaining Surplus Stock will be cleared at Great Reductions.
ALL GOODS TO BE PAID FOR AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE. 748

ROBERT WILLEY,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
CONSETT TEA HOUSE, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
Begs to call the attention of the Public to his Large and Carefully Selected Stock of Goods for the Festive Season.
WILLEY'S PATENT AND OTHER FLOURS AT MILL PRICES.
BRAN. INDIAN CORN. LINSEED. BOXINGS. INDIAN MEAL. OATMEAL.
ROUGH BARLEY. BARLEY MEAL. CATTLE SPICE.
All at Remarkably Low Prices.

R. W. having had many years experience in TEA BLENDING, wishes to call special attention to the following Teas:—
The "POPULAR BEVERAGE" TEA: at 2/- usually sold at 3/-.
The "TONIC" TEA, at 2/- 2/6, usually sold at 2/6 and 3/-.
"TONIC" TEA, the Best Nerve Stimulant.
"TONIC" TEA, the Best for the Sick Room.
"TONIC" TEA, the Best after Fatigue.
"TONIC" TEA, the Best Cure for Headache.
These Teas are all Packed in Sealed Lead Caddies, thus retaining their full Strength and Flavour.
Goods of Endless Variety Kept in Stock.
The Noted Shop for Fresh Country Butter and Eggs, fresh three times a week.
Hams, Bacon, Cheese, Fruit Loaves, &c., &c., Best Brands only. Bottler of Bass and Co.'s India Pale Ale, and Guinness's Dublin Stout. Mild and Bitter Ales on Draught. The Trade Supplied.
Goods Delivered to any part of the District. A Splendid Almanack given to Purchasers of 5/- worth of Goods. See the Windows. 549

CONSETT, No. 7, MOUNT PLEASANT.
JOSEPH MARSHALL,
WATCH & CLOCKMAKER, SILVERSMITH, JEWELLER, &c.,
BURNOPFIELD, THE LEAZES,
CONSETT & BURNOPFIELD.
SILVER ENGLISH LEVERS at £3, £3 3s. up to £5 10s. NICKEL SILVER WATCHES at 7s. 6d. and 10s. 6d. each.
New and Fashionable Designs in Clocks, Jewellery, and Watches, at very low prices.
Spectacles for all sights. Engagement, Dress, and Keeper Rings. Gold, Silver, Plated, and Jet Jewellery.
Clocks, Watches, and Jewellery of every description Repaired. All Repairs Guaranteed.
Clocks Cleaned in Town or Country. Goods for Presentations, Prizes, &c., supplied to order.
Half-Dozen Tea Spoons given to Purchasers of one of the Noted 18-Carat GOLD WEDDING RINGS, from 10s. each. 810z

NOTICE. NOTICE. NOTICE.

W. HUTCHINSON & CO.,
For the special benefit of their Leadgate Friends, and the surrounding District, will hold a GREAT
CLEARANCE SALE FOR 14 DAYS.
STOCK AT GREATLY REDUCED FIGURES.
NUMBERLESS BARGAINS.
FIRST DAY OF SALE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1st:
NOTE ADDRESS—
W. HUTCHINSON & CO.,
NEXT DOOR TO THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL,
LEADGATE.

W. T. ELTRINGHAM,
BUILDERS' MERCHANT,
RAILWAY TERRACE, BLACKHILL (NEAR RAILWAY STATION).
A LARGE STOCK of BUILDERS' STORES and SANITARY GOODS always on hand, viz.: Flags, Bricks, Quarls, Fire Backs, Fire Clay, Slag Bricks, Gravel, Cement, Paris Plaster, Hair, Chimney Pots, Sanitary Pipes (all sizes), Junctions, Bends, Tapers, Syphon Traps, Sinks, Gulley Traps, Garden Edging, and all sizes of Field Drain Pipes.
W. T. E. will be glad to quote price for Patent Sink and Gulley, with Cleansing Bucket complete, as approved of by the Surveyors to the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority and Benfieldside Local Board.
Special Quotations for Quantities at Yard, or Delivered at any Railway Station.

TRY
JOHN HUME & SON'S
CELEBRATED
"GERM MEAL."

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

Business Announcements

W. RICHARDSON,
BESSEMER HOUSE,
BLACKHILL.
SEASONABLE AND REASONABLE XMAS PRESENTS AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.
W. R. HAS just received a large consignment, and is now showing a beautiful Stock of Ties, Collars, Silk Handkerchiefs, Gloves, Kid Gloves, Lined Astrachan Gloves of the latest, Ladies' Bags, Muffs, Fur Capes, Fur Boas, &c., Wool Shawls, Squares, Clouds, and Scarves of every description. New arrival of Fashionable Felt Hats and Caps direct from the factory. Also, Ready-made Overcoats, Cape Overcoats of the Latest Fashion, and to be Sold at Factory Prices. 110 Pairs of Blankets, from 3s 6d per Pair. A large choice of Wools, Yarns, and Fingerings. Special Black at 2½d; sold elsewhere at 3d per Ounce. A large Assortment of Toys.
TWO MINUTES' WALK FROM THE STATION.

ANDERSON AND LEE.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
THE OLD FLOOR CLOTH WAREHOUSE,
FOOT OF ARCADE STAIRS,
IS NOW CLOSED.
For nearly thirty years this business has been conducted by Mr. Anderson, sen. in conjunction with Mr Lee and his previous partner; but owing to railway alterations they have been compelled to
REMOVE
TO THE SPACIOUS NEW WAREHOUSE OPPOSITE THE
BLYTH AND TYNE RAILWAY STATION NEW BRIDGE STREET,
NEWCASTLE,
NOW OPEN.
They now thank their numerous Town and Country Patrons for their past favours, and solicit a continuance of their support, and beg to assure them that both the quality of their Goods and the prices of every article will be worthy of attention and repay an early visit.
N.B.—DURING THE MONTH'S OPENING SALE, in addition to the regular Stock, they will show SEVERAL THOUSAND YARDS of Floor Cloth and Linoleum Remnants, in sizes varying from 1 yard to 12 yards, at greatly reduced prices. ALSO 2-YARDS WIDE OILCLOTHS, FROM 7d. PER YD.
10 PER CENT. DISCOUNT ALLOWED OFF ALL CASH PURCHASES OVER £1, EXCEPT ON REMNANTS. 3

JOHNSON HEDLEY,
MANUFACTURING and WHOLESALE CONFECTIONER, &c.,
37, Percy Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Superior Jams and Marmalades.
Biscuits of all kinds. 23z

MUSICAL TUITION.
LESSONS IN PIANO, HARMONIUM, ORGAN PLAYING, &c., given by JOHN SURTEES, Organist of Christ Church, Consett, at his own or pupil's homes. Good references from former pupils. Moderate terms. Pianos carefully Tuned.—Address, 2, Cemetery Road, Blackhill.

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

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

HOUSE TILES, DRAIN PIPES,
All Sizes; RED BUILDING BRICKS;
BEST PRESSED BRICKS, FOR FRONTS
GOOD QUALITY, LOW PRICES.
DEARNESS BRICK CO.,
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Some of them are really MANY VOLUMES IN ONE, and include such Aids to the Student as Summaries of the Books; Notes on the Natural History, General History, Mineralogy, Chronology, &c., of the Bible; also, an Atlas, Concordance, Dictionary, &c., *forming a portable Biblical Library*, so to speak. The contributors are authors of note. Each Bible in this stock contains the Psalms and Paraphrases, and prices range from 1s upwards.
ROBERT JACKSON'S,
GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET,
AND
9 and 10, NEWMARKET STREET CONSETT

"A MINISTERING ANGEL."

When the liver ceases to discharge its proper functions the whole system goes wrong. The appetite is bad; there is a bitter taste in the mouth, and the tongue is often covered with a thick fur. Flatulence or wind, acidity, headache, giddiness, pains in the knuckles, lassitude coming on after an hour after meals, with a tendency to drowsiness, are all symptoms of a disordered Liver, which may result in total prostration.

IS THERE NO CURE?

Happily there is. No one need suffer from any of these distressing ailments if they will but have recourse to the Sovereign Remedy "TODD'S PILLS," which act like Magic in restoring a disordered Liver. An old physician described one of his remedies as

"SAFE & SURE, PLEASANT, PALATABLE, & COMFORTABLE,"

and the description is true of TODD'S PILLS, which are purely vegetable. These Pills act not only upon the bowels, but also considerably increase the digestive powers, and are altogether unrivalled as a speedy means of curing a bad stomach. The first dose gives immediate relief. Manufactured only by JOE TODD, Chemist, Carlisle. Sold everywhere by Chemists and Patent Medicine Dealers in boxes 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. Agent:—
THE
CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

BOOKS suitable for PRIZES and SUNDAY SCHOLARS can be had at ROBERT JACKSON'S, "Guardian" Office, and 9, Newmarket Street, Consett

MUSIC!

MUSIC LESSONS given—Pianos, Harmoniums, and American Organs Tuned and Repaired. Dealer in Harmoniums, &c.—T. Jones, 4, Gibson Street near Co-operative Store, Consett 927w

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

SWEEP! SWEEP SWEEP!
WITH PATENT APPARATUS no dust can escape; no risk to damage the jambs.
Address—WILLIAM BUTCHER,
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Reasonable Charges.

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

WOOL! WOOL!
TO FARMERS, SHEEP OWNERS, AND OTHERS.
Have your Wool manufactured into Blankets, Flannels, Tweeds, Rugs, Yarns, or any other description of Woollen Goods by
HORSLEY BROS.,
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURERS,
WOLSINGHAM.
The well-known durability of these Goods is a sufficient inducement to those who have already tried them; to those who have not, we respectfully solicit a trial, and have no fear of their verdict. Carriage Paid one way. Samples and Prices on application. 886a

T. MILNER, A.P.S.,
DISPENSING CHEMIST, CONSETT,
Thanks the residents of Consett and District for their esteemed patronage, and respectfully informs them that he is now selling the Leading Patent Medicines at Reduced Prices.

BEECHAM'S, COCKLE'S, AND ROOKE'S PILLS, &c. ... ... 11d per Box
KEPLER'S MALT EXTRACT, 2s 6d bot. for 2s 3d
CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE, 2s 9d " 2s 6d
SEIGEL'S SYRUP ... ... 2s 6d " 2s 3d
ST. JACOB'S OIL ... ...2s 6d " 2s 3d

Articles procured to order at the ordinary rates.
ORANGE QUININE WINE, 1s & 2s 3d per bottle
MILNER'S FINEST NEW SEASON'S COD LIVER OIL, 1s Bottle for 11d. 2s per pint Bottle.
PARRISH'S CHEMICAL FOOD, and FINEST TASTELESS CASTOR OIL, 6d and 1s per bottle
SARSAPARILLA BLOOD MIXTURE, 1s 6d and 2s 6d per Bottle.
QUININE AND IRON TONIC, 1s and 1s 6d per Bottle, &c., &c.
TIC AND TOOTHACHE REMEDIES.

MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON ARMY MIXTURES
For the speedy production of a Delicious Temperance Cordial. Ginger, Pine Apple, &c., 6d. per Bottle.

MILNER'S DANDELION AND PODOPHYLLIN STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.
The excellent qualities of these Pills are too well known to be enumerated here, while the increasing demand under the Popular Name of Milner's Own Pills, is the best Proof of their efficacy. In Boxes 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d.

BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.
An excellent Remedy for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, &c. and all Diseases of the Chest and Stomach. 1s. per Bottle.
HAIR RESTORERS, PERFUMES, POMADES,
TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, AND CLEAN
REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
SPECTACLES TO SUIT A
SIGHTS.
TRUSSES OF A
Agent for Mr Lam 's Magnetic Belts, Chest
Protectors, Knee C ps, &c. &c.
MILNER, CHEMIST
OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE, CONSETT

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC JOTTINGS.

[By the "Old Crow."]

We have got so accustomed to being provided with Pantomimes commencing their run about Christmas time, and extending a week or two into the New Year, that I verily believe if any person set himself to oppose the idea, he would be met with a very unceremonious slap in the face. Whatever the pantomime may prove to be, we insist upon having it at any cost, and we equally strenuously oppose any attempt to frustrate our idea of seeing for ourselves its merits or de-merits. It matters very little to me what the papers say, and although it is always pleasant to read agreeable accounts on the particular theatre which it is our intention to visit, still in nine cases out of ten we really don't care much how the matter stands. One thing we have set our minds on, we say, and that is to go! Then, of course, "the band plays" either one way or the other—it signifies little which!

We go then to the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, to see *Puss in Boots*, and find ourselves in a very crowded theatre for, whether it is the "puss" or the "boots," one thing is at least pretty clear—viz., that the pantomime is going down well. Like all Mr Harris's productions it is charming, both as regards scenery and dresses. The company, comprising many who are well-known as burlesque artistes, is an exceedingly strong one. Miss Findlay is a really fascinating hero, acting, singing, and dancing delightfully. Her singing is quite out of the ordinary run, far beyond the capacity of the general pantomime artistes, and her acting is easy graceful and piquant to a degree. The heroine in the hands of Miss Seymour is less satisfactory vocally; but her dancing is really almost bewitching in its gracefulness. Messrs. Rigould and Sealby as the King and Queen respectively, are very successful—their clever acting, coupled with the good dialogue which falls to them, proving very diverting. As for Cupid—why, Miss Kenward is, in appearance, the very pink of love, personified and delights everybody. Indeed, all round, the company is very strong. As I said before the scenery—which I have no space to particularise—is as pretty as anything I have seen. The music too, is unusually bright and sparkling, the songs "catchy," and the whole thing worthy alike of the theatre and the generous lessee.

Late Correspondence.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Allow me to correct an error in your report of Mr Balleny's meeting held in the Miners' Hall, Leadgate, on Wednesday, 23rd January. In Mr Balleny's address—Mr John Parker in the chair, and several Local Board members about—he said the miners houses in Leadgate were in a wretched condition, and Mr Nicholson had been a member for 14 years, and had not tried to remedy them. What I complain about is you misrepresented me as follows:—I said "If Mr Nicholson had been asleep on the house question, you, as a member of the Board of Guardians, had equally been asleep in not making or trying to make provision for aged people living together, whose unfortunate circumstances necessitate them to end their days at the Workhouse." I may say I am not likely to complain of the houses I live in, as it meets my requirements exactly. Also, I know that Mr W. H. Hedley is wishful to make every convenience for his men. Kindly insert and oblige a misrepresented workman.—Yours, &c.,
MICHAEL HOGAN.

Leadgate, Jan. 30th, 1889.

CONSETT LIVERY STABLES.
T. C. RAWES & Co.,
PROPRIETORS.
Have Removed to their New Premises, opposite New Town Hall, Consett.
Horses and Carriages of every description for Hire.
HEARSES & MOURNING COACHES.
UNDERTAKERS AND FUNERAL FURNISHERS. 711y

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Register Office, 26th ult., Robert Ranson, of Harraton, to Alice Tait, of Fatfield.

STAFFORD.—Pelsall, 24th ult., Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, by the Revs H. Brown, J. McTurk, and J. Tolladay, the Rev M. James Elliott, of St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, to Georgiana Elizabeth, elder daughter of Edward Barnett, Esq., of Pelsall House.

DEATHS.

CONSETT.—Fell House, 25th ult., aged 49, Alexander husband of Ann Fraser.

SHOTLEY GROVE.—30th ult., aged 50 years, Maggie, the dearly beloved wife of James Hopper. Interment at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Saturday; *cortege* to leave Shotley Grove at 2·30 p.m.

CASTLESIDE.—30th inst., aged 60, Thomas Brown, late of Consett. To be interred at Castleside, on Saturday, at 2·30 p.m.

MEDOMSLEY.—26th ult., aged 85, Mary, widow of the late Wm. Cawthorn, late of Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill.

BURNOPFIELD.—Tyke Lane, 24th ult., aged 35, Mary, wife of Hedworth Marley.

TANTOBIE.—25th ult., aged 77, John Graham, late engineer for Jas. Joicey and Co.

WHICKHAM.—Lobley Hill Cottage, 25th ult., aged 89, John Brunton, employed under the North-Eastern Railway Company upwards of 50 years.

BRANDON.—25th ult., aged 58, Margaret, widow of John Nicholson.

SPEN COLLIERY.—27th ult., aged 68, Elizabeth, wife of Matthew H. Wells.

WINLATON.—29th ult., aged 79, Ann, relict of John Parker.

Caledonia Cottages, 26th ult., in his 83rd year, John Whitfield.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—26th ult., aged 6 years, Sarah Emmerline (Emmie), daughter of Pearson and Sarah Hall.

SUNNISIDE.—On the 27th ult., aged 81 years, Thomas Dobson.

WITTON JUNCTION.—Slotburn Brick Works, 29th ult., aged 48, Joseph Shippon Pescod.

MICKLEY SQUARE.—29th ult., aged 14, Cecilia, third daughter of Jos. Steel.

WEST PELTON.—Twizell Colliery, 29th ult., aged 64, Frances, wife of Wm. Simpson.

PRUDHOE STATION.—24th ult., aged 16, Ann Isabella, daughter of Christopher Coulson.

PERKINSVILLE.—(Residence of her nephew, John Forster Stead), 27th ult., aged 70, Isabella, widow of Joseph Brown, late of Ouston.

WITTON GILBERT.—26th ult., aged 55 years, Thomas Law.

PELTON.—24th ult., aged 76, George Brown, over 40 years foreman smith at Twizell Colliery.

HAREHOPE FARM.—8th ult., aged 26, James, son of James Cowan, late of the Northumberland County Constabulary.

BIRTLEY.—24th ult., aged 1 year, Thos. Wm., only child of Wm. Fenton.

Mount Pleasant, 29th ult., aged 4 years and 7 months, George Seymour, son of George H. Harrison.

WEST WYLAM.—24th ult., aged 72, Ann, relict of the late Wm. Arthur.

NEWFIELD.—(Residence of Robert Beaney), 28th ult., aged 92 years, Margaret Gill, formerly of Ouston.

OLD RAVENSWORTH.—25th ult., aged 85, Margaret, wife of William Hall, late of Harley Green, Team Colliery.

DURHAM.—22, Western Hill, 26th ult., aged 64, John Reed Appleton.

GEORGE AND J. HOPE,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS IN MARBLE STONE, AND GRANITE,
CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL, AND BURNOPFIELD.
Inscriptions neatly executed in Town or Country; Special Designs and Estimates on application.

Printed and Published by Robert Jackson at the Atmospheric Printing Works 59 Front Street, Consett—Friday February 1st, 1889.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 1889.

MR. SEXTON was not far wrong when he warned the Chief Secretary that the treatment of Mr. O'Brien in prison would excite a popular feeling which it would be difficult to restrain. The first proof of this is the death of the police-inspector who was killed in the act of arresting Father McFadden. This is a grim commentary on Mr. Balfour's assertion that the relations between the police and the people show "the most obvious and manifest signs of improvement." A Minister who is determined to take sanguine views of his own administration is not likely to be disturbed by incidents of this kind. Mr. Balfour's faith in himself is prodigious, and it enables him to convince the convivial Unionists of Dublin that the Irish people who are bludgeoned and bayoneted at every opportunity are becoming attached to their rulers, and are actually kissing the rod that smites them. As for the popular excitement about Mr. O'Brien, that, in the opinion of Mr. Balfour and his friends, is merely a histrionic performance. The picture of Mr. O'Brien in a cell without any clothes was received with "roars of laughter" by the comfortable gentry who applauded the Chief Secretary after dinner. It was regarded as the height of insolence for the Lord Mayor of Dublin to send a telegram to Mr. Balfour at one in the morning, and a letter even later. Mr. W. H. Fisher, who has carefully studied the Chief Secretary's manners, treated Mr. Sexton's representative with contempt, called him "an impudent rascal," and threatened him with arrest. This was because Mr. White dared to ring the bell several times, and to insist on the urgency of a matter which the Lord Mayor considered to be of vital importance, and which Mr Balfour treats as a frivolous trifle. To Mr. O'Brien's friends his condition is extremely serious, and there is nothing unreasonable, from this point of view, in Mr. Sexton's opportunity for an official statement in a case which involved the health and perhaps the life of a distinguished Irishman. But because Mr. Fisher is mistaken at two in the morning for Mr. Balfour himself, and because he is roused from sleep by a person who has the effrontery to think that the Chief Secretary should trouble his head about Mr. O'Brien, the official mind relieves itself in vulgar abuse, and Mr. Balfour takes the first opportunity to shew his contemptuous indifference for the natural feeling which the outrages on Mr. O'Brien have provoked both in England and Ireland. Mr. Balfour is fond of the inaccurate statement that he is not responsible for what occurs in Irish prisons. He is so far responsible that he has repeatedly altered the regulations in individual cases. With regard to Mr. O'Brien, he has given orders that "no eccentricity" of the prisoner shall "in any way risk injury to his constitution." The "eccentricity" is that of a man who was left bruised and insensible, after being forcibly stripped of his clothes. Either Mr. O'Brien must be allowed to wear his own garments, or he must be wrapped in a blanket and removed to the infirmary when the want of air and exercise begins to tell on his enfeebled frame. We do not see how the "eccentricity" is to be baffled, if Mr. O'Brien's constitution is to be preserved, for it is obvious that a man who has gone through such a struggle cannot preserve his strength if he remains undressed for the term of his confinement. Mr. Balfour's order may be the official manner of making a concession to ordinary humanity. If it is not, the responsibility for Mr. O'Brien's health will, by the Chief Secretary's admission, rest directly on himself.

We are glad to note that these incidents are exciting widespread indignation. There are a good many Tories who, good feeling apart, cannot see the policy of inflicting indignities on political opponents. This suspicion of Mr. Balfour's judgment will be strengthened by the tone of his Dublin speech. Of course, we shall be asked to read with horror the violent speeches of Mr. Sexton, Mr. Healy, and Mr. Davitt at Sunday's demonstration, and these will be described in the usual way as incitements to rebellion. But that familiar trick is not likely to divert public attention from Mr. Balfour's characteristic methods. Mr. O'Brien's treatment he describes as the "ordinary process to which every prisoner is subject who offends against the laws." What happened was that Mr. O'Brien was assaulted by half a dozen warders, stripped, shorn, and reduced to a pitiable state of prostration. This was done because he refused to wear the prison clothes, which he regards as an insult to a man whose offence against the law is purely political. It may be a matter of opinion whether it was worth Mr. O'Brien's while to make this a point of honour, but if that is "eccentricity," it is a feeling which should command the respect and sympathy of Englishmen who know that the law in Ireland is administered by partisans. This is so clear that the national protest against Mr. O'Brien's treatment is being signed by some of the most representative men in the country. It is idle for Mr. Balfour to pretend that this is a case of an ordinary criminal, in the face of such a remonstrance from people who cannot be suspected of sympathy with ordinary crime. It is even more absurd to insist that the condition of Ireland has almost reached the point of complete pacification, when there is every evidence that the popular temper is growing more and more exasperated. Mr. Balfour makes much of the fact that outrages have diminished. This says a good deal for popular self-control, but when we are told that boycotting is less by 79 per cent., we must remember that when the Coercion Act was passed there were only 800 persons wholly or partially boycotted out of a population of four millions and a half, and that whatever the reduction of these figures, which we are quite unable to test, it is certain that the practical effect of boycotting is still fatal to the land-grabber. The Lord Lieutenant's statement that 160 derelict farms have been taken has never been confirmed, and this is the only point on which official evidence can have any important bearing. In some respects the state of Ireland is better, but as for any reconciliation between the people and the Government, that is as remote as ever.

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

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

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Correspondence

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

"MERRY-MAKING" AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE: A FURTHER EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I should esteem it a special favour if you or your correspondent would kindly give me an explanation (in any shape or form) with regard to me being "cornered" and the guilt you seem so positive and familiar with. Any rational being, after reading the first account that appeared in your paper, would undoubtedly come to the conclusion that I had been deviating from the truth. This I tried to prove was owing to a misunderstanding on the part of your correspondent (not with any ill-feeling towards him, for the best of men are not infallible). Not being able, somehow, to satisfy you on that point, I will endeavour to give you a clearer illustration, if possible. Let it be remembered then, that I both went into the "Wheat Sheaf" alone and came out alone. With regard to the first question (if "question" you feel disposed to call it; I cannot, for it was nothing more or less than a false accusation with a question involved) charging me with being in the house with defendant, drinking. This I truly and honestly denied. Had I said I was in all would have vanished and the falsehood been remembered no more; but when a second party stood up (thinking undoubtedly he would make a liar of me) repeating a part of the question in such a manner as to make it appear exactly the same as the former, I was compelled in self-defence to acknowledge I was in. Trusting that you will all be able to see that a question is one thing and an accusation is another—Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM RIDLEY.

Shotley Bridge, Feb. 6th.

TRAIN ACCOMMODATION FOR TANFIELD AND WEST STANLEY DISTRICTS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—On the 14th and 15th of September, 1880, public meetings were held first at Tantobie, next at West Stanley, with a view of trying to influence the North-Eastern Railway directors to run a passenger line through between Stanley and Tanfield Lea. About this time a very influential deputation, composed of gentlemen who have large interests in the district, and who were thoroughly acquainted with the great need for railway facilities in those districts—those gentlemen presented their petitions pointing out the great need for passenger accommodation, when the directors held out some encouragement of their prayers being answered. The people abandoned public meetings, and fully expected that in the course of three or four years the railway would be an accomplished fact, but, alas! it was only a dream. About two years ago powers were asked for and granted by Parliament (Company's Act of 1887) to furnish the district with the much-needed accommodation, and seeing that nothing in the shape of commencing the works were being brought to the surface, an agitation again commenced in July, 1888 (and quite right.) From the beginning of July up to the 22nd Oct. there were ten very large public meetings held in fields and on "village greens," also 16 committee meetings. About the beginning of Aug last Mr Tennant intimated to us that "the surveys would begin at once," and on the 22nd Oct. a deputation waited upon Mr Tennant, who said "surveys would be pushed on with as little unnecessary delay as possible."

Six months have elapsed since the first intimation respecting the surveys. To those who are not familiar with surveying and levelling six months seems a long time, especially when they consider the splendid weather, and the distance only seven miles, and more so when they know it was surveyed, levelled, and plotted anterior to August last; and to those who are familiar with surveying, we conclude they will retain the same opinion. Seeing that the directors hold their half-yearly meeting shortly, we do hope that something will be done to hasten on this case, and that it shall not be "all cry and no wool." My excuse for troubling you at present is having to wait eight years for a railway and the "first sod" not cut yet.—Yours, &c.,

W. BULMER.

Tanfield Lea, 5th Feb., 1889.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC JOTTINGS.

[BY THE "OLD CROW."]

A quite unusually attractive Bill of fare has been this week provided by Mr R. J. Brodie at the Theatre Royal, Consett, in the engagement of Mr Harrington's company, which embraces amongst its members no less a favourite than Miss Ethel Arden, a lady whose name has for long years been well-known, and whose abilities as an actress have for a very long time been recognised. It is a name very familiar to me indeed, and one which, if I mistake not, was for some years associated with that of Mr Osmond Tearle in his earlier career. If I am wrong, I shall be glad to be corrected, but somehow I feel that I speak without mistake. However the case may be, of this I am very confident, that Miss Arden has always been looked upon as an actress of more than average accomplishments, and one whose name in the larger towns has at all times, in years past, proved a "big draw." She is a lady who has travelled a great deal. If my memory does not "play me fool," it was surely Miss Arden who, in some isolated town in far away South America, not more than four or five years ago—in a town, alas, almost if not entirely destitute of "angelic" womanhood—created so profound a sensation amongst the "poor fellows" that they were fearfully loth to part with her, and almost shed tears when at last she was obliged to leave them to fulfil an engagement in a distant province, at the same time loading her with presents and a thousand-and-one *souvenirs* of affection. Tell me, Ethel,—

"Tell me truly, I implore,
Was it not even so?"

—o—

Mr Harrington's name too, is one well remembered amongst us as associated with the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, of which popular home of the drama he was, I believe, for a long time the head. The company of the week then, opened under most happy auspices, and, as far as I can learn, Mr Harrington will not have much cause to regret his present visit to Consett.

—o—

The play of the week has been *Is she guiltless?* and although not having seen the play personally I am quite unable to answer the question so pointedly put, still from what I have heard and read of the play, I am in a position to speak highly of it. It is one of a really good order, and the incidents and dialogue are so perfectly well balanced that if one moment we are disposed to shed burning tears, the next we are so highly tickled by the humourous element that we are constrained to forget our sadness, which involuntarily gives place to genuine and hearty laughter. *Is she guiltless?* is a good play, well written, well acted, and altogether well put on.

—o—

The acting is of a fairly even character. Of course the palm belongs to Miss Arden, who throughout sustains her part as an experienced actress should—with a true knowledge of its requirements. Than this I can give no greater praise. Mr Charles Harrington as "Sir Gideon Gooney" was very satisfactory, as also were Mr Gilmore, Mr Ralph Coundon, Mr H. Belding, and Mr Knight in their respective *roles*, and Misses Kemble, Clark, and Zerbina showed themselves to advantage.

—o—

The old saying has it that "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and this may be all very true. Correct as it may be, however, I am constrained to ask my readers' patience for yet a little while longer. I have occupied so much space that I dare not this week suggest to the Editor that I would like still "more"—don't frown so, Mr Editor, please. I cannot, therefore, speak of *Sindbad the Sailor*. This must be left for another—a more propitious time.

"ROUGH ON RATS."—[illegible] for "Rough on Rats." It clears out rats, mice, beetles, flies, bed-bugs, roaches, ants, insects, ground moles, &c. 7½d. and 1s. boxes.

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PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere for 15 or 34 Stamps by the Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Co., Lincoln. — BEWARE OF IMITATION.

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting was held in the Board-room on Wednesday night. There were present: Messrs W Aynsley (in the chair), T Siddell, J W Davison, J Collinson, G Wade, W R Taylor, R Murray, Jos Murray, G Ainsworth, the Clerk (Mr T W Welford), and the Surveyor (Mr W Rippon).

GAS COMPANY'S WORK.

The Surveyor reported that extra lamps had been supplied in Blackhill, and that the Shotley Bridge Gas Company was now busy laying the pipes in Buddle Street, Delves Lane. The company were doing the work thoroughly.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

The Clerk informed the Board that their resolution appointing Mr W Rippon as Inspector of Nuisances, and a request that half the salary be paid by the Local Government Board, had been sent to the Imperial authority, and had received their sanction. But afterwards they found that the Board had not given the required 7 days' notice by advertising it in the newspapers, and therefore had written to say that the appointment was there by invalid.

Mr AINSWORTH: I suppose that letter means that we won't get the half of Mr Rippon's salary?

The Clerk: Yes, we will; for they sanctioned the appointment.

Mr AINSWORTH: Well, it seems to me that it is repudiated.

Mr COLLINSON: It will only be paid from the time they make their legal appointment.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, I suppose we cannot make any better of it just now. The point is to have Mr Rippon proposed again.

The Clerk: I put a notice in the *Newcastle Chronicle*, but instead of putting Feb 6th, the printers have put Feb 7th.

Mr J MURRAY: Then I should think that that notice is invalid.

The CHAIRMAN: It would hardly be fair to us if that notice is invalid through an error on the part of the printers.

The Surveyor: We had a hitch of this kind two years ago and they kept a week or two off.

Mr SIDDELL: What will they do this time; keep a month off?

The Clerk: We must propose Mr Rippon again today, and try them with that notice.

It was then moved by Mr TAYLOR, and seconded by Mr MURRAY, that Mr Rippon be reappointed Inspector of Nuisances, &c., which was carried unanimously.

FIRE BRIGADE'S CLAIM.

The Clerk mentioned that he had written to the Scottish Insurance Company, asking them to defray the Fire Brigade's charges, and had received a letter from their assessor stating that Mr Frosdick had agreed to pay any charge that might be made by the Brigade.

APPLICATION FOR AN ADVANCE.

A letter from E Goodwin, stone-breaker, to the Board was read, asking for a rise of salary. For the past three years he had received 1s 6d per ton for breaking stones, and asked that he should now be paid 1s 9d per ton.

The Surveyor remarked that about three years ago, the Board sent out tenders for the work, and this person's was the lowest, and therefore he was appointed to the place. He had worked from that time for 1s 6d per ton, but now asked for an advance.

Mr J MURRAY: Does he get the general price for breaking stones?

The Surveyor: The general rate is about 2s per ton.

Mr TAYLOR: How long ago is it when it was 2s 6d?

The Surveyor: I don't remember it being that price.

Mr COLLINSON: The only thing for us to do is to advertise.

Mr AINSWORTH: We are not at liberty to advertise until he gives up the work. How long is he engaged for?

The Surveyor: 12 months.

Mr COLLINSON: I think we should advertise work of this kind every twelve months. We were wrong in the first place to allow it to run on until now without advertising.

Mr AINSWORTH: We cannot dismiss a man for simply asking for an increase of salary. If he gave the work up, then we might advertise; but you see he does not do that. He simply asks us for an advance.

Mr SIDDELL: Is it fair for the Board to give him an increase before we advertise?

Mr DAVISON: There is a considerable difference between the wages of the present time and three years ago.

Mr AINSWORTH: There is not very much.

Mr DAVISON: Is there now 2s a week difference?

Mr AINSWORTH: Oh, no, there is not 6d a week difference in labourers wages.

Mr MURRAY: I should say we might give him a small advance.

Mr SIDDELL: I don't think it would be right for us to increase his salary without advertising.

Mr MURRAY: You don't always advertise when you increase a man's salary.

Mr SIDDELL: Well, we should advertise.

The CHAIRMAN: Suppose you do not feel disposed to give him this advance say so, and then we will see what he does in the matter, as it stands, he simply asks for an advance and does not give the work up.

The Board declined to entertain the application.

RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION AT CONSETT AND BLACKHILL STATION

The Clerk read a letter from Mr Henry Tennant, general manager of the North-Eastern Railway acknowledging the receipt of the Boards resolution.

It was then proposed that the Clerk should write to the directors of the railway company and ask them to appoint a day on which to receive a deputation from the Board.

This was agreed to.

BRAY'S LAMP IN FRONT STREET.

The erection of a Bray's lamp by Messrs Dryden and Co. in front of their business premises in Front Street, received the sanction of the Board.

MR POTTS AND THE SURVEYOR.

Mr SIDDELL proposed that before reading Mr Rippon's reply, the letter of Mr Potts should be re-read.

The Clerk then read the letter (already published in these columns) to which Mr Rippon made the following reply:—

Office, Parliament Street,
Consett.
Feb. 6th, 1889.

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—I am much obliged to you for the resolution of last Board meeting, which gave me the opportunity of now denying most emphatically the statement of Mr Potts that I insulted him, and was uncivil to him, and I beg to lay before you a correct statement of what actually took place on the morning of the 7th Dec last, in order that you may judge who is the offending party.

You are probably aware that I have for a number of years past met your Board's workmen regularly every morning at about 6·45, to arrange their work for the day. On passing the "Fountain" on the morning in question, I observed something of very large dimensions looming out of the darkness, deposited on the public street—Middle Street, and which at first sight appeared very much like a *Pyramid*. On my near approach I found it to be what Mr Potts has been pleased to call 52 large packing cases. About nine o'clock Mr Potts came to the shop, and whilst he was among the boxes, I walked along and drew his attention to a large quantity of paper, &c., strewed about, and to the disorderly condition of the street generally, caused by unpacking the goods on the night previous. I asked him why he allowed such a large quantity of boxes to remain on the public street overnight? His answer was "Because I have a right to do so." I told him that what he was doing was an offence against the Highways Act, and the Public Health Act. He then said, "What could I do with them," and I replied, "Warehouse them." He said he would do no such thing, but would place his goods on the street, unpack them when he thought proper, and leave the boxes on the street till they could be sent away. I told him then that if he persisted in obstructing both the footpath and highway in this fashion, I would have to take some steps with regard to it, and he told me I could go at once. Accordingly, I went along to the Police Station, and conferred with Inspector Benzies as to what was best to be done in the matter, and we decided to ask all parties to remove the goods from the footpath in order that the public might have the free and uninterrupted use of the same.

Sergt. Tranmer accompanied us, and as we went along, we asked parties having goods on the footway to remove them, and they did so. When we came to Mr Potts' shop, he was standing in the doorway, and we requested him to do likewise. He at once said to me "You are the most mean, contemptible cur, I ever saw in my life." Inspector Benzies quickly said, "Do not answer him back," and I acted on his advice; but requested the two officers to make a note of what he said, and they are prepared to prove that is the correct statement of what took place. We then proceeded along the street and finished our work, all the business people, with this one exception, being civil and courteous.

Since Mr Potts and others have been prevented obstructing the footpath with their goods, they have gone on to the side of the highway, clear of the kerbstone to expose their goods, and in order to be perfectly clear as to this Board's powers in the case, the following question has been asked. (The question and answer appear in the January 5th number of the *Justice of the Peace*):—

Question:—"In the Local Board district of C——, certain tradespeople, consisting mostly of drapers in a principal street, have been in the habit of placing goods on the footway in front of their shops; this the Surveyor has put a stop to, but they are now exposing the goods on the side of the public street clear of the footway. Please say if they can legally do this, or if they can be proceeded against for causing an obstruction in the public street or highway. If so, state Act and section, together with any case you may have?

Answer:—The acts above described are offences against section 72 of the Highway Act of 1835 as obstructing the free passage of a highway. We are not aware of any cases on the subject, but that point is too clear to need cases.

Now, if it be an offence to obstruct the free passage of a highway during the day time, I think you will agree with me, gentlemen, that placing 52 large packing cases in a public street on a dark December night without any protection whatever is a very serious matter indeed.

Mr Potts, in his letter to the Board, says a policeman was specially engaged to watch the boxes during the night.

I am authorised to say that no application was made to Supt. Oliver or Inspector Benzies on the night in question, for a policeman to assist Mr Potts in doing what is clearly illegal. These are the facts of the case, gentlemen, and I leave them with you, and you will not have much difficulty in coming to a just conclusion as to who was the insulter and who was the insulted. I ask you, gentlemen, to come to some decision, inasmuch as I believe that Mr Potts's letter, which is false and libellous, is a wilful and deliberate attempt to damage my character in the estimation of my employers, and not only so but in the eyes of the public at large, which is a very serious matter to me.

With regard to obstructions on public streets I ask you for special instructions, seeing that the right of 40 years use has been set up.—Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM RIPPON.

The CHAIRMAN: You have heard both sides so far.

Mr SIDDELL: There are several gentlemen on the Board who are living in the same street, and they might express their opinion on the matter. Can they do without these packages being put upon the street?

The CHAIRMAN: The great point seems to be that these 52 packages were left upon the street over night. The question is: Has any tradesman in the district the right to do this or not, and has our Inspector the power to stop this?

Mr AINSWORTH: What has been the custom of the place?

The CHAIRMAN: As one of the tradesmen of Consett, I never remember leaving any packages on the street over-night.

Mr COLLINSON: I have never left one. The Highway Act is quite clear upon the point. If any man has not proper accommodation for goods he is about to receive he must prove one; and before he brings his goods to the town he must provide places in which to put them—either in a warehouse or shop. Mr Potts knew that these packages were coming, and he ought to have been prepared either to have unpacked or warehoused them. I think it is our duty to support our Surveyor.

Mr SIDDELL: But what has been the custom of the place?

Mr DAVISON: The custom is to remove the packages at night.

The CHAIRMAN: I take it that when a person gets cases at the door of his shop, the Inspector will not prevent you from unpacking them there and taking the goods into your shop if you do so at once. But I never remember any packages being left on the street overnight.

Mr SIDDELL: There is something in Mr Rippon's reply that I do not like. He seems to have gone and brought two policemen and made every person remove their cases. Has that been his custom every morning, or only on this morning?

Mr R. MURRAY: Mr Potts certainly broke the law in leaving these packages to remain on the street overnight. But as it is an exceptional occurrence that might not happen again, I think we might let the subject drop. I don't see that our Inspector exceeded his duty in speaking to Mr Potts about the matter. He was appointed to look after the place.

Mr DAVISON: It has been a very common thing for tradesmen to open their cases on the street, and then remove them at once.

Mr TAYLOR: Mr Potts refers to the Newcastle tradesmen. I think a little leniency should be shown to the tradesmen. They are doing good to the district, and we ought not to press them too severely.

Mr DAVISON: So far as Newcastle is concerned, I should think that packing-cases will not be allowed to stand on the street all night.

Mr J. MURRAY: They are allowed two hours to get them away.

Mr AINSWORTH: The railway lorries take them away quicker in Newcastle than here. My impression is that if our Inspector, knowing that this is an exceptional case—if he had gone in a courteous way and asked Mr Potts to get the packages away as soon as possible, this would not have occurred. I think getting a policeman and clearing the whole of the footpath in order to have a case against Mr Potts was an excess of zeal which might have been avoided. Of course if any accident had occurred we would have been responsible, yet still if our Inspector had pointed this out to him—and had done it in a courteous way to try and avoid giving offence—I do not think that this would have arisen.

Mr DAVISON: A little feeling seems to have been introduced at the commencement. We expect proper boarding should be put up when buildings are being altered

Mr AINSWORTH: I don't think the feeling should have gone against Mr Potts.

Mr SIDDELL: It seemed to be a great improvement the way Mr Potts carried out the alterations. It was done rapidly and well.

Mr DAVISON: We made a concession to Mr Potts that we never made before.

Mr COLLINSON: Mr Potts has been in the wrong from the first. Mr Rippon told him to get hoarding put up, and when he gets the Board to sanction the way which he wants to put up the hoarding, he treats our inspector with indifference. It is the custom to rail off any premises being altered, and it was wrong for the members of our Board to allow Mr Potts to put up the hoarding as he wanted in opposition to the rule. He promised that passers-by would be properly protected, but they were not. Overhead, great heavy stones were on the scaffolding and it was fortunate that none of them fell down.

Mr SIDDELL: It seems to me that Mr Potts carried out the alterations very well.

Mr AINSWORTH: I do not at all justify the words of Mr Potts to Mr Rippon, but the showing of the goods at the doorways is a thing that has been done to my knowledge for many years.

Mr SIDDELL: Our inspector seems to have taken revenge upon the whole of the tradesmen for the fault of one.

The CHAIRMAN: The commencement was about the paper lying about the street which our inspector complained about; and I think we ought to support our surveyor in his duties. At the same time it is neccessary for him to be as courteous as possible with the ratepayers. As far as the hoarding is concerned, it is usual for premises to be closed when alterations are being carried on, but in this particular case the business has been carried on, and we tried to meet as well as we could so that he might continue his business.

Mr SIDDELL: Our Surveyor should be civil with the ratepayers.

Mr MURRAY: In my opinion there is no advantage to be derived from this discussion, so I propose that the question lapse.

This was seconded by Mr W TAYLOR and agreed to.

THE SEWERAGE SCHEME.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Local Government Board to ask the reason of the delay in sanctioning the sewerage scheme.

PLANS.

Plans for the houses submitted by Messrs Dodds, Frosdick, and Walton Bros were passed.

The Finance Committee's report was adopted.

THE NEW MEMBER.

A letter was read from Mr Jenkins, inclosing one he had received from Mr Jesse Hall, on the subject of filling up the vacancy on the Board caused by the resignation of Mr T. Dunne. In his communication Mr Hall pointed out that the vacany should have been filled up before now, and as Mr Shotton was the highest unsuccessful candidate, he thought he should be elected to fill the vacancy.

The Clerk stated that the vacancy should have been filled up with six weeks of its occurence, but that members of the Board were not bound to elect the highest unsuccessful candidate. They were at liberty to elect any duly qualified person.

Mr COLLINSON: As we have not filled the vacancy within six weeks are we in order to fill it now?

The Clerk: Yes.

Mr COLLINSON: How long is it since Mr Dunne resigned.

The Clerk: About two months ago.

Mr COLLINSON: I propose that Mr Thos Shotton be appointed in Mr Dunne's place.

Mr AINSWORTH: I second it.

Mr R MURRAY: Has Mr Shotton any residential or property qualification in this district?

The Clerk: Not that I know of.

Mr J MURRAY: He is not a householder in the district.

Mr COLLINSON: I think he is entitled to the seat, as he was the next on the list at the last election, and therefore I think we should elect him.

Mr J MURRAY: I see no need to go outside the district for a member. I think we should elect a man who assists in the paying of rates.

Mr DAVISON: It has been the usual thing for to take the highest on the list among the unsuccessful candidates.

Mr TAYLOR: I think we should take the largest ratepayer, and as an amendment I propose that Mr J T Potts be elected a member of this Board.

Mr J MURRAY: I second that. When a man comes here, he is supposed to represent the whole of the ratepayers, and no special clique.

Mr COLLINSON: Mr Shotton represents a larger number of men than Mr Potts does.

Mr J MURRAY: There is no man on this Board who represents any particular clique.

The amendment was then put, and four voted for it.

The resolution was submitted, and also received the support of four members.

The CHAIRMAN then gave his casting vote for Mr Potts, who was declared duly elected

The minutes of the last Parks Committee meeting —at which none of the Benfieldside members attended —were read and signed.

The Medical Officer's report was then read, and was followed by the Surveyor's report.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the past month the streets and roads in your district have required constant attention, the most of which have been scraped and the mud properly removed, and the weak portions covered with broken limestone. I observe that a subsidence has taken place opposite the old quarry near Number One. I informed Mr Hedley about it, and it is now having his attention. I have received from Messrs Ord and Maddison 100 tons of rough limestone, which is now being broken for immediate use. The Gas Company have carried out your instructions with regard to the re-arrangement of lamps in your Blackhill district, and are progressing with the work in Buddle Street. I observe that there is a rather dangerous-looking place in Ridley Street, Blackhill, opposite the archway at the lower end of Mr Siddell's property. I will require instructions from you with regard to it. I have repeatedly inspected your district, and the privies and water-closets as a whole are clean and in good order. The ashpits also are fairly well looked after. In certain urgent cases I have had to send carts and charge them with the cost. Disinfectants are freely used to keep down offensive smells, and thus preserve the public health. The following amounts have been paid to the treasurer:—

	£	s	d
General district rate	22	10	0
Tolls	1	15	3
Removing house refuse		15	6

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM RIPPON.

The Surveyor was instructed to see that the hole in Ridley Street was attended to.

The meeting was then adjourned till Tuesday, Feb 19th, at 3-30 p.m., in order that Mr Robinson might attend to consider the sewerage scheme.

LECTURE AT BLACKHILL.

On Monday night, Rev W. Baitey, of Crook Circuit (formerly of Blackhill), delivered a lecture in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Blackhill, on "The broadness and narrowness in religion" There was a fair attendance. Mr James Leadbitter occupied the chair.

Mr BAITEY said he was glad that his subject engaged attention in this district. There had been a great many things said and written about it. The terms

"BROAD" AND "NARROW"

were employed by the Master. Now the word broadness was used in reference to our theological views. The broad man was willing to make concessions, but the narrow man was not willing to do so. These men may differ in doctrine, but not in morality. Because a man's theology is broad we must not assume that he is loose in his morality. Broadness is a word which sounds well. The word narrowness, when used in a theological sense, sometimes represents uncharitableness, and seems to say that a man does not know much about religious subjects. There are times when people have to be narrow. There are some truths which relate to great truths, and broadness seems to promise freedom and higher intelligence. Some who use this word are so broad that they have no views at all, and they are so liberal that they would liberalise the bible away. They have no definitions—they only know that truth is big. A man who is broad theologically may be very narrow in other respects. Some would join in services with the Salvation Army or Presbyterians, but still be a very strong Conservative in politics. There are sceptics who would

FLING RELIGION OUT OF THE WORLD,

but as a rule they are fatalists. Broadness means to some people license; we ought to know what it means. There are two kinds of broadness. Some men were too broad to have a creed, while others have. Those who have no creed say that they are every day getting new ideas and thoughts, and their beliefs of to-day are their disbeliefs of tomorrow.

TRUTH AND THE BIBLE.

But truth is truth, and it is always valuable. There is no reason that an old truth should become superannuated. All truth is related, and truth is sacred, whether it respects God or the earth, and it all cames from a Source of All. All truths fit together, and their old truths should not be thrown away. Therefore, just as a man gets richer by adding coin to coin, so a man gets richer by adding new truths to old ones. There are those who have a creed, but don't think much about it. This is a hazy, indistinct sort of thing. This creed is negative rather than positive; destructive rather than constructive. It is claimed that they have reason on this side, and that they have advanced. They do not look upon the Bible as being all inspired. In doing this they bring the Bible down to the level of books which are not its equal. The great thing that people are now persuaded is that they have no burden. But in the old hymns there is some good theology:

"O good old way, how sweet thou art,
Let not us from thee depart."

They also imagine that He is hardly a spirit—some say He is a force. They do not believe in the doctrine of depravity. They say "Trust human nature" but man is the strangest commodity he knew of. Is it true that the cross of Christ is a subject they seldom touch upon? He wondered if He would have altered the text: "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Christ." But how this

CROSS IS TARNISHED AND HIDDEN

by these people. This cross is the power of God to every one that believeth. There are some who say that this punishment, but it is all in this life Others say that punishment will go a little way into the world to come—but not far. But as long as a man resists God's power he will be in danger. There is a temptation in this doctrine, and there is plenty of temptation in the world without ministers putting them in their way. We have to preach the truth as we find it in God. Sects have sprung up who

DIFFER FROM CHRISTIANITY;

but they are all holders of this broad theology. These acknowledge the Fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of men. Then there are the Shakers, Spiritualists, Christadelphians. At least a broad man should be tolerant of the narrow men. They think it is right to be tolerant with honest doubt; but he thought they should be more tolerant with honest faith. They should not be tolerant with sin and failures; but remember the question is, Does God tolerate it? "Let God be true, and every man a liar." To be tolerant they should know both sides. Had broadness any limits? For if so, it can be formulated. Is their creed God's Word and something else; and if so, have we one standard or two? Orthodoxy believes that all truth is definite, and it is better to get a definite belief than a negative one. If we can get positive truth in other sciences, can we not get something definite in religious truth? There is mystery in it; but it comes from God, and what we cannot take by reason, we must take by faith. If

GOD IS A REALITY,

then theology is a reality, and if God is ever the same, theology must be ever the same. The position of the broad church is this: that there are really no limits. Some people are glad of this—that there is no heaven, no hell, and no hereafter. Man makes towns and factories, but God creates the fields and flowers, and it is better to fall into the hands of God than those of men. Shall we put the truths of different science into text-books, and not do so to theology. These men, who object to the dogma of Christianity always have a dogma of their own. They are seeking fellowship in sentiment, and call our Christianity "common." They want to

THROW OVERBOARD PART OF THE BIBLE

and give us an essence and reduce it to a minimum. They are trying to work it down to the smallest compass. But we should try to make the most of truth, so we don't want to pare it down, but to enlarge it as much as possible. The best work that has been done in the church was done by dogmatic preaching. We are told that the Church of Christ is a home for the heart, but not for the head—that religion is not a thing of principle, but of feeling. He cannot see how they could get a feeling without they had a thought. Now what a benefit of this new theology? We are told that it is new, that we should not be governed by the old hand. There seems to be a sort of idolatry in this modern thought, and many went with the stream. Whilst they kept with the times we should try and prepare for eternity. Were the martyrs, not the good men and they died for these old truths? The doctrine of the brotherhood of man existed hundreds of years ago, but the world should try and know the brotherhood of Christ. He approved of the narrowness of truth, and the narrow way preached by Christ; but he did not approve of the narrowness of

RITUALISM OR PURITANISM.

But truth is a straight line, and is always exact. He approved of the broadness of love and charity. For this lifts a man out of himself and makes him one of the angels. We should not cast about one iota to doubt but that point of faith. But the truth of Christ can take care of itself.

Mr E. TELFORD proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Baitey, which was seconded by Mr J. CALLISER. A similar compliment was paid to the chairman.

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Of course "Old Hand" has a perfect right to be jubilant because of the victory achieved by his party, but there was no necessity for him to write such twaddle as the foregoing. He must, in common fairness, accord us the same privilege of advocating, if we considered proper, the claims of any other candidate for County Council honours. A despatch was sent to us after the poll was announced. The votes in the Stanhope contest were not counted till the Friday morning, and as we went to press about 11 o'clock, a portion of our issue was printed exactly as set forth above, the names having been inserted in readiness for the figures when they eventually arrived. All through the election, the names of the victorious candidates were set in capital letters, to distinguish them from the unsuccessful aspirants. The result of the election was not declared till after one o'clock, and as soon as a telegram came to hand the names were transposed and the figures published. We did not wait for a week before giving the result, but it seems that "Old Hand" would have liked us to delay printing the issue till after the declaration of the poll. Very sorry we could not oblige him.

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THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches, that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism.

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

"ROUGH ON CORNS."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions. 6d. and 1s. bottles.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS

MONDAY, Feb. 4th. — Before JAS. ANNANDALE Esq. (chairman), J. W. WALTON WILSON, Esq., W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq., and W. GREEN, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Samuel McCarley failed to appear to answer a charge of having been drunk and shouting and swearing in Front Street, Leadgate, at 10-30 p.m. on Jan. 19th.—P.C. Stubbs proved the case.—Fined 10s and costs; in default seven days' hard labour.

John Fitzpatrick was also summoned by P.C. Stubbs of being very intoxicated in Front Street, Leadgate, on the afternoon of the 20th ult.—The defendant also neglected to enter a personal appearance, and he was dealt with in a similar manner.

John O'Neil (who was represented by his mother), for having been tipsy and fighting in Front Street, Leadgate, on Jan. 19th, was fined 5s and expenses.

Benjamin Walter was found guilty, upon the testimony of P.C. Crisp, of being drunk and creating a disturbance at Iveston, on the 14th ult., and was mulcted in a like penalty.

John Harrison, a tramp, was placed in the dock charged by P.C. Richardson with being found hopelessly intoxicated in Newmarket Street, Consett on the preceding Saturday afternoon.—He was sentenced to undergo seven days' hard labour, he being unable to pay the customary penalty imposed.

COULDN'T SPELL HIS OWN NAME!

A young man was summoned, at the instance of P.C. Stubbs, under the name of *James McKinna*, of Lintz Colliery, for having been intoxicated and wanting to fight another person in Front Street, Leadgate, on the 26th of last month.—Defendant confessed his guilt, but stated that his name was McKenna. Asked how his name was spelt, he declared his inability to do so. (Laughter).—Fined 5s and costs.

TRESPASS AND DAMAGE.

Scott Taylor, of Iveston, a gaily attired young man, pleaded guilty to a charge of causing wilful damage to the amount of 1d. to certain underwood belonging the owners of South Medomsley Colliery, on Jan. 24th.—P.C. Sanderson spoke to seeing defendant ranging about the plantation, and breaking down the trees.—John Newsham proved the damage.—He was fined 1s, and ordered to pay 1d damage and costs.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

Catherine Quin, widow, of Shotley Bridge, was proceeded against by Mr Abel Moreman, acting on behalf of the Benfieldside School Board, for noncompliance with an order of the Court in not sending her sons—Michael and James—to school.—The schoolmaster said they had never attended once during the past month.—As the defendant was unwell, and not able to appear at Court, the case was adjourned for a fortnight.

John Connor, also of Shotley Bridge, was summoned for the same offence, defendant's children not having attended school for some weeks.—Defendant was fined 5s, inclusive of costs.

John Smith and *John McKenna*, of Blackhill, were both summoned by Mr McKean for neglecting to make their children go to school.—Smith was fined 6s, and the case against McKenna (whose wife produced a medical certificate) was dismissed upon exacting a promise from Mrs McKenna that they would be sent regularly in future.

ALLEGED WOUNDING AT CONSETT: NO PROSECUTOR.

Patrick Boyle, a stalwart individual, surrendered upon his recognisances to answer a charge of unlawfully wounding George Postle, at Blackhill, on Dec. 26th, 1885. Mr J. McCartan (Consett) was for the prisoner.—Supt. Oliver informed the Bench that Boyle absconded to America soon after the occurrence. During his sojourn abroad, however, he came across the prosecutor, and knowing that he was safe, he returned to Consett, where he was arrested on a warrant. There was no one to prosecute him, and the police had no evidence to offer.—Prisoner was accordingly discharged.

ALLEGED ASSAULT AT BLACKHILL: RATHER HOT FOR THE LODGER.

Allan Johnson, a respectably-dressed young man, was charged by Elizabeth Luckey, a middle-aged woman, with having assaulted her at Blackfine, on the 28th ult.—Complainant attested that she had been visiting a neighbour's, and on returning to her house, she found her lodger holding a dog, which she requested to be put out of the door. The animal ran away, and when the defendant (who was the owner of the dog) came to the door, he swore what he would do to her. He caught hold of her by the neck, and threatened to choke her. Complainant snatched up the poker to defend herself, whereupon Johnson began to use her badly.—Defendant: Did you not invite me to your house?—Complainant (emphatically): No.—A girl spoke to seeing the defendant enter the complainant's house; while an old woman called Sarah Doughty heard Johnson indulge in threatening language before going into the house. — Defendant's story was to the effect that he went into his brother's house to taste some pickles—(laughter)—and he gave Edward Morgan (who lodged with the complainant) the custody of his dog in the meantime. On returning to the house, he learnt that his dog had disappeared. He remonstrated with the complainant, and they had a few sharp words at the door. Mrs Luckey, snatching up the poker essayed to strike him with the weapon, but he caught hold of her by the shoulders, wrenched the poker out of her grasp, and handed it to Mrs Doughty, who immediately ran off and sought a policeman.—An old man named Edward Morgan, who is rather deaf, substantiated defendant's version of the affair.—Complainant abused her lodger while he was tendering his testimony, and declared, amid much laughter, that he was not telling the truth, and that he could be bought over to swear anything with a glass of drink.—The Bench dismissed the summons, complainant being assessed with the costs (about 14s in all).—Mrs Luckey became very angry, and explained that Morgan should not lodge in her house another day. She would make him shift his goods and chattels at once. (Laughter).—On entering the court-yard, complainant used her tongue pretty freely, and made things tolerably lively for the hapless lodger.

ALLEGED WIFE ASSAULT.

Elizabeth Moon issued a summons against her husband, *William Moon*, of Leadgate, for having assaulted her on January 27th.—There was no appearance on behalf of either party.—The summons was dismissed.

THE OUTRAGES ON YOUNG WOMEN AT CONSETT.

Five youths, named *John Byers*, *William Brown*, *John Askew*, *Robert Nicholson*, and *William Vivian*, all living at Blackfine, whose ages range from 15 to 17 years, were summoned for an aggravated assault upon Jane Cannell, a young woman about 17 years of age, living in Derwent Street, Blackhill, on Jan 28th. Mr C W Welford (Consett) appeared to prosecute, and Mr Warlow (Messrs Dix and Warlow, Newcastle and Gateshead) defended.

At the outset, Mr Welford explained that they did not desire to press the charges against the young fellows, their object being to prevent the defendants and other lads from

MOLESTING YOUNG WOMEN

returning from their daily employment at the knitting and hosiery factory. Defendants wished to plead guilty to a common assault, and he suggested that their worships should reduce it to an offence of that description.

Mr Warlow endorsed these observations, and hoped the Bench would adopt the suggestion. He appeared for four of the defendants—Nicholson denying that he was present at all. He (Mr Warlow) admitted there had been a certain amount of

ROUGH HORSE-PLAY,

and his clients would undertake that they would not interfere with the girls again. The prosecution seemed satisfied with the course proposed by the defendants, and he begged of the Bench to deal with them as reasonably as they possibly could. The defendants were all respectably connected; one of the young men being employed in the stock-taking department at the Consett Iron Works.

The Chairman: Then you plead guilty to a common assault? Defendants are charged with

AN AGGRAVATED ASSAULT,

and we will investigate the case.

Prosecutrix stated that she worked at the stocking factory, situate on the road between Leadgate and Number One. She was coming from the factory, on the previous Monday night, about seven o'clock, along with other girls (including Isabella Doughty and Agnes Tweed). Just above the quarry, after passing the corner public-house at Number One, they met a batch of young fellows, defendants being amongst the number. Nicholson caught hold of her, and

PUT HIS ARMS AROUND HER WAIST

and tried to throw her down. She was positive about Nicholson. All the boys then surrounded her and

KNOCKED HER UPON THE GROUND.

One of the defendants put his hands over her mouth to prevent her from shouting, while another embraced her by the neck. One of them—she could not possible say who it was—tried to

HANDLE HER IN AN INDECENT FASHION.

She resisted as forcibly as she could, and some of her companions came to her assistance. Nicholson had met the *employes* coming from the factory on several occasions.

By the Bench: Defendants had not being walking alongside of them; neither did they rush out of a hiding-place to attack them. The lads had not previously annoyed her in this manner, although she believed they had attacked other girls.

Sarah Ann Joel, who is also engaged at the hosiery factory, deposed that she was coming home that night, when she heard the

PROSECUTRIX SHOUT "MY DEAR!"

Witness saw that she had been attacked by Nicholson and the other defendants.

In reply to Mr Warlow, witness said that it was quite dark.

Rebecca Postle, another girl, likewise employed at the factory, explained that they were some distance in front of prosecutrix and her companions. By the aid of the gas lamps she recognised the five defendants. The lads

TRIED TO TRIP THEM UP.

There were no lamps higher up where Miss Cannell was set upon.

Walton Wilson, a youth, stated that he was along with the defendants. As soon as they attacked the girls, he went off. He heard the prosecutrix cry out. Witness did not see Nicholson amongst the number.

This was the case for the prosecution.

Nicholson averred that he was

NEVER OUT OF THE HOUSE THAT NIGHT.

He came home from work at twenty minutes past five o'clock, and after getting his tea, slept till bed time.

Philip Stoker, steelworker, Blackfine, affirmed that he went into Nicholson's house at 6-20 and remained till 7-40 on that particular night. Robert Nicholson was sitting asleep in the chair. He never quitted the house.

Cross-questioned: There were three sons—Joseph, Robert, and Walter—and the two eldest closely resembled each other.

ROBERT'S FACE WAS BLACKENED

just as he came home from the Iron Works. Their house at Blackfine would perhaps be a quarter-of-a-mile away from the quarry.

Jane Ann Nicholson and Mrs Stoker also bore out the foregoing assertions.

Mr Warlow remarked that his clients also declared that Nicholson was not with them.

Mr Welford said he could call other half-dozen witnesses to prove that Nicholson was there, and Mary Ann Gardner and Isabella Donaghy gave evidence substantiating this statement.

The Chairman said the Bench were of opinion that the

CONDUCT OF DEFENDANTS WAS VERY DISGRACEFUL.

They were inclined, however, to deal leniently with them, and they would only be fined 10s and costs. If they repeated the offence, they would assuredly be sent to gaol. The costs for Nicholson brought the total amount to £1 7s 6d; the rest of the culprits' expenses represented £1 1s each.

Mrs Nicholson strongly denounced the action of the magistrates in punishing her son when he was not guilty, and she was informed that he could be sent to gaol.

William Byers was also furthermore charged with committing an indecent assault upon Mary Gardner, another young woman, at the same time and place.

Mr Warlow understood that the penalties inflicted in the foregoing case covered both offences.

The magistrates replied in the negative: but at the request of all parties concerned, the charge was resolved into one of common assault.

Prosecutrix, who resides at 46, Derwent Street, Blackhill, was proceeding home from the stocking factory, when Byers got hold of her, knocked her down, and

DEALT HER BLOWS WITH HIS DOUBLED FIST.

She regained her feet, but he caught her by the wrists, and again threw her down. She got up once more, when defendant prostrated her a third time. He also hit her upon the face, bursting her mouth. He next

SEIZED HER BY BOTH ANKLES,

and with her head and shoulders touching the ground, he jerked her feet upwards, hurting her very much. He also fingered her in a most abominable fashion. She

STRUGGLED WITH ALL HER MIGHT,

but he gave her a good thrashing. She was bleeding from both the nose and mouth, and her face was badly scratched.

To the Court: Defendant appeared to be sober, but he might have partaken of some intoxicating liquor.

By Mr Warlow: She had not had any previous quarrel with him.

Mr Warlow said they did not admit some of the statements of the complainant, but they would plead guilty to a common assault.

Other witnesses were subpœnaed to bear out the evidence of the prosecutrix, but the Magistrates did not deem it necessary to have them sworn.

The Justices retired to consult in private. On returning, the Chairman announced that this was a gross case indeed. They considered it to be their duty to commit Byers to prison without the option of a fine; but they had ultimately come to the conclusion to give him another chance. He would be fined £3 and 10s costs, the alternative being one month's hard labour.

ALLEGED HIGHWAY ROBBERY NEAR CASTLESIDE:

A TALE OF DRINK AND DEBAUCHERY.

William Seaman (25), of Delves Lane, and *Robert Peacock* (26), of Edith Street, Consett, two well-connected persons, were charged with unlawfully robbery from the person of Phillis Panting, the wife of Charles Panting, ironworker, of Consett Park, near Castleside, of a purse containing £1 16s 6d, on the previous Saturday night. Mr J. McCartan prosecuted, while the defence was conducted by Mr Welford.

The complainant deposed that between eight and nine o'clock on Saturday night, accompanied by her daughter and Mrs Inkin, she visited Harry Lee's, Coach and Horses Inn, Middle Street, Consett, and drank half-a-glass of whiskey. While in Lee's, prisoner's were in the "snug," and she did not sit down. Prosecutrix, who did not remain more than three minutes, had occasion to pull out her purse. She left along with her daughter, Mrs Inkin, and Wm Davison, and

PROCEEDED ON THE ROAD HOME.

Mrs Inkin left them and went into Roberts's beerhouse, as also did her daughter and Davison. Prosecutrix stood in the doorway, however, talking to a woman named Roberts. Davison and her daughter came out in a minute or two, and they proceeded straight home. She did not observe the prisoners till they had got into Puddlers' Row, when she

HEARD HER DAUGHTER SCREAM,

and noticed that one of the men had caught hold of her. It was only her daughter's nonsense. (Laughter.) The men then came up to her, and after travelling some distance further on, Seaman

PUT HIS ARMS AROUND HER WAIST.

She replied, "Keep off me, I'm not a bad woman; I'm not the woman you take me to be." Prisoners kept her company till within about 200 yards distant from her own door. Her daughter and Davison dropped behind. Seamen then tripped her up, and she fell back, when the other prisoner threw her upon her side. She "clicked" hold of Seamen by the face, and

HER SKIRT WAS TORN OFF.

One of the prisoners held her head, while the other pulled the garment off. Her purse was in the pocket of the skirt, and contained £1 16s 6d in gold and silver, and about 6d in copper, besides an unpaid tradesman's bill. She previously counted the money in Mrs Inkin's house. Prosecutrix shouted out to her daughter, and her assailants left her, one of them getting over the wall at the left-hand side, towards Castleside, taking the skirt with him. She was

VERY MUCH HURT AND FRIGHTENED

to death, and running home, she made a complaint to her sons. Accompanied by her son Charles, she came out to look for her purse, and met Davison and her daughter. P.C. Lewis subsequently came up, and witness made a complaint to him. She did not observe in what direction the other man went; she had not yet recovered her purse or skirt.

By Mr Welford: It would be between 10 and 11 o'clock when they went into Lee's house. She came to Consett about eight or nine o'clock, and she went into a public-house (with her nephew from Ebchester Station), and had two half-glasses of whiskey. This would be before nine o'clock, as her nephew had to catch the last train. They met in Conway's "Queen's Head" Hotel. She did not pay for oysters, but

SHE "STOOD" DRINKS ROUND.

after departing from Conways, she then went to the dressmaker—in King Street, she believed. Her daughter had a glass of ale in the public-house. Davison was not there. After that they went to Lee's, where she had a "half" of whiskey along with the dressmaker's mother. (Laughter.) That was all the drink she had that night. Her daughter met Davision in Lee's. Conway's, the dressmaker's, and Lee's were the only places she was inside that evening. She was also at Roberts's public-house and Murray's the grocer's. She did not enter Roberts's, and a "small lemon" was not called for her. Because

SHE COULD NOT GET ANY WHISKEY,

she did not refuse to drink the lemonade. She was only inside the doorway. Did not fall down in Puddler's Raw—never such a thing. Would swear that they did not meet anyone on the road. She did not

FALL IN PUDDLERS' ROW

and the prisoners did not pick her up, and recover the basket she was carrying. (Laughter). Never spoke to anyone but prisoners. Nor did she notice either of them speak to any other person. She was positive that the men went further than the first water meter with her. Did not meet the lads called Davison.

William Davison, circular sawyer, lodging in Trafalgar Street, Consett, deposed that he went into Lee's, Coach and Horses, when Mrs Panting and her daughter came in and asked him to set them home. Did not notice the prisoners inside the snug. On leaving Lee's, however, he saw the prisoners outside the public-house, and he spoke to them. Miss Panting and prisoner had

A GLASS OF BEER EACH.

It would be a quarter to 11 o'clock when they left Roberts's, and proceeded in the direction of Castleside—Mrs Panting in front, prisoners behind, and the daughter and himself bringing up the rear. On going up Puddlers' Row, one of the prisoners got hold of Miss Panting and said

"HELLO! ARE YOU THERE?"

(Laughter). She shook him off, and the men caught hold of Mrs Panting, one of them putting his arm round her waist. This happened at the first water cabin. He saw the prisoners at [illegible] by the light of the window—they were still at either side of Mrs Panting. Witness and Miss Panting would then be 40 yards behind. He observed them again travelling past the Whinney Fell. He watched

MRS PANTING RUN AWAY,

and heard her shout out and on getting within 200 yards of Panting's house, witness espied a man scaling the wall, while the other was creeping down the opposite side. The two Davisons overtook them just before they met Mrs Panting, with her son and a policeman. She was in a very excited state, her hair all dishevelled, and minus her skirt. Witness stood talking to the Davisons five or ten minutes.

Cross-questioned: He first came across Panting in Lee's house. Did not see Mrs Panting have anything to drink. Never said, "Let us all go down the street together." It was the prisoners suggested this. In Roberts's house there were four glasses drunk, but he could not remember that a "small lemon" was called for. Mrs Panting did not fall over in Puddlers' Row.

PROSECUTRIX MIGHT HAVE HAD A GLASS OR TWO—

she was not drunk, but one could tell that she had had a glass. (Laughter.) Witness did not observe Mrs Panting and the prisoners stop at the first water meter. It was dark along the road, but the light from the Works enabled them to see 40 yards in front of them. He did not recollect meeting anyone. He had four glasses of beer and one of whiskey. Oh, yes,

HE WAS PERFECTLY SOBER.

(Loud laughter.) The Davisons never caught up to them near the meter. Did not remember passing them; nor did he again overtake the Davisons. Would not swear that prisoners were the two men who attacked the prosecutrix.

Margaret Panting, daughter of the prosecutrix, adduced corroborative testimony. On going down Puddlers' Row, one of the prisoners put his arms around her, and at Davison's request she shook him off, although she did not object. (Laughter.) She saw one of the men put his arms around her mother. (More laughter.) Noticed her mother run away as the man was getting over the wall. She spoke to the Davisons, who shortly afterwards overtook Davison and herself. Witness returned to Consett that night, and identified the prisoners.

Cross-questioned: When they first got into Consett that night, they called at Moses Foster's, Stirling Castle Inn, where her mother had some drink.

Prosecutrix: It was Friday night that we were in Foster's. (Laughter.)

Mr Welford: Just hold your tongue, please.

Witness (continuing) admitted that in Conway's they had

THREE DRINKS ROUND.

In Lee's, her mother had a "half" of whiskey, but witness had nothing. Her mother did not drink anything in Roberts's. Witness had "half" a rum in Foster's. (Laughter.) Witness was perfectly sober when she went home. One of the prisoners carried her mother's basket, and they walked down Puddlers' Row together. She never saw her mother fall down in Puddlers' Row. Did not speak to her mother again till she met her coming back. Did not see anyone when they halted at the water cabin stop and converse with the prisoners and her mother. When her mother shouted and ran off, witness did not think that anything serious had happened.

Charles Panting, engine-cleaner and attendant to the electric lights, spoke to his mother coming into the house in a very

DISTRESSED AND AGITATED CONDITION.

The policeman came up first, and then his mother joined them. He searched for the prisoners, but could not discover any traces of them whatever.

P.C Lewis spoke to meeting Mrs Panting and some members of the family, and in consequence of what he was told he went to the house of one of the prisoners. She was distressed, and her bonnet was not upon her head. She appeared to have had some drink. He arrested Seaman, who lived at the bottom of Delves Lane, and charged him with

ROBBING MRS PANTING.

He was then in bed. Seaman got up and dressed himself, and remarking "All right," came with witness to the Police Station. Witness found 5s 3d upon him. On the same night, he searched the road between Consett and Consett Park. He met two of the Davisons belonging Castleside.

P.C. Scott spoke to apprehending Peacock, and on charging him with the robbery from Mrs Panting he rejoined, "I can soon clear myself of that. I went no further than the first water-meter below Consett Terrace." Witness found 5s in silver in his possession.

Prisoners, upon being charged in Court, each pleaded not guilty.

Mr Welford said his instructions were that his clients were standing outside Lee's public-house on Saturday night, when the prosecutor, her daughter, and Davison came out. The last-named and the prisoners were well acquainted, and he pressed them to go down the road together. They called at Roberts's Royal Oak beerhouse, and drank glasses of ale apiece, a "small lemon," however, being called for Mrs Panting, who refused to accept it, stating that she would have

SOMETHING "HARD" TO DRINK.

After emerging therefrom prosecutrix began to stagger about, and she fell down in Puddlers' Row. Prisoners, who accompanied her, assisted the woman on her feet, and set her as far as the first water-meter, where they stopped and had some conversation, prosecutrix stating that she was waiting for her daughter. Davison and Miss Panting passed, and stayed a little further down; and in the meantime, a person came up, and tapping Mrs Panting upon the shoulder, offered to accompany her home, and

SHE WENT AWAY WITH THIS STRANGE INDIVIDUAL.

The two Davisons (whom he would call) overtook Davison and the daughter, but never met Mrs Panting afterwards, or saw her on the road. Mr Welford drew attention to various discrepancies in the statements of the prosecutrix, her daughter, and Davison.

Thomas Davison, clerk at Consett and Blackhill Goods Station, residing at Castleside, stated that on Saturday night, he and his cousin (Thomas Davison) left Consett about a quarter-past eleven, and proceeded to Castleside. On the road to the first water meter they passed Miss Panting and Wm. Davison. They saw the prisoners and Mrs Panting at the first water meter. They were all standing talking together. Witness and his companion went a few yards past when they stopped. Seaman and the other man came up to them, and subsequently Mrs Panting followed. Prosecutrix never spoke, but stood beside them them. At this juncture, a man came down the road from Consett, and touching Mrs Panting upon the shoulder, said "Are you not going home?" She replied, "Yes, I'll go home with you," and they went off in the direction of Consett Park. In witness's opinion

MRS PANTING SEEMED TO BE DRUNK.

She was staggering about, and carried a basket. Witness stood for ten minutes or a quarter-of-an-hour talking to both prisoners. When he left them, Seaman and Peacock went towards Consett. Witness resumed his journey to Castleside, and never saw Mrs Panting any more that night. They overtook the daughter and Davison. Mrs Panting and the person who tapped her upon the shoulders went on first, and Davison and Miss Panting followed.

Cross-questioned by Mr McCartan: It was not very light on Saturday night. There was snow lying upon the ground. He

DID NOT KNOW WHO THE STRANGER WAS.

He knew everybody in Castleside, if he saw them in daylight. They did not walk very sharp, and would pass Consett Park about ten minutes to twelve o'clock. The prisoners went out of their sight; but witness could not say positively that they came to Consett. Miss Panting was able to walk; but that was about all. (Laughter.)

Thomas Davison, quarryman, Castleside, adduced confirmatory testimony, with the exception there was a slight diversity of opinion as regards what actually transpired at the first water-meter, the Court Clerks experiencing some difficulty in getting witness's version clearly entered upon the depositions. It was a young man (added witness) who tapped Mrs Panting on the shoulder, and walked off with her. Prosecutrix was staggering and was about drunk.

Cross-examined: He told P.C. Lewis that between Consett and Consett Park they never saw a single individual. He never mentioned anything about this strange individual. He met Lewis about a quarter-to-one that night. They just walked slowly towards home.

The Bench, without any further consideration, considered there was not a *prima facie* case to go before a jury, and

ACQUITTED BOTH PRISONERS,

the decision being received with applause in a thronged Court.

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

CHESTER-LE-STREET AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[BY WEARSIDER].

Chester-le-Street is not satisfied with the existing train service, and it is still less satisfied with the way in which it is treated in the matter of excursions. Probably the most popular pantomime excursion of the year is that to Leeds, but it is never sent by the Team Valley, and people from here have to join the excursion at Durham, and leave it there on its return. Finding oneself at Durham in the small hours of a winter's morning, six or eight miles from home, is no joke. Lodgings to stay at until train time, or conveyance to drive home are alike impossible at such an hour; wherefore there is only the alternative of setting off to walk home. All this, the people in the district say, might be altered with comfort and convenience to themselves, and with advantage and profit to the Railway Company.

Among a section of the community there is a great cry for a workmen's train from Chester-le-Street to Newcastle. A considerable number of men from this district are working at Newcastle, and the single men say that they would much rather come home every day if facilities were offered; while the married men who have moved to Newcastle or Gateshead hold that they could afford to pay their train fare and live at Chester-le-Street or Birtley on much better terms than they can do where they are now living.

Other two great grievances exist in the regular train service. A train to Newcastle is wanted about mid day, to fill the great gap between 11-23 a.m. and 2-27 p.m.; and a train to leave Newcastle later than 9-22 p.m. is considered to be very necessary. It is also thought to be nothing short of arbitrary harshness that there are no Sunday trains on the Team Valley, which district is completely shut off from the world beyond it on Sundays. Thus all round there appears to be, to say the least of it, reasonable ground for complaint.

All the colliery villages surrounding Chester-le-Street have had their ambulance lectures and classes, but this "ancient city" has always lagged behind in this matter. An improvement, however, is to be made. Next week Dr W. M. Renton will commence a course of lectures and classes in the Mechanics' Institute. The worthy doctor is an able teacher and is pleasant to listen to, and I predict that his efforts will command the success that they are entitled to receive. Few movements of modern times have effected so much good as the St. John Ambulance "first aid."

The annual concert and ball in connection with the Chester-le-Street Rifle Club takes place next week, when the usual array of local talent will be assisted by Messrs Nutton, Leatham, and Duncanson, of Durham Cathedral. The committee have successfully endeavoured to make this annual fixture one of the best and most enjoyable of the year; and considering the painstaking manner in which they are working, the forthcoming gathering ought to be even better, if that were possible, than its predecessors.

Another mystery has been unearthed. What a blessing those wretched reporters did not get hold of it, or we might have read some startling announcement like this:—"Extraordinary scene in the Wear at Chester-le-Street," or "Marvellous aquatic feat," or something of that sort, if nothing more alarming. However, they did not get hold of it, and we have been spared the infliction. But the event although snugly kept, has at last oozed out, and a fortnight ago was told to me, in a burst of confidence, by one of the parties present. This is what happened: A party of lively gentlemen from Chester-le-Street had been attending a sporting gathering at the east side of the river, and were wending their way back to the "city," jubilant, jokey, and hilarious. They had probably "won their money," which would account for their boisterous mirth. Among the party were a well-known sporting "bung" and a little mite of a butcher, and those two were perhaps the most lively of a lively group. All went well until they reached the Ferry, the home of practical jokes and damping disasters to floundering "fu' anes." Arrived at the Ferry the butcher went first down the steps to the boat, when Boniface was suddenly struck with a brilliant idea—he would push the little man off the steps! Down he went then, fully bent upon wetting the butcher's boots, by pushing him into the shallow water at the edge of the steps. But mark how the wicked man dug a pit for his neighbour and fell into it himself! The night was dark, and when Boniface reached that part where he expected the butcher to be he made a push, but there was nothing more substantial than the thin air there, and as there was no resistance, the force of the push overbalanced our jolly landlord, carrying him flop into the Wear! Puffing like a grampus, amid the ironical laughter of his friends, he felt in utter amazement and moisture until the good-natured lessee of the Ferry had him safely landed from his damp, but not dangerous, predicament, supplied with dry clothing, and his creature comforts otherwise attended to. It is not necessary to relate here what took place that evening at a well-known hostelry. The butcher is immensely delighted at the result of the joke. Boniface never talks about it!

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT NOTES.

On Sunday, two able discourses were delivered in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, by Rev J. Magee, of Stanley. In the afternoon, his subject was "Faith and works," and in the evening, "Our great Exampler, or the model life." Not having finished this night's discourse, he continued it on the Monday evening, and after the service a gentleman, who is not often at this place, said it was surely a first-class exposition, and showed the great ability of the preacher. There is no mistake in this remark. I have heard the rev. gentleman preach several times at Annfield Plain and other places in the district, and it is always a great treat. The officials and members of the Stanley Circuit may well be proud of their minister, for he is truly a good man, and seems to be quite at home wherever he is, and that is a good trait in a minister.

The Wesleyan friends have been having a treat. On Monday afternoon, Rev D. Young, of Birmingham, preached a good sermon, taking for his subject, "The call of Dorcas." He showed very clearly that the female members had as much right to any place or work in the church as the male members had. And why should they not? For there are but few of them who are not as well or better gifted; but old superstitious notions still cling to many in connection with the church, and feel shocked if a woman attempts to come to the front, or attempts to speak. I am glad Mr Young spoke out so freely on this much-needed subject, for the female members do but little now in our religious services.

In the evening, the rev. gentleman delivered an interesting lecture on the subject, "The Earl of Shaftesbury." The lecture was listened to with great attention by a fairly good company. In the absence of Mr George Richardson, Shotley Bridge, Mr C. F. Cooke, Annfield Plain, took the chair. During the interval, a tea was provided; but this was mostly for the accommodation of those attending the afternoon service.

Messrs Forster and Russell have, during the last week, entered upon their new premises in Front Street, Annfield Plain, erected on the site of their old property, lately destroyed by fire. Their new shops gives a noble appearance to the principal corner of this old village. One, at a distance, would think that they were about to enter into some fashionable town with its large shops and other large buildings.

Rumour says that there is to be a move to have our streets lighted up with oil lamps. It is suggested to form a committee, if the public agree, to go forward with the movement, to be elected annually, to give their services freely without remuneration for the public good. It is thought a very small tax per householder would abundantly supply the wherewithal. It would only be at the first that there would be any great expense incurred, and this it is thought might easily be met. Oil, of course, not gas, unless it be brought from some of our cities, where it can be got for about half the price we have to pay for it here. Success to it.

Greencroft Primitive Methodist Society had a very successful coffee supper on Saturday night, to begin their sewing meetings, in hope of a bazaar some time soon.

The wonderful clock put up at the Co-operative Buildings gives neither light nor sound. It has been named "Sasbury," I suppose, because he first moved to have one put in; but his cry was a striking clock, not a dumb thing like what is there now. Why not have it to strike or be illuminated at night?

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

[BY "STANHOPE."]

Straws indicate the art of the wind, so do the little things of every day life indicate the current feelings of the people, especially at election times, and St John's Chapel, Weardale, is no exception to the rule. During the recent election it has been exemplified fairly in many instances, we give one. One of the doctors party took a fancy to a walking stick belonging a neighbour, who generously made him a present of it at once, which the recipient gratefully accepted. A few nights after this the generous donor happened to be chairman at Major Scott Jervis's meeting. This was more than the other could stand to see, the much respected auctioneer and miners' champion on the side of the working classes. So he returned him the stick, he would not even have a walking stick which had been given to him by the well known champion of the working classes of St John's. Such was the feeling between the parties in Weardale.

Some of the hardest things have been said about Major Jervis, of any man who ever came into the dale, Walter Beaumont excepted, and he has even been more misrepresented and more maligned than Walter. Things of the most damaging character were said of him during the recent election contest by his opponents; things which if he had followed up would have landed some of them in the direst trouble. But he has one excellent trait of character which commands him to the Weardale people, and that is forgiveness. He is very forgiving. Many professing christians who were among his opponents lack this one thing. If you tread on their toes either accidentally or otherwise they never fo give you

If all men acted so, and did not believe each other, this world, bad as it is, would be a little—upon earth. Forgiveness is one of the principles taught in that sublime prayer of the Saviour of men, that model prayer which he gave to His followers in all ages. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us." To err is human; to forgive divine. Forgiveness is an attribute of God himself, and one on which is based the whole fabric of the great fundamental doctrine of christianity. If God was not ever ready to forgive, what would the other doctrines of christianity avail us. Practically if there was no forgiveness there would be no heaven, and no hope for the human race.

The March vestry meeting at Stanhope is looked forward to with increased interest this year. Things which have been tolerated in bye-gone years will not be tolerated this year. They will be discussed *pro* and *con*. The why and wherefore of things will be asked, and must be given. The recent election has revealed many little defects in our governing bodies which call for redress. Things will no longer be taken for granted. The ratepayers of Weardale pay the fiddler, and they are determined to choose the tune. There will be some plain speaking. There are many grievances want airing, and an opportunity will be taken to air them.

Some good old customs are now obsolete. One was the distribution of the sacrament or communion monies of the church among the widows and the poor and needy. Now it runs in another channel. From time immemorial this custom was observed, but in these degenerate days it has been allowed to die out. Why? How is it? Where does it go now? What comes of it? These are all questions which require answering. "The poor you have always with you," was said by one of authority.

Some desperate hard things were said of Major Jervis, but I could write an interesting chapter of his good deeds. I give one which came under my notice only this week. I hope his opponent will read it. A poor working man residing in the East Lane, Stanhope, got into a shopkeeper's debt, and was on that account put into the County Court, and failing to pay up was sent to Durham gaol. His wife had died, and a family of little ones were left at home totally unprovided for—without either father or mother to care for them. They were out of food and out of firing. Major Jervis heard of it. The first thing he did was to go to the house and see for himself their forlorne condition, he then sent a supply of flour for the neighbour to bake into bread for them; he was also instrumental in getting them a cart of coals. He then went to the shopkeeper and talked things over with him, and undertook to see that the debt was duly paid if he would get him released out of gaol for the sake of the little ones at home. This to his honour he accomplished. Stanhope is full of professing christians who opposed Scott Jervis as they would have done the d—— himself in the election. I commend this act of his to them as an example which they would do well to emulate.

The forthcoming School Board contest promises to be as lively as its predecessor. There are still lively times in store for the Weardale electors. Some whose recent platform utterances now haunt them like a phantom ghost will hardly dare to face the electors again. Discretion with them will prove the better part of valour. They will probably clear out. If there is such a thing as retribution in politics, it will now overtake them. If they venture to seek the suffrages of the electors again, there is one thing they may be certain of, whether they win or lose, they will get such a "heckling" as they probably have never before experienced. They have themselves prepared the public for giving them a warm reception.

A beetle exterminator was advertised in a local paper to kill hundreds in one night, and was warranted to succeed. It was offered at a good price. A house in Weardale was infested with beetles, and its owner seeing the same advertisement sent a post-office order for the wonderful article. It came in due time, accompanied with instructions, by parcel post. The surprise and indignation of the duped recipient may be imagined on receiving two flat pieces of wood neatly bound up in a parcel with the instructions "to place a live beetle on one board, and flap him with the other. By so doing you can kill hundreds in one night."

A gullible young fellow, not 100 miles from Butler's Village, took in the *Police News*. In its advertising columns he saw an ingredient offered for producing whiskers and luxuriant moustaches. Being a bare-faced youth he was, on seeing the advertisement, seized with an irrepressible desire to have a set of nice whiskers such as was produced in the picture in that paper. So he wrote the firm a letter asking them to send him a good supply of their whisker seed by return of post, for which he enclosed a tidy sum in stamps. It is needless to say that he neither got the whisker seed or never heard any more of his stamps. But he knew he had been gulled.

The angling season came in for the Wear on Saturday last. In Weardale it was the stormiest day known this winter. Blinding showers of snow were driven in by a gale of wind. Yet one solitary disciple of Isaac Walton ventured out in the storm at Frosterley to flog the water, Boswell and Johnson must have seen such a man on such a day when they described angling as being a rod and line with a worm at one end and a fool at the other.

The mighty penny received a fitting illustration the other day at Stanhope. A street arab with a doll in a box arrived in front of a respectable house and began, with plaintive voice, to sing "God bless the master of this house." A female attendant has an unfailing receipt for curing this class of poodle, which she will give to anyone desirous of having it. On this occasion she went out to the boy, took his box, and handed him a broom, asking him to sweep the front up for one, which to him was a long and tedious job. She promised to reward him, and the little street arab wrought hard. She then asked him to get her a cart of coals in on the promise of reward again. The little fellow worked with a will, and got them all carried in and swept up, and spent about half-a-day. On finishing, the generous lad gave him a penny. The little fellow, who during that time could have sung for twenty times the amount, looked at the mighty penny and then at her. It is the last time he will sing there "God bless the master of that house."

If, after all, the hubbub and excitement of the recent elections through the whole of Weardale Ernest Scott-Jervis should happen to be chosen as alderman to sit for six years on the County Council, wouldn't it be a caution, and yet it is quite within the range of possibilities. Weardale certainly would then be well represented—the majority and minority as well. It certainly would place the doctor in a ticklish dilemma if his opponent were placed above him on the County Council after the stern fight he has had with him at the polling booths.

The fickleness of our climate was well illustrated last week end. On Friday, the earth was swept by the balmy breath of spring in Weardale. Amid swelling buds, and singing birds, and southerly breezes, the sun sank to rest. He rose next morning amid the rigour of an arctic winter. Amid the keen edges of a biting frost, the snow was drived in blinding showers by a furious gale through one of the stormiest days of this winter, and all within 24 hours. A change from mild spring-like weather to severe wintry weather in a few hours. Such are the climatic changes in Weardale.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—An extra supply of stock was forward at this mart on Monday. There was a large display of fat cattle and sheep. Although there were only 10 advertised, there were forward 19 fat cattle, 74 fat sheep, 38 keeping hoggs, 9 pork pigs, 7 store pigs, 13 cows, 4 calves, 4 cart loads of hay, turnips, harness, chains, shovels, 9 geese, a quantity of poultry, &c. Prices:—Fat cattle, £11 to £21; top, Derwent Flour Mill Farm. Sheep—Hoggs, to 64s 6d, top, Mr R. Dixon, Broad Oak. Pork pigs, to 56s 6d; store pigs, to 22s. Eight geese, 4s 3d to 4s 9d; turkeys, 4s 3d each; poultry, 1s to 2s each. Hay, £3 to £3 13s per ton; straw, 2s per thrave. Turnips, 18s per ton. Cows, £10 to £18; calves, 10s to 25s. There was a large and influential company present, and a capital sale for all classes of stock.

TOW LAW.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday 11 cows, calved and to calve, up to £20; 12 fat cattle, up to £18; 4 store cattle, up to £7 12s 6d; 1 calf, 41s; 38 fat sheep and hoggs, fat sheep, up to 55s 6d, top lots, Mr J. H. Atkinson, Greenwell; fat hoggs, to 43s 3d, top, Mr Nelson, Rear Dean. 9 pork pigs, up to 54s.

GALE AND SNOWSTORM.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT.

The North-West Durham district was visited on Saturday by the most severe snowfall experienced this winter, a heavy gale accompanying the storm, caused the snow to gather at places in immense snow-drifts. The storm continued on Sunday, but abated on Monday. By Wednesday, the snow had entirely disappeared. The weather, which suddenly became piercingly cold, has turned much warmer.

ACCIDENT IN WEARDALE.

On Saturday evening, whilst Mr Valentine Johnson, keeper of the Stanhope Castle moors, was proceeding home to the keeper's house on Stanhope Hall estate a serious accident occurred. Part of the road was blocked with snow, and Mr Johnson got off his horse to let it find its way through it whilst he picked his way along by the fence on low side of the road. When the snow-block was cleared, and whilst the keeper was attempting to regain the road, he slipped and broke his leg. No person being in the way, he had to crawl home a distance of some quarter or half mile. Medical aid was immediately brought, and the injured limb attended to by Dr Robinson on Sunday morning.

On Saturday last a raging snow-storm prevailed throughout the day, a strong gale blowing from the north-west. Though not a great storm there are considerable drifts of snow, mostly in the upper part of the dale. The snow is now fast disappearing.

BENEFIT CONCERT AT BIRTLEY.

One of the most appreciative and fashionable audiences that has patronised any concert of late years at Birtley was that which came together on Tuesday night, in the Co-operative Hall, when an excellent programme was presented, the object being to assist the widow and children of the late P.C. Graham. The chair was occupied by Mr Robert Coates, who has always been so willing in helping any worthy project, and whose valuable services were in this instance so ungrudgingly rendered. Mr Coates truly represented the sympathy and feelings of the audience, which was manifested by the applause he received in his opening remarks, and in praiseworthy terms spoke at some length on the credit due to the energetic action of Messrs Storey and English, who had undertaken to appeal to the public in Birtley, and under whose direction the present concert had been organised. Another acquisition to the evening's attraction was the presence of the Rev W. W. Phillipson, Roman Catholic priest, whose influence in the village had undoubtedly much to do with the success of the concert, the more so, as he was announced to give an address; and any one who knows the rev gentleman is aware how few men there are whose capabilities and sympathies are of so large and generous a kind. The rev gentleman was listened to with marked attention, and spoke highly of the character of the murdered constable. He reviewed the dangers attending the duties of police officers, and in graphic language pictured the home bereft of its bread-winner, and closed with a denunciation of the drinking habits of the people, which, he said, led up to nine-tenths of the pauperism, crime, and misery in this country of ours.—The concert was of a varied character, and every piece was capitally rendered. The accomplished Miss Holman (who is making her mark in the profession) sang with her usual good taste, as did also Miss Edgar, a young lady who is always well received, and whose rendering of "Killarney" betokened much improvement since her last appearance here. Another feature of the programme which was well received was the singing and reciting of little Miss Knox, of Gateshead, who is really a treat. Mr Pringle contributed one of his admirable flute solos, and Mr J. E. Watson played on the English concertina. The Birtley Choral Society has made rapid improvement, and their glees were an acceptable variation in the programme. The comic element was represented in the songs given by Messrs Coutt and Nolan, both of whom deserve great credit. Mr Thomas Swinburne presided at the pianoforte in his usual masterly style, and at the conclusion the chairman intimated that another concert would be arranged for the benefit of the wife and children of the man Wilkinson. The concert was an unmistakable success, and bespeaks much practical sympathy for the sufferers.

"HOW TO DO BUSINESS," price sixpence—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street Consett.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B41 PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional, Gravel, and Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes. 4s. 6d. each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address or sixty stamps by the Makers THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincol 25a

Business Announcements.

SIXTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

MR. H. MARKHAM,
SURGEON DENTIST,
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ATTENDS CONSETT EVERY MONDAY, from 1 p.m., to 5 p.m., at Mrs LOWSON'S, 22, MOUNT PLEASANT. ARTIFICIAL TEETH, to suit Youth or Age, inserted with all the latest and Best English and American Improvements, at Moderate Charges. A Perfect Fit Guaranteed.

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ALL GUARANTEED MACHINES BEAR THE REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF THE COMPANY.

PRICE LISTS, 3 STAMPS. 875v

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We take this opportunity of thanking our numerous Friends and Customers for past favours and support, and hope that by trying to oblige, we will merit a still larger increase of orders, which shall have our prompt and personal attention.

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FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

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NO ONE WILL BE UNDULY PRESSED OR IMPORTUNED TO BUY. 463

COAL BORING MACHINES, FROM 20s. EACH.
STONE BORING MACHINES, FROM 35s. EACH.
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58, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Engineers and Colliery Supply Stores. 310

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GIFTS! GIFTS!! GIFTS!!

ROBERT JACKSON, Bookseller and Stationer, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett, has just received a Choice Selection of Goods suitable for Gifts. Among these will be found the following—

ALBUMS,
PHOTO FRAMES
PURSES,
POCKET KNIVES,
STATIONERY CASES,
MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS,
CHURCH PRAYER BOOKS,
HYMN BOOKS,
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The Largest Stock in Consett to choose from.

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GREAT REDUCTIONS IN PRICES
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CHEAP DRAPERY STORES,
DERWENT STREET AND DURHAM ROAD
BLACKHILL.

AGENT FOR PULLAR'S DYE WORKS, PERTH. 677

Public Notices.

A CANARY SINGING CONTEST will be held at the house of Mr JAMES BURNS, Sportsman's Arms, Derwent Street, Blackhill, on Saturday, February 9th, 1889. See bills for Prizes, &c. 740

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

MRS HETHERINGTON begs to draw the attention of the public to her REFRESHMENT ROOMS, lately opened at Mount Pleasant, Consett. Confectionery and Tobacco. Also an assortment of Toys and Fancy Goods. 583

NOTICE.—MEDOMSLEY FLOWER SHOW will be held on Saturday, August 31st, 1889.
756 W. E. CHARLTON, Secretary.

KNITTING! KNITTING!! KNITTING!!!

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

THE Oldest Tailoring Establishment in North West Durham.—JOHN BRODIE, Woollen Draper and Merchant Tailor, Shotley Bridge, respectfully intimates that his Stock is now replete with the Newest Styles in West of England and other Cloths of the best qualities. A perfect fit guaranteed.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ENGLISH & MILBURN'S
GREAT ANNUAL
WINTER CLEARANCE SALE
COMMENCES ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1st AND CONTINUES TILL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1889.

ENGLISH & MILBURN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRAPERS,
MIDDLE STREET,
CONSETT. 762

THE PHAMPHLET CONTAINING THE
WONDERFUL TESTIMONIALS
OF
HANDYSIDE'S CONSUMPTION CURE AND RHEUMATIC CURE
IS NOW READY,

And can be obtained from any of his Agents or at his Works (by Letter),
1, PORTLAND STREET, BENTINCK,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Everyone out of Health should read them. The Cures are Marvellous, which the local Testimonials will show.

The Medicine was not brought out entirely for money, and it will be given away free to those who cannot afford to pay for it, but cannot be sent.

LIST OF AGENTS FOR THIS DISTRICT:—
Messrs HUGHES and Co., Chemists, Front Street, Consett.
Messrs TAYLOR and Co., Drug Stores, New Arcade, Sunderland
Messrs MASON and Co., Drug Stores, King Street, South Shields.
R. ROBINSON, Dispensing and Family Chemist, 18, Union Street, North Shields.
R. R. BAINBRIDGE, Dispensing and Family Chemist, 141, High Street, Stockton-on-Tees.
G. T. MARSHALL, Bridge Street, Morpeth.
GEORGE BEST, Chemist and Druggist, Bondgate, Darlington.
T. RIDLEY, The Central Drug Stores, 9, English Street, Carlisle.
T. F. TOWNEND, Chemist, Bishop Auckland.
J. HINTON KENDALL, Chemist, Blagdon Street, and 11, Turner Street, Waterloo, Blyth.
W. R. TAYLOR, The Central Drug Establishment, Corner of Cleveland Terrace and Wilson Street, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.
H. C. BALES, Chemist, Hartlepool.
JOHN WATSON, Chemist, Grainger Street, Newcastle. 792

Public Notices.

41 IS THE WINNING NUMBER of Mrs TEASEY'S BOOTS, Redwell Hills, Leadgate. 791

NOTICE TO COWKEEPERS.

TWO BULLS; one Dark Rich Roan, the other Dark Red, of a pure Shorthorn Breed, are kept at the Low Brooms. Terms as usual. 803

A CONCERT AND COFFEE SUPPER will be held in Whittonstall School, on February 16th, 1889. Admission to both, 1s; Supper only, 9d. Doors open at 6·30 p.m.; commence at 7 p.m. 793

PIGEON SHOOTING.

OWING to the severe weather the Pigeon Shooting Match which should have come off last Saturday will come off on Saturday, February 16th, 1889. 797

SALE OF WORK.

MEDOMSLEY NATIONAL SCHOOL.

MONDAY and TUESDAY, MARCH 4th and 5th, 1889.

THE ENTERTAINMENT so successfully given at Christmas by the Children of St. Mary's School, Blackhill, will be repeated in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Monday Evening, February 18th, and on Monday Evening, February 25th. Doors open at 7; to commence at 7·30. Tickets—Front Seats, 1s; Back Seats, 6d. 796

DURHAM BISHOPRIC ESTATES.

ALL those from whom small Freehold and Copyhold Rents, and Rents for the Allotments upon the Division of Commons, are due to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, are hereby informed that the COMMISSIONERS' AUDITS will be held at our Offices, 81, Bondgate, Darlington, on Monday, the 4th day of February; at the Vane Arms Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees, on Wednesday, the 6th; at the Talbot Hotel, Bishop Auckland, on Thursday, the 7th; at Mews's, in Stanhope, on Friday, the 8th; at the King's Arms Inn, St. John's Chapel, on Saturday, the 9th; at the Black Bull Inn, Wolsingham, on Tuesday, the 12th; at the Cross Keys Inn, Hamsterley, on Wednesday, the 13th; at Maughan's, in Evenwood, and the Fleece Hotel, West Auckland, on Friday, the 15th; at the Black Horse Inn, West Boldon, on Monday, the 18th; at the Queen's Head Inn, Lanchester, on Tuesday, the 19th; at Burns' Lambton Arms, in Chester-le-Street, on Wednesday, the 20th; at the Cross Inn, Ryton, on Thursday, the 21st; and at the Exchequer Office, in Durham, on Saturday, the 23rd of February, 1889, for the purpose of receiving the same; and it is particularly requested that all such Rents be paid on the day named for the respective districts.

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

Public Notices.

BLANCHLAND.—Lord Crewe Hotel.—Grand ANNUAL BALL, on Wednesday Evening, February 20th, 1889. Dancing at 8·30. N.B.—A BRAKE will leave Consett Station at 6·30. 813

STANHOPE.—A Grand Evening CONCERT will be given in the Town Hall, Stanhope, on Wednesday next, February 13th, 1889, in aid of the Cricket Club. Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock. Reserved Seats, 2s; Unreserved, 1s; Back, 6d. See posters. 809

BURNOPFIELD WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

TO-MORROW (Saturday), February 9th, 1889, there will be a PUBLIC TEA in the above Chapel. Tea on the tables at 3 p.m. Adults, 9d; Children, 6d each. 810

BLACKHILL WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

A Grand Sacred CONCERT will be given in the above Chapel, on Monday Night First (Feb 11th, 1889), at 7·30 o'clock. Solos, Duets, &c., by several talented local Artistes. Anthems and Choruses by the Choir, and Organ Recitals. A Collection will be taken for charitable purposes. You are earnestly invited. 799

NOTICE TO FARMERS.

GEORGE HOBSON'S 43rd ANNUAL DINNER in connection with the Seed and Manure Trade will be held on Wednesday next, the 13th inst. All Customers and intending Customers are kindly invited. Samples will be shown, and prices quoted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CONSETT DIVISION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

Your Representative, W. Jenkins, J.P., having been elected an Alderman at the first meeting of the County Council, it has created a vacancy in your Division. At the request of a large number of my fellow-townsmen and ratepayers in the Division, I come forward as a Candidate for the Seat. I therefore place my services at your disposal, and solicit your support. I am well-known to the most of you, having lived in Consett and District over fifty years, and taken a part in most of the local improvements in your midst. If elected, I shall endeavour to promote efficiency and economy in the interests of your important Division to the best of my ability.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON DAVISON.

Front Street, Consett,
February 8th, 1889. 811

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.—NOTICE.—A MEETING of the Committee and Supporters of Mr JOHN WILKINSON DAVISON, who is a Candidate for the Consett Division on the Durham County Council, will be held in the Smaller Hall of the New Town Hall, Consett, on Monday, February 11th, at 7·30 p.m. Full particulars may be had from Mr ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 812

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. A. & R. J. Brodie.

Monday, February 11th, 1889.—Newmarket Street, Consett.—Important Sale of Gold and Silver Watches, Jewellery of all kinds, including Brooches, Scarf Pins, &c., Hair Brushes, Hair Combs, Table and Pocket Cutlery, Butchers' Knives, Shoemakers' Knives, Scissors, Gimlets, Bradawls, Iron and Brass Padlocks, Paraffin and other Lamps and Glasses, Bird Cages, Counter Case, 6ft by 2ft, Counter Case, 3ft by 2ft, 8 Small Cases, Wall Case, with Slide Doors, 5½ft by 4ft, Counters and Gas Fittings, Good Home Washer and Wringing Machine, complete, together with a great variety of Valuable Effects, and also a Small Turning Lathe, complete.

MESSRS A. and R. J. BRODIE are instructed by Mr T. MCCOURTY, who is declining Business, to SELL BY AUCTION, as above, on Monday, February 11th, on the premises in Newmarket Street. 778

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

Preliminary Advertisement.—Sale of Fat Cattle, Sawn Timber, &c., at Little Greencroft, near Consett.

MR ADAM BRODIE is instructed by E. W. E. BALLENY, Esq., to announce that the ANNUAL SALE of FAT CATTLE and SAWN TIMBER will be held at Little Greencroft early in March. The date will be given in future Advertisements, and further particulars may be had from the Auctioneer, Town Hall, Consett. 814

SPECIAL NOTICE.

ADAM BRODIE and ROBERT J. BRODIE, Members of the Institute of Auctioneers and Surveyors, and of the Institute of Estate Agents, are prepared to execute all Orders for the SALE of FARMING STOCKS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCKS-IN-TRADE, and other Property, in the Best Style, and on Reasonable Terms. Being professionally associated with the above-named Institutions, they are unable to *tout* for commissions as many others do, but they will be glad to execute those with which they may be favoured on Reasonable Terms. Distress for Rent, under the Agricultural Holdings (England) Act, 1883, and also under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888, duly carried out.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—A. and R. J. BRODIE, Certificated Auctioneers, Town Hall, Consett.

By Mr. John S. Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1889

Present Entries.

9 Fat Cattle.
55 Fat Sheep.
10 to 15 Cows.
Veal Calves, Finger Calves.
Pork and Store Pigs, Poultry, &c.
Hay, Straw, Turnips, Corn, Harness.
Gripes, Shovels, and Sundries.
1 Very Useful Black Draught Mare, 4 years old, 15-3, been in all yokes.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

823 JOHN S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

February 12th, 1889.—41, Puddlers' Row, Consett.—Important Sale of Superior Household Furniture and Effects.

MR J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer, commissioned by Mr JAMES PERRY, who, with his family, is about to emigrate to Australia, will SELL BY AUCTION, on the above date, the whole of his Superior Mahogany and other FURNITURE and HOUSE FURNISHINGS. Sale at One quick.

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

By Mr. William Nicholson

Nicholson's Auction Mart, Tow Law.

MONDAY FIRST, FEBRUARY 11th, 1889.

Present Entries—
Cows, Calved and to Calve.
Fat and Grazing Cattle.
Fat Sheep, Pigs, and other Farm Produce.
Also, 20 Black-faced Wether Hoggs, very fresh.

Sale at One o'clock. 817

Wednesday, February 27th, 1889, Surplus Farming Stock, Implements, at Maiden Law, the property of Mr. Matthew Wake. Parties having Stock to dispose of, can have it included.

Lanchester Auction Mart, Wednesday, March 6th.

Date not fixed, Mr John Suddes Farm Stock at East Butsfield.

Date not fixed, Mrs Elsdon's Farm Stock, at Sunniside, Iveston.

818 W. NICHOLSON, Auctioneer.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

GEORGE CLARK'S SALE, as Advertised for Saturday, 9th inst., at Mountsett, is NOW POSTPONED. Please note.

815 A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer.

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE.

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

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station Free of Charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, and Emigration Agent, Dipton 486x

Sales by Auction.

By Mr Joseph Oley.

Queen's Head Inn, Burnopfield.

MR JOSEPH OLEY, commissioned by Mrs E. HETHERINGTON, who is retiring from Business, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, her very Valuable Household FURNITURE, GRAND PIANO, &c., on Monday, February 25th, 1889, comprising—Mahogany High Chest of Drawers; Beautiful Mahogany Press; 2 Mahogany Low Tables; Mahogany Sofa, in Hair-seating; 1 Easy and 6 Small Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating; Mahogany Cornice Pole and Rings; Large Beautiful Pier Glass, 54in. by 44in.; Grand Pianoforte, by Clementi, London.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock at Noon prompt.

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

By Mr. John Crawford.

The day is now fixed for the Sale of Farm Stock, Horses, and Implements.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Wednesday, February 20th, 1889, by Mr John Suddie, East Butsfield Farm, near Satley, who is declining Farming, his Valuable HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and IMPLEMENTS, and a Large Stack of Well-won SEED HAY, &c. Full particulars next edition.

Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett 822

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

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

By Mr. William Raw.

Front Street, Leadgate.—Valuable BUSINESS PREMISES FOR SALE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, at the Golden Lion Inn, Leadgate, on Wednesday, February 13th, 1889, at Seven o'clock p.m. prompt.

MR. WILLIAM RAW, Auctioneer.

In the following Lots, or such other Lots as may be submitted at the time of Sale.

Lot 1.—All that MESSUAGE situate in Front Street, Leadgate, consisting of a Shop and Five Rooms, as now in the occupation of Mr. Joshua Hetherington, together with a Two-roomed COTTAGE behind the same, now in the occupation of Mrs. Hetherington, and with Yards, Out-buildings, and Conveniences to the same belonging.

Lot 2.—All that MESSUAGE situate in Front Street, Leadgate, adjoining Lot 1, consisting of a Shop and Five Rooms, as now in the occupation of Messrs. W. Hutchinson & Co., Drapers, together with a Two-roomed COTTAGE behind the same, and with the Yards, Out-buildings, and Conveniences to the same belonging.

Lot 3.—All that MESSUAGE situate in Front Street, Leadgate, consisting of a Shop and Five Rooms, as now in the occupation of Mr. Robert Williams, Confectioner, together with the Yards, Out-buildings, and Conveniences to the same belonging.

The above Premises are Copyhold, of the Manor of Iveston, and occupy the best Business position in Leadgate. They are well built of Stone, well Drained, and in excellent Repair, and each Lot has access from the Front Street to the Back, through the Golden Lion Yard.

The Tenants, on application, will shew the Premises.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEER; or at the Office of Mr. BOOTH, Solicitor, Shotley Bridge.

Sale Office, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 764

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

A WEEKLY SALE every Monday for Fat and Store Cattle and Sheep, Dairy Cows, Horses, Conveyances, Farm Produce, &c., commencing at 12 o'clock with Cows, Fat and Store Stock to follow. Entries should be sent on Wednesday each week.

JOSEPH VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Grove Villa, Tow Law. 189

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

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

VALUATIONS EFFECTED FOR PROBATE, ETC. 653y

Business Announcements.

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

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods Cutlery, Gems, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
Established 1780
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET)
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold & Silver GUARDS ALBERTS &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.
☞ SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.
OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW. 739y

LIEBIG'S
EXTRACT OF BEEF AND MALT WINE
(GLENDENNING'S).

MADE FROM GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT, LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF, AND KEPLER MALT EXTRACT.

THIS valuable preparation is composed of a stimulative, a nutritive, and a digestive.

Thus the invalid has here "tissue formers" and "force producers" in a form ready for and easy of assimilation into the system.

Those in the enjoyment of good health need at times a concentrated nutritive digestive food, and in no other preparation will they obtain these requisite qualities in so large a degree.

Recommended by the Medical Profession, who have found it to be a valuable aid in their dietic treatment.

Prepared only by William Glendenning, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

PRICE 3/9 PER BOTTLE, or 45/- PER DOZEN.
" 2/- PER HALF BOTTLE, 23/6 PER DOZEN HALF BOTTLES.

AGENTS ... Mr. RICHARD MURRAY, Wine Merchant Benfieldside.
" ... Mr. T. SUDDES, Station Hotel Langley Park.
" ... Mr. WILLIAM STONES, Burton House, Burnopfield.
" ... A. R. FLEET, Wine Merchant Birtley.
" ... Messrs. ROBINSON & Co., Chemists and Druggists, Chester-le-Street.

Business Announcements

What a beautiful carriage!
Where did you get it?
From ALFRED BOAG,
24, Mary's Place, Newcastle.
I was perfectly astonished to see his Stock of New and Second-hand Carriages and Harness, and more so when I heard his prices. Thanks for his address. I want my carriage repaired and painted.
Good morning. 716a

MIND MY
CORNS!
Is an expression that startles the hearer from time to time, in every part of the civilised globe.
Happily, at last,
ROBERTS'S
ANNIHILATOR
a perfectly simple compound, has been discovered, which removes rapidly, painlessly, and permanently, both Hard and Soft Corns.
GET A ONE SHILLING BOTTLE TO-DAY.

TO ADVERTISERS.

ALL Orders for Advertisements for Insertion in the *Consett Guardian* must be WRITTEN, and sent in not later than NINE o'clock on Friday mornings to ensure publication.

WE use great care to secure the correct printing of advertisements; but we cannot be responsible for inaccuracies nor from any consequences arising therefrom.

PARTIES making inquiries by letter respecting advertisements must enclose an addressed stamped envelope.

IT is contrary to Post-office Regulations for letters to be addressed to initials or fictitious names at any Post-office. Advertisers are desired to bear this in mind.

APPLICANTS for situations and others who reply to advertisements are recommended to forward copies of their testimonials, and not original documents.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 1889

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

THE CASTING VOTE.

Who would not desire to be a chairman? So grand a privilege is the casting vote. I have in my mind's eye at this moment the recent appointment of a member of the Benfieldside School Board to fill the place of the late lamented member, Mr Priestman. So evenly balanced was the weight of opinion on the Board that the casting of the die was left to the good pleasure of Mr Cars, who had the fortune on that particular occasion to occupy the chair. It does not appear that Mr Cars favoured the candidature of Mr Telford, because he spoke disparaging of the manner in which that gentleman had been brought under the notice of the Board; but so complicated a thing is human nature that when the time came for recording his vote he, curiously enough, laid his treasure in the same pigeon-hole in which his objections had previously been desposited. There is no accounting for tastes, you see. But then revenge is sweet, and it is so seldom that opportunities for clearing off old scores present themselves. It is quite evident that some people have not yet begun to pratice in their experience that grand old injunction, to heap coals of fire on the heads of those who, rightly or wrongly, deserve no such favour at their hands. I have nothing whatever to say against the appointment of Mr Telford. He has been successful and he has, therefore, good reason to be content, for in Mr Lax he had in good truth an opponent in every way worthy of his respect and esteem. Mr Lax has been a popular man in the valley of the Derwent for the past twenty years or more, and of him the sad weird lines of James Hogg may very fitly be applied:

> "—Bard ye dinna mind yer life
> Is wearin' down tae winter snell."

CONSETT READING AND RECREATION ROOMS.

If the old saying be true: "That reading makes a full man," it naturally follows that there must be a number of very full men in the town and district of Consett. It appears from the annual report that the intellectual treasures which adorn the shelves of the Consett Reading and Recreation Rooms have in a large measure lost their pristine attractions, the bookworms having feasted so frequently on the nectar strewn broadcast on the lettered page that, like Alexander of old, they long for other kingdoms to conquer, or to drop the figure, they seek to roam with authors yet unread in the fair domains of literature. It is quite refreshing to note that there is a spirit of this order abroad, and it will be well for the intellectual status of the town if something is done to add fuel to the flame. It has been beautifully said that "it is the mind that makes the body rich," and in these days when the literary treasures of the ages are within the reach of the humblest of the sons of toil, the man who neglects them voluntarily falls within the unhappy circle referred to in the suggestive lines of the poet:

> "He that mistakes the pearl on ocean shore
> Vainly returns when years have passed away;
> For wave-borne from his hand for evermore,
> Is that which at his feet once waiting lay."

A SISTER INSTITUTION.

Hardly so flattering a tale can be told as that recorded above about the Blackhill Mechanics' Institute. A falling-off in the interest that in former years was manifested in the concern is now spoken of. It is of the first importance in connection with these institutions that there should be a periodical infusion of fresh talent in the committee of management, special preference being given to keeping up a good percentage of young men. Men take unto themselves wives, and consequently must remain more indoors than in former years, because there are domestic duties that must needs be discharged, if a man is to live in the noontide light of matrimonial bliss. Make a note of this plan, and pray profit by it.

ARE YOU RACKED WITH RHEUMATISM, tortured with Gout, plagued with Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Stiff Joints, Sprains, Colds, Sore Throats, or Influenza? If so get a bottle of Dr Richter's "Expeller," the famous Embrocation. Trade Mark Comet. It has stood the test of 25 years and never fails to instantly relieve and expel the most obstinate pains. It has cured cases of long standing for which all other remedies had been tried in vain. A trial will be conclusive. Thousands of unsolicited testimonials. Of all Chemists at 1s 1½d and 2s 9d per bottle, or post free for 15 or 36 stamps from Dr Richter and Co., 1 and 2, Railway Place, London, E.C., who will send post free a copy of *The Guide to Good Health* to anyone asking for it. 732

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

Rev Alfred Bromley, of Accrington, Lancashire, succeeds Rev J. Martin, of Blackhill, as minister of the United Methodist Free Churches—Consett Circuit.

The members of the Consett Wesleyan Choir held their yearly meeting on Tuesday night. There was a good attendance, and the usual routine of business was gone through.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Sunday, two sermons were preached in the Consett Wesleyan Chapel—in the morning by the Rev A. Wainwright, and in the evening by the Rev Thomas Broadbent—to large congregations. Collections were taken in aid of the Wesleyan Home Missions.—On Wednesday night, the annual missionary meeting was held. Mr J. Lowes presided. There was a good company present. The deputation on this occasion was the Rev F. J. Nance, M.A. Southport, who gave an excellent speech, and was supported on the platform by the Revs T. Broadbent, A. Wainwright, and J. W. Keyworth. A collection was taken at the close.

PHEASANT REARING.—In 1886, I wrote, in answer to an inquirer, saying my pheasants cost about 4s one. I had 620 hatched last season, and reared 600. It was very wet; but they never did so well nor cost so little—3s 4d each. I am more convinced than ever, after extended trial, that wet or dry [illegible] in your rearing field does not matter, and also that Spratts meal and cress [illegible], with only a little plain Indian meal—no meat, nor [illegible] or sponge—is much the cheapest and best food, and, if carefully prepared, will rear 950 out of every 1,000 year after year [illegible] cramp or gasses, but constant improvement from first to last.—"CAREFUL SPORTSMAN" IN THE FIELD.

BLACKHILL.

On Sunday, masses were said in St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Blackhill, in behalf of Mr W. O'Brien, M.P., now imprisoned by the Government.

SACRED CONCERT.—Our readers are reminded of the sacred concert to be held in the Blackhill Wesleyan Chapel, on Monday evening. We are assured that the concert will be first-class, and that the object is for charatable purposes.

THE EX-PRESIDENT OF THE BAPTIST UNION.—We omitted to announce in our last issue that Rev J. Jenkyn-Brown, of Birmingham, the ex-president of the Baptist Union, preached an eloquent and impressive sermon in the Highgate, Rowley and Consett Baptist Chapels, on Sunday previous before very large congregations.

GOSPEL MISSION TEMPERANCE MEETING.—On Tuesday night, the monthly temperance meeting was held in the Mission Room Blackhill, presided over by Mr D. Bone, Newcastle. There was a large company present, and an interesting programme was gone through. Blackhill Wesleyan choir sung two anthems in first-class style (conducted by Mr S. Grado). The Mission Band played two chorus, which was highly appreciated. The solos were sung by Miss Shimmin, Miss Bell, Mr Lewis, and Mr S. Gradon, in an excellent manner. The excellent recitation and reading by Mr Thos. Foster, Consett, greatly amused and interested the audience. The address by Mr Moorhead, of Newcastle, was humourous and highly interesting. After the usual votes of thanks the doxology closed a very pleasant entertainment.

SOCIAL GATHERING.—On Thursday se'nnight Messrs Wm. and Jas. Palliser (and their wives) entertained the members of the Blackhill Mission Band, their wives and friends, numbering about fifty, to a supper in the Mission Room. After supper, Mr A. E. Turner was elected chairman, the meeting was addressed by Rev W. Martin, Mr W. Raw and T. Thompson and others, who with the chairman, all testified to the good the mission band had accomplished, both in the neighbourhood and for miles round, under the leadership of Mr James Palliser, assisted by his brother William. After most hearty votes of thanks to them and their wives, for the excellent supper and their kindness, during the past four years the band had worked together, the brothers acknowledged the thanks accorded to them, saying they were only returning the compliments, for the bandsmen had a few months ago entertained them in the same way, but had presented to them handsome illuminated addresses which they highly prized. The Doxology was sung, and a pleasant evening was concluded.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

ST CUTHBERTS' PARISH MAGAZINE contains a notice of the late Mr Jonathan Priestman, J.P., chronicle of the month, and other local items. The general portion contains an excellent selection of instructive matter.

THE LATE MR JONATHAN PRIESTMAN.—The Right Hon. J. Morley, M.P., addressing his constituents at Newcastle on Monday night, in the course of his remarks said:—"Don't let us forget on this occasion—I at least cannot forget—that we miss on this platform the figure and the face of one of the best and truest friends, I mean the late Jonathan Priestman. (Hear, hear.) I have had some business communications with Mr Priestman in connection with the difficulty between the Northumbrian miners and Northumbrian coalowners. I have constantly been in communication with him during my visits to Newcastle, and I declare to you that I have never known, and don't again expect to know, a man more conspicuous for the singular and beautiful union of gentleness, of modesty, of equity of mind, with a firmness of conviction and of constancy, the principles which marked him as one of the salt of the earth."

PRIMITIVE METHODIST BAND OF HOPE.—The fortnightly entertainment was given in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Monday evening by the members of the Primitive choir, Blackhill, to a full house. The chair was ably filled by Mr Davis, Blackhill,—a gentleman who is ever ready to give assistance in the noble cause of temperance. Mr T. Atkinson favoured with a song "Old wooden rocker," which won well-deserved applause. This was succeeded by a recitation "The city tale" which was well-rendered by Mr S. Turnbull; Miss Williams sang "Good night" in a pleasing manner; pianoforte solo by Miss Brodie, which was given in excellent style; Mr S. Turnbull again rendered a reading, "Jack Robson's courtship"; a duet "One day nearer home," was sung in capital style by Miss Williams and Master R. Evans. The company was then entertained by the rendering of a humorous dialoge "Wanted, a confidential clerk," which was performed in character, and was well received, great credit being due to the performers for the able manner in which it was given, the person who appeared as "John" creating rounds of laughter. The song "The harp that once thro' Tara's hall" by T. Robinson was well appreciated. A recitation "Christmas Day in the Workhouse" was very creditably given by Mr W. Hall. Mr M. Bell sang "Tyneside ditty" in good style, receiving an *encore*, and in his second appearance fairly brought down the house with the song "Very canny"; Mr T. Dinning came next with a temperance address. Mr T. Atkinson sang "Vicar of Bray" in his usual pleasing manner. Great praise is due to Miss Brodie for the highly satisfactory way in which she acquitted herself at the piano. Votes of thanks were then given to all who had taken part in the evenings enjoyment, which brought the meeting to a close.

CATCHGATE.

Mr George Hobson's 43rd annual Seed Dinner will be held on Wednesday next, when he will be happy to see all his customers, and also intending customers, present. Samples will be shown and prices quoted.

PRUDHOE.

FLORAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting for the election of officers for 1889 was held at the Locomotive Inn, Prudhoe, on Saturday when the following gentlemen were elected:—President, Mr T. Bates, Prudhoe Grange; vice-president, Mr W. Telford; treasurer, Mr G. Proudlock; secretary, Mr R. Wardle, West Wylam; assistant secretary, Mr T. Marshall, West Wylam.—The receipts of last year scarcely covered the expenses, owing to the ball not being held at the close of last show on account of the death of one of the owners of Mickley Collieries. The committee unanimously resolved that in order to increase the attractions of the show on Aug. 24th, the service of Mr Amers' Royal Exhibition Band be engaged for the afternoon and ball at night, and to offer liberal prizes for competition on the opening of the new bicycle track.

WEARDALE.

SERIOUS CASE OF BURNING.—On
week, Mrs Frances Walton, St John's C
severely burnt on her arms, by he
accidently catching fire whilst she w
engaged in brightening a brass rod which
across the mantel-piece.
A WEARDALE MAN IN AUSTRALIA
monthly meeting of the Administrative C
the School of Mines at Sandhurst, Aust
director reported that twenty-eight cand
sat in the school for the matriculation ex
of the Melbourne University, the total
being 599. Prof. McCoy, The Unive
Power, The Royal Mint; Mr A. W.
agricultural chemist to the Government,
sented to act as honorary examiners. M
M. Egglestone and Mr W. Hicks were
honorary examiners of the mining manag
[Mr T. M. Egglestone, who was eleve
mining manager in Australia, is no
reporter on the staff of the *Bendigo In*
and is a Weardale man, being born near
Chapel, in which neighbourhood his fath
living.]
WEARDALE DISTRICT HIGHWAY BOA
monthly meeting was held at Wol
Tuesday—Mr C. J. Backhouse, J.P.,
Present: Messrs Currey, Snowball, Vart
W. Vickers, Muschamp, and J. Vick
accounts for the month's payment am
£119 17s 9d; a cheque for the payment
10d was also signed for the payment of
incurred in the recent action with B
trustees as to the Board's authority t
quarry at Hunter-le-Well. Several
were expressed as to the management of
in certain townships, notably Stanhope,
Vickers expressing an opinion that sev
were charged without the Surveyor pr
amining details.—Some correspondence
from Messrs Pease and Partners in
Frosterley Bridge, the firm express
willingness to comply with the wish
Board when a settlement in respect to
belonging one Golightly (with which th
some extent interfered) can be arrived a

CORNSAY COLLIERY.

ACCIDENT.—As Mr Benson, cokel
Cornsay Colliery, was going his rounds l
and was stepping down some steps from
way on to the oven tops, he by so
slipped, and was precipitated on to the c
below. He fell amongst some bricks
with his head and back, sustaining ve
injuries. On enquiry on Monday, the u
man was reported to be progressing favou

ESH COLLIERY.

Mrs Hewitson, of Binchester, is at pre
ducting revival services at Esh Colliery
nection with the Primitive Methodist So
the services are fairly well attended.

STANHOPE.

Major Scott-Jervis has given a donati
Stanhope Band of Hope and also to the
Methodist choir.
TRAP ACCIDENT.—On Friday, as Mr D
The Ashes House, Stanhope, was procee
the Station Bank, the horse fell, an
thrown out of the trap, and fell heavil
road. He received a severe shaking. T
Dr Robinson was summoned, and he is
gressing favourably.
A supper and ball was held in the N
Room, Stanhope, on Wednesday se'nnigh
30 couples tripped the light fantastic
small hours of the morning. Mr F. Co
High House, supplied the music on the
his usual excellent style.
CONCERT.—An evening concert was he
High Street Chapel, Stanhope, on
evening, under the auspices of the
Quarrymen's Association. Mr W. M.
presided. Miss Temperley officiated
usual ability at the piano. The arti
principally local.
YOUNG LADIES' SEWING MEETING.
Church of England young ladies' sewin
held in the new bank room on Tuesday
the tea was provided by the followi
ladies, which resulted in raising the han
of £7:—Misses Hogarth, L. Hogart
Sanderson, L. Sanderson, Charlton, B
Bainbridge, Sanderson, Pattinson, M.
Rippon, Wearmouth, Thompson
Hampden, Emerson, Dalton, and War
has been a series of these sewing me
during the winter at Stanhope, tow
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VICTORIA GARESFIELD

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WITTON GILBERT.

THE CHURCH LIVING.—Rev Art
vice-principal of Bede College, Durha
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place of Rev C. J. Carr, deceased. T
worth £302 per annum, and £120 a
given by the Ecclesiastical Commissio
curate. Rev Edgar Carr, vicar of Ingle
near Northallerton, recently deliver

WEARDALE.

Serious Case of Burning.—On Thursday week, Mrs Frances Walton, St John's Chapel, was severely burnt on her arms, by her clothes accidently catching fire whilst she was busily engaged in brightening a brass rod which stretched across the mantel-piece.

A Weardale Man in Australia.—At the monthly meeting of the Administrative Council of the School of Mines at Sandhurst, Australia, the director reported that twenty-eight candidates had sat in the school for the matriculation examination of the Melbourne University, the total attendance being 599. Prof. McCoy, The University; Mr Power, The Royal Mint; Mr A. W. Pearson, agricultural chemist to the Government, had consented to act as honorary examiners. Mr Thomas M. Egglestone and Mr W. Hicks were appointed honorary examiners of the mining managers' class. [Mr T. M. Egglestone, who was eleven years a mining manager in Australia, is now mining reporter on the staff of the *Bendigo Independent*, and is a Weardale man, being born near St. John's Chapel, in which neighbourhood his father is now living.]

Weardale District Highway Board.—The monthly meeting was held at Wolsingham, on Tuesday—Mr C. J. Backhouse, J.P., chairman. Present: Messrs Currey, Snowball, Vart, Wooler, W. Vickers, Muschamp, and J. Vickers.—The accounts for the month's payment amounted to £119 17s 9d; a cheque for the payment of £41 16s 10d was also signed for the payment of expenses incurred in the recent action with Bainbridge's trustees as to the Board's authority to open a quarry at Hunter-le-Well. Several objections were expressed as to the management of expenses in certain townships, notably Stanhope. Mr Wm. Vickers expressing an opinion that several items were charged without the Surveyor properly examining details.—Some correspondence was read from Messrs Pease and Partners in respect to Frosterley Bridge, the firm expressing their willingness to comply with the wishes of the Board when a settlement in respect to property belonging one Golightly (with which they have to some extent interfered) can be arrived at.

CORNSAY COLLIERY.

Accident.—As Mr Benson, cokeburner at Cornsay Colliery, was going his rounds last week, and was stepping down some steps from the gang way on to the oven tops, he by some means slipped, and was precipitated on to the coke bench below. He fell amongst some bricks and coke with his head and back, sustaining very severe injuries. On enquiry on Monday, the unfortunate man was reported to be progressing favourably.

ESH COLLIERY.

Mrs Hewitson, of Binchester, is at present conducting revival services at Esh Colliery, in connection with the Primitive Methodist Society, and the services are fairly well attended.

STANHOPE.

Major Scott-Jervis has given a donation to the Stanhope Band of Hope and also to the Primitive Methodist choir.

Trap Accident.—On Friday, as Mr Downie, of The Ashes House, Stanhope, was proceeding down the Station Bank, the horse fell, and he was thrown out of the trap, and fell heavily on the road. He received a severe shaking. The aid of Dr Robinson was summoned, and he is now progressing favourably.

A supper and ball was held in the New Bank Room, Stanhope, on Wednesday se'nnight. About 30 couples tripped the light fantastic until the small hours of the morning. Mr F. Collingwood, High House, supplied the music on the violin in his usual excellent style.

Concert.—An evening concert was held in the High Street Chapel, Stanhope, on Saturday evening, under the auspices of the Weardale Quarrymen's Association. Mr W. M. Egglestone presided. Miss Temperley officiated with her usual ability at the piano. The artistes were principally local.

Young Ladies' Sewing Meeting.—At the Church of England young ladies' sewing meeting held in the new bank room on Tuesday se'nnight, the tea was provided by the following young ladies, which resulted in raising the handsome sum of £7:—Misses Hogarth, L. Hogarth, Mew, Sanderson, L. Sanderson, Charlton, Brinbridge, Bainbridge, Sanderson, Pattinson, M. Pattinson, Rippon, Wearmouth, Thompson, McCallum, Hampden, Emerson, Dalton, and Ward. There has been a series of these sewing meetings held during the winter at Stanhope, towards the liquidation of the debt on the Barrington Schools, but this is the best yet held, financially speaking, so that the young ladies are quite ahead. The young men intend to give one and it will then be seen if they can vie with the ladies in raising the wind.

DIPTON.

Temperance Convention.—On Saturday afternoon, a temperance convention, under the auspices of the United Methodist Free Churches societies embraced within the Consett Circuit, was held in their place of worship at Dipton. The very stormy weather doubtless prevented a large attendance. The chair was taken by Rev James Martin, of Blackhill (circuit minister) who explained that the object of the conference was to consider and discuss the best means of promoting the cause of temperance throughout the district. Excellent and powerful addresses bearing on the subject of total abstinence were delivered by Revs W. T. Barrowcliffe, of South Shields, and J. Thornley, of Sheffield (secretary of the Temperance League of the U.M.F.C.) The debate assumed the character of a general conversation, several local gentlemen taking part therein. Although no resolution was arrived at, it was agreed on all hands to advocate the necessity of Bands of Hope, temperance societies, and other auxiliaries being established in connection with each church in the circuit in furtherance of the temperance movement. We may remark that Mr Thornley has been labouring in the Newcastle District for the past six weeks, and has rendered valuable assistance in the formation of similar organisations throughout the country.—A tea was afterwards served up in the school-room under the church, and at night there was a public meeting, under the presidency of Mr Martin. Capital speeches were made by Messrs Barrowcliffe and Thornley and some local laymen.—Votes of thanks terminated the day's proceedings.

EBCHESTER.

Mr J. H. Coupland, who is articled to W. S. Daglish Esq. (of the firm of W. S. Daglish and Mulcaster, solicitors, Sandhill, Newcastle) has successfully passed the intermediate examination of the Incorporated Law Society, held on the 17th January last. He is a son of Mr M. Coupland, of Westwood House.

Death of Miss Huntley.—We regret to announce the death of Miss Huntley, who for many years was post mistress and grocer, at Ebchester. Some years ago she removed to South Shields and was engaged as a nurse at the Ingham Infirmary. Recently she took up her residence at the Lawe Cottage, where she died on the 3rd inst. She was interred at Ebchester on Wednesday. She was the last surviving member of one of the oldest families in the district.

VICTORIA GARESFIELD.

The Late Mr J. Priestman.—On Wednesday evening Rev M. Johnson preached at Victoria Garesfield, and in the course of his sermon, he referred to the decease of Mr J. Priestman, J.P., of Shotley Bridge, and paid a high tribute to his character and worth. The rev gentleman dwelt upon the relations of Mr Priestman as an employer, as a politician and as a philanthropist. As Primitive Methodists, he said they were greatly indebted to Mr Priestman's generous support of their cause. The bricks for the chapel at Victoria Garesfield had been given by the deceased. At the chapel and Sunday school anniversary it had been Mr Priestman's custom to take the chair, and he had always given them a handsome donation, in addition to which he had contributed £5 a year to the support of the White-le-Head Primitive Methodist Circuit. His example was a noble one in all respects, and his loss to the district was irreparable.

WITTON GILBERT.

The Church Living.—Rev Arthur Wass, vice-principal of Bede College, Durham, was on Saturday appointed by the Dean and Chapter of Durham to the Rectory of Witton Gilbert, in the place of Rev C. J. Carr, deceased. The living is worth £302 per annum, and £120 additional is given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for a curate. Rev Edgar Carr, vicar of Ingleby Steeple, near Northallerton, recently delivered earnest and impressive discourses in St. Michael's Church, to large and crowded congregations. In the evening, many people were unable to gain admittance, the occasion being the last service at which the family of the late rector were to officiate. Many regrets were expressed at their removal from the parish, and at the disappointment that the son of the late rector could not obtain the appointment to the living.

GATESHEAD.

I.O.G.T.—"Friend to All" Lodge, 1804, Low Fell.—The quarterly and yearly session of the above lodge of Good Templars was held in the Primitive Methodist School-room, Low Fell, on Thursday, January 31st, under the presidency of Bro John Carr, C.T. After the opening preliminaries, the minutes of the previous session were read and confirmed. The secretary and treasurer then gave their reports, which showed the lodge to be in a satisfactory condition. Bro. I. Carr, L.E.S. gave his report, which referred to the work that had been done so successfully in opposing the licensing clauses of the Local Government Bill, and alluded to the petitions and resolutions sent to the member for the borough, Mr W. H. James) which had been presented before the House of Commons. Action had also been taken with regard to Mr Stevenson's Sunday Closing Bill. After the reports had been adopted, the election of officers took place, resulting as follows:—Bro. John Carr, C.T. (re-elected); Sis. A. Watson, V. Templar; Bro. W. Clark, secretary; Bro J. Reed, F. Secretary; Sis. F. Frazer, T. (re-elected); Bro. W. Gordon, Chaplain; Bro. T. W. Steele, Marshall; Bro. P. Farrell, Guard; Bro T. Carr, Sentinel; Sis. S. Morris, A.S.; Sis. E. Farrell, D.M.; Bro. M. White, P.C.T.; Bro. W. Rotherford, L.D. and District Representative; Bro. John Carr, Lodge Electoral Superintendent. The officers were duly installed by the L.D. The lodge was then brought to a close by singing "Heavenly Father, send Thy blessing," and Bro Gordon pronouncing the Benediction.—Good Templary at Low Fell is looking very bright for the future; they are making members every session.

HAMSTEELS.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—On Thursday se'nnight, Miss Hogg, lady evangelist, preached her farewell sermon in the above place of worship at Hamsteels. The capacious building was crowded to excess. Miss Hogg directed her discourse principally to the young converts. The choir, under the able leadership of Mr William Turner, rendered a selection of hymns and anthems. Mr Rd. Wynn presided at the harmonium. After the meeting, an excellent coffee supper was prepared in commemoration of Miss Hogg's departure, and was patronised by upwards of 100 guests. Much credit is due to the following ladies who kindly rendered their services:—Mesdames J. Harrison, E. Emerson, Stephenson, and Wilson. A vote of thanks to Miss Hogg for her services during the past three weeks, and to the ladies who presided at the tables, were passed. The proceeds were for the trust funds.

OXHILL.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—A grand entertainment was given in the Primitive Methodist Chapel by the members of the Band of Hope belonging to that place of worship. The chair was ably occupied by Mr Thomas Middlemass, and a lengthy programme was gone through as follows:—Recitation, Miss S. H. West; solo, Mr George Merriott; recitation, Miss C. Ledger; solo, Miss M. J. Middlemast; recitation, Miss M. Trueman; solo, Mr R. Palmer; recitation, Miss M. Elliott; duet, Misses M. J. Middlemast and M. A. Elliott; dialogue by five characters, entitled "Betty Muggins and the Scotchman"; solo, Mr George Merriott; recitation, Mr W. J. Vosper; song, Mr J. Bastford; and a short dialogue by Misses C. Ledger and A. Paxton.—The Chairman having made a few remarks, the Doxology was sung, which brought a pleasant meeting to a close.

TOW LAW.

Co-operative Society.—The half-yearly meeting of this society was held in their buildings at Tow Law. The president (Mr Jas. Vickers) presided. The balance-sheet, read by the secretary and manager (Mr G. Hildreth) proved the society to be in a very prosperous condition. Present number of members 342, showing an increase of 20 for the half-year. Share capital, £2 206; increase, £250; sales for the half-year, £5 180; increase, £800; profit for the half-year, £752; increase, £229. A resolution was carried that a dividend of 2s 8d in the £ be paid on all purchases.

Good Templary.—A very hearty competition took place at the quarterly election of officers in connection with the "Beacon of Hope" Lodge, held in the Wesleyan Schools, Tow Law, on Wednesday night. The following were elected:—C.T., Mr G. H. Pattinson; V.T., Miss Isabella Duff; sec., Mr G. W. Goulden; treas., Mr J. E. Dixon; F. sec., Mr J. T. Pattinson; chap., Miss E. Parker; marshal, Mr M. Rawes; guard, Mr T. Parkinson; sent., Mr B. Rowlands; P.C.T., Mr W. Anderson. Mr Parkinson was elected as representative at the District Lodge for the year. This Lodge is strong in membership and influence, and has a good choir and string band in connection with it.

RYTON-ON-TYNE.

Literary and Debating Society.—On Friday night, a most successful concert in connection with the above was held in the Lecture Hall of the Wesleyan Chapel, Ryton, before a large audience. A lengthy and well-prepared programme, consisting of songs, solos, readings, and recitations was gone through, and the Blaydon and District Orchestral Union played selections of high-class music at intervals. The following ladies and gentlemen took part:—Messrs W. D. Hawdon, N. Forster, W. J. Elsworth, T. Havelock, J. Tate, and Rev J. F. Tarleton; Misses E. Spence, E. Thompson, and Aydon (accompanist). The recitations, "Nothing to wear," "The ghost that Tim saw," and "The crew of the Nancy Brig," by Mr Hawdon, were full of humour, and kept the audience in continual laughter. The duet, "The crookit bawbee," by Miss Thompson and Mr Havelock; "True till death," by Mr Tate, and "The Better Land," by Miss Aydon, were highly appreciated. The singing of Miss Aydon was excellent. Mr J. A. Johnstone, M.A. (president) occupied the chair. At the conclusion, Mr Watson addressed a few very appropriate words on behalf of the society, and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to all who had so ably contributed to the night's entertainment.—The secretary (Mr Bullock) seconded the vote.—An excellent entertainment then terminated, the band playing the National Anthem.

BURNOPFIELD.

Rev T. Stirrup, Vicar of St. James's Church, Burnopfield, has kindly granted the loan of the National Schools to the Wesleyan Methodists at Burnopfield, for the purpose of holding revival services in Miss Wilson is accomplishing a grand work, many persons professing to have experienced a change of heart. We are pleased to see such a good feeling existing between the Vicar and his Nonconformist brethren.

Ambulance Classes.—The presentation of certificates of competency to render first aid to the injured were presented on Wednesday se'nnight to the members who have attended the ambulance class, conducted by Dr Mantle, Stanley. The presentations which were made by the doctor himself, took place in the Co-operative Hall. Every one of the students secured a certificate, a considerable number having satisfied the examiner at the second examination. During the afternoon a lecture on first aid and nursery, was delivered by Dr Mantle, to a good number of ladies, who seem to have taken much interest in the doctor's address. After the presentation of certificates in the evening, a silver mounted riding whip and a pair of electro-plated spurs were presented to the doctor, the amount for which had been subscribed by the students. The presentation was made by Mr Jas. Gilchrist, Marley Hill, who took occasion in doing so to correct an erroneous impression which some people seemed to have got, that the doctors who conducted ambulance classes were paid for their lectures. Dr Mantle in returning thanks remarked that although it might be very pleasant to him to receive these gifts of appreciation of his services, he could not tell what might be the idea of his horse on the matter. However, he would faithfully promise not to make use of the presents unless in case of real need. After a few remarks from Mr G. R. Saunders, The Leazes House, the interesting ceremony was brought to a close.

SWALWELL.

Band of Hope.—The ordinary weekly meeting of the Band of Hope, was held on Monday night, in the Board School. After the chairman (Mr Speers) had opened the meeting with praise and prayer.—A most interesting and instructive programme of recitations, melodies, &c., was given by the following ladies and gentlemen and young members of the band of hope:—Master Ralph Leybourn gave the first item, a short and pithy recitation; Lily Orley recited a number of verses in good style; Miss Halliday sang with much feeling "Look not upon the wine"; Miss McNeish sang in her usual charming mode "Killarney"; Mr Dixon sang "The village blacksmith"; Miss Wake recited "Drink" for which she received the plaudits of the audience; Miss Halliday then delivered a thrilling address, and held the people spell-bound by her winning manner and striking illustrations of the fearful evil effects of "strong drink." Miss Wake sang "Golden Love"; Mr Dixon sang "The boys in blue" for which he received an *encore*, and sang "The naval brigade"; Miss McNeish was *encored* for the song "You'll remember me" and sang "Caller herrin'"; Miss Wake and Mr Dixon sang the duet "Crookit bawbee"; Mr W. Leybourn presided at the piano.

IVESTON.

Sacred Concert.—On Monday night, the Iveston Wesleyan Choir gave a concert in the above chapel, when a large and appreciative audience presented itself to listen to the various performers, under the leadership of Mr J. Cockburn. The chair was ably filled by Mr J. F. Elliott, Leadgate, who called upon the choir to respond with a hymn and chorus, "Humility." A solo was next given by Master J. Parker with a good commanding voice. The anthem, "How beautiful upon the mountains," was well done by the choir. The duet, "Good-bye," was well performed by Misses Jackson and Lightburn, who exhibited fair talents. The solo, "The Lord is my Shepherd," by Miss P. Thompson, was executed in a very effective style. After this, the choir sang the hymn and chorus, "Praise Him," which was done in excellent style. The solo, "Angels ever bright and fair," by Miss B. Thompson, was capitally rendered. The anthem, "Make a joyful noise," was in excellent time with a good effect. In the interval, the chairman favoured with an interesting address on "Music." The second part commenced with an organ solo by Miss Cheeseman, who accomplished her task in a masterly style, and was highly appreciated. Then followed the anthem, "Cry out and shout," this favourite piece being rendered with great precision, and with good effect. A solo by Mr M. Parker, "There is a green hill," was well performed, and favourably received. The hymn and chorus, "Sovereignty," by the choir, was the piece of the evening, and was well executed, but the solo by Mr Harper, entitled "The model church," fairly delighted the audience, who demanded an *encore*. The chorus, "Hear the trumpet loudly calling," was performed by the choir in excellent style, and was loudly applauded. The solo, "Hymn of Eve," by Miss Armstrong, was well rendered, and was followed by an anthem, "When the Lord shall build up Zion," which was quite up to the mark in style and effect. The solo, "Sabbath Eve," Miss P. Thompson, was given in a most talented and pleasing manner, and received a vociferous *encore*. The hymn, "Good-night," having been sung, the usual votes of thanks concluded a very enjoyable concert. Subsequently, supper was provided in the school-room, when about 100 persons sat down. The tables were presided over by a few willing helpers. The proceeds were in aid of the chapel funds.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE.

[By "Castleside."]

A sudden change has come to us in the weather, who is to blame for it I am not prepared to say, whether it is that American fellow or "Captain Newton. The grouse pairing mentioned by your Stanhope correspondent, the notes of the thrush," the budding of shrubs, and the blooming of some hardy plants will have got a sudden stop, like Pat who came to the ground from the top of a chimney without the use of the ladder.

With all our village improvements yet, we are far from being complete, dangerous places like relics of old still remain, and remain unprotected—viz., Stephenson's and Nattress's corner, over which several poor creatures, both male and female, have had a trip in the dark, after which they find it necessary to put their heads in a bandage. A case of the kind may be seen at present in the village. Now I think such a place ought either to be filled up or fenced. Perhaps it may be deemed better policy to wait until a coroner's inquiry is held.

We certainly need some light in our streets (excuse the term "street") of some kind, either gas or electric light. Now that our Councillor is elected, and the Council meets this week for the first time, we will get all our grievances re-dressed and wants supplied.

The Jubilee Temperance Society held another public meeting and fruit banquet on Saturday, in the Board Schools, Castleside. The meeting was ably presided over by Mr T. Raine. The principal speaker being Rev J. Moffatt, Consett. On account of the inclemency of the weather, the meeting was very sparsely attended.

It is felt that a pianoforte is needed in the above schools. The Board at its last meeting had the subject under consideration, but decided to let the matter stand over for a little while. As musical drill is part of the programme for the next year in the school, the Board decided to purchase a harmonium for the infant department. I have learned that some enterprising lady or gentleman has offered to put a pianoforte in the schools for its use, and for public entertainments, on a guarantee of 5 per cent. interest.

The way between Consett and Consett Park is likely to become as famous for robberies as the way between Jerusalem and Jericho. I have no sympathy with those who have recently fallen victims to such ruffianly treatment; but in the interest of those who are compelled to travel late occasionally that way, I think a policeman ought to patrol between the two places.

[Query: Was a robbery ever committed last Saturday night.]

DODGING THE ISSUE.

He was a slow coach. Her mother said so; the old man said so; her big brother said so, and scowled darkly when he threatened to call him to account. The reason of all this was that he had long hesitated to pop the question. He and she were sitting in the gloaming. She said:

"Alfonso, were you ever engaged?"

"Yessum," was the sad and unexpected reply.

She winced, but immediately rallied, and continued:

"Did the adored one cruelly break her plighted troth?"

"No; I severed my connection."

"O, you cruel-hearted flirt!"

"Yes; the firm I was engaged with heartlessly bounced me."

"O, a firm—your employers! And for why, Alphonsy?" she said, snuggling closer to him on the rustic bench. Alphonso hitched a little nearer off, and replied gloomily:

"For mental incapacity."

"O, no, say not so," said the girl with the oyster mouth, "you are not ignorant."

"Yes I am," said Alphonso, "I'm a howling idiot."

"O, no; you are keen, young, bright, and intellectual. You have a future before you to be shared by some warm and loving heart."

"No, the future is all a blank—blank as my own vacant mind. On the body politic I'm but a wart."

"Think of the happy home you might rear for yourself and—and——"

"No. I am such a blamed fool, I never accumulate enough property to put in tea. Financially I am a total wreck, and intelluctually busted from away back. Physically I'm nothing but a shell."

"O, say not so, Alphonsy."

"If I only had a cheap, second-hand throne, my fractured reason would be sure to totter and wobble all over it."

"But papa says you are quite a successful speculator."

"That's where the old man is off."

"And mamma says you own a fine house."

"The good woman errs. I'm penniless."

"And my big brother declares that unless you mean business and your intentions are honourable, that he proposes to horsewhip you on sight in the most prominent street in town, and that you have got either to cash up or draw out of the game."

Alphonso is now a happy husband and father.

REV. MOORE-EDE AT CONSETT.

Rev W. Moore-Ede, rector of Gateshead, delivered a lecture on "The Economic Position of Working Men," in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, last (Thursday) night. The lecture was attended by a good audience—composed almost exclusively of workmen—who listened to the rev gentleman with the greatest interest and attention.

Rev F. Stendall (vicar of Consett) occupied the chair, and, in opening, said they had all come to hear Mr Moore-Ede, and as the subject on which the lecturer was to speak was an important one, he would not keep them waiting. He had hoped that the rev gentleman's first appearance in Consett would have been in the pulpit of the Parish Church, but this was not so. He at once introduced

Rev W. Moore-Ede, who said: "The subject is so comprehensive, and includes such a variety of considerations, that it is manifestly impossible to exhaust it in a single lecture. All I can hope to do is to speak of certain aspects of the question to which I desire to draw the attention of thoughtful working men in our district.

A WEEK'S SUPPLY IN HAND.

The first main feature in the economic position of the working classes is that they possess little beyond their bodily strength and acquired skill, and that they sell this strength and skill for weekly wages. Few amongst them are possessors of any considerable amount of stored-up wealth. The wages received on the Friday or Saturday are required for the expenditure of the following week; the man and his family generally spend those wages by the time the next payment is due. Stop those wages, and, except in so far as a working man may have a pound or two in the Stores or savings bank, or furniture which he can sell or pawn, he is placed in a position of absolute poverty. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the normal condition of the whole body of unskilled labourers, and of the improvident portion of the artisan class, is a week's supply between them and starvation. They have only a week's supply of daily bread secured. You know well how soon, on the occasion of the last great strike in Northumberland, those who were outside the Union were reduced to abject poverty. The multitude of the working classes are living on the edge of the precipice of poverty, always in danger of being pushed over, the circumstances which may cast them into the abyss being for the most part beyond their control. They have no security of tenure in their employment. A change in the conditions of trade, which may be due to the mistakes of the employers at home, or to some action of people living on the opposite side of the globe, may cause hundreds of them to be dismissed and thus deprived of the means of earning the necessary supply of food for the ensuing week. An attack of sickness which would cause no anxiety to a man whose income is assured may plunge the workman into the direst poverty. Should they be spared to live to a good old age, the very infirmities incidental to old age will deprive them of employment and plunge them into poverty, and the close of a life of unremitting toil is too often one of privation and misery.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF WEEKLY WAGES EARNERS.

Living each week on the wages of the week preceding, the whole arrangement of life becomes adjusted to a weekly system; the weekly wages are parcelled out between the various weekly needs, therefore any demand made on a workman for a lump sum is one which he finds it exceedingly difficult to meet. He would generally prefer to pay a shilling per week for 25 weeks than pay £1. This desire to avoid the demand for any large sum at one time manifests itself in many ways. Working men would often obtain a house more cheaply if they would pay the rent quarterly, and pay their own rates. They prefer, however, to pay a larger annual sum if the landlord will take it weekly, and include the proportion of rates in each weekly collection. The whole tribe of "menage" men live on the difference between what the working man will pay weekly and that for which he might obtain articles if he could pay a lump sum down. There is a payment which the working man finds it very difficult to meet, and one which he is obliged to incur if sickness visits his family and death carries off any member of it. This gives rise to insurance and burial clubs, on which I will speak more presently.

THE MATRIMONIAL PROSPECTS OF WORKING MEN.

There is another feature in the economic position of the working classes to which I desire to call your attention for a moment, because it is one not generally noticed, and yet there seems to me one which has an important influence on social questions. In what we may call "professional classes," incomes as a rule increase as men grow older. The practice of the doctor or the lawyer grows, the clergyman obtains preferment, the shopkeeper and the merchant extend their connexion, clerks in offices rise to higher and better paid posts. It is not always so, but, roughly speaking, we may say that those outside the working classes have a reasonable expectation of being better off at 30 than at 20; better off at 40 than at 30. Not so the manual worker. He is better off in his youth than he is likely to be at any other period in his life. If a labourer, he earns full wages at 18 years of age, or thereabouts; if an artisan, at 21. Unless he happens to become a foreman, or pass out of the working class, his wages do not advance. His economic position does not improve, it grows worse, for as he gets older, the average of sickness increases, his employment is less regular, because when trade is slack more of the older men are dismissed and the younger and more vigorous kept on. At the outset he has only himself to keep, whereas when he grows older he generally has a wife and family to maintain on the same wages as he had at first for himself alone. The consequence is that if a working man marries at all, it is actually prudent that he should do so as early as possible. He will never be so well off, and if he rears a family and gets them out into the world before sickness and advancing years, with their consequent irregular employment, decrease his average earnings, he may hope to obtain some assistance in the years of adversity and in the days of his old age from the children he has reared. This condition of things, whereby it becomes among our largest and poorest class a matter of prudence, from the point of view of the individuals composing that class, to marry as early as possible, as a consequence of our modern industrial system, which began to prevail from about the year 1763. It has not been the sole cause, but it has been an important factor in the increase of our population by leaps and bounds during the last cetury. It is a powerful contributory influence to the early marriage and rapid increase of the poorest section of all, for on them it acts most strongly, and thus has much to do with that keen competition which prevails in the least skilled employments, and which renders 'sweating' possible. Bearing in mind the points to which I have drawn your attention, in considering the economic position and its exceeding instability, let us pass to the consideration of those expedients which working men have employed to fence round the precipice on which they are walking, and render their position more secure. I have to speak of "How working men try to improve their economic position, and how they fail.

TRADES UNIONS AS A PROTECTION FROM PAUPERISM.

In order to protect themselves in some measure from the hardships consequent on loss of employment arising from fluctuations of trade, artisans form trade societies, by the rules of which those who are in work by their contributions support those out of employment, and prevent the loss of work causing a man to fall into abject poverty. In like manner they provide their members with the necessaries of life if they be laid aside by sickness for a few weeks, and most of them give pensions to those past work. The amount of money expended in this effort to secure greater economical stability for the artisans must be very large, as the following figures show:—The Amalgamated Engineers, which numbered 52,150 in 1888, spent on out-of-work benefit £80,408; on sick and funeral benefit, £40,159; on superannuation, £36,163. The Boiler-makers, with 24,860 members, spent on out-of-work benefit £22,165; sick benefit, £17,165; and on superannuation £4,657; and the other great trade societies have spent proportionately large sums. I am well aware that trade societies endeavour to improve the economic position of working men in other ways, by securing more favourable conditions of work and better rates of wages; but these functions lie outside the range of my subject this evening. Leaving these questions aside, do Trades Unions succeed in securing a portion of economic stability for working classes? That they confer valuable advantages on their own members none can deny, and every artisan ought to be a member. This is a fence round the precipice for those who continue members, but many cease to retain the advantages, and for various reasons fall out of membership and lose the protection. Over 2,000 engineers lost their membership last year. Trades Unions do not touch at all the largest section of the working classes, the labourers, and even of the artisans less than half are members of Unions. Therefore, though effective as far as their operations extend, we cannot regard them as agencies whereby the economic position of the working class as a whole is rendered secure.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

From Trades Unions let us turn to those great associations for mutual self-help, the Friendly Societies. These are the creation of the present century; though traces of them may be found at the close of the last century, their authentic history belongs to this. The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows was formed in 1812 for the purpose of mutual assistance in times of sickness and defraying funeral expenses. The Order of Foresters was about the same time founded at Leeds. The success of these societies, a success due to the fact that these societies met a real want, and relieved a pressing anxiety, caused a host of imitators to arise. Without any actuarial experience on which to base their tables it is not surprising to find that the benefits were at first fixed on too liberal a scale for the payments demanded. The Oddfellows boldly met the difficulty by increasing their scale of contributions, and their example was followed by the Foresters and other large orders, a process of reform which was accelerated by the action of Parliament of 1875, so that we may regard the large orders of friendly societies as being now in a fair way towards financial soundness. We look with surprise and pride at these great societies, created, organised, and managed by the working class, for whose benefit and economic protection they exist.

UNSOUND SOCIETIES.

The Chief Registrar, in his report for 1875, said he had sent out returns to 25,234 societies in England and Wales, 11,282 (less than half) embracing 3,304,187 members sent back the returns, and of the nearly 2,000,000 are associated with societies of which, looking at the accounts rendered by them, it is impossible to hope they will be able to meet their engagements. I believe the case was not really quite so bad as the Registrar calculated, but, if it at all approximated to it, what a terribly sad spectacle is presented of hundreds of thousands of working people for years making provision for sickness and funeral expenses only to find in their old age, when sickness does come upon them, that the security they had spent so much to gain is a delusion, and that paupers they must become.

THE JUGGERNAUT OF POOR MEN'S PROVIDENCE.

Now let me turn to a different class of friendly society, which is much patronised by the very poorest—societies in which the business is not transacted by the voluntary labour of the members but by paid officials who make a living, and often a very good living, too, out of the society they manage. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say, as was said before the Royal Commission, that, whereas the ordinary friendly society exists for the benefit of the members, the collecting society exists for the benefit of the officials. The cost of management of these collecting societies is enormous. Every member in these societies who pays one shilling into the society gives the society sixpence for taking care of the other sixpence. An enormous number lose both sixpences through failing to keep up their payments. While during the year 1887, 34,219 members died, 182,011 went off the books, showing that in one year, in the societies making returns, 147,792 members by lapse lost their interest in assets, averaging £2 7s 11¼d per member, amounting to £354,000; then there are the larger number of societies which have not made returns. Can we hope their position is better that those societies that have made returns? This amount of £354,000 is the loss by lapse only, and is exclusive of the loss to the members by the societies that were legally dissolved, and of those societies that died of inanition without funds for their legal dissolution. In the Prudential in the year 1876, 1,863,254 policies were issued; that the average amount insured by each policy is £8 8s 9d; on December 31st, 1876, there were in existence 2,643,665 policies, producing an annual premium income of £980,575 18s 4d, thus evidencing the general and widespread efforts made by the industrial classes to provide for the future. To what extent these efforts are successful or abortive we may judge from the following statement, which we find in a subsequent paragraph of the same report: "It is found by experience that many of these policies are allowed to lapse after short periods. Of the policies that were existing at the date of the last valuation, five years ago, about 58 per cent. only are now in force." Thus showing that the industrial classes are now paying yearly to this one proprietary assurance office over £400,000 sterling of their earnings, which amount is entirely lost to them, for they will reap no benefit whatever from this portion of their payments, for the office report tells us that in the course of five years 42 per cent. of the policies (on which £980,576 is now paid) become lapsed policies; and seeing that, notwithstanding this percentage of lapsed policies, the amount of policy receipts is kept up, and more than kept up.

DEFRAUDING THE POOR.

Then add to these facts the breaking up of societies through fraud and mismanagement. Here is a statement made by the Chief Registrar before the Royal Commission. A number of small societies are established almost every year, generally by discharged collectors, which come to very little; indeed, they only get a few hundred members, or perhaps a thousand or two, and, somehow or other, they vanish out of existence. Sometimes a large society disappears.

THE PROVIDENCE OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

It speaks volumes for the strength of the desire of our working-class population to secure provision in sickness and provide against getting into debt for funeral expenditure, that in spite of repeated failure, in spite of the great cost, such a large number of them do insure. We may, however, I think, say that, as at present constituted, the friendly societies do fail to secure a thoroughly stable and economic condition for the wages earning population. Large as the numbers of members are they do not embrace anything like the total working population. Yet all need to be protected from falling into the abyss of pauperism. Every man ought to provide against sickness, which may deprive him, for a time, at any rate, of the means of livelihood.

UNPROTECTED OLD AGE.

Moreover, friendly societies do very little in the way of making provision for pensions when old age renders a man unfit for work. As the chief official of an ancient charity whose object it is to provide a pension for old men who are unable to work, I naturally receive a great many applications for such pensions from old men in Gateshead, and thus have brought to my notice the hardships and sufferings of respectable men, who, having worked hard all their lives, are unable to continue their employment. I see how the savings which have been made are gradually used up, in spite of the utmost economy, and there seems no escape from the Workhouse unless death step in to their relief, or they are granted a pension by the charity. The strenuous character of modern competition tends to increase the difficulties of workmen advanced in years, for there is a growing disposition to decline the services of older men. The following facts have a sad significance. In is estimated that 45 per cent. of all persons in England who reach the age of 60 years die as paupers, *i.e.*, nearly half the whole of those who live till 60. Again, in 1879, out of the total number of deaths in England one out of every 15 was in a Workhouse, while in London one in nine died in a Workhouse. Another weak point in the friendly society system is the difficulty of keeping up payments in times of trade depression, when a man is out of work; and consequently he falls out of benefit and loses all the results of years of providence. Some societies try to mitigate the evil by special arrangements, but the frequent cases which I have met with in which people have fallen out of benefit lead me to suppose the number is considerable. You may say to yourselves, "What is the object of all this criticism? If you have only come here to tell us that working men's efforts to improve their position have been imperfect you had better have stayed at home, for we [illegible] without your help, and we are trying to mend as well as we can." True, and I [illegible] of criticism we have gone through will lead us to the true method of securing that economical stability which all must desire. What the working man wants in his endeavour to gain a more stable economic position is an insurance society which possesses the three requisites of convenience, security, and cheapness. Security, that what he pays to insure himself against the evils to which he is subject should be absolutely safe and by no mischance fail him in the time of sickness or old age. Cheapness, that as small a proportion as possible should be expended on management; and convenience, that the means of payment should be such as he can avail himself of without great effort, therefore, should be in the form of weekly payments.

NATIONAL INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

Now, let us look across at Germany, and see how these advantages are secured by the system of national insurance there adopted. The details are somewhat complicated, but the main principles may be briefly stated. Absolute security is obtained by legal arrangements, and which we may term state guarantee; there is the state behind, as is the case with our Post Office Savings Bank, they cannot break while England lasts. Every workman should be a member of the sick society of his trade. He pays from one to three per cent of his wages, the amount varying according to the risk or unhealthiness of his trade. The employer joins in the insurance and pays an amount equal to the contribution of the workman. If sick, the workman is entitled to medical attendance for thirteen weeks with any necessary surgical appliances. One half of his customary wages, or, in case of death, twenty times the daily wages of an ordinary labourer is payable to the survivor. The method of payment certainly satisfies the conditions of convenience and economy. A workman has nothing to do; he enters the insurance by taking work. The employer has to deduct the subscription as is done with us for the Infirmary, and he is responsible for the working of the society. Last year £2,280,000 was expended in sick benefit. The expenses of management were only 9 per cent.

By a law passed in 1884, all employers are obliged to contribute to a fund for the insurance of their work people who may become disabled, whereby they are secured in possession of a pension, or, should they die, provision is made for their wives and families. Further, by a law passed last year, the coping stone was put to the insurance system, by the establishment of old age pensions for those who have reached the age of 70 or are incapacitated from earning a livelihood earlier. The subscription deducted from wages is 2½d per week for men and 1½d for women. Thus, in Germany, every workman is insured against poverty, from sickness, disablement and old age. The conditions of security, cheapness, and convenience, are all satisfied, and pauperism is in a fair way of being extinguished. We allowed Germany to establish a national system of education many years before we grappled with that important question ourselves. I hope we shall not allow an equally long period to elapse before we follow in her steps in securing to our working classes a sound system of National Insurance. When we do, I think we may improve on German methods in two ways—1. By fixing our rate of contribution at such a scale as will not necessitate any assistance from state funds, for it is important that the sense of independence should be maintained, and that a man should feel he claims only what is his own by right of his own exertions; 2. By arranging for the payment being made in the earlier years of a man's industrial life, when, as we have seen, working people are really best off. It is calculated that a payment of 15 pence per week for the three years between the ages of 18 and 21 would be sufficient to secure 8s a week sick pay, and a pension of 4s a week after reaching 70 years of age. There will be some in this room who will wish 1s 3d a week had been stopped off their wages for those three years if they could have enjoyed the security of sick pay and pension ever since. If good for you, it would be good for others—it would be good for all. Then let us endeavour to educate public opinion to desire a national friendly society having a national security which can never break while England is a nation.

A NATIONAL CLUB NEEDED IN ENGLAND.

Thousands of honest men become paupers every year because they have put their savings into unsafe clubs. What can cure this but a national club which gives a national security. Thousands more make no provision, and become paupers when sick or aged. They know so many clubs to fail they distrust. What can cure this but a national club which none can distrust? Thousands become paupers at last, because, though they may have paid into a club for many years, they have not money enough in bad times or when out of work to keep up their payments, and so they drop off and lose their provision. What can cure this but a national club, which receives all contributions in advance? Then let us agitate for such a club. Once established, it would go a long way towards disestablishing pauperism from amongst us. But what would our present friendly societies do? This and many other questions naturally occur to your minds I cannot deal with to-night; they require another lecture. (Applause.)

After questions being asked and answered, votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman terminated the proceedings.

COMCERT AT TOW LAW.

The first annual concert in connection with the Tow Law Wesleyan choir was held on Tuesday, in the Mechanics Hall, Tow Law. Assisted by the kind co-operation of musical men of all denominations, the conductor (Mr G. Newton) was able to gather together a capital programme, which was much appreciated by a crowded audience. One excellent feature was the orchestra, which was composed of the following well-known musicians:—1st violins, Messrs Macdonald and Dobson; 2nd violins, Messrs Pallister and Graham; flute, Mr G. Hildreth; cornet, Mr J. Carrol; trombone, Mr W. Lawson; euphonium, Mr G. Hind; 'cello, Mr R. Bird; clarionet, Mr J. Hall; piano, Mr J. Hughes. Special mention must be made of a descriptive piece, "A life on the ocean," which was performed in first-class style. A good choir sang several pieces very creditably. The soloists were Miss Bell, Leadgate; Miss Emerson, Rev H. J. Sugden, and Mr J. Hughes, Tow Law, who all acquitted themselves in admirable style. Miss Bell, who is rapidly becoming a favourite at Tow Law, was *encored* after singing "Tell me, my heart," and responded with "Sweet Afton." The following is the complete programme:—Chorus, "The gloria," the choir; air, "It is enough," Rev H. J. Sugden; air, "If with all your heart," Mr J. Hughes; overture, "The cross of honour," the orchestra; quartette, "When evening's twilight," Messrs Hughes, Newton, Sugden, and Raine; air, "O had I Jubal's lyre," Miss Bell; part song, "The land beyond the sea," the choir. Part II.—Anthem, "The radiant morn," the choir; flute solo, "The pirates of Penzance," Rev H. J. Sugden; song, "Home they brought her warrior dead," Miss Emerson; duet, "Love and war," Messrs Hughes and Sugden; waltz, "The golden eve," the orchestra; song, "Tell me, my heart," Miss Bell; quartette, "The happiest land," Messrs Hughes, Newton, Sugden, and Raine; song, "Let me like a soldier fall," Mr Hughes; part song, "Stars of the summer night," the choir; song, "Fame the fiddler," Rev H. J. Sugden; quartette, "The three chafers," Messrs Hughes, Newton, Sugden, and Raine; selection, "A life on the ocean," the orchestra; finale, "God save the Queen." Mr John Hughes rendered capital service, and the arrangements reflected every credit upon Mr Newton, the talented conductor of the Wesleyan choir. It was decidedly one of the best concerts that has been given in the Mechanics' Hall.

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

CHESTER-LE-STREET BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The usual fortnightly meeting of this Board was held on Thursday se'nnight—Mr T. Robson in the chair. There were also present: Messrs H. W. Kerich-Walker, J.P. (ex-officio), Geo Ridley, John Crawford, E. Nicholson, D. Wilson, John Humble, J. Witherspoon, D. W. Robson, T. Langton, Wm. Ironside, John Snowball, John Hodgson, George Swinburne, P. Hay, J. Lisle, Wm. Gascoigne, G. E. Steele, J. Chrystal, Rev W. W. Phillipson, and the clerk (Mr R. Dickinson).

CONGRATULATIONS.

Before the business of the Board was proceeded with, Mr RIDLEY proposed that the congratulations of the Board be accorded their chairman upon his return to the County Council. The members had every confidence that he would discharge his duties with dignity and credit.

Without being seconded or put to the vote, the proposition was carried with acclamation and enthusiasm.

The CHAIRMAN briefly thanked the Board for their kindly expressions towards himself. They might rest assured that he would leave no stone unturned to meet their requirements and advance their interests. (Hear, hear.)

The Clerk having read the correspondence, which was not of public interest,

Mr HAY said he would like to crave the indulgence of the chair to read a small bill which had been fully circulated in the district lately. The Chairman had most likely seen it, but all the Guardians had not, and as it affected his business——

The CHAIRMAN: It would be more in order to let the business of the Board proceed. They had an agenda paper, and the matter Mr Hay was introducing was not on it. The ordinary business ought to be completed, as it was of the most importance.

Mr HAY thought it of more importance to him than anything else.

The CHAIRMAN said he would leave it in the hands of the Guardians.

Several Members: Get on with the business.

The business of the Board was then proceeded with.

RELIEF STATISTICS.

Mr Joseph Armstrong, relieving officer for the Chester-le-Street sub-district, reported that he had paid away for out-door relief during the fortnight £61 14s 10d. Mr Robert Turnbull, for the Harraton sub-district, had disbursed for the same purpose and in the same time £65 16s 8d.

Cheques for the separate amounts were signed accordingly.

MASTER'S JOURNAL.

The Master (Mr A. Aikman) reported that the number of inmates in the Workhouse that day was 126, as against 140 at the same time last year, showing a decrease of 14. During the fortnight, 112 vagrants had been relieved, as compared with 148 during the corresponding period last year, showing a decrease of 36.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL CONTEST: A PERSONAL MATTER.

The CHAIRMAN said the Board would hear what Mr Hay had to say.

Mr HAY said he did not intend to make many remarks, except to read the bill. He might say that they all knew the business that he was engaged in, and depended upon for his living, and as the bill was likely to injure his business, he thought he had good grounds for bringing the matter before them. He defied anyone to say that he had ever introduced "the shop" at that Board, and he might also say with respect to his dealings with poor people that the most of the poor people who came before that Board patronised him in one way or other. The bill was headed "Four votes and a few more facts." He had not seen the former facts, so did not know what they were. The bill read:—"Ladies and gentlemen,—When I asked you to elect me one of your Guardians, I vowed to you that if elected neither needy man, woman, nor orphan child should lack an advocate before our Local Board which a hard world had left them destitute. You responded by trusting and honouring me, and the result has been my attendance at every meeting, and there recording a continuous vote to better lighten the path of the helpless suffering—at every possible opportunity I have endeavoured to increase the size of the parish dole. That you may the better judge whether I have received that support from my colleague, Mr Peter Hay, that I had a right to expect, your opinion on the following four votes must decide. One ounce of fact is worth a bushel of fiction, and worth even more than a ton of electoral addresses and promises. It is 'by their fruits ye know them.' Case before the Board—'Mrs Carr, widow, Handon Hold, two children have had 2s per week. Change—Eldest boy has got to work. Circumstances—Receives 5s per week from two lodgers, but out of which 2s 6d per week goes for rent and the further reduction that lodgers' accommodation requires.' Chairman (Mr Robson): 'What do you think will meet the case, Mr Armstrong?' Reply: "Well, sir, you see as the boy will require a little extra food, also extra clothes, and he will probably not have full time, I think 6d reduction will meet the case.' That a reduction of 6d be made was proposed, when, as an amendment, it was moved 'that the reduction be 1s.' Five, including myself, voted for the motion, while seven, including Mr Hay, voted for the amendment. (Mr Hay said: I do not admit that; there is not a word of truth in it). Resuming his reading he mentioned:—Second case—'A widow was called before the Board, a change having taken place, to have her allowance re-considered. Sitting beside Mr Hay, I whispered to him, 'She has not got much, poor thing,' when, to my astonishment and disgust, 'far too much.' The parish dole was too big, and by this 'working man's' friend it was reduced in size. Third case—'Master reported two pigs were fit to kill.' Chairman: 'Can you do with them in the House?' Reply: 'Yes, that we can.' To those sitting around, I remarked, 'We will sell them at 6d per pound and pay 8d for worse food; let the poor things have a change. Mr Hay did move that they be sold, but I say, to the honour of the Board, the motion was not seconded, and so the inmates got a change, those so situated, so intensely longed for.' (I did propose that the two pigs be sold. But I did not know that we paid 8d per pound for meat; if we do, we pay a great deal too much). 'The fourth vote was regarding the bailiffs being sent to totally unnecessarily distress the late tenant of the sewerage beds. The term was up; £5 was owing for rent; but crop and material, value some £15, was on the ground, and in our possession. I proposed: 'Seeing that nothing could be removed without the new tenant's leave, that we depute him to collect the rent as realised, and in support urged that it did not matter a rap whether we got the money that day, a month hence, or six months hence.' Surprising strange in man's inhumanity! And tenfold more so a decent neighbour the recipient. To my earnest appeal, Mr Hay was dumb. Mr Robson unhappily being absent, the Committee agreed; 26 hours was to be conceded to this poor man to unseasonably dispose of his crops."

Mr HAY (addressing the Clerk): Was there £5 or £7 10s owing?

The Clerk: £7 10s.

Mr HAY: Who proposed the bailiffs?

The Clerk: He would not like to say who did, or whether anybody did or not.

Mr HAY: No one on the Guardians did, and they all knew how they had been treated by Mr Hartley. It had been often enough before the Board, and he should not express his opinion on it then. The bill mentions:—"After a consultation, I discovered there was only one present remedy; I must pay the £5, and I did pay it the same evening. Mr Hay talks of Home Rule. To be a Home Ruler is my delight—in fact, I am a double-dyed Gladstonian Home Ruler, ever yearning to alleviate the ills of poor, bleeding, distracted, unhappy Ireland; but this specimen here given of Home Rule at Chester-le-Street, at your very doors, I despise, I utterly abhor it."

Mr HAY: Did not know that he should read the remainder.

Several voices: Yes; go on.

Mr HUMBLE: Who wrote the bill?

Mr HAY: Mr Witherspoon.

Mr Hay then went on with the bill:—"Next Thursday, with only your God and your conscience as witnesses, it is yours to say on whose side you hoist your banner—on this side or on that—Hypocrisy or Truth? Your part is to vote either for Mr Robson, whom, after 20 years of the closest intimacy, I have long considered to be the greatest hearted, best specimen of an English gentleman that I ever knew; or to vote for Mr Hay, who commenced this campaign at his first meeting at Chester-le-Street, as all present were witnesses by singling out as seeking to do a private injury to your humble but none the less faithful representative, Joseph Witherspoon, Red Rose Vineries, Chester-le-Street."

Mr HAY (continuing) said he did not think there was much of the hypocrite about him; he sometimes thought he would get better on, both on the Board and elsewhere, if there was more.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether Mr Hay had not replied to the bill by issuing an answer to it?

Mr HAY said he had; but all the outside work was necessarily confined to the "you-are another" sort, and as the matter was more in connection with his business, he thought the only course open to him was to bring it before the Board.

The CHAIRMAN did not think it was a good thing to introduce anything from outside into that meeting.

Mr HAY thought it was his duty.

Mr WITHERSPOON replied at considerable length. He admitted that part of what Mr Hay had said was true; but he accepted the sole responsibility of the bill. He had not consulted anyone before having it published. If they would allow him, he would go through the whole of the "Four votes" and show that what he had written was quite true. They would begin with the fifth one, which had been mentioned by Mr Hay——

The CHAIRMAN: They could not have that going on.

Mr WITHERSPOON, continuing, said the reason why he issued the bill was because there was a spirit—a lying spirit—abroad; a lying spirit which made Mr Hay into an angel, and Mr Robson into a tyrant. They would all remember that a deputation from Edmondsley——

Mr HODGSON rose to a point of order; but

Mr WITHERSPOON was allowed to proceed: The deputation from Edmondsley about the water laid their case very clearly before the Board, but before letting the third man of the deputation speak, the Chairman (Mr Robson) hesitated, then afterwards said that the matter required no further explanation. Fifty pails at the tap at one time was quite sufficient to justify them in making an investigation. The deputation consequently withdrew without the fourth man having made his speech, as he intended doing. The matter was then considered by the Board, and a certain course unanimously adopted, Mr Hay concurring with what was done. But what happened? Mr Hay almost broke his neck in his hurry to follow the deputation and when he (Mr Witherspoon) overtook the deputation and Mr Hay in the street, they had arranged, at the instigation and with the advice of Mr Hay, to go about the colliery villages with a cart and a tin-pan proclaiming the tyranny of Mr Robson.

Mr RIDLEY hoped this sort of thing would be stopped and let the business of the Board proceed. He appealed to the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (with severity) hoped they would consider the business they were met there to transact. He thought it very unwise to introduce anything that happened outside, particularly when that matter had been replied to outside. If he had done his duty he would not have allowed the discussion to proceed. He hoped the matter would drop, and that in future they would not be called upon to discuss outside matters.

Mr WITHERSPOON made some further remarks, and again claimed the sole responsibility of publishing the bill, on the grounds which he had already stated.

Mr HAY expressed himself as being satisfied with the latter part of Mr Witherspoon's explanation, and the subject was allowed to drop; the Guardians present sitting as the

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Mr Thos. Robson presided.

THE LUMLEY BURN.

A letter from Messrs Fen and Co., London, solicitors to the Earl of Scarborough, was read, asking to be informed when the public inquiry respecting the pollution of the Lumley Burn would be held.

The CHAIRMAN: On the 6th of February.

THE CLERK'S SALARY.

The Clerk read a letter from himself, asking for an increase to his salary for the past half-year, on account of the constantly increasing amount of work devolving upon him, as clerk to the Authority. His salary had been fixed at £40 per annum, when he was appointed in 1874. In 1875 the minutes of the Authority covered 25 pages; last year they extended over 175 pages; and the other work in proportion. The working of the Dairies and Cow-sheds Act was also additional; then there was the new cemetery at Pelton, the Craghead and Wagtail sewerage, and other work, all of which entailed a large amount of correspondence and an increased amount of work. There did not appear any probability of his duties becoming any lighter.

Mr HODGSON suggested 25 per cent advance.

Mr HAY suggested that the Authority should permanently engage Mr Dickinson's son, who now assisted his father. He thought he was right in that Mr Dickinson, and not the Authority, paid the young man his salary.

Mr Dickinson said that was so.

Mr RIDLEY moved, and Rev W. W. PHILLIPSON seconded, that Mr Dickinson be paid extra £10 for last half-year.

Mr HODGSON withdrew his suggestion, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Dr Duncan reported that during the fortnight 35 deaths and 58 births had been registered in the Union, giving a death-rate of 18·2 and a birth-rate of 33·6 per 1000. The health of the Union was good.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Sanitary Inspector (Mr Thos. Barras) reported that he had given notice to the owner of some tenemented property in Chester-le-Street to have the closets and drains cleaned, as they were choked, and were a dangerous nuisance. Nothing had been done, although the owner promised to have the work carried out. He wished for the instructions of the Authority as to whether he should take legal steps or not.

The CHAIRMAN inquired whether the nuisance still existed, and whether any action had been taken by the owner?

The Inspector said he had again visited the property that morning, and found that a start had been made. He still asked the consent of the Authority, in case the work was not gone on with.

The CHAIRMAN considered that as a start had been made with the work, the officer should watch the proceedings, and report at the next meeting.

Agreed.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

The Clerk said he had received the annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

The CHAIRMAN said it had been customary for them to consider the reports as read, and before the next meeting to have them printed and circulated among the members. He would suggest that they follow that course again.

Agreed, *nem con.*

USWORTH WATER SUPPLY.

The Clerk said that as he had not heard from Mr A. S. Palmer respecting the water supply at Usworth, he had taken upon himself to write to that gentleman, in order that he might have something to lay before the Authority at that meeting. He had received a reply from Mr Palmer, stating that plans and estimates of cost were being prepared, and as soon as they were completed he would be in a position to give a definite statement.

Mr GASCOIGNE said that the workmen had held a meeting at his house on the previous night, and had expressed very great dissatisfaction at the delay. They were also in favour of having the Sunderland water brought. As the supply was there were often as many as forty pails waiting for their turn for hours together.

Mr LISLE said Mr Palmer was making small boys of the Authority, as he had been doing for four or five years. The whole of the High Rows had only one stand-pipe. They had had an outbreak of typhoid fever there before, owing entirely to the scarcity of, and the bad quality of the water. He did not like the idea of another outbreak like that. It was time something was done. He moved "That Mr Palmer be instructed that unless something was done within a month from that day, the Authority would proceed to bring in another supply of water."

Mr WITHERSPOON seconded. It was a sin to see poor children, many of them thinly shod and poorly clad, shivering on a winter's day, waiting at the well for water. He did not think that they would ever solve the water question until every house, not only at Usworth, but throughout the Union, had its own tap, as they had at Chester-le-Street and at Chester Moor. (Hear, hear).

Mr HODGSON asked if it would not be advisable to get Mr Balfour to make a report, as he had done at Edmondsley?

The CHAIRMAN replied that the time had gone for reports; it was now a time for action. (Hear, hear).

The motion was then unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said he was extremely glad that the members had adopted the resolution.

EDMONDSLEY AND WALDRIDGE.

A letter from Mr David Balfour, C.E., was read respecting Edmondsley, Daisy Hill, and Waldridge water supply, stating that he had received a letter from Mr Asquith, engineer to the Consett Water Company, informing him "that the Company, at their Board meeting, discussed the question so far favourably, but they cannot give a definite reply as to terms for the two localities until their next meeting, three weeks hence." After that day, continued Mr Balfour, I shall be prepared to fully report to you on the subject, with my conclusions and recommendations.

The CHAIRMAN said all they could do with that seemed to be to let it stand over until they had further reports. The matter, however, seemed to be progressing.

This concluded the business of the Authority.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins, 1s. 1½d., labelled "JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease." 210z

TOW LAW LOCAL BOARD.

A monthly meeting took place on Tuesday night—Mr Joseph Ridley in the chair. There were likewise present:—Messrs J. W. Laverick, W. Atkinson, W. R. Teasdale, R. Sproats, L. P. Wherly, and the Clerk (Mr Edward Midnorn.)

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Tow Law Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—The summary of nuisances and general defects reported by your Medical Officer in his annual report are receiving attention: such as the removal of ashes, privy manure, dung-heaps, cleaning of dirty yards, &c.; and in other cases notices are pending. The better ventilation of the lodging-house in Wolsingham road, as recommended has been done, therefore, I have proposed registering the same as a common lodging-house. A list of all defects belonging the Weardale Iron Company, which have not been attended to, will be duly prepared. With reference to the formation of back street channels and additional traps, your Surveyor will give attention to these matters. The nuisance caused by manure water filtering through the pantry wall into the Mechanics' Institute ante-room is temporary abated.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. GARDAWAY.

Tow Law, Feb. 5th, 1889.

The report was adopted.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Hillary) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Tow Law Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the month, the road from the Railway Company's bridge has been re-covered with metal, and though much too late, I expect the Weardale Iron Company have ordered limestone, and the new road at Park Terrace will be covered in a few days. The stone has all been used, and I should like your sanction to procure two trucks more to keep the roads in passable condition. The footpath in Bridge Street has been re-covered with ballast. A large grate has been put in at the back of Bridge Street South, near Dr Hood's premises, and the channel in Back Street North has been cleaned out. The sewer from the cattle mart to Mr Cheeseman's house has also been thoroughly cleansed.

I have deposited with your treasurer for burial fees, £2 2s; general district rate, £159 17s 11d; gas, £158 3s 7d; making a total of £320 3s 6d. I have been very successful with the gas dues this time, and have closed with the small sum of £4 15s 6d arrears. (Several members: "Very good. Times must be improving." Laughter.)

MONTHLY WAGES BILL:
(Three pays.)

	£	s.	d.
Main Roads: Manual labour	4	2	3
Team labour	0	15	0
Other Roads: Manual labour	1	18	6
Team labour	1	7	0
Streets: Lamplighting	2	1	0
Team labour: carting ballast	0	3	0
Gas Works: Foreman's wages	10	4	0
Labourer's wages, for water pipes, &c.	1	11	9
Cemetery: Sexton's wages	2	8	0
Establishment: Office cleaning	0	10	6
Total	£25	1	0
Leaving due to Surveyor	0	18	1

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Tow Law, Feb. 5th, 1889. JOHN HILLARY.

The Surveyor was authorised to order two loads of limestone from Messrs Ord and Maddison to be delivered at Blackwell Sidings.

THE SEWER ALONGSIDE THE RAILWAY.

Relative to this complaint, another communication was received from the North-Eastern Railway Company, intimating that the offer of the Board to periodically clean out the sewer running by the side of the railway as far as Mr Cheeseman's house was not sufficient to abate the nuisance in question, and they called upon the Board to have the place properly covered in the whole length.

Several members demurred to the Board taking any further action in the matter, inasmuch as the sewer had always existed in its present open state, and that it would entail £120 to cover the sewer the full distance.

The Clerk was authorised to answer the letter of the railway authorities, and also investigate the question of the liability of the Board.

THE TRAIN SERVICE.

A letter was read from the Commercial Traveller's Association for the North of England, asking the Local Board to join with the body in petitioning the North-Eastern Railway Company for a train to leave Newcastle for Consett about 7·30 to catch the 8·20 train from the latter place to Tow Law, and thereby preserve a direct connection, without having to wait from 7 to 8·30 at Consett.

Mr LAVERICK remarked that Tow Law was wretchedly served with the trains. He called attention to the fact that passengers by the noon-day train often missed the train at Consett for Newcastle, and had to wait several hours, or travel *via* Durham, thereby causing the delay of some hours.

Mr TEESDALE: We cannot get from here to Stanhope without waiting nearly a couple of hours.

Mr LAVERICK: We can get nothing here. There are excursion trains running from Crook and other stations, but none from Tow Law. I move that we support the memorial of the Commercial Travellers, and also that the Clerk embody in the petition other defects in the local railway system.

This was seconded by Mr TEESDALE, and agreed to *nem con.*

A DEFECTIVE ASHPIT.

Mr LAVERICK brought under the notice of the Board a defective ashpit, upon the premises belonging to Mrs Elliot, near the Salvation Army Barracks. Those engaged to clean the same out complained that it was nothing but a cesspool, and was a complete nuisance. He proposed that a committee of two members (along with the Inspector) inspect the place, and report next month.

Agreed to.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Mr LAVERICK also noticed in the last report of their monthly meeting in the *Consett Guardian* a list of the attendances of the members during the past 12 months. He asked if that was the usual time for publishing such a statement?

The CHAIRMAN replied that it had been customary to do so in January.

Mr LAVERICK considered the proper time would be in April, just before the election. He asked how it was that some members had been present at 13 meetings, whereas there were only 12?

The Clerk: Special meetings are included in the list.

Mr LAVERICK pointed out that these ought to be distinguished from the regular Board meetings. He could not attend special meetings, and was often prevented from being present at the Board meetings.

Mr WHERLY stated that the Committee for Roads Inspection was composed of the whole Board. There was a good deal of work done at these meetings, and the members who attended deserved every credit for their zeal and energy. The attendances were recorded in the minute-book.

Mr LAVERICK argued that there ought to be a distinction between the two, as the public did not understand the matter. The statement, as published, was certainly misleading.

Mr TEASDALE: It amounts to the same thing.

Mr LAVERICK stated that he came to one of these bi-monthly meetings, and did not find either the Chairman or Clerk. (Laughter.)

Mr ATKINSON considered it would be better to publish the list of attendances at the expiration of the Board's period of office.

The Clerk was directed to prepare a tabulated statement in future, showing the attendances at special meetings; Mr LAVERICK jocularly observing that he thought the list was published with a view to pending County Council elections. (Laughter.)

THE PUBLIC CEMETERY.

Mr SPROATS complained of children running over the graves in the cemetery on Sunday afternoons as if it was an open field, and said the practice ought to be stopped. The sexton was not to blame, as he was then engaged in attending to funerals.

Mr ATKINSON confirmed the previous speaker's remarks, and pointed out that their bye-laws prohibited children under a certain age being allowed in the cemetery without being in charge of their parents.

It was agreed to call the attention of the local police authorities to the matter.

Mr SPROATS also enquired if a few seats could not be obtained for the cemetery? These would prove a valuable acquisition, especially during the summer.

This question will be considered later on.

It was resolved to have a number of young trees planted in the cemetery, and instructions will be given forthwith for the ground to be trenched in readiness.

DAMAGE TO STREET LAMPS.

Some damage having been caused by mischievous youths breaking the burners and pipes of the public lamps, the police were authorised to prosecute any persons caught climbing the posts, and rewards will be offered to anyone giving such information as will tend to the conviction of the culprits.

FINANCIAL.

The monthly paybill, amounting to over £70, was ordered to be settled.

Other trifling matters having been disposed of or referred to the mid-monthly meeting, the Board arose.

TORYISM AT WEST PELTON.

Under the auspices of Chester-le-Street Central Conservative Association, a largely-attended meeting was held on Thursday se'nnight in the Iron Room West Pelton, when Mr F. Deacon (Manchester) delivered an address on "The Unionist Policy and Programme." Mr E. Wilkinson, Ouston, occupied the chair. The proceedings were made somewhat lively for the Tory lecturer by a number of ardent Radicals.

Mr DEACON said he was aware that he had to address many who were trade unionists, and who had banded themselves together for the purpose of strengthening their position before the eyes of the [illegible]. He had no objection to that principle, at least when carried out in a lawful manner, and he (Mr Deacon) would endeavour to prove to them that the policy of Unionists in the present crisis was for the purpose of holding the honour and integrity of the British Empire. (Cries of [illegible].) The English Home Rulers said they wanted to give Ireland the management of her own internal affairs. So did the present Government, who would in due course give them a Local Government Act, which England now possessed and which was the only safe and reasonable Home Rule for all parts of the United Kingdom. The speaker here defined the duties imposed by the Local Government Act, after which he said if Ireland had that it would practically have any Irish Parliament on College Green with only Imperial matters to deal with. This was what the Unionists opposed, and many Gladstonians as well; therefore it would be a farce to set up such a Parliament, and he ventured to assert that the Unionists would successfully resist such a proposal. (Interruption.) Mr Deacon dealt with the whole policy of the Government in an eloquent and masterly manner, and touched upon the "Plan of Campaign," boycotting, murders, coercion, and the so-called Irish martyrs, as also the various Land Acts. At the latter part of the speaker's remarks several attempts were made to interrupt him, and a terrible hubbub ensued. Several individuals rose at once to take part in the discussion.

Mr JOHN PYLE moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by one of the Home Rulers present. Several present opposed the vote, but eventually it was carried.

Mr JOSEPH TOLSON, Conservative agent, moved a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr Jas. Joicey, M.P., who had allowed them to use the room. He felt that so long as such generosity was shown by political opponents they might look with confidence to the future. He included in the vote of thanks the chairman.

The resolution was carried with applause, and in spite of a few noisy obstructionists, the proceedings were brought to a close.

JOTTINGS FROM BIRTLEY.

Very little interest has been manifested by the electorate here on the selection of a member for the County Council, and the consequence is that Col. Sheppee's right to the seat has never been questioned. I have nothing to say against the gentleman or his apparent fitness for the position but I do maintain that the electors have been treated with very little consideration. They have never been asked as to whether they considered the candidate a fit person to represent them, and, in fact, many of the electors are ignorant yet as to who their representative is. I had hoped that the gentlemen who were so kind as to attach their signatures to the nomination paper (and who were evidently the only ones interested) would have so far considered the electorate as to have given them an opportunity of questioning the candidate with respect to his proposed attitude towards various matters of importance which will constitute the business of the Council. But no; the bulk of the people have been entirely left out of consideration, and the position is that we have no guarantee or no idea whatever what our representative intends either to support or oppose. So much for official influence and working class indifference.

Rev W. S. Guest-Williams, during his eight years' stay among the people of this locality, has won for himself many friends, and the life he has infused into the Church and the improvements that has been made, both in a temporal and spiritual sense, will be felt in long years yet to come. Shortly after his appointment to the living I remember a serious outbreak of small-pox, in which the true Christian spirit was made manifest, and at great personal risk and sacrifice, visited and even carried many to the temporary hospital in the village; and all through that long and distressing epidemic a noble heroic disposition was portrayed, and many a poor victim was comforted and nourished to convalescense by his personal superintendence and care. Such conduct deserves to be remembered and rehearsed, and ought to be rewarded by some momento before he leaves us. I accidentally heard of a meeting for that purpose the other night, and I hope the appeal will not be confined to a few (as I understand it is to be so intended), but that the petition will go out to all sects, for I am sure it will meet with the support of every section of this locality. The rev. gentleman leaves in consequence of failing health, and has felt for some time his inability to minister to his parishioners as he would desire, much of his time of late having been occupied in trying to recruit his health in a more congenial clime, and with this end in view he has accepted a living in a less populous district and a more favourable temperature, which he will shortly enter upon.

Another dark deed has been perpetrated in the immediate locality, the victim being one of the best police-officers in the district. P.C. Graham was highly respected, and a gentleman who knew him well told me he was an exceptional civil and obliging man, and had traits of character which are too seldom found in this class of public servants. It is too frequently the case that such characters as Wilkinson are goaded and driven to desperation by the tyranny practiced by some of our police-officers, but such was not the rule in this case, Graham having more than once given him kindly counsel and advise when called to interfere in the frequent domestic broils which occurred. Your readers will no doubt be aware of the circumstances which led to the crime, and how sudden and unexpected he came to his end. It is gratifying to note the sympathy and help which is forthcoming to the wife and children in both cases. Mrs Graham is physically a weak woman, and unfit to fight the battle of life with such odds against her, but the generosity of the public will in some measure ensure her against possible privation.

Birtley folk have not been backward in manifesting their sympathy in a practical manner, and subscriptions have been solicited, and a concert to the same end was given on Tuesday night, both being generously responded to. There is always a few grumblers though to be found, and more than one framed an excuse for not supporting the object. You cannot get a better chance of estimating what little sympathy there is in some men's hearts until you appeal to their pockets, and I could disclose some ridiculous excuses which would be discreditable to the very meanest. All things considered, however, Birtley folk have done fairly well, the dissatisfied ones being outnumbered with the generous patrons.

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful, and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fevers Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pill, will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d, and 2s. 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester.

Sporting Items

RABBIT COURSING AT LEADGATE.—The sweep for small dogs at rabbits, promoted by Mr H. Mason, which secured a fair entry, was announced to commence in a field near the Coach and Horses Inn, Leadgate, on Saturday afternoon, but owing to the severity of the weather the event was postponed.

WRESTLING AT [illegible].—Another of a series of competitions for a silver cup given by Mr Tusp was brought off at the Halfway House as follows:—[illegible] falls—[illegible] Cockermouth, threw C Robson West Wylam [illegible] and third falls, and won. Referees, Messrs [illegible] and Hart.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT WITTON GILBERT.—This pigeon shooting commenced on Saturday and was finished on Wednesday at Witton Gilbert, in a field kindly granted by Mr Hedley. There was a good attendance and a rare good class of birds. Mr Bell was referee, and Messrs Smith and Robson scorekeepers. Stake divided.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.—A pigeon shooting handicap, promoted by Mr Harry Lamb, King's Head Inn, was brought off on the [illegible] Hill, in bitterly cold weather. Wm Mason was handicapper and referee, K Stones, trapper, and W James kept the score. A division was agreed upon by the six having seven birds down:—Peter Fox, [illegible], Old Mary, Bill Ward, Lambkin, and Ra[illegible].

QUOIT MATCH AT MEDOMSLEY.—On Saturday afternoon, in a field adjoining Mr John Minto's, Miners' Arms Inn, Medomsley, Robert Dent and William Egglestone, both of Allendale Cottages, contested a match for £1 a-side, 31 points, 2in pins. Dent held the lead throughout, and finally won easily. Score:—Dent, 31; Egglestone, 9.—The match announced between John Armstrong and Wm. Egglestone for £5 a-side, was postponed on account of a domestic affliction.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT HIGH SPEN.—The pigeon shooting handicap promoted by Mr James Knott, was concluded in a field adjoining Messrs Errington's, Bute Arms. Seventy-four entries were secured. Score:—Old Temp, 111110; Greentick, 11110; [illegible], 1110; R Brewell, 11110; Beast of [illegible], 11111; H Nevins, 111110; Wm Wintrip, 111111; 2nd lot, 111111; Wallington 1111, [illegible] Crags, 111111; A Spears, 111110; [illegible] M'gey, 111110; E Shotton, 111111; Wal[illegible] Hotel, 1110; Collingwood Hotel, 110; T[illegible], 11111; Another Try, 110; Tom the Deliver, 111110; Captain Webb, 1110; Doctor, 0. [illegible] Hall and J Knott acted as trappers, R Ley[illegible] handicapper and referee, and G Emmerson as scorekeeper. There was a large number of spectators present in spite of the unfavourable weather.

GREAT PEDESTRIAN HANDICAP AT DIPTON.—On Saturday afternoon, the trial heats of a 125 yards foot handicap, promoted by Mr Wm Young, of the Red Lion Inn at that place, were decided at the Dipton Running Grounds. The sum of £12 10s having been offered in prize money, no less than 105 entries were forthcoming for the important event, the number embracing pedestrians from all parts of the district, but the unfavourable day deterred many competitors from a long distance putting in an appearance. Notwithstanding the extreme severity of the weather, a blinding storm of snow and sleet falling at intervals during the afternoon, there was a large assemblage of spectators from the surrounding places. Although a keen frost prevailed, the track was in good order, and some first-class running was witnessed. The details are subjoined:—Heat 1—J Redshaw, Durham, 11½ yards, 1; I Bowman, Dipton, 16, 2. Won by about a yard. Heat 2—P Malone, Marley Hill, 24½, 1; T Brown, Dipton, 23, 2; W Elliot, Consett, 23½, 3; W Gordon, The Hobson, 25, 4. Won by a yard. Heat 3—J Dunn, Prudhoe, 17½, 1; J Robson, Deckham, 16½, 2; J Richardson, Crook, 18½, 3. Won by a foot. Heat 4—J McQueen, Felliside, 23½, w.o. Heat 5—P Duffy, Jarrow, 13, 1; C Moses, Tow Law, 22, 2; G Kennedy, Dipton, 23, 3. Won by a yard. Heat 6—H Applegarth, Leadgate, 24, 1; J Forster, Ryton, 6, 2; G Browning, Crook, 21, 3. Won by half a yard. Heat 7—M Clare, Leadgate, 22½, 1; T Madgin, Consett, 20½, 2. Won easily. Heat 8—J Bartram, Earsdon, 18½, w.o. Heat 9—T Murray, Dipton, 23, 1; G Hands, Blaydon, 19½, 2. Won easily. Heat 10—W Dixon, Wylam, 16½, 1; W. Black, Shotley Bridge, 15, 0. A good race. Won on the post. Heat 11—C Douglass, Blackhill, 14½, 1; M Mulcahy, Byer Moor, 25, 2. Won by a yard. Heat 12—T Davison, Castleside, 18, 1; R Wood, Byer Moor, 22½, 2. Won easily. Heat 13—J Taylor, Blackhill, 11 1; J Farrage, the Spen, 25½, 2; J Boyd, Winlaton, 20, 3. Won by half-a-yard. Heat 14—J Stewart, Wylam, 17, 1; T Aitman, Blaydon, 21½, 2; B Small, Leadgate, 23½, 3; W Gray, Blaydon, 20, 4. Won by half-a-yard. Heat 15—J Haggerstone, Leadgate, 17, 1; J Robson, Ponton, 20, 2; J Murray, Crook, 21½, 3. Won by a yard and a half. Heat 16—A Coulthard, Byre Moor, 23½, 1; R Rose, Dunston, 22, 2. Won easily. Heat 17—A Harrison, Leadgate, 19½, 1; J Haggerstone (No 2), Leadgate, 23, 2. Won by a couple of yard. Heat 18—J. Elliot, Tantobie, 22, w o. Heat 19—T Campbell, Winlaton, 22½, 1; T Clasper, Byer Moor, 24, 2; R Ashman, Castleside, 20, 3. Won by a yard. Heat 20—G Dixon, West Wylam, 26½, 1; H Layton, Hobson Colliery, 23, 2; R Griggs, Winlaton, 19, 3; only one "tryer." Won easily. Heat 21—J Alder, Leamington, 7, 1; R Bruce, Consett, 20, 2. Won easily. Mr Matthew Snowdon, of Tantobie, discharged the duties of handicapper and judge; while Mr Wm. Caiter, of Dipton, acted as pistol-firer.—The draw for the final heats subsequently took place at the Red Lion hostelry, in the presence of a numerous company, and resulted as follows:—Heat 1—P Alder, W Hanson, M Clare, and P Duffy. Heat 2—J Redshaw, J Dunn, G Dixon, and J McQueen. Heat 3—E Coulthard, C Douglass, P Malone and J Stewart. Heat 4—T Davison, J Taylor, T Murray, and J Elliot. Heat 5—J Haggerstone, W Dixon, J Bartram, H Applegarth, and T Campbell. It will be noticed that several well-known sprinters are left standing, and some capital heats may be expected.

Trade Notes.

CONSETT SPANISH ORE COMPANY, LIMITED—The directors have resolved to pay an interim dividend of 3s 6d per share on the 15th inst. to the members registered in the company's books on the 7th inst.

CONSETT IRON AND STEELWORKERS.—A meeting of the iron and steelworkers was held in the Co-operative Store Buildings, Consett, on Saturday night, under the presidency of Mr Wm. Maund.—The action of the local delegates in sanctioning the unrepresentative members in the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation for another year, was condemned, but no resolution was passed thereanent.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.

The 4th annual meeting of the members of the above society was held on Monday night, in the smaller hall of the New Town Hall, Consett—Mr W Aynesley (chairman of the Board of Directors) presiding—when the report and balance sheet for the year ending December 21st, were laid before the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his remarks, referred to the increased business done during the past year, and observed that the receipts on unadvanced shares had nearly doubled during that period. The society was now in a most prosperous condition, 4½ per cent interest having been added to all money left in the hands of the society, both on advanced and unadvanced shares. He also made special mention of the fact that investing members wishing to withdraw their money, could always do so, on tendering a months notice. Not only could they do that, but they could discontinue their contributions, in cases of emergency, and resume payment when convenient, without incurring any fines.

The report and financial statement were unanimously confirmed.

The meeting then proceeded to re-elect the retiring directors: Messrs Hedley Nicholson, George Wade and Thos McCourty; and the following new directors were elected:—Messrs Wm Eales, James Hardy, Edward Lockey, and George R. Aynsley. Mr Alex Russell, jun., was re-appointed auditor; and in the place of Mr Wm. Hoe (who has received an appointment under Messrs Harland and Wolff, the eminent shipbuilders, at Belfast), this vacancy was filled up by the selection of Mr James Inglis, Blackhill. In consequence of the death of Mr J. Priestman, J.P., of Shotley Bridge, Mr Wm. Green, J.P., Thornelly House, Winlaton, was chosen as arbitrator in his stead.

After other routine business had been transacted, a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman for his services.

We can cordially recommend the society to the attention of our readers as being one of the most successful and prosperous existent in the district, the advantages being manifold. All particulars relating to the transactions of the society can be obtained from the secretary (Mr Adam Brodie), at his offices, Town Hall, Consett.

CONSETT WATERWORKS COMPANY.

The following is the report of the directors (which was issued on Wednesday), to be presented at the half-yearly general meeting of the company, to be held at the company's offices, Consett, in the county of Durham on Wednesday, February 20th, 1889, at one o'clock in the afternoon:—

"The accounts for the half-year ending December 31st, 1888, are herewith submitted to the shareholders, having been examined and certified as correct by the auditor, Mr J. Heaton, and T. C. Squance and Sons, Chartered Accountants.

"The revenue from both mechanical and domestic rentals has improved, compared with the corresponding period of last year, the mechanical being [illegible] £2 4s 8d, and the domestic £90 7s 0d [illegible] in 1887.

After payment of interest on bonds, [illegible] tax, and management expenses there remains an undivided profit of £5,071 [illegible] your directors recommend payment [illegible] 28th February next, of a dividend [illegible] at the rate of 6 per cent, per annum [illegible] of Messrs Backhouse and Co [illegible] a balance of £271 9s 8d of which they [illegible] £250 to be placed to the reserve fund, and £21 [illegible] carried to the next half-year's account.

During the past half-year an ample [illegible] pure water has been distributed through [illegible] company's district. Some short extensions [illegible] been made, and the works of the company, [illegible] the exception of the Loud Bank Reservoir [illegible] been maintained in an efficient manner. Within the last month a decision of the Divisional [illegible] was given in favour of your company in [illegible] Mr Ritson.

Your directors recommend that the [illegible] additional capital of 3,000 shares of £5 each be [illegible] under to the shareholders, of which only £2 [illegible] will be called upon at present. There [illegible] the extensive extensions your directors [illegible] called on to make within your district [illegible] purpose the meeting will be made special at the [illegible] conclusion of the general business.

(Signed) "JOHN BURTON, chairman.
"WILLIAM B[illegible], [illegible] chairman.
"WILLIAM WILSON, secretary."

Football

ASSOCIATION

Edmondsley Strangers II. beat Pelton II. at Edmondsley by nine goals to one.

BURNHOPE v BEARPARK 2ND.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for Burnhope by four goals to two.

BEARPARK ROVERS v BOLDON STAR.—Played on the ground of the former. Score: Bearpark, two goals; Boldon, nil.

STOCKSFIELD v RIDING MILL.—Played at Stocksfield, and resulted in a victory for the visitors by four goals to none.

PELTON FELL HARRIERS JUNIORS v PELTON FELL WESLEYAN JOLLY BOYS.—Played on the Harriers' ground, and resulted in a win for the home team by three goals to nil.

ESH NAVY BLUES v HEDLEY HILL.—Played on the Esh ground. Score:—Esh, five goals; Hedley Hill, nil.

BIRTLEY v BACKWORTH HOTSPUR.—In consequence of their match with Grimsby Town in the English Cup competition Sunderland Albion were unable to fill their engagement with Birtley, who therefore secured a match with Backworth Hotspur. Birtley had the game all their own way, and won by thirteen goals to none.

PELTON FELL HARRIERS v DIPTON WANDERERS.—These teams played their return fixture at Dipton, in very stormy weather. The game was evenly contested, and resulted in a draw, neither side scoring. The following team played for Dipton Wanderers:—[illegible], A Temple; backs, J Walker and A Dodds; half-backs, R Brewis, T Turpin, and E Buck; forwards, R Wilson, D Crozier, J Evans, W Turner, and T Walker.

RUGBY.

CONSETT II. v HENDERSON'S WANDERERS II.—Played at Benfieldside. During the first half the home team had to face a strong wind, and the visitors succeeded in scoring one minor point to their opponents' nil. When the whistle sounded for half-time, however, Henderson's team declined to play any longer, their reason being that the wind was too strong to resume the game.

GATESHEAD INSTITUTE v RYTON.—Played at Gateshead, and as the visitors arrived late the game was played in two periods of twenty minutes each. Ryton were two short. At the call of time the score stood—

Gateshead Institute...1 goal, 3 tries, 3 minors
Ryton .... Nil

DURHAM JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP.—THIRD ROUND.

HAMSTEELS v HASWELL.—These two clubs met on the ground of the former in the third round of the Durham Union Junior Cup. In the first half Hamsteels scored a try and one minor to Haswell nil, and after playing ten minutes in the second half the Haswell men left the field. The try for Hamsteels was got by J T Todd, and Greaves kicked but failed to secure a goal. Todd played in grand style and W Gregory tackled well; while the Hamsteels' forwards showed some good form in the scrimmages. Teams: Hamsteels—Full back, T Finnigan; three-quarter backs, A Dodds, S Gregory, and R Smith; half-backs, J T Todd and W Gregory; forwards, R Gibbon (capt.), J Harrison, T Nattrass, P Donelly, J Fisher, J Wall, J Graves, T Nichol, and J Wallace. Haswell—Full back, J Jackson; three-quarter backs, J Robinson (capt.), M Lewes, and W Coxon; half-backs, J Craggs, T Hull, and T Melbourne; forwards, T Scott, R Dorman, J Alder, G Hare, T Davison, W Hare, and two others. Umpires, Messrs J Hutchinson (Tudhoe) and C H Dodd (Houghton-le-Spring); referee, Mr G Dawson (Tudhoe).

JOTTINGS.

WEST WYLAM ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB.—The members of this club held a successful concert in the National School, Prudhoe, the room being crowded. The Chairman (Mr T Falconer) gave a brief sketch of the club's history, and explained that the proceeds of the concert would go towards erecting a dressing-room in the football field.

JOTTINGS FROM CORNSAY.

A short time ago an old veteran, apparently in close conversation with his friend, was commenting upon a paragraph that appeared in the papers with respect to street-lamps for the village of Cornsay. He said, "What will they try to get up next? Don't you think the natural lamp or Paddy's lantern will suffice, Geordie?" "What!" replied the astonished friend, "you don't expect that every body wants to remain indoors until the full moon? You may not be one of those timid folks, but I really do not think it safe for the little ones to be allowed to run about in the dark." The old sage, after some reflection, resumed the conversation in a more congenial mood. "You know, Geordie, the nights are beginning to lengthen now, and it will be light at nights." Flattering himself upon having the best of the argument, he turned the drift of discourse into another direction. "What about the water? We are paying 6d per fortnight for water, and have not got the convenience that they have at many of the colliery places in this county. I have been down East, Geordie, and they have got taps in their houses; here we have to carry every drop of water we use from the end of the row. Why don't them chaps that put such things in the papers write and inform those who have the control of these matters that we want the water put in our houses? Hang it, Geordie, I do not think it right that we should pay the same as them that have it in the house. Another thing, my old woman, not such a long time ago, could not get any water, the tap being turned off, and these 'gaffers' don't make it a practice of telling ye when they're about to do it. Now, that is most unfair, when we pay for it, for those that pay the piper should always be allowed to call the tune." "You're right," said Geordie, "but these chaps thinks nowt about us. The fact is we are too numerous in this country." "That may be," said his friend, "and have you heard about the syndicate that is proposed by some of these great gentlemen?" "A syndicate?" Geordie replied with astonishment. "Yes, they are going to buy up all the coal in the county, and then you and I will be slaves, or serfs, as our fathers were of old." Here the old veteran had trampled upon the reserved projects of Geordie, who at once exclaimed, "Britons shall be free! Our fathers they fought and shed their blood for freedom." His face lit up with a glow as he ejaculated for freedom.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—In the complaints peculiar to females these Pills are unrivalled. Their use by the fair sex has become so constant for the removal of their ailments that rare is the household that is without them. Amongst all classes, from the domestic servant to the peeress, universal favour is recorded to these renovating Pills; their invigorating and purifying properties render them safe and invaluable in all cases; they may be taken by females of all ages for any disorganization or irregularity of the system, speedily removing the cause and restoring the sufferer to robust health. As a family medicine they are unapproachable for subduing the maladies of young and old.

THE WEEK.

PRINCE RUDOLPH'S DEATH.

THE grave suspicion that Prince Rudolph not die a natural death is only too fully firmed. Some allowance must be made the officials, who in the first flush of calamity were anxious to conceal the tr Mischief was done by the statement that Prince had died of apoplexy, for there i natural disinclination to believe that whole truth has been told even n Some day, the complete facts will be m clear. The Prince's life was not happy. did not live in an atmosphere of domestic pe He had unacknowledged ties which appare only death could sever. Here is material f scandal which will occupy the *gobemou* of Europe for months to come. There are pe who will say that the private irregularities prince should be viewed with indulgence, there are others who will exaggerate Pr Rudolph's shame merely because he was heir to an Empire. But whatever may said about Prince Rudolph, and we are anx to say very little, no humane man can w hold sympathy from the bereaved fa The Emperor Francis Joseph has many trials. The last blow may be deemed the most cruel of all. deprives the Empire of an heir who posse some of the qualities of kingship, and transmits the heritage to one who, far as anybody knows, has none. enemy of Austria could wish her worse fortunes than have befallen her. The ha destiny presses heavily on a dynasty which parently has all its glories behind it.

BISMARCK AND SAMOA.

PRINCE BISMARCK is appearing before Eu in a new character. So far, people have garded him as a blustering, masterful, domin ing kind of person. But we have all b mistaken. In reality he is overflow with amiability and meekness. T can be no doubt of this. The corresponde on the Samoan question, which has been published, between Mr. Ba and the Iron Chancellor—it seems almo mockery to dub him that any longer conclusive evidence of Prince Bismarck's alt attitude. When Mr. Bayard came to un stand the very high hand Germany was ta in Samoa, he instructed Mr. Pendleton, American Minister at Berlin, to inform Pr Bismarck that he expected that the Ger officials in Samoa would be "carefully- structed" not to meddle with American citi or their property. A superficial obse would think that such a message would e roars of anger and defiance from the lio Berlin. Not in the least. A meek and gentl sponse is the result, which more resembles bleat of a timorous lamb. Prince Bism caused Mr. Bayard to be informed that, though Germans might "perhaps" be justified to certain extent"—mark the humble qu cations—in their proceedings, yet as it be that the German military autho "has gone too far in this instance, military commander has received telegra orders to withdraw the part of the procla tion concerning foreigners." But this wond humility does not end here. So the desp concludes by admitting that the German Co had acted quite wrongly, and promising he shall be sacrificed at once to the indignation of America. Assuredly, Prince Bismarck begins to play the *rôle* Uriah Heep, he does not flinch from carr out the character with the most scrup exactitude. The edifying part of this busi however, is that America has very little to interfere in the affairs of Samoa. land, on the contrary, by a treaty ent into with Germany, has a guarantee from country that the independence of the Sa isles will be respected. Yet we sit our hands in our lap, and allow Pr Bismarck to state in the Reichstag that Eng is one with Germany as regards her polic Samoa. The Australian Federal Council have passed a resolution saying that they obs with "deep regret the recent events in Sa that they approve the treaties guarante Samoan independence, and are of opinion foreign dominion in Samoa endangers the s of Australasia." Do we desire to disgust colonies altogether by our apathy? If why have we not supported the ti protest of America? The lesson of the "wo lath painted to look like iron," to employ Chancellor's own phrase, should not be d garded by English statesmen.

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IN AN EVIL MOMENT!

BY

HARRY BLYTH.

AUTHOR OF

"A Wily Woman," "The Bloom o' the Heather," "When the Clock Stopped," "Magic Morsels," &c.

CHAPTER XXV.

FLIGHT OF STIVEY.

"Hullo! Boss," cried Stivey, regarding Gregory with droll amazement "Who'd ha' thought of seeing you!"

Then the showman shook his friend's hand warmly.

"You don't mean to say," he went on, "that you advertised for me?"

Gregory threw his dripping coat open, and answered in a sharp, impatient tone:

"Not I. So you have seen it, then?"

"Seen it and answered it, the landlord declared promptly. It was obvious that he did not regard Mr. Axon's appearance with undue favour.

Something that need not be written here escaped Gregory.

Turning fiercely upon the speaker, he questioned with a sneer:

"I suppose you saw it, and you answered it?"

"I saw it and I answered it," the landlord replied with great deliberation.

"It's a pity you weren't attending to your own business," Gregory growled.

"What's the matter, Boss?" There was a quaint expression of alarm and wonder on Stivey's face as he put this query to his friend.

"Get me some hot whisky and water," Gregory cried to the landlord; "this cursed rain has made me wet to the skin. I'll talk to you, Stivey, when I feel some life in my limbs. You'd better have a stiff glass of something yourself."

"Well, I don't mind if I do," said Mr. Blend, with considerable urbanity. "Cold porter isn't the most comforting of drinks on a day like this."

Gregory pulled a chair up to the fire and rested his heavy sodden boots upon the fender. Stivey moved from his own place so as to be nearer to his friend.

"Hadn't you better take off your coat?" he suggested.

"No; we must get away directly."

"We!" Stivey repeated in some surprise.

"Yes, we. When did that dull-headed idiot send off the answer to that advertisement?"

"Last evening."

Gregory was thoughtful for a minute. Then he said:

"Then we shall have to leave almost immediately."

The showman had boundless confidence in Mr. Axon, and he was always ready to do his bidding and to wait for an explanation of his friend's object and plans until he chose to volunteer it. Under existing circumstances he was unusually eager to fall in with Gregory's views; Gregory would doubtless release him from an exceedingly embarrassing position.

"All right," he said. Lowering his voice, he added, "But I'm in pawn."

"Confound you!" Gregory cried, angrily. "You're always in pawn."

"Couldn't be helped this time, Boss; and that's a fact. I've had a dreadfully bad month of it; I haven't taken enough at the doors to keep the rat—that I haven't."

"I suppose you've been betting?" Axon asked, sharply.

"A little—just a little."

The showman spoke with much composure, and smacked his lips.

"Double events again?" Gregory sneered. Every day this man was growing more irritable and domineering. It was not to his advantage to even run the risk of a quarrel with Stivey, and yet he could not resist an occasional snarl at him. It is true he had not much to fear from the showman's temper. Stivey bore his brusqueness with great equanimity.

"Ye-e-s," Mr. Blend allowed, slowly rubbing his chin; "one or two of 'em. The last bit I did looks very promising. The first event has come off, and my horse is second favourite for the other one—that's the big race to-morrow—a thousand to one. I stand a good chance of pulling that little lump in."

Gregory laughed scornfully.

"Rubbish!" he cried. "I wouldn't give you twopence for your chance. How much do you owe here?"

"A matter of three pounds would clear up the lot."

"Then you had better let the old fool keep the show and stock."

The landlord had left them together, not liking the curt manner of Mr. Axon; nevertheless, this gentleman lowered his voice as he spoke.

"What do you mean?"

Stivey stared at Gregory aghast. "Leave 'the institootion' for a matter o' three quid? That would never do," he went on.

"I went over and saw Hurst this morning," Mr. Axon continued, still in a confidential whisper, "to get your address. He told me that you hadn't paid him any money off his mortgage——"

"I was going to send him a bit when I was at Barnsbarn, but you know, Boss, I lent you——"

"That's nothing to do with it," Gregory interrupted.

"And I've never had any luck since."

"The long and short of it is this," Gregory went on, decisively. "He declares that he'll stand it no longer. He's coming down here this very day—I daresay by the next train — determined to have either his money or the show."

Mr. Blend's face assumed an expression of extreme mournfulness.

"I can't give him the money," he murmured, "and the landlord here won't let him have 'the institootion.' It's a pretty go."

"There'll be a devil of a row, and if you take my advice, you'll get out of it. I'm not sure," Mr. Axon continued, striving to still further frighten his listener, "whether you haven't put your foot into it, borrowing money from two people upon the same security. It would be very awkward if Hurst was to turn nasty and call the police in."

"What!" Each hair upon Mr. Stivey's head stood erect and separate from its fellows, and his forehead became a multitudinous mass of wrinkles.

"And lock you up," Gregory concluded.

"Lock me up!" Stivey repeated, rising from his seat, and trembling excessively; "then by gum let's go at once."

"Sit down. There's no danger just yet. If you make up your mind to go, and leave that confounded show here, I'll see you through your trouble, never fear. Leave it to me."

Stivey's eyes became suspiciously watery.

"You were always a good friend to me," he said. "Whenever I'm in a fix you're always the first to come to the rescue."

After a little his face became brighter, and his brief fear vanished Now that Gregory had undertaken the charge of his affairs, what need had he to dread the wrath of "Billy Hurst," or of twenty such men? Gregory Axon, Esquire, was a match for any one with whom Stivey was acquainted

"Well," he said presently, "what about this advertisement? Will it run to another drop?" he added, tapping his glass

"Yes, but I want you to keep your wits about you to-day. Now I'll tell you why these people have been advertising for you."

"It knocked me all of a heap when the old chap read it to me," Stivey declared, sipping his second glass of hot whisky with infinite satisfaction. "He's not a bad sort in his way. Seemed to me you were rather rough upon him at first."

"I was annoyed at hearing that he had answered the advertisement. The people who want you are enemies of mine"

"Lor, you don't say so!" the showman cried. "Well, I am glad you run down first and so circumnavigated 'em."

"You were with me when I took that bit of a place in Kentish-town?"

Stivey nodded.

"Well, you know I gave it up without letting them have a proper notice, and so they've turned against me. They want me not only to pay a year's rent, but put the place in thorough repair."

"Do they now?" said Mr. Stivey, with a roguish wink of his left eye, "and of course you're going to oblige them?"

"I'll see them flayed first. They want to get hold of you as a witness against me; they want you to prove that I verbally agreed to do all the repairs."

"But I know nothing," said Stivey, steadily; "so let 'em come on. Who's afraid?"

Mr. Bend beamed upon his companion, and treated himself to another sip.

"That's not the point at all," Gregory cried, exhibiting great impatience. "Of course I know that you wouldn't willingly injure me, even if they did get you into the witness-box; but you never know what these lawyers might make you say. They'd twist out of you anything they wanted."

"Let 'em try."

"I don't mean them to try," Gregory spoke decisively; "it's not worth while running the risk. Besides, they won't commence their action till they have found you; and if they never find you the chances are that they'll never take proceedings, and that's just what I want D'ye see?"

"Just the same as if I was looking through an opera glass. I must mizzle."

"Precisely, and keep yourself dark for a bit. Should they by any chance find you, don't say a word—be dumb—come straight to me."

"They won't get a word out of me."

"They are pretty smart people, and if they did attempt to worm anything out of you about this business, they'd commence upon quite a different topic. Perhaps ask you something about New Zealand—or something of that kind. If you refuse to speak about me at all you'll be safe."

"If they bring the handsomest 'jemmy' ever made they won't open my mouth, so make your mind upon that score."

"Meanwhile, what you have to do is to keep out of their way. You had better return to London by the first train."

"With you?"

"With me if possible. Get on your overcoat. You need not tell the landlord where you are going."

"He'll think I'm going for a stroll," said Stivey, gazing ruefully through the window at the ceaseless rain. "It's a pretty good day for a stroll I don't think."

Mr. Axon had treated Stivey to a more elaborate lie than the occasion required; and the simple showman was quite ready to obey his will without question. The truth was, Axon had of late years become so expert and ready an inventor that a complicated untruth came as smoothly from his lips as the plainest one would from the lips of an amateur. As Stivey was buttoning his coat Tom Westall entered the bar.

Addressing the landlord, he said, placing a letter upon the counter:

"I presume you are the writer of this?"

"I am, sir," Mr. Pickering answered briskly.

"You are able, you say, to tell me where I can find Mr. Blend."

"I can, sir. You will find him in this house."

"Will you be good enough to tell him that a gentleman wishes to speak to him?"

"All in good time, sir. I think that I ought to receive the reward before I introduce you to him."

"Produce the man, and then I will hand over the money."

"You'll pardon me, sir, but Mr. Blend and I have a little agreement over this matter, and Mr. Blend does not come forward until I hold the two pounds."

Tom shrugged his shoulders.

"As you like," he said. "Of course if you do not fulfil your part of the contract I shall demand my money back again."

"And you'll get it, sir, This way, if you please." He raised the flap of the counter and led his visitor into the bar parlour.

There were two doors in the room occupied by the showman and Gregory; one led into the main passage running through the house, the other into the bar

As Stivey was buttoning up his top-coat, Gregory glanced through the glass that formed the upper half of this last-named door, and he caught sight of Tom Westall's face; Tom did not see him.

"They are here," he cried, in a hoarse whisper, at the same moment seizing Blend and dragging him into the passage before he knew where he was.

"Run," whispered Gregory. "towards the station. I will follow."

That same second Stivey was out of the hotel. Gregory had turned the key in the door through which they had left the room, and he had crept round to the other door opening into the bar, in time to close and lock that also behind Tom's back the moment he entered the apartment.

The landlord and Westall were both prisoners.

"They'll soon summon aid," Gregory reflected, as he hastened after the showman; "but the delay will give me time to get Stivey Blend out of the way. I did not want that confounded meddlesome fellow, Westall, to know Stivey, even by sight. It's not very likely he'll remember his appearance after having only seen him once at the Fair. As long as Westall can't identify him his best place is in London, where he'll be under my eye, and, what is more, under my control. So far that cad of a surgeon has not seen me either, and he mustn't if I can help it."

Stivey was running towards the railway station as quickly as his thin, knotted legs would permit him. Close to his destination his passage was barred, and in a most unexpected manner.

Mr. Hurst had just arrived from London, and was making his way to the *Bull* in search of his unfortunate debtor, Stivey Blend.

"Hullo!" he cried, as Stivey's lean, lank form approached him at a wonderful pace. "That's your game, is it? You mean bolting, do you? Not if I know it; you don't leave Henley until I have my money, Mr. Blend, so don't you think it."

Mr. Hurst was a very fat man, and with his short stout arms both extended, he danced from side to side of the thoroughfare determined not to let Stivey pass. He grew red and breathless, but his tongue never ceased rehearsing Mr. Blend's countless crimes.

The showman hesitated for a minute—he was not by nature "a man of wrath." But when he thought of Gregory's danger his mind was made up. He lowered his head, and pressed his cap more tightly upon it. Then he ran straight for the third button from the bottom of Mr. Hurst's waistcoat; for an instant his head sank in the opulent rotundity beneath. There was a gasp, a gurgle, and then the fat man lay rolling in the mud, and Stivey flew towards the station.

When Gregory reached Mr. Hurst, this unfortunate gentleman was endeavouring to rise. Gregory assisted him to his feet.

"The villain!" the injured man panted, "the ungrateful, murderous villain! But he shall pay dearly for it so sure as my name's William Hurst."

"Never mind the man," said Mr. Axon, "go and look after your property at the *Bull*—they are removing the show."

"Never!" cried the little man. "It's impossible. The villains!" and his short thick legs went scampering through the mud towards the Bull Hotel, at a surprising rate.

Gregory had just time to secure tickets for London when the train started.

"I'm afraid," said Gregory, unable to suppress a grin, "that you have made Billy Hurst your enemy for life."

"Couldn't be helped, Boss," said Stivey; "your orders was to catch this train, and I meant catching it. When my head went into his stomach," he added reflectively, "I thought that it was never coming out again."

On the following afternoon Mr. Blend left the room Mr. Axon had taken for him, in the neighbourhood of Blackfriars-road, with a jaunty step, and in a very enviable state of mind. He had just heard the news that his horse had won the great race that day. At last he had pulled off a "double event." Mr. Blend was worth one thousand pounds.

"For," he said to himself, as he gaily smote the air with his ground ash stick, and smiled with much humour upon all the good-looking young ladies he met—and old ones too for that matter—"it don't signify now whether they find me or not. If they want to kick up any row with Gregory, why I'll put the place in repair myself and pay the rent. It's a pity that a man like he is should be bothered with such trifles."

(*To be continued.*)

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Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

Stations.	Week Days. a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
NEWCASTLE Dep.	6 10	9 42	11 0	12 15	2 30	5 25	[illegible]
Scotswood „	6 17	9 49	11 7	12 22	2 37	5 32	[illegible]
Swalwell „	6 24	9 54	11 14	12 29	2 43	5 37	7 41
Rowlands Gill „	6 34	10 3	11 24	12 39	2 53	5 46	7 54
Lintz Green „	6 40	10 9	11 30	12 45	2 59	5 52	8 [illegible]
Ebchester „	6 53	10 18	11 40	12 55	3 12	6 1	8 11
Shotley Bridge „	6 58	10 22	11 44	12 59	3 18	6 5	8 15
CONSETT Arr.	7 5	10 27	11 50	1 5	3 25	6 10	8 2[illegible]
CONSETT Dep.	7 10	10 34	...	1 12	3 35	6 33	
Knitsley „	7 21	10 45	...	1 23	3 [illegible]	6 44	
Lanchester „	7 30	10 55	...	1 32	3 45	6 53	
Witton Gilbert „	7 38	11 3	...	1 40	3 53	7 1	
Aldin Grange „	7 45	11 11	...	1 47	4 0	7 9	
DURHAM Arr.	7 50	11 17	...	1 53	4 5	7 15	

	a.m.		a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
DURHAM Dep.	7 25		11 50	2 35		5 20	8 1[illegible]
Aldin Grange „	7 32		11 57	2 41		5 27	8 1[illegible]
Witton Gilbert „	7 40		12 5	2 48		5 35	8 2[illegible]
Lanchester „	7 50		12 15	2 5[illegible]		5 45	8 3[illegible]
Knitsley „	8 2		12 25	3 8		5 55	8 4[illegible]
CONSETT Arr.	8 12		12 35	3 16		6 5	[illegible]
CONSETT Dep.	8 15	9 5	12 40	3 25		6 10	9 [illegible]
Shotley Bridge „	8 20	9 10	12 45	3 30		6 15	9 [illegible]
Ebchester „	8 24	9 14	12 49	3 34		6 19	9 [illegible]
Lintz Green „	8 34	9 24	12 58	3 44		6 29	9 [illegible]
Rowlands Gill „	8 39	9 29	1 3	3 50		6 34	9 [illegible]
Swalwell „	8 47	9 37	1 10	3 57		6 42	9 [illegible]
Scotswood „	8 54	9 44	1 16	4 4		6 49	9 4[illegible]
NEWCASTLE Ar.	9 5	9 55	1 25	4 15		7 0	[illegible]

SUNDAYS.

	a.m.	p.m.		a.m.	p.m.
NEWCASTLE	7 30	7 20	CONSETT dep.	8 35	8 [illegible]
Scotswood	7 37	7 27	Shotley Bridge	8 40	[illegible]
Swalwell	7 44	7 34	Ebchester	8 44	8 29
Rowlands Gill	7 54	7 44	Lintz Green	8 54	8 39
Lintz Green	8 0	7 50	Rowlands Gill	8 59	8 44
Ebchester	8 13	8 0	Swalwell	9 6	8 52
Shotley Bridge	8 17	8 4	Scotswood	9 14	8 59
CONSETT arr.	8 25	8 10	NEWCASTLE ar.	9 25	9 10

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

	a.m.	p.m.		a.m.
NEWCASTLE	7 10	4 15	DURHAM dep.	7 55
Scotswood	7 17	4 22	Aldin Grange	8 1
Swalwell	7 24	4 28	Witton Gilbert	8 9
Rowlands Gill	7 34	4 40	Lanchester	8 20
Lintz Green	7 40	4 46	Knitsley	8 32
Ebchester	7 53	4 58	CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8 45
Shotley Bridge	7 59	5 5	CONSETT and BLACKHILL d	8 50
CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8 5	5 12	Shotley Bridge	8 55
CONSETT and BLACKHILL d	9 20	...	Ebchester	8 59
Knitsley	9 32	...	Lintz Green	9 9
Lanchester	9 41	...	Rowlands Gill	9 15
Witton Gilbert	9 50	...	Swalwell	9 22
Aldin Grange	9 59	...	Scotswood	9 29
DURHAM arr	10 5	...	NEWCASTLE dp	9 40

SALTBURN, STOCKTON, & DARLINGTON BRANCH

Stations.	Week Days. a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
NEWCASTLE dep.	...	6 10	...	11 0	12 15	...	5 25
CONSETT	...	7 17	...	12 15	3 0	...	6 15
Rowley	...	7 25	...	12 23	3 8	...	6 23
Burnhill	...	7 35	...	12 33	3 18	...	6 33
Tow Law	...	7 47	...	12 45	3 30	...	6 45
CROOK arr.	...	8 9	...	12 57	3 42	...	6 57
„ dep.	7 20	9 1	11 15	1 0	3 56	5 30	7 0
Bishop Auckland	7 57	9 25	11 35	1 24	4 16	5 55	7 25
Darlington	8 30	10 0	12 10	1 55	5 5	6 45	8 15
Stockton	8 56	10 20	12 40	2 25	5 34	7 16	8 41
Middlesbro'	9 5	10 40	12 50	2 35	5 45	7 20	8 5[illegible]
SALTBURN	10 10	11 14	1 26	3 9	6 19	8 6	9 26

Stations.	Week Days. a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
SALTBURN dp.	5 40	8 5	9 52	11 10	1 40	3 45	5 40
Middlesbro'	6 17	8 40	10 25	11 42	2 13	4 18	6 15
Stockton	6 27	8 48	10 32	11 56	2 21	4 26	6 22
Darlington	7 10	9 20	10 52	1 45	2 55	4 55	7 20
Bishop Auckland	7 43	9 46	11 23	2 15	3 26	5 31	7 48
CROOK arr.	8 4	10 8	11 52	2 33	3 44	5 50	8 10
„ dep.	8 8	...	11 58	2 37	...	5 51	...
Tow Law	8 20	...	12 5	2 42	...	6 3	...
Burnhill	8 35	...	12 18	3 2	...	6 16	...
Rowley	8 45	...	12 28	3 9	...	6 23	...
CONSETT arr.	8 55	...	12 38	3 17	...	6 31	...
N'WCASTLE	9 55	...	1 25	4 15	...	[illegible]	...

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

PRESENTATION TO MR AND MRS DALE AT CONSETT.

On Saturday afternoon, there was a large gathering of the managers and officials of the Consett Iron Company in the New Town Hall, Consett, for the purpose of making presentations to the chairman of the company (Mr David Dale, J.P., West Lodge, Darlington, High Sheriff of the County) and Mrs Dale, in commemoration of their recent marriage. The gift to Mr Dale consisted of very old Norwegian silver articles—viz: two tankards and a cup, and that for Mrs Dale of two handsome revolving silver butter dishes of chaste and elegant design, which had been especially manufactured from drawings by Mr John Malcolm to harmonise with other of Mr Dale's silver. These latter bore the crests and monograms of Mr and Mrs Dale, and suitable inscriptions, each of the gifts being upon silver-mounted walnut stands.

Mr WM. JENKINS, J.P., in making the presentations, in a suitable speech alluded to the long connection of 32 years which Mr Dale had had with the Consett Iron Company, and stated that to the admirable business capacities displayed by him as Chairman a very considerable part of the success of the company was due. (Applause.) He also dwelt at length upon the interest always taken by Mr Dale in the Consett district, not only from a commercial, but also in a social and religious aspect, and in the general welfare of the inhabitants. Mr Jenkins likewise referred to the important work done by Mr Dale in connection with the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation for the manufactured iron and steel trade of the North of England, which has been so successful in preventing serious disputes and strikes between the employers and workmen during its existence, and went on to say that its success ought to encourage those in other trades to follow its example, and endeavour to avoid those great interruptions in trade which so frequently occur. He concluded by asking Mrs Dale and Mr Dale to accept the articles, accompanied by every good wish of the subscribers for their future welfare and happiness. (Prolonged cheering.)

Mr DALE, who was most enthusiastically received, in thanking the subscribers, reciprocated the kind remarks of Mr Jenkins, and stated that two events stood out prominently in his connection with Consett. The first was his first visit in February, 1857, in a snowstorm (such as was at that moment coming down, when his cab was overturned on the way out from Newcastle—(laughter)—and the second when 20 years ago he went to Hereford on behalf of his co-directors to meet Mr Jenkins with a view to the latter accepting the position of general manager of the Consett Iron Company, and remarked that never, he thought, had director of a company done a better day's work than he did that day. (Applause.) He heartily thanked the subscribers for their valuable presents, which were intrinsically of great value, but which were also rendered more valuable as they were a testimony of the good feeling and affection which the officials of the company had towards him. (Applause.)

Mrs DALE, who was cordially welcomed, in a few happily chosen sentences, also expressed her thanks for her handsome present, which, she remarked, would always stand conspicuously on her sideboard.

The proceedings then terminated.

Mr and Mrs Dale were accompanied by Major and Mrs Von Fischer, of Bavaria, and Mrs Dale's brother (Mr Milbank).—We understand that the presentation has been delayed in consequence of a difficulty in procuring the articles from Norway, which are of undoubted antiquity, and supposed to have been in use at least 300 years ago.—The proceedings were of a private character.

LIBERAL MEETING AT BLAYDON.

On Tuesday night a meeting of Liberals was held in the Lecture Hall, Blaydon, for the purpose of hearing addresses from Mr T. D. Sullivan, M.P., Mr James Joicey, M.P., and other gentlemen. Col. Cowen presided, and amongst those present on the platform were:—Mr T. D. Sullivan, M.P., Mr James Joicey, M.P., Mr W. Paxton, Mr B. Atkinson, Ald. T. McDermott, Mrs J. A. Cowen, Mr A. B. Tebb, Mr John Mullen, Mr G. R. Ramsay, Mr McGuinness, &c. The hall was crowded. Able speeches were delivered by the Chairman, Mr Sullivan, and the member for the division (Mr Joicey).

Mr ATKINSON moved:—"That this meeting condemns the policy of the present Government in relation to Ireland as being unjust and exasperating to the British people, and a violation of the rights and liberties of British subjects."

Mr TEBB seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr J. COATES moved:—"That this meeting sympathises with Mr O'Brien, who is undergoing a term of imprisonment, and condemns the harsh and brutal prison treatment which is being enforced upon him; and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the leaders of the different parties in Parliament."

Father P. CUSACK seconded, and this proposal was also carried by acclamation.

Mr BANNON, on behalf of a deputation of Newcastle Irishmen, consisting of himself, Mr John Mullen, Mr Smith, and Mr Keenan, conveyed to Mr Sullivan the sincere gratitude of his fellow countrymen on the banks of the Tyne.

WHAT SAYS THE TOWN?

That the weather at present is very unsettled.

That it is as capricious as a woman's mind.

That although this may be saying a great deal, it is nothing more than what it deserves.

That "A Night wi' Burns" at Blackhill was a remarkably pleasant one.

That the remarks of Mr Joshua Lax, as they deserved to be, were much appreciated.

That everybody agreed with the sentiment, so prettily expressed, that the "fire and energy of Burns would live as long as the English language."

That the shortcoming of the chairman's address was the absence of reflections on the frailties of the poet.

That, his good points having been enlarged upon, his weaknesses were disregarded—surely a fault in the address.

And that though Burns was one of the brightest, and certainly the most homely of poets, there was absence of mission—of purpose in his life.

That there is room for congratulation on the ground that at last a footpath from Castleside to Consett is almost a reality.

That these are the times for "moving"—especially in the vicinity of great "Liberal" centres.

That the Company engaged at the Theatre Royal, Consett, this week has proved a very attractive one.

That the members of the Consett and District Reading Room should feel elated.

That is is truly pleasant to read of the prospect—if long deferred—of books being added to the solitary shelves of the library.

That it does the heart good to hear that the extraordinary sum of £7 10s is to be expended in this direction. In the words of the song—"Oh, let it be soon."

That it is a fact to be regretted that since the Consett Reading Room was established the older Institute at Blackhill has retrograded—but, after all, is there any wonder?

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

"HOW TO BEHAVE, price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting took place yesterday (Thursday), Mr Wm. Logan (vice-chairman) presiding. Present: Revs J. P. De Pledge, J.P., and W. Uaskie; Messrs John Wilkinson, George Hebson, J. Collinson, J. Buckham, T. J. Muse, T. Pringle, T. Siddell, R. Robson, Wm. Rutherford, and the clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

INMATES OF THE HOUSE.

Week ending Jan. 30th	165
Corresponding week of last year	185
Week ending Feb. 6th	166
Corresponding week of last year	187
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	12
Corresponding fortnight of last year	10

MASTER'S REPORT.

The Master (Mr W. Brotherhood) reported that an inmate named Joseph Proud, with his three children, left the Workhouse to attend chapel on Sunday, and had not yet returned.

A short leave of absence was granted the Master.

There was no other business.

MASONIC BALL AT CONSETT.

The third annual fashionable ball, held under the auspices of the "Constance" Lodge of Freemasons (2135) took place in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday night, when 72 couples attended the gathering. There was a good muster of brethren from this and other lodges in Durham and Newcastle. The members of the craft wore the regalia of the order. The hall had been decorated in a tasteful and effective manner by Mr W. Richardson, of Bessemer House, Blackhill, and it did that gentleman great credit, the hall having seldom, if ever, appeared so gay and bright. The extra utilization of mirrors was a pleasing feature in the decorations. The plants and evergreens were supplied by Mr W. Charlton, of the Benfieldside Nurseries, the platform presenting a most pleasing appearance. Refreshments of excellent quality were provided by Messrs Meng Bros., of Newcastle, and we must say that they fully sustained the character they have hitherto borne as caterers for refreshments on the best scale. Excellent music was discoursed by Mr Jonathan Stephenson's String Band, made up of the following well-known performers:—1st violin, Mr Downey, Newcastle; viola, W. Hoe, jun., Blackhill; piccolo, Jon. Stephenson; violincello, W. Hoe, sen.; cornet, T. Woods, Newcastle; piano, E. J. Sloane. It is needless to remark that their performance was all that could be desired. Dancing commenced at eight o'clock, and was kept up with vigour and energy until half-past five o'clock yesterday (Thursday) morning, when the company separated, having spent a most enjoyable evening. Dr Renton officiated as M.C. to the entire satisfaction of the company. The following were the stewards:—Bros. T. D. Dryden, J. Hardy, L. Matthews, C. Stephenson, W. Richardson, J. Parker, J. Pescod, and H. Prevell. The secretaries, Bros. W. Shell and G. T. Hyden, have laboured untiringly to bring the ball to a successful issue, and they cannot be too highly commended for the result that has attended their efforts, which, we are glad to say, has been a most complete success, both financially and otherwise, everything passing off splendidly. The following is the programme of dances:—

Country dance, "Keel-row."
Waltz, "Thine for ever."
Polka, "The salute."
Lancers, "They all love Jack."
Waltz, "Love's dreamland."
Schottische (Highland), "Marie Stewart."
Quadrille, "Dorothy."
Waltz, "Sweet vows."
Polka, "Les petits soldats."
Lancers, "Yeoman of the guard."
Schottische, "Tam o' Shanter."
Waltz, "Mine alone."
Lancers, "Channel Fleet."
Waltz, "Dorothy."
Polka, "Hi Kelly."
Lancers, "Old guard."
Waltz, "Maid of the mill."
Schottische (Highland), "Scotland."
Quadrille, "Topsy-turvey."
Waltz, "Belle et toile."
Lancers, "Margate."
Schottische, "Summer morning."
Polka, "Black and tan."
Waltz, "Cloister."

Subjoined is a list of the ladies and gentlemen who were present:—

Mr G. and Miss Aynsley, Consett.
Bro. G. Arkless and Miss Mowbray, Catchgate.
Mrs Benzies, Consett.
Bro. C. E. Barnes, Durham.
Mr C. D. W. Balleny and Mrs Balleny, Ebchester.
Mr Bell and Mrs Bell, Langley Park.
Dr Benson and Mrs Benson, and Miss Pearson and Miss L. Pearson, Stanley.
Dr O'Brien, Catchgate.
Bro. J. W. Berry, Consett.
Bro. G. Christopher and Mrs Christopher, Consett.
Bro. J. A. Curry and Mrs Curry, Dipton.
Bro. J. Calvert and Miss Calvert, Consett.
Miss Collinson, Consett.
Mr W. Coupland and Miss Coupland, Ebchester.
Mr J. Coupland and Miss Brown, Ebchester.
Mr Cumming and Miss Dixon, Lanchester.
Mr R. Crowe and Miss Urwin.
Bro. T. Dunn and Mrs Dunn, and Miss Gee and Miss Hall, Lanchester.
Bro. T. D. Dryden (Consett) and Miss Lambert (Gosforth).
Mr W. Dixon, Mr R. Dixon, and Miss E. Dixon, Broad Oak.
Mr G. Dryden (Consett) and Miss Hodgson (Lanchester).
Mr Fewster and Miss Dixon, Ebchester.
Mr W. H. Ferens and Miss Collings, Newcastle.
Mr F. S. Ferens, Newcastle.
Mr Godfrey, Consett.
Bro. J. Hardy and Mrs Hardy, Templetown.
Bro. G. T. Hyden and Mrs Hyden, Consett.
Bro. M. Hobday and Mrs Hobday, Consett.
Miss Hodgson, Templetown.
Mr R. Heymer and Miss M. Herdman, Benfieldside.
Mr Hooper and Mrs Hooper, Benfieldside.
Mr Hutt, Medomsley.
Capt. Humble and Mrs Humble, Pelton.
Mr Hake, Newcastle.
Dr Hood, Catchgate.
Mrs Imeson, Blanchland.
Mr C. Jennings, Consett.
Mr T. Jameson, Blackhill.
Mr Kinleside, Mrs Kinleside, and Miss Kinleside, Leadgate.
Bro. W. Logan and Miss Logan, Langley Park.
Miss Lishman, Shotley Bridge.
Bro. R. Murray and Mrs Murray, Benfieldside.
Mr J. G. Murray and Miss Murray, Benfieldside, and party (Miss Hall, Miss Charlton, and Miss Mabane).
Bro. J. McKay and Mrs McKay, Catchgate.
Bro. Matthews, Mrs Matthews, Miss Matthews, Blackhill, and Miss Redshaw, Croxdale.
Mr J. W. Murray and Miss Murray, Consett.
Mr R. Marshall and Miss Herdman, Highgate.
Mr J. Marshall and Mrs Marshall, Benfieldside.
Bro. T. Milner, Consett.
Mr J. Nicholson and Miss Parker, Leadgate.
Bro. H. Prevell and the Misses Prevell (2), Dipton.
Bro. J. Parker, Leadgate.
Bro. Pescod, Consett.
Mr Phillips and Miss Phillips, Ebchester.
Mr J. Petherick, Consett.
Mr R. Park, Consett.
Mr T. Parker, Leadgate.
Bro. Geo. Renton, W.M., and Mrs Renton, Blackhill.
Bro. T. C. Rawes and Mrs Rawes, Consett.
Bro. W. Richardson, Blackhill.
Mrs H. Rawes, Consett.
Mr A. Russell jun. and Miss Russell, Templetown.
Mr W. Ridley and Miss Hood, Tow Law.
Bro. C. F. Scott and Miss Scott, Medomsley.
Mr F. G. Scott and Miss Coupland, Ebchester.
Bro. W. S. Shell and Mrs Shell, Consett.
Dr Scurfield, Consett.
Miss Thirlaway, Gateshead.
Mr Todd and Miss Todd, Leadgate.
Mr A. Towns, Consett.
Miss Turnbull, Dipton.
Mr V. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge.
Mr W. Wade and Miss Wade, Consett.
Dr Wynne, Blackhill.
Mr J. Welsh and Miss Chaytor, West Stanley.
Mrs Wood, Consett.
Mr J. Walton (Maiden Law) and Miss Eltringham (Blackhill).
Mr Wilson and Mrs Wilson, Blackhill.
Mr W. Wilson, Shotley Bridge.
Mr H. Welsh (Stanley) and Miss Robinson (Mountsett).
Mr Whittaker and Mrs Whittaker, Consett.
Miss Wilson, Blackhill.

A great deal of interest was excited by the announcement of the marriage of Mr J. England, of Thornley Terrace, Tow Law, to Miss Esther Dodsworth, on Saturday last, in the Parish Church. The happy bridegroom has been for many years connected with the Weardale Iron Company, and for a long time acted as treasurer to the Mechanics' Institute. He has been for several years a widower. Mr Thomas Snowdon acted as best man, and the marriage ceremony, which was very private, was performed by the Rev W. Downard.

GREAT LIBERAL MEETING AT TOW LAW.

A large and enthusiastic meeting, under the auspices of the Tow Law branch of the Barnard Castle Divisional Liberal Association was held in Mechanics' Institute, Tow Law, on Wednesday night, under the presidency of Mr James Vickers, to hear addresses from Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease, M.P., for the division, and Mr Arthur Edward Pease, M.P., for York. The hall was crammed to excess, many persons being perforce to stand. Amongst those who accompanied the hon. members on the platform and were seated in the body of the hall were the following:—Dr Hood, Rev J. P. De Pledge, J.P., vicar of Satley, Messrs Thos. Douglas, J.P., West Lodge, Crook; L. P. Wherly, John McCulloch, A. W. Emerson, John H. Atkinson, Wm. Emerson, T. Cheeseman, Wm. Campbell, J. G. Wild, Robert Dixon, Thos. Wheatheral, John Dodds, Wm. T. Cheeseman, Rev Wm. Downard, curate of Tow Law, George Sanderson, John Hill, Joseph Vickers, Cuthbert Hall, James Wilkinson, James McIntosh, &c. A number of ladies were also present.

The CHAIRMAN stated that there was no doubt but Sir Joseph had not pleased everybody. He never heard of any man doing that. A portion of his constituents were probably opposed to some of the hon baronet's actions in the House of Commons; but he thought they should judge of his conduct in a general sense.

SIR JOSEPH W. PEASE, who was accorded a magnificent ovation, after returning thanks to his constituents, stated that he would make "Tory Ireland" in opposition the burden of his remarks. He would, however, allow his son, who had been twice or thrice in Ireland, and who had more experience of that country than he himself had an opportunity of telling the audience what he had seen and heard in that unfortunate country. (Applause). Reviewing the legislation of the past session, the hon baronet believed that his votes on the Mines Regulation Bill had given general satisfaction. The Liberal party emphatically opposed the King-Harman Bill—which meant the appointment of an Under-Secretary for Ireland — owing to the untimely death of this gentleman, the measure was thrown overboard. They did not object to the wheel tax; but they certainly were strenuously to the retrograde idea of taxing houses. Both the bills, however, were dropped. The very people who turned Mr Bradlaugh from the House of Commons passed an Affirmation Bill, which now stood as the law of the United Kingdom. He adverted to the County Government Act. He believed they had begun at the wrong end of the stick; they ought to have started with District Councils instead of County Councils. He was not a believer in a great number of little boards, but considered they should have one district board, taking in highways, cemeteries, schools, &c. In fact, dealing with everything administered by district boards, work could be done by local committees and improved by district councils. They would thus save a good many board meetings, elections, &c. In the Local Government Act they had simply got as much from a Liberal measure piloted through Parliament by the Tory Ministers as could be expected, namely a mere skeleton. (Laughter). They had been at a deal of trouble and expense in electing councillors, but they received little for their money. In dropping the licensing clauses and the mode of electing aldermen and chief constables the Government had marred what were intended to be thoroughly representative bodies. The hon. baronet next dealt exhaustively with the Irish question in its various aspects, and contended that they ought to accede to the wishes of the Irish people, as indicated by the election of its Parliamentary members and its representatives on public bodies in Ireland. The great majority of these, except in a few instances, were Home Rulers. He strongly repudiated assertions that such a concession would tend to the dismemberment of the empire, but said that, on the contrary, it would remove the existing disaffections, disloyalty, and poverty in the country, and secure true and lasting union with England. (Cheers.) All that the Irish required was a Parliament which was to be subsidiary to the Imperial Parliament. He averred that Mr Gladstone's plan of dealing with the Irish question was the only means of solving the problem. (Loud cheers.) The present method of governing Ireland was one of the most pitiable, dispicable methods ever adopted by civilised nations. Messrs Harrington and O'Brien, representatives of the people, had been treated with marked indignity. (Applause.) Sir Joseph having described the offences for which Messrs O'Brien and Harrington were cast into gaol—without trial either by judge or jury—warmly denounced the barbarous prison treatment of these gentlemen. Worse than all, Mr Balfour—(cries of "Boo")—almost danced upon the corpses of his victims at the Dublin meeting last Saturday night. The manner in which the law was administered by stipendiary magistrates was utterly disgraceful for the present age, and resembled the *regime* of Judge Jeffries in former days. (Loud applause.) Messrs O'Brien and Harrington had suffered great injustice, and he suggested that a resolution should be passed at that meeting expressing their sympathy with these patriots, who had been imprisoned for simply advocating the cause of their countrymen. (Applause.) The resident magistrates, who were appointed by the Lord-Lieutenant, were not responsible to anyone else for their misdeeds, and they could be turned out of office at a moment's notice. The action of the Ministry in relation to Ireland was utterly disgraceful for the government of a civilised country as this 19th century. (Prolonged applause.)

Mr A. E. PEASE, who was warmly cheered, followed with an able speech, graphically relating the experience of his visits to Ireland, and he also condemned the Government's policy. He averred that the Liberal party were engaged in a noble work, and fervently hoped their efforts would soon be crowned with success. (Applause.)

Mr L. P. WHERLY proposed, and Mr A. W. EMERSON seconded the following resolution:—"That this meeting records its emphatic protest against the brutal policy of the Government in imprisoning the representatives of the Irish people for offences under the Crimes Act, and, believing, as it does, that such treatment as Messrs O'Brien and Harrington suffer at the hands of Mr Balfour is unnecessary, unjust, and cruel, it calls upon the Government to substitute for its policy of alienation such measures as will secure to the Irish people their righteous claim for self-government, also that grateful thanks be tendered to Mr Condor, M.P. for Clonmel, and Ald. Hackett, visiting justice, for having made public the cruel treatment Mr O'Brien has been subjected to; and that the Chairman be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to these gentlemen." (Applause.)

The resolution was carried amid great acclamation, only a solitary hand being held up against it.

Mr ATKINSON, of Greenwell Hill, explained that the reason he objected to the resolution was because of the way in which Mr Balfour had been condemned, whereas the blame ought to be attached to the Government. (Laughter and cheers.)

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE, who was favourably received, moved the next resolution:—"That this meeting of his constituents begs to assure Sir Jos. W. Pease of their continued confidence in him as their representative, and while thanking him for his address, is glad to observe his unswerving loyalty to the leaders of the Liberal party. The thanks of the meeting are also tendered to Mr A. E. Pease, member for York City, for his eloquent address, his advocacy of the rights of the Irish people and vindication of Ireland's leaders has won its heartiest approbation." He remarked that for 20 years he had been an admirer of Sir Joseph. The hon. baronet was a representative of robust Liberalism, such as he had shown that night. He had never swerved from his party. (Applause.)

The proposition was briefly seconded by Dr HOOD, and also carried with unanimity there being only a single dissentient.

Mr ATKINSON again stated that he had been looking over the division lists, and had ascertained that Sir Joseph had not figured very conspicuously therein. (Laughter.)

Sir JOSEPH PEASE, in thanking the electors, remarked that he voted regularly till he happened an accident in April last, when he "paired" with another hon. member. He proposed a vote of thanks to their able chairman.

Mr A. E. PEASE briefly seconded and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the compliment, said that his was a "red-letter" day in his history. He never felt so proud in his life as he had been in presiding over that splendid meeting.

The very successful proceedings then terminated, the hon gentleman being lustily cheered on driving away from the place.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

CONSETT DIVISION.

The elevation of Councillor Jenkins to the post of Alderman has given general satisfaction in Consett, where he is exceedingly popular. It was expected by many persons that this honour would be conferred upon Mr Jenkins. Last (Thursday) night, Mr J. W. Davison, one of our best-known citizens, officially intimated his intentions of contesting the vacancy thereby created. His address appears in our advertising columns. Mr Davison, for the best part of half-a-century, has taken an active and prominent part in public affairs, and all social and religious movements. He is a long-standing member of the Consett Local Board, and acts as convener of the Building Committee. Mr Davison very ably fulfilled the duties of chairman of Mr Jenkins's election committee. He is a conservative, and advocates the principles of temperance. It is not definitely known whether Mr R. Murray, the defeated candidate, will come forward, but from opinions he has expressed and reiterated, it is expected he will decline to stand again. We are informed that an effort will be made to bring out a working man candidate—most probably an iron or steelworker's—and a guarantee fund is to be raised.

LANCHESTER DIVISION.

So far, no action has been taken to fill up the seat relinquished by Mr U. A. Ritson, J.P., on his appointment as Alderman. It is quite possible however, that Mr J. Oliver may try once more.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The first meeting of the Durham County Council—in its capacity as a provisional council—took place yesterday (Thursday), in the Nisi Prius Court at the Law Courts, Durham. In the public gallery there was a considerable number of visitors.

Ther following are the members of the Council—Messrs T. Fry, Darlington, E. D. Walker, Darlington, A. Pease, Darlington, J. L. Wharton, M.P., Durham, F. Greenwell, Durham, T. Richardson, Hartlepool, J. Horsley, Hartlepool, Major Gray, West Hartlepool, Messrs J. Samuel, Stockton, J. A. Pease, Crook, Earl of Durham, Lambton, L. Col. Sheppee, Birtley, Messrs C. E. Hunter, Edmondsley, J. Feetham, Aycliffe, W. Robinson, Sherburn, G. H. Wraith, Ludhoe, Marquis of Londonderry, Seaham, Messrs W. Armstrong, Thornley, W. F. Hall, Haswell, Lieut-Col. A. S. Palmer, Felling, Messrs W. W. Pattinson, Felling, J. B. Simpson, Ryton, Earl of Ravensworth, Whickham, Messrs J. Annandale, Benfieldside, J. Curry, Collierley, W. J. Joicey, Tanfield, C. F. Forster, Hebburn, T. W. Stewart, Hebburn, E. J. J. Browell, Westoe, J. W. Page-Page, Norton, R. Thompson, Southwick, W. T. Scarth, Teesdale, W. H. Richardson, Jarrow, R. Handyside, Jarrow, C. Furness, West Hartlepool, W. H. Fisher, West Hartlepool, T. Nelson, J. Richardson and T. Crosby, Stockton, J. Lingford, Bishop Auckland, G. Pears, Shildon, Rev E. A. Wilkinson, Spennymoor, Messrs W. Lishman, West Auckland, W. R. I. Hopkins, Witton-le-Wear, T. Douglas, Hunwick, R. Peverell, Eldon, N. B. Lamb, Coundon, J. Lislie, Washington, T. Robson, Chester-le-Street, S. Galbraith, Brandon, A. W. Elliot, Willington, J. Shiel, Elvet, R. Armstrong, Easington, Col. Cowen, Blaydon, Major R. Burdon, Greatham, Col. Leadbitter-Smith, Esh, F. Stobart, Houghton, J. Wilson, Herrington, Lindsay Wood, Hetton, V. C. S. W. Corbett, Rainton, W. Jenkins, Consett, G. Nicholson, Leadgate, U. A. Ritson, Lanchester, W. Morson, Ferryhill, E. G. Marshall, Sedgefield, W. Palmer, Bishopwearmouth, L. A. Gregson, Ryhope, W. Watson, Barnard Castle, J. Ridley, Wolsingham, Dr Thos. Livingstone, Stanhope.

All were present with the exception Lord Durham and Mr E. D. Walker.

The Clerk of the Peace (Mr R. Simey) received a letter from the High Sheriff (Mr David Dale) regretting that he was detained in London.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

The CLERK of the PEACE said the first business was to elect a chairman for the first and second meetings of the Provincil Council.

Mr J. WILSON (Herrington) moved that Mr T. Fry, M.P., be elected chairman.

Mr W. ARMSTONG seconded.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY said he had hoped that the man he was about to propose would have been unanimously received by those who represent this great and important country. He proposed that they elect as provincial chairman Mr J. L. Wharton. He did not think it necessary to expatiate upon the many good qualities that have secured for Mr Wharton the good-will, respect, and esteem of all classes. He would merely draw attention to the fact that the skill and the abiliity that he had displayed during the time he had been connected with Quarter Sessions entitled him to our consideration, as possessing claims second to no other member of this Council. Mr Wharton had also an even stronger claim, for during the passage of this bill through the Commons he thought there was no private member who rendered greater assistance to the Government than Mr Wharton. This has been corroborated by a letter which he had this morning received from the President of the Local Government.

Mr J. RICHARDSON seconded.

Mr Fry withdrew his name, and Mr Wharton was unanimously elected.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Council. The work they had to do that day was to elect a body of 24 aldermen, and one or two matters of a formal nature.

ELECTION OF CLERK.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a resolution requiring the Clerk of the Peace to act as clerk of the Provisional Council.

The resolution was agreed to *nem. con.*

ELECTION OF ALDERMEN.

Mr J. WILSON moved a resolution affirming the principle that the aldermen should be elected from members of the Council.

The motion on being put was lost.

The meeting proceeded to elect 24 aldermen.

The following were elected:—

ALLAN, SIR H. HAVELOCK (non-member)	27
BELL, T. (non-member)	27
BECKWITH (non-member)	33
COWEN, COL. (member)	23
CRAWFORD (non-member)	26
DALE, D. (non-member)	40
DURHAM, EARL OF (member)	45
FRY, T. (member)	28
JENKINS, WM. (member)	25
JOICEY, W. J. (member)	27
LAING, J. (non-member)	24
LONDONDERRY, Marquis of (member)	45
ORD, R. (non-member)	21
PEASE, A. (member)	37
RAVENSWORTH, Earl of (member)	47
RICHARDSON, J. (member)	28
RICHARDSON, R. (non-member)	21
RICHARDSON, W. H. (member)	33
RITSON, U. A. (member)	28
SHAFTOE, Rev A. D. (non-member)	42
SHIELDS, J. (non-member)	22
WHARTON, J. L. (member)	53
WILLIAMSON, Sir H. (non-member)	31
WILKINSON, Rev G. P. (non-member)	20
WOOD, L. (member)	

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr L. Wood, having already expressed the wish not to be an alderman, he gave his casting vote for Mr Wilkinson.

It will be seen from the result that 12 of the aldermen elected were members of the Council, while the remaining 12 were elected from outside.

Mr James Annandale, J.P., was amongst the gentlemen nominated as aldermen, but was rejected.

Professor Aikman, the well-known mesmerist and phrenologist, gave two successful and interesting performances on Saturday and Monday in the Mechanics' Hall, Tow Law.

PARISH CHURCH.—Instead of the usual service in St Philip and James' Church, Tow Law, on Sunday night, Sir John Farmer's oratorio, "Christ and His Soldiers," was given by several soloists and a large band and chorus. The vicar (Rev T. H. Espin) acted as conductor.

CONSETT COUNTY COURT.

WEDNESDAY, [illegible].—Before His Honour R. Marshall (Judge).

A FORTUNATE DEFENDANT.

HOBSON v. CETERY.—George Hobson, of Harperley Mill, proceeded on a judgment summons against a woman named Cetery, working at South [illegible] Colliery, Oxhill, for not keeping up his pay [illegible] Cetery explained that her husband [illegible] and had not been able to work [illegible] past six months. Over £7 12s had been [illegible] but she complained that 15s had been [illegible] original debt [illegible] set of a previous [illegible]. That was the first judgment summons [illegible] served upon her husband.—The C[illegible] observed the absence of the defendant. The debt was a very [illegible].—Mrs Cetery said that their [illegible] been distrained upon.—His Honour [illegible] were very lucky. (Laughter.) [illegible] instalments were however [illegible] to 3s.

WILL NOT PAY ANYBODY.

WARD AND OTHERS v. ADAMS.—Christopher Ward, grocer, Leadgate; Allan McPherson, Annfield Plain; and other tradespeople issued judgment summonses against Charles Adams, an engineman at South Medomsley Colliery, Dipton, for not having [illegible] of the Court to pay off his liabilities. His Honour (who had previously committed the defendant to three terms of 30 days' imprisonment), said it was evident that the man would not pay anybody.—Mrs Adams: We are paying a good deal into Court all the time.—His Honour: But you are not keeping up your payments, although you are able to do so. I have already three orders for your husband's committal if he doesn't pay.—Defendant will be further sent to prison for 30 days; the issue of the warrant to be suspended for 28 days if the contributions are kept up with regularity.

ENTERTAINMENT AT BLACKHILL.

On Monday night, the teachers and scholars of St. Aidan's Sunday-school gave a repetition of their Christmas entertainment in the Agricultural Hall, Blackhill (kindly lent by Mr R. Murray). The spacious building was completely filled. The programme was opened by the scholars singing "Hosanna we sing," after which the vicar (Rev T. J. Storey, M.A.) gave a short address. Master W. Dunn then contributed a recitation, entitled "My wife is a woman of mind," in very good style. A sketch, "Mr Armstrong and his man Dick" followed, by Masters Wilson and Johnson, who acquitted themselves very well indeed. Another sketch, styled "The school," by Masters Dunn and Little and nine scholars, was also a creditable performance. The duet by Mr R. Lowes and Miss S. Joel, was exceedingly well sung. This was followed by a Kinderspiel, "Old friends with new faces," by the infants. The children in this piece recited their several parts in a very effective manner. A recitation, "Choice of trades," having been given by six scholars, another recitation (in character), "The doctor's visit," by Master W. Walton and Miss Murray, was admirably given, and received a well-merited *encore*. The duet, "The voice of the waves," was exceptionally well sung by Misses S. Joel and L. Jones. A sketch (in character), "The magic box," by six scholars, assisted by Miss Walton, was succeeded by "The flower fairies," by 13 scholars. Miss Joel sang "Killarney," and a dialogue, "The wife's mistake," was contributed by Messrs D. B. Jones and J. Westgarth, and Misses H. and S. Joel and L. Jones. The characters were capitally sustained, Master Westgarth acting the angry husband, and Miss Joel the unhappy (?) wife to perfection. The song, "Rocked in the cradle of the deep," by Mr R. Lowes, was sung in good style. Next was a dialogue, "Miss Diddle's lodging house," by Misses Lamb and Johnson and Messrs D. B. Jones, J. Gardner, W. Joel, and W. Armstrong. The characters in this piece were so well portrayed that they need not be severally mentioned, although it would hardly be fair to pass by Miss Johnson without a word of praise; as "maid-of-all-work," with her broad Irish brogue, she fairly brought down the house. The song, "Please give me a penny, sir," was given by Miss L. Jones, her fine contralto voice being heard to great advantage.—Mr Storey rose to thank the audience for their kind patronage, Mr R. Murray for the loan of the hall, and the superintendent (Mr L. Wilson) and teachers of the school who had helped in training the children. At intervals, Mr Jon. Stephenson played selections on the flute, accompanied by the piano. The singers were accompanied by Mr Geo. Stephenson. The meeting was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.—The proceeds, which amount to a considerable sum, will be devoted to the Sunday-school building fund.

GRAND EVENING CONCERT AT STANLEY.

An evening concert, organised by Dr Mantle, was held in the National School, on Monday, when a large and fashionable audience was gathered together. The proceeds are to be devoted to the funds of the proposed Stanley Church Institute, which, it may be mentioned, bids fair to be an *fait accompli* before long, inasmuch as more than half the money required is already raised. The platform was prettily decorated with plants, and at the back was a banner with the words: "Success to the Stanley Church Institute," and with a plan of the institute in the centre. A capital programme was in store, and a commencement was punctually made by Miss Ridgway and Mr Conah (in Miss Carr's absence) playing a violin and pianoforte duet, which was well received. It is not often Stanley is favoured with a lady violinist, and no doubt it was a novelty to many present to hear the instrument so skilfully handled by one of the fair sex. "The gipies laughing trio," sung by Messrs Whitehead, Leatham, and Grice, of the Durham Cathedral, was the next item on the programme, which it is scarcely necessary to say was *encored*. Miss Fairley followed by singing "Ora pro nobis" in a most creditable manner, and an *encore* being enthusiastically called for, she sang "Love's old sweet song," which was greatly applauded. "The skipper," by Mr Grice, was next sung, and then Mr Leatham gave his song, "Forever," in capital style, and was brought back by repeated calls. A duet, "Love and war," by Messrs Whitehead and Grice, received great applause, and justly so, the last two verses being repeated in response to an undeniable demand. Miss Holman who made her first appearance before a Stanley audience, but it is hoped not her last, sang "Can it be true," with much taste, and in answer to the hearty applause of the audience, she returned and gave us an *encore*, "The old and the young, Marie." Mr Whitehead's rendering of "My pretty Jane," which was familiar to many, left nothing to be desired, and an *encore* was also demanded of him. The first part of the programme came to a conclusion with a trio, "Home sweet home," by Messrs Whitehead, Leatham, and Grice. That awkward pause which an interval creates was practically obviated by the opening of the second part almost immediately, when Miss Ridgway, who, it may be mentioned, is a medallist of the Royal Academy of Music, London, gave a pianoforte solo, "Tarantella." So great an impression was made upon the audience by this lady's skill upon the instrument, that she was obliged to return, when she played an equally effective piece from memory. "Mary of Argyle," was the next upon the programme, and Mr Leatham did such justice to this song that the audience demanded a repetition of the two last verses. Messrs Whitehead and Grice now came forward with the comical duet, "When I go out of doors," which it is almost unnecessary to say had to be repeated. Miss Fairley gave great satisfaction in the rendition of "Daddy." We cannot help thinking that were this lady to devote her whole time to her voice, she would make a name in the musical world. "Lady of beauty," a trio, sung by Messrs Leatham, Whitehead, and Grice, gave great satisfaction, as did Mr Whitehead's song, "As I'd nothing else to do," which being called for again, was followed by "The Widow Malone." Miss Holman's next song had been accidentally omitted from the programme, and thinking she had only to sing in the first part, no provision had been made for this second. She sang, however, "Bid me discourse," in such an accomplished manner that a repetition was asked for; but substituted by the rendering of "Love has eyes," in equally good style. Miss Holman, who has now taken up the art as a profession, will we think be frequently in demand as she becomes more known, for undoubtedly her voice shows a great amount of culture. "Jack's yarn," by Mr Grice, and the trio, "Peter Piper," by the three Durham men brought a successful concert to a close. The stormy day, no doubt, prevented some from a distance in attending; but with the exception of a few back seats, the large schoolroom was well filled, and a good sum will be placed in the hands of the Vicar.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

FIXTURES.—SATURDAY, FEB. 9TH.

Consett v Northumberland, at Newcastle.
Consett 2nd v Durham City 2nd, at Durham.
Leadgate Exiles v Medomsley, at Leadgate.
Leadgate Exiles Reserve v Newcastle Trafalgar, at Leadgate.
Shotley Bridge St. Cuthbert's v Durham St. Cuthbert's, at Shotley.
Dipton Wanderers v Hebburn Argyle at Hebburn.
Langley Park Rovers v Washington Blue Bell Heroes, at Langley Park.
Lintzford v Dunston, at Dunston.
Tanfield Lea v Pelton Fell Harriers, at Pelton Fell.
Mickley v Greenhead, at Greenhead.

LEADGATE EXILES v MEDOMSLEY.—These teams will play their return fixture on the Exiles' ground to-morrow (Saturday). Both clubs will place strong teams on the field, and should the weather prove favourable, a splendid exposition of the dribbling game may be safely anticipated. The following team has been chosen to represent Medomsley:—Goal, J Hornsby; backs, W Barron (right) and W Cain (left); half-backs, J Wallace (right), M Charlton (centre), and G Moon (left); forwards, G Walton (outside right), Rev E G F Macpherson (inside right), J Ross (centre), J Hunter (capt.) (inside left), T D Dales (outside left). Umpire, Mr W. Thompson. Kick-off at 3.

LANGLEY PARK ROVERS v WASHINGTON BLUE BELL HEROES.—To be played at Langley Park to-morrow (Saturday). Langley Park Rovers—Goal, A Mooney; backs, C Jackson and J Vickers; half-backs, J Agar, J Vasey, and J Cooper; forwards, [illegible] and T Newton, right wing; G Jackson, centre; J Gott and H Mooney, left wing. Umpire, Mr D Samuel. Kick-off at 2.45.

TANFIELD LEA v PELTON FELL HARRIERS.—To be played at Pelton Fell to-morrow (Saturday). Teams: Tanfield Lea—Goal, T Jewitt; backs, W Milburn and J Robley; half-backs, J Brown, J McDonald, and T Christopher; forwards, J Leadbitter and T Robson, right wing; J Smith (capt.), centre; J Milburn and G R Lowthian, left wing. Reserve, G Bell. Umpire, Mr J Wood. Pelton Fell—Goal, W Lashly; backs, W Lowther and J Bland; half-backs, J Pearson, J Robson (capt.), and J Weatherly; forwards, M Dunn and W Evans, right wing; J Porter, centre; R Emery and D McDonald, left wing. Umpire, Mr G Petrie. Kick-off at 3.15.

THEFT BY A TRAMP.—On Tuesday, *Ann McMullen*, a tramp, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment by the Hexham Bench of magistrates for stealing 12lbs. of beef, belonging to Mr A. Richardson, from a wall at Riding Mill, on the 26th ult.

SCHOLARS' ENTERTAINMENT.—On Saturday evening, the scholars of Wylam British School gave their annual entertainment to a crowded audience, on which occasion they were most ably assisted by St Oswin's Amateur Dramatic Society. These entertainments have become immensely popular in Wylam and the neighbourhood. The performance on Saturday was in two parts. The first consisted of an operatta entitled "Whittington and his cat," which was placed before the audience in the form of a mimic pantomime. It is written in five acts or scenes, and the numerous characters were entirely represented by the scholars, who were dressed in appropriate customes. The solos and choruses were ably rendered, and the style of acting, both in modulation of voice and gesture of body, gave ample evidence of the careful training they had undergone. They were applauded and *encored*, the audience being immensely gratified by the high merit displayed by the youthful performers. They were accompanied on the piano by Mr R. Smith, Winlaton, organist of St Oswin's Church. The amateur dramatists appeared in the second part of the programme, and contributed as their share of the evening's entertainment the laughable farce of "Turn him out." From beginning to end the audience was convulsed with laughter. The proceeds were devoted to the scholars' prize scheme fund.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

LANCHESTER.—Register Office, 2nd inst., James Thorpe, Blackhill, to Mary Elizabeth Teasdale, Ebchester.—Same day, Wm. Jos. Hall, Delves Lane, to Annie Pears, Blackhill.—Same day, T. Young to Isabella Turnbull, both of Consett.—Same day, Jos. Routledge to Elizabeth McKie, both of Burnhope.—Same day, John Nixon to Margaret Ann Monkhouse, both of Leadgate.—4th inst., Geo. Shipley Watson to Elizabeth A. Hodgson, both of Leadgate.

COLLIERLEY.—Parish Church, 2nd inst., by Rev A. Dunn, W. Harrison, South Pontop, to Mary Cowey. Annfield Plain.—Same day, George Eltringham, Catchgate, to Ann Storey.—3rd inst., by Rev J. Gornall, John Canby, Oxhill, to Jane Simpson, Kyo.

TOW LAW.—St Phillip's Church, 2nd inst., by Rev W. Downard, John, son of the late W. England, Hexham, to Esther, second daughter of the late Coultes Dodsworth, Haydon Bridge.

31st ult., by Rev W. Downard, John, son of Wm. Smith, to Jennie, youngest daughter of Robert Rogerson, Tow Law.

STANHOPE.—Primitive Methodist Chapel, 2nd inst., by Rev E. Philipson, Hugh Fairless to Margaret Lowe, both of Weardale.

WOLSINGHAM.—26th ult., Wm. Stevenson to Eliz. Gowland, both of Frosterley; also, E. Whitfield to E. J. Mowbray, both of Frosterley.

DEATHS.

BLACKHILL.—17, Derwent Street, 2nd inst., aged 76 George Freek.

EBCHESTER HILL.—28th ult., aged 26 years, Amos Charlton.

LANCHESTER.—26th ult, aged 36, Ann, wife of John Raine, native of Satley.

DIPTON—6th inst, Frances Mary, youngest daughter of John Cooper, builder. To be interred at St Thomas', Collierley, on Sunday, 10th inst, at Three p.m. Friends will kindly accept this, the only intimation.

WHICKHAM GRANGE.—5th inst. aged 20, Anna Richardson, daughter of the late G. Armstrong.

BOLLIHOPE, near Frosterley.—29th ult, aged 58, Elizabeth Sim.

ROOKHOPE—3rd inst, aged 79, Hannah Philipson, of High House.

WOLSINGHAM—Fawn Lees Farm, 22nd ult, aged 72, Hall Johnson.

CRAWLEYSIDE.—24th ult, aged 58, Phœbe Bainbridge.

PELTON VILLAGE, Hylton Terrace, 5th inst, aged 34, Mary Jane, wife of John Sugden.

PRUDHOE.—1st inst., aged 22, William, son of Wm. Stewart.

PELTON FELL.—Southfield, 3rd inst., aged 71, John Robson.

WATERHOUSES.—2nd inst., aged 23, Isabella, second daughter of Thos. Hodgson.

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